

VIERA CHARTER SCHOOL



PANTHERS

February 2020

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

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Principal's Message

Dear Panther Families,

Every day is a chance to witness a new beginning as our new middle school campus takes shape. Did you get a chance to see the first wall raised? The buildings are coming along so fast. Don't forget to let your family and friends know this expansion is a great time to join our Panther family by registering now for the lottery of available slots, at vieracharterschool.com.

There is so much going on in these pages. It was lovely to see our students writing thank-you letters for making the choice to send them to Viera Charter School during School Choice Week. It is also great to see that our students and faculty continued their education outside the four walls of the classroom with many field study trips.

Our young Panthers are so generous with their time and talent. A big thank you goes to the Student Council and our Elementary and Middle School Honor Societies for helping the homeless with a donation drive. Stay inspired!

Warmest regards,

Dr. Julie Cady



Dr. Cady joins students in wearing yellow for School Choice Week. See page 2.

Celebrating the 100th, 101st Day of School

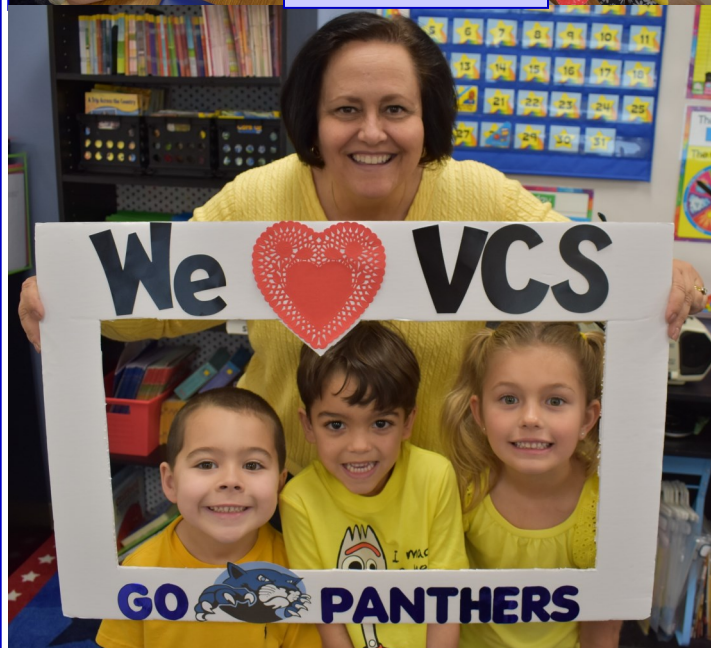
Kindergarteners bowled us over with cuteness as they dressed up as 100-year-olds to mark the 100th day of school. First graders followed suit the next day to mark the 101st day, many dressed up as characters in the Disney classic, *101 Dalmatians*.



Crazy Hair Day, School Choice Week Provide Lots of Ways to Dress Up



Students wrote letters home to their parents to thank them for choosing Viera Charter School, wore yellow, decorated posters, and wrote poems, paragraphs and raps to celebrate.



Middle School Wall Raising was a Sight to See

Students and staff were excited to see the giant crane that would be used to lift the first wall to the new middle school building, cafeteria and gymnasium. Concrete was poured and set, and the first wall was tilted upward into place Feb. 4. Other walls have quickly followed and the three buildings are quickly taking shape.



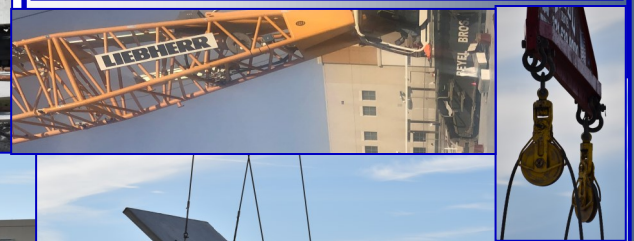
Student of the Month for February: Caring

It was an emotional day when Morgan Tennort learned she was chosen for Student of the Month for all of fifth grade, for the character quality of Caring. "I can't believe it," she said as the news was announced in Mrs. Lacaj's class. Immediately, the entire class filed toward her for a group hug of congratulations. "To me, I feel like I'm mostly quiet, so it's nice that I was noticed. It feels good that I was picked for something I really didn't try for, but the people in my class and in the other fifth grade classes and all the teachers felt that I am a caring person."



Why does Morgan love getting picked for this award over all the remaining eight character qualities celebrated through the school year?

"I love it because Dr. Cady always says Caring is her favorite. So that makes me feel like it is the best thing to be."





Mrs. Berlin leads first and second graders in playing kazoos and singing songs at the Valentine's Day concert Feb. 13 at Faith Fellowship Church, below. The next time this show is performed it will be in the new gymnasium! In photos left and right, students enjoyed dressing in pink, red, and white to celebrate Valentine's Day Feb. 14. Hearts won the day!



Happy Valentine's Day!



Fifth Grade

Fifth Graders Get Inspired to Join Middle School Band

Elementary Music director Mrs. Berlin took all her fifth-grade students — the entire grade level — to see the Brevard Symphony Orchestra perform live at the King Center Feb. 4, most likely the first time they have seen classical instruments performed in person. As she will only have these students for the remainder of the year, the main benefit will be for her Middle School counterpart, Mr. Law.



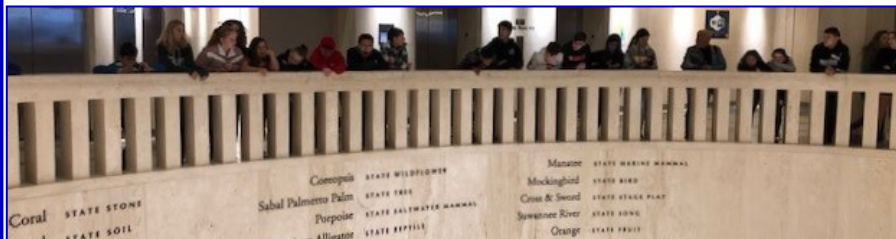
"It gives them an idea of what kind of instrument they might like to play in middle school next year," Mr. Law said. "I'm so thankful she does this for them and for us." For Mrs. Berlin, it is a culmination of the experience she provides each week for students, targeted at their grade level from kindergarten to fifth grade, a six-year span.

"Our focus is on the one instrument we all possess, our voice," Mrs. Berlin said. "But they have been playing various musical instruments for six years, starting with little egg shakers. They just don't know it yet."

Seventh Grade Treks to Tallahassee for Work and Play

Seventh
Grade

Our VCS seventh grade Civics classes went to Tallahassee to soak up the history, sights, and government Jan. 30-31. We started out with a tour of Mission San Luis where we learned about how Spanish settlers interacted with the Apalachee Indians. Then it was on to a ferry boat ride down Wakulla Springs. We saw manatees, alligators, turtles, river otters, and every kind of bird imaginable. On day one, we also got to view the 3D IMAX movie, *The Mysteries of China*, on the Florida State



University campus. Day two was full of civics. We toured the Capitol Building where the House of Representatives and the Senate meet. In the Old Capitol Building, students got to go on a scavenger hunt to find out about the history of government in Florida. Then we headed over to The Call/Collins House, or The Grove, as it's also called. This was the governor's mansion from the 1800s to about 1954. Afterwards, students got an interactive view of Florida history in the Florida Museum of History. Lastly, we got to sit in the Florida Supreme Court. Students even got to sit in the justices' seats!! After all of this fun, we headed home to the warmth of Viera. It was COLD in Tallahassee! —*Civics Teacher Mrs. Smith*

Science and Engineering Fair Winners Excel

Animal Science

- 1st place Aiden Germain
- 2nd place Emie Peter
- 3rd place Olivia Sosa and Jonah Budd
- 4th place Mariam Mizyed and Sara Crews

Plant Science

- 1st place Wilson Brown
- 2nd place Erica Flagg/Katheryn Bresette

Earth and Environmental Science

- 1st place Prisha Darji
- 2nd place Isaiah St. Germain
- 3rd place Gigi Wiseman
- 4th place Donovan Blakely

Chemistry

- 1st place Malayna Dovale
- 2nd place Asha Vellody
- 3rd place Joshua Ellis
- 4th place Logan Crouch

Physics and Astronomy

- 1st place Adam Hart
- 2nd place McKenna Coris
- 3rd place Stewart Lorvick
- 4th place Kingston Berry

Mechanical Engineering

- 1st place Ignacio Leivas
- 2nd place Austin Kendall
- 3rd place Emerson Ochipa
- 4th place Malia Santos

Robotics

- 1st place Gavin LeBrun

Coding

- 1st place Nathan Magdi

Environmental Engineering

- Jenna Gathercole

Winners in bold from this month's Fair will go the District level Fair March 6. Thank you to Mrs. Boucher, below, Mr. VanGenechten, and Mr. Boucher for organizing and judging.



Eighth Grade Goes to Bok Tower Gardens, Science Ensues

It is called the Singing Tower because of the steel frame of carillon bells that soar 205 feet in the air. But when eighth graders went on field study, it was all about science experiments rather than sight-seeing, courtesy of faculty sponsor Mrs. Martinez, who teaches Science.

Eighth Grade



Mrs. Lee Wins Scholarship to Study Language in Germany

When Mrs. Lee decided to introduce German to middle school students, she never imagined that the decision would lead her back to the country where she first learned the language.

Mrs. Lee is the winner of the Goethe Institut's 2020 Professional Development Scholarship for teachers of German. She will spend two weeks studying German language and culture at one of the 16 Goethe Institutes in Germany.

"As a first-year language teacher, I am incredibly grateful that Viera Charter School has such a dedicated and supportive World Language Department," said Lee, who has taught a variety of subjects for many years. "We have been consistently supported by the administration as we seek out new professional development opportunities. This continued professional development supports the VCS World Language Department vision of becoming the best World Language Department in the state of Florida."

Foreign language will be added to K-6 this fall.



Mrs. Lee uses plush emoticons to teach the expressions for feelings in German.



Dream it, Do It! Writing Club Wins First Place in Law Day Video Contest

Members of the after-school Dream It, Do it! Writing Club held its Student Showcase kickoff party Jan. 31, and hosted centers with all the main devices and methods of storytelling, one of which was making and editing a movie in a day. The movie project picked for the movie activity was the challenge from the 2020 Law Day to create a video about why it is so important to vote. Veteran Dream It, Do It! member Katherine “Katie” Kardauskus directed, shot, and edited the movie, using members as students interviewing one another on why they should vote. Katie represented the Club and attended the 2020 Law Day Dinner, with many judges attending. She picked up the first-place award and a check for \$50. Other VCS winners were sixth grader Haylee Alexis Elbert with third place in Poster Design and Mrs. Oxley for Best Lesson Plan.



Katherine Kardauskus, shown filming in photo on right, shot and edited the film “Why Vote?,” left, which won First Place for Middle School in the 2020 Law Day Contest.

Famous Author Visits School, Teaches Students American Sign Language

Our informal Poet Laureate Mrs. Pavone organized a visit from famous children’s author Kentrell Martin, who has written 20 books and co-writes children’s adventure stories with his children. The Shelly’s Adventure Series is now being made into a cartoon and a live action series. One book tells of a girl who makes it her mission to teach her friends American Sign Language, so they can communicate with her father in a language he can understand. In addition to reading his stories to grades first through fourth in the cafeteria Feb. 19, Mr. Martin also taught students about 30 different basic sign gestures. He visits 120 schools all over the country teaching sign language. “Being deaf just means you speak a different language,” he said.



Student Council Hosts Donation Drive to Help Brevard Rescue Mission

Making posters with a mission did not stop with the election that put six students on the VCS Student Council. Members Natalie Rhoads, Addison Ochippa, Danielle Matthews, Anderson Law, Michael Schmidt, and Haley Deatherage worked together to make posters and encourage VCS families to donate toiletries for individuals and families served by the nonprofit Brevard Rescue Mission. They also collected funds to help the agency serve more people. They worked with NHS and NEHS members. "These students worked proactively by collecting items through the car loop," Student Council Faculty Advisor Mrs. Rabun said. "I am in awe."



Student Council members Natalie Rhoads, left, Addison Ochippa, Danielle Matthews, Anderson Law, Michael Schmidt, and Haley Deatherage hosted a donation and fund drive to help Brevard Rescue Mission.

Events In February And March

- Friday, Feb. 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Kindergarten Visits the Brevard Zoo. \$10 tickets, up to 2 adults per student. Replaces separate mother/son, father/daughter dances.
- Monday, Feb. 24, Dress Down Day, Wear your Favorite Sports Team Gear.
- Tuesday, Feb. 25, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Fifth Grade Goes to the Orlando Science Center.
- Thursday, Feb. 27, Science Fair Winners Go to Northern Area Science Fair at S.C. Jr. Sr. High.
- Friday, Feb. 28, AVID Students Tour Colleges.
- Saturday, Feb. 29, 6-8 p.m., Glow Crazy Family Dance Party at Viera High's Gymnasium. Go to www.vcsptso.com for
- Thursday, March 5, Cap and Gown Picture Day.
- Wednesday, March 11, 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Third Grade goes to Brevard Zoo for Classification Investigation.
- Friday, March 13, Dress Down Day, Wear Green Like a Martian.
- **Monday-Friday, March 16-20 Spring Break.**
- Monday, March 23, No School for Students, Teacher Planning Day.