



## This Week's Topics:

- Our New School Home!
- Earth Day Celebration
- Yankee Candle Fundraiser Results
- Coach's Corner
- Homework Policy
- Tae Kwon Do
- Picture Day
- RAZ Kids.
- Upcoming Dates — Mark Your Calendars:
  - 4/14: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade field trip to ImaginOn
  - 4/12: Picture Day
  - 4/13: Report Cards are sent home
  - 4/22: Earth Day Event
  - 5/6: EOG Proctor Training
  - 5/11: Progress Reports are sent home
  - 5/12: Parent University: Transition and Summer Learning
  - 5/25 3<sup>rd</sup> grade End of Grade Testing
  - 5/26: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade End of Grade Testing
  - 5/27: Teacher Workday/No School
  - 6/3: Summer Safety Awareness Event

## Our New School Home!

You'd never know that we just moved into the school during Spring Break, for the students, teachers, and staff have settled in, and it looks as if we've been here all year. Parents did a great job navigating to school on time, and students have tucked into our new procedures beautifully.

New parent engagement opportunity: Now that we have a large cafeteria, parents and grandparents are invited to join their child for lunch. When you come, sign-in at the front office; then join your child's class in the cafeteria. Be sure to bring a lunch that is in compliance with our Outside Food Policy since fast food and other foods that are not in alignment with our Outside Food Policy will not be permitted. Join us in encouraging eating habits that fuel success in and out of the classroom! Here's our lunch schedule for each class:

### Lunch Schedule

Mrs. Sandonato: 11:00-11:30

Ms. Oliverio: 11:10-11:40

Mrs. Dawkins: 11:20-11:50

Mrs. Rojas: 11:30-12:00

Mrs. Pedersen: 11:40-12:10

## **Earth Day Celebration**

Please join us Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm to celebrate Earth Day with VERITAS Community School.

Our afternoon will be filled with:

- Exciting news and updates from our PTO President, Kristen Fuller.
- An opportunity to view your child's classroom.
- Classroom rotations for recyclable arts and crafts projects.
- Yard Sale to sell or purchase recycled treasures such as gently used uniform tops and bottoms. (Details to follow.)
- Discover how recycling can save our planet.
- Learn about how you can be involved in our school garden.

## **Yankee Candle Fundraising Results**

Our very first fundraiser, the produced online sales of \$1131.20 and paper sales of \$1164.80 leaving us with a profit of \$918.40, which reflects 40% of what we raised. VERITAS has an anonymous donor who will match funds raised, so we raised a **grand total of \$1,836.00**. This will give us a great start to building our school library, which will be up and running for the 2016-2017 school year.

**A special thank you to Kristen and Lawrence Fuller, Syretta and Silverio Anthony, Tommi Harris, Katy Ridnour, Wakena Colon, and everyone who helped to raise funds for Light the Way for Literacy!**

**Candle orders will be available at the school during the week of April 11<sup>th</sup>. Details for families to pick up orders at school will be sent soon.**

## **Coach's Corner**

What a great beginning in our new school. I feel so blessed to have a large gym to teach and play in. I want everyone to know that we will do our last Physical Fitness testing next month. The students have made tremendous growth in their core strength, upper body strength, and their cardiovascular endurance. The core strength is testing by doing sit-ups to a cadence. The form and speed must be consistent with the cadence. The push-up test for upper body strength is basically the same; it's a cadence to keep up with and 90 degree elbow bend for correct form.

It would be awesome for the kids to practice these two for 5 minutes each evening. I tell the kids that commercial breaks are for fitness practice! It is always more fun to do these with someone else, so parents join your child on the carpet and get fit!

The weather is going to be unpredictable for a while, but on nice days, please take a family walk or bike ride. If you are near a local park, enjoy some time just playing together. We are currently doing a unit on Diamond Games (softball, baseball, kickball). The students are working on throwing, catching, and batting. Take some time to play catch in the yard. Enjoy the spring and remember that your child is still young and he/she learns so much through play! A balance of academics and movement promotes growth in the whole child.

~Coach Johnson

## Homework Policy

We appreciate that there are as many opinions about the value of homework as there are colors in the rainbow. At VERITAS, we believe that homework allows a child the time to practice a new skill and to develop the tenacity to focus on a challenging activity. VERITAS has developed a homework policy with children's needs in mind that will allow for the practice that our rigorous curriculum requires from each student to ensure continued growth in each subject area. Every child is expected to comply with the expectations outlined in VERITAS's homework policy. Here's an excerpt from our Family Handbook regarding this policy:

"Routinely, students will be given homework assignments that students are expected to complete. All assignments will be prepared so that students successfully understand class work given on a particular day. Parents should check with each child's teacher(s) for specific requirements. Families are encouraged to build a home culture that inspires lifelong learning" (page 10).

Thank you for doing your part to support all aspects of VERITAS's Mission—Targeted Academics, Health and Wellness, and Peaceful Classroom.

## Tae Kwon Do

Our very popular Tae Kwon Do Club will begin its third session on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Forms were sent home with your child this week, and they are due by Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. There are only 25 spots for this club, and they go quickly. Be sure to send in your child's form ASAP!

## Picture Day

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, individual and class pictures will be taken by Lifetouch Photography. Order forms were sent home with your child this week. If you'd like an individual photo of your child, be sure to return the form by April 12<sup>th</sup>, for the photographer will only take individual photos of children who have pre-paid.

## A New Recipe for Your Family

GRANOLA BARS — Ready in 1 hr, 40 mins

### Ingredients:

2 cups of rolled oats	2 tablespoons of creamy nut butter (any kind will do!)
1/2 cup shredded coconut	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup of honey	1/8 teaspoon of salt

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
2. Grease a 9-inch square baking dish.
3. Spread the oats and coconut evenly across a baking sheet.
4. Toast oats and coconut in preheated oven until browned, about 10 minutes; transfer to a large mixing bowl.
5. Mix honey, nut butter, vanilla extract, and salt in a saucepan over medium-low heat. Cook and stir until smooth. Pour the honey mixture over the oats and coconut; stir to coat. Spread the mixture evenly into the prepared baking dish.
6. Bake in preheated oven until beginning to dry, about 15 minutes for crunchy granola bars, less if you like them chewy. Cool completely before cutting.

## **RAZ Kids**

Reading is an essential life skill, so please encourage your child to log into [RAZ Kids](#), read a book, and improve her or his reading at home or in the car. Every minute of reading boosts literacy skills!

### **The VERITAS Identity...**

I am SMART. I am STRONG. I am PEACEFUL.

This is who we are. Let's live it everyday.