Dear Parents,

The school year is off to a great start. It is so hard to believe that we are already through the first quarter of this 2015-2016 school year. I was so excited to see the smiling faces of our students as they returned to us.

Our teachers and students have settled into their instructional routines. As I visit all of the classrooms I am truly amazed at all of the learning that is taking place. Please take a few minutes to read through this newsletter. It will allow you the opportunity to see all of the fantastic things that are happening around Vineyards.

Mrs. Smith

Thank you for the warm welcome to the Vineyards Elementary Family. As your assistant principal, I have enjoyed observing the wonderful teaching and learning that is occurring in our classrooms. I received my teacher training from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and hold advanced degrees from Florida Gulf Coast University and the University of Florida. I have been with Collier County Public Schools for over 10 years. Ensuring that all students receive what they need to be successful is my passion. Every child has unique talents and interests that we value. I desire for your child(ren) to love school and have meaningful learning opportunities every day. I am looking forward to seeing our students be respectful, responsible, peaceful and problem solvers. Let’s continue our culture of kindness at VES!

Dr. Fuller

HELP WANTED!

We would love to have you volunteer at Vineyards.

It is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Complete an online application at www.collierschools.com,
2. be entered into the “Fastpass” system at our front office,
3. attend a volunteer orientation at Vineyards.

Any Questions? Please contact Alysha Duran at (239) 377-8713.

ON TIME ALL DAY EVERY DAY!
I Pledge to be Respectful, Responsible, Peaceful, and a Problem-Solver. I will be a Be Worthy student at Vineyards.
Kindergarten

The Kindergarten students have learned so much already this quarter. The first few weeks we were learning the new school rules and class routines, and are now working more independently in our classrooms during center and workshop time. We are learning all the letters and sounds associated with them, and have begun to put them together to read and write words. We are learning to write simple complete sentences using capital letters, spacing, neat writing, and punctuation. By the end of the school year, the expectation is for kindergarten students to read 35-50 sight words, so please continue to read nightly with your child at home. In math we are learning to write and represent numbers to 10, how to compare numbers and lengths.

First Grade

First graders have been exploring science and their senses. To learn the scientific method, first graders have completed several labs on solids, liquids and gases. Did you know root beer floats can be part of science? Students made a hypothesis about what would happen when the solid ice cream was dropped into the liquid. Their experiment turned out to be quite a tasty surprise as they learned it created a gas that made foam. Other classes predicted what would happen when they dropped their solid pop rocks into a liquid like soda water. Both experiments provided the students with hand on learning experience and built excitement for science.
Fifth Grade

Fifth grade students recently took a trip to the Artis-Naples Philharmonic where they got to listen to the orchestra. At their time at the Philharmonic the students learned about the different types of instruments and how they produce various ranges of sound. In the beginning of October students participated in Red Ribbon week by entering a contest where they created a poster that promoted drug prevention and raised awareness about destruction caused by drugs. Currently all fifth grade students are writing a Laws of Life essay to compete in a contest sponsored by the School District of Collier County along with various organizations in the community. The essay/speech is a reflection upon the importance of the character trait kindness and how kindness influences their lives and the lives of others. We are thrilled that so many students and their parents participated with this month’s at home STEM project and look forward to the upcoming submissions for the following months.

Third Grade

Third grade is off to a great start! The third grade teachers want to thank all the parents for their support with homework and signing planners every night. It is important that the students continue to read every night.

While focusing on our ELA learning goals, we have been reading both fiction and non-fiction text. Students have been getting lots of writing practice as they respond to their reading with details and citing textual evidence from the reading source.

Every week, students will become more comfortable and fluent in their reading. Students should be completing the required assignments from his/her teacher as well as books of choice in both fiction and non-fiction from the library.

The third graders also enjoyed our trip to Naples-Artis a few weeks ago where we learned all about the instruments in an orchestra as well as enjoyed a dramatic musical play. We are looking forward to continuing to help your child be the best that they can be as they continue their journey with us through third grade!
Fourth Grade

This year the Vineyards Fourth Grade has welcomed two new teachers and we are thankful to be joined by many new students. During the first quarter our students actively demonstrated the steps of the Scientific Method by completing various science experiments. Students formed and then tested their hypothesis with observations which ultimately led to conclusions. In addition to improving their scientific knowledge, students discovered that learning can also be fun. All of the teachers have been so impressed with the hard working students. We have been busy learning many new math concepts, improving our reading and writing skills, and learning about Florida’s land and its people. It seems like everyone is more engaged in reading and it certainly shows through the enthusiasm for our Reading Counts Program.

Second Grade

Second graders have been so busy this year. We started the year off exploring with a “trip to the moon” by experiencing space as an astronaut! From there we went camping, took a trip through the desert, have read about how we can help each other and how history has changed the world we live in.

In addition we’ve been busy building, counting and creating patterns with cubes, counting coins and learning about two and three dimensional shapes.

Science has been filled with fun experiments learning about the different forms of matter using ice cubes, gummy bears and eggs to solve problems and investigate experiments through exploration and working as a team.

We are excited to enter our second quarter because there is so much more we will learn.
**Reading**

Why do reading experts recommend students read 20 minutes outside of school hours every day?

- Every-day reading increases fluency and confidence.
- Increased time spent reading increases vocabulary, comprehension, and writing skills.
- Reading outside the classroom helps students experience the world around them and understand how literacy leads to college, career, and beyond.
- Reading every day helps students form a positive habit, increasing the likelihood they will establish the value of lifelong literacy.

Log on to [www.justtake20.org](http://www.justtake20.org) and create a custom family reading plan. Log your minutes and unlock achievements and rewards by simply logging the minutes your family reads.

Mrs. Kelly—Reading Coach

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**Grow your child's love for math**

Most young children like counting objects and playing simple math games, but for many, their natural affinity for numbers begins to erode as they advance in school and math classes become increasingly challenging. Once a child begins to feel even slightly intimidated by math, it can trigger a cycle of avoidance, poor performance, and anxiety. Girls are especially vulnerable because stereotypes about math start very young: research shows that as early as second grade, both girls and boys express the belief that math is for boys, not for girls. (For a great summary of this study, go to Science Daily.)

As a parent, you can encourage your children — girls and boys alike — to appreciate and yes, enjoy math by introducing numbers early and treating them as an intriguing part of daily life. These simple, grade-by-grade math tips will reinforce the concepts your child is learning in school and help her develop — and grow — a love for math.

[www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org)

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Math

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[www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org)

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Mrs. Dimas—Intervention Support Specialist

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**Fall Family Movie Night**

Tuesday, November 10th

6:00pm to 7:30pm – Family Fun
Food, games, photos, dunk tank, dancing, rock wall and more!

7:30pm to 9:00pm – Movie Screening

*Admission is free*

*We look forward to seeing you there!*
How do we prepare children to handle the difficult and critical people in the world?

A great deal of attention has turned to the prevention of bullying in the schools. We will fall short of success if we don’t realize that changing the external world has its limitations. Some educators and parents would like to create a perfect world, prohibiting all cruel acts or apprehending all perpetrators. This is noble, but not realistic. How will they control what happens outside of school, at the mall, at sporting events, at parties, etc.?

We can teach students how to change their responses and reactions to difficult situations. They can employ strategies that will create more peaceful interactions and diffuse the power of bullies. We can help children learn to:

1. Change how they think about criticism. Translation! If something said is mean, critical, or cruel, it’s coming from a place of pain in the person who said it. Kids can say to themselves: “The other guy isn’t doing too well right now. I don’t need to internalize this mean comment.”

2. Change how they respond. The key is not to engage in the bully’s plan. Children can use a response that shows that the bully does not have the ability to get them to act in a weak, childish, or retaliatory way.

For example:

* Use an “I” Message: “Ooh, I get hurt when people criticize my mom.”

* Agree with the criticism: “I know, I do have big ears! They are great receptors for intergalactic communication!”

* Use a neutral response: “I’m sorry you see it that way,” or, “Thanks for telling me.”

The ability to use this information can protect kids even in the toughest situations and allow them to retain their peace of mind and belief in themselves throughout their lives.

Using these tools is a powerful step toward bully-proofing kids!

Mrs. Yzaguirre—School Counselor
A big thank you to Physicians Regional Hospital for their generous donation of $1000 to Vineyards Elementary. This money is being used to enhance our reading resource library. Be on the lookout for these new books that your child will be bringing home to practice their reading.

Our minds are not the only thing growing at Vineyards!

Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Harvey for the beautiful flowers around school. The students can’t wait to try out their green thumbs!

Thank you to the parents, teachers, and community members who serve on our School Advisory Council (SAC).

Mary Smith  Kristen Hoover  June Quiva
Diane Trefry  Susana Jontza  Julie Hall Foreman
Rachael Dindak  Julie Kelly  Debbie Dean
Patti Bauer  Don Shaffer (Publix)  Sarah Wallace
Kris Del Vecchio  Chip McElroy (Hodges University)  Bria Bare
Rodney Harvey  Fabiana Kivilevic  Erin Kirwin
Vikki Healy  Erin Powell  Bryan Lestock
Linda Pasquarello  Jamie Kline
Greetings from the VES art room! We have been busy using many different types of media while learning about the Art Elements of Line and Shape. Some classes have been exploring art criticism and we have all been practicing proper procedures in the art room.

If you are interested in helping out in the art room I can always use an extra hand (although it may be a messy job). Another way to help out is to donate items that we can always use. Newspapers are high on that list. I use them to cover tables, as placemats, for sculptures and for papier maché. If you have extra newspapers please bag them up and send to the office. Paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls and Styrofoam egg cartons are all great too. Thanks!

You can expect artwork to come home every few months. Art teachers tend to hang on to projects to use as displays in the school or art room as well as for county-wide art shows that pop up during the year. I will also keep artwork until the end of each grading period to make sure your child is properly assessed according to the quarterly Visual Art Standards. If a few months have passed and you have not seen any work, please let me know. It might be that I need to return some, the classroom teacher is using it, OR that it has been returned but is not making it home.

When artwork does come home, please spend a few minutes talking to your child about the project. Tell them what you see—begin by describing the basics, “I see that you used shapes to draw a fish. I see that you only used a few colors. Tell me about how you made this.” Ask them if they like it or if they would change anything. These are all steps of art criticism (talking about art) which promote higher level thinking.

Artfully Yours,

Mrs. Powell
It has been a great start to our school year. All the grade levels have been learning or reviewing the following concepts: beat; rhythm; melody; tempo; dynamics and tone color.

Also, once again available for VES is the availability of rent guitars for 4th and 5th grade students. Mr. Music, Inc., a music store in Ft. Myers, has made guitar rentals available for $21.20 per month. This will give students the freedom to practice at home on their own guitar instead of only using the classroom instruments for 50 minutes once a week. More information on the rentals will be available soon.

Finally, mark your calendars, the fifth grade is preparing music for the Vineyards Tree Lighting Ceremony which will take place this year on December 3rd. If your child is in 5th grade, please use your mobile phone, tablet or computer and go to vestreelighting.shutterfly.com for info on the event. Your child can also use this website to practice the songs for the tree lighting.

Congratulations to Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Moss and Mrs. Roche for receiving grants for their classroom. These teachers were recently surprised by Champions for Learning as this foundation helped to make their ideas into a reality through the Connect With a Classroom program. It is not too late to help other teachers as well. You are encouraged to log on to their website www.eductionforcollier.org and help other VES teachers get their grants funded.
Common Sense on Evaluating Websites

What's the Issue?
The Internet is bursting with information. Some of it's correct, some of it's questionable, and some of it is just plain wrong. The Internet is typically the first place young people look when they begin researching a report or are just browsing for information on their favorite topic. But as you know, not everything they find on the Web can be trusted. And skills they learn about research and evaluation in elementary school will provide them a foundation they'll continue to use in middle school and beyond.

Why Does It Matter?
Anyone can publish on the Internet, so not all sites are equally trustworthy. Teens have the ability to be skeptical, but younger children tend to believe what they read and accept it as the truth. When children find sources online that aren’t of high quality, they risk using incorrect information, getting only part of the story, and worst of all, denying themselves the opportunity to truly learn as much as possible about a topic.

When children use a website for their research, they should make sure it’s worthy of their trust. Fortunately, there are ways to evaluate the trustworthiness of a site. Along with choosing sites with good design and at the right reading level, kids should evaluate the substance and content of the material.

Common sense says...

Ask questions to evaluate the trustworthiness of sites. You can help your child evaluate the quality of a website with a little detective work.

- **Who wrote this?** Check to make sure the author or organization is credible by looking at their title, expertise, and background.
- **What is the source of the information?** Does the site come from a well-known organization or news source?
- **How does this compare to other information?** When evaluating websites it’s important to look at multiple sites so you can compare information.
- **When was this updated?** Has the site been updated recently? If not, move on. What is the site linked to? Was the site linked from another webpage that you trust? If so, that’s a good sign.
- **Are advertisers targeting you?** Help your kids notice when advertisers are trying to get their attention as they search. Teach your kids to question what the ads are saying.

www.commonsense.org
Common Sense on Digital Life

What's the Issue?
We may think of our kids’ online, mobile, and technological activities as “digital life,” but to them it’s just life. In their world, being able to connect and communicate 24/7 from just about any location is normal – and expected! Between kindergarten and fifth grade, kids go through rapid growth in learning about many topics, including digital media technologies. From playing games on their mom or dad’s cell phone, to learning how to point and click a mouse, to navigating online by themselves, kids this age are participating in a connected culture.

Why Does It Matter?
Young children need to learn early how to make good choices so they can take advantage of the powerful technologies available to them. And to make these good choices, kids need parental guidance.

The stakes are high because our kids’ technological abilities can be greater than their maturity and judgment. Having unrestricted access to information and people can result in gaining a wealth of information and experiences. But it can also mean accessing inappropriate content and making inappropriate contact with others. The difference between a great experience and an iffy one lies in the decisions kids make. Just as kids learn to eat properly, swim safely, or drive a car carefully, they need to know how to live in the digital world responsibly and respectfully. Their ultimate success depends on their abilities to use digital media to create, collaborate, and communicate well with others. Those who master these skills in using digital tools will benefit from the digital world’s awesome power.

Common sense says…

Use bookmarks and safe search. Teach your child to bookmark his or her favorite sites. This way, your child is less likely to go somewhere online you don’t want. Use safe search options on Web browsers, such as Google or Bing, to make sure your child can search safely.

Consider using filtering and blocking software. Some parents find these tools to be useful to help protect younger children from accessing inappropriate content.

Have older siblings help. Have your older children help teach your younger children how to be responsible and safe online. Let the older ones know that you want them to help you protect their little brothers or sisters online.

Share wisdom. Kids often don’t understand the implications of their actions. But we do. So we have to remember to extend our basic parenting wisdom to the digital world. We teach kids to choose their words carefully, play nicely with others, and respect their teachers. Now we have to extend those lessons to a vast, invisible world.

Pass along your values. As a parent, you can translate your values into the digital world and help kids understand the implications of their actions. Oftentimes the same rules that apply in the real world apply online, such as “be nice to others,” “don’t say mean things,” and “think critically about information.”

Seek balance. It’s hard to know how much freedom to give kids. We want them to explore, enjoy, communicate, and create. We also want to be sure they are protected. If our kids are going to thrive with digital media, we must balance the negative with the positive, privacy with protection. As our children grow, they need more independence and privacy. But parents have to be sure their kids know how to be safe and responsible before letting them loose.

Keep an open mind. We don’t see the world the way our kids do. And we don’t help our kids when we judge their lives through the lens of a non-digital world. It’s important for us to understand that our kids will spend much of their lives in a connected world, where everyone creates and communicates. We need to help them to enjoy it and learn from it.
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