Valhalla International Fund Art Contest

The VIF sponsored an art contest which was open to all Valhalla students to submit a drawing of a famous landmark. The winning drawings will be displayed at the VIF dinner on March 7th and sets of notecards will be made up of the drawings to be sold to raise funds for the VIF. The winners from Kensico and their drawings are:

- Gabrielle Hickman (Grade 5) ~ Golden Gate Bridge, CA
- Keelan Mahon (Grade 5) ~ Venice, Italy

4th Grade Science Fair ~ Monday, March 2 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Kensico School’s 4th graders take center stage as they demonstrate and display their Science Fair projects. The Science Fair takes place on Monday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for parents/guardians and on Tuesday, March 6 for students. I am always impressed with how eloquently the students describe the scientific method related to their project.

Colgate Bright Smiles Dental Van ~ Wednesday, March 4

The Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Program (BS/BF™) provides free dental screenings and education to children between the ages of 1-12 years old. The van will be at Kensico from 9:30 to 2:30. Students will receive a free dental screening and will be taught how to brush, floss and the importance of eating healthy foods and visiting the dentist. Additional information and consent forms will be sent home prior to the visit.

Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) ~ March 9 to 26

This year’s theme is “Happy 100th Birthday Columbus Avenue/Kensico School.” During the 3 weeks, we will celebrate the 100th Birthday with dress-up days, mystery readers and other activities. Reading logs will be distributed on March 9. The PTA will tally student reading and results will be displayed on a large candle in each wing. PARP celebrates reading and encourages children to read with a partner (parent, guardian, sibling, grandparent, or any other friend or family member) for at least 15-20 minutes each day.
Student Council Trip to Board of Legislators ~ March 13 & 20

Student Council Officers and Representatives will visit the Westchester County Board of Legislators in White Plains and participate in a Mock Legislative session. Students will have the opportunity to debate issues, such as 12-month school year, banning unhealthy snacks, school uniforms. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience how our government works!

NYS ELA Testing:  
Grade 4 ~ March 24 & 25  
Grade 5 ~ March 26 & 30  
Grade 3 – March 31 & April 1

NYS Math Testing:  
Grade 5 ~ April 20 & 21  
Grade 4 ~ April 22 & 23  
Grade 3 – April 24 & 27

New York State administers assessments annually in the areas of English Language Arts and Math at each grade level, 3 through 8. Detailed information about the testing program appears on the following pages.

Just a reminder: Students should approach the state assessments as they have in the past with a good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and a positive outlook. Let your child know you have confidence in his/her ability. Students are well prepared for these assessments through high-quality instruction and learning.

Fourth Grade Trip to Albany, NY ~ Thursday, April 2

Our 4th graders, as part of their Social Studies Curriculum, will be taking a trip to Albany. They will visit the NYS Court of Appeals, where they will have a tour, as well as Q and A session with our Chief Justice Janet DiFiore. Through the tour of the Capitol Building, they will explore the Senate Chambers and the Assembly to see our elected officials in action. In the New York State Museum, students will engage in hands-on exhibits and go on a mission to see as many pieces of our New York state history as possible.

“Kids on Broadway” ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ Valhalla M/HS Auditorium ~ Thursday, April 2

Under the direction of Dr. Laura Evans, our vocal music/orchestra teacher, our 5th graders will perform “Songs from Annie”, inspired by the Broadway play, “Annie”. Dr. Evans and our 5th graders have been busy rehearsing and preparing for the show for the last several months. Please join us for a wonderful performance by our talented 5th graders!

NYSESLAT Begins ~ Monday, April 13

The NYS English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) will be administered this spring. All students in NYS, Kindergarten through 12th grade, who qualify for English as a Second Language services must take this assessment. There are six different assessments: K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-12. Mr. Clinton Pierce, our ESL teacher, has been trained on the format, administration and scoring of the test.

March Birthdays

Jayson Amorosa  
Marcelo Azar  
Eli Berisha  
Elizabeth Blenkle  
Isabella Brod  
Alexander Ciampi  
Marc Cook  
Yarixa Cotrina  
Isabel Hughes  
Miguel-Angel Londono  
Sincere Melvin  
Kayla Menendez  
Aiden Morrison  
Christopher Nonn  
Natalie Spiteri  
Shane Theall  
Robert Zielinski

Lost and Found ~ Spring Cleaning

There is a mountain of clothing in the cafeteria – coats, jackets, etc. If you are missing an item, check it out. Whatever is unclaimed before spring break will be donated to charity.
5th Grade Theater Trip ~ “Frozen” ~ Wednesday, April 15
Fifth graders will travel to New York City aboard charter buses. We begin with lunch at Buca di Beppo in Times Square. The highlight of our day is the matinee performance of the Broadway musical, “Frozen,” at The St. James Theater. I look forward to sharing this memorable experience with our 5th graders!

Kids Heart Challenge ~ Friday, April 17
Kids Heart Challenge (formerly Jump Rope for Heart), sponsored by the American Heart Association, will be held during the school day. Students will participate in rope climbing, long jump, knockout basketball, hula-hooping, double-dutch, jump-roping, and tug-of-war. This event raises awareness of heart healthiness and raises funds for the American Heart Association.

Parking Lot Safety
Parents dropping off and picking up their children in the parking lot is a safety issue that we all need to be aware of. Signs are posted and cones are placed to keep children safe. Moving cones, driving at an unsafe rate of speed and/or allowing children to exit on the opposite side of the curb all pose serious dangers that are easily avoidable. In addition, please park in the parking lot, and not by the trash bins or near the crosswalk, as it creates a dangerous situation for everyone. It is vitally important that parents adhere to these rules for the safety of all students at Kensico School.

April Birthdays
Melissa Angarola
Nicholas Bianco
Danielle Brod
Zoe Carman
Valerie Castillo
Kaden Chaudhry
Adriana Comisso
Giovan Cordones
Angelina Delgado
Giuliana DiMaio
Jake DiNatale
Ava Ferere
Julian Galeano
Aryana Hakimizadeh
Evangeline Hickey
Josiah Hoover Lluesma
Gabriella Ilario
Kayla Jenkins
Ella Johnson
Keelan Mahon
Gianna Malgioglio
Reiley Mathew
Makala Mathews
Jazlene Melendez
Vleron Neziri
Gabriel Ortiz
Mathias Ostvang
Dwain Palmer
Alexander Ronco
Taiyo Russo
Ram Salim
Edward Singh
Taylor Smith
Monthly Writing Celebration

Thank you to all who participated in our December Writing Celebration, where students explained a gift they have given to a special person during the holiday season. You all added to the joy and spirit of the season and are very thoughtful!

Valerie Castillo  Lucia Gupta  Lilianna Rubino
Giuliana Derba  Kayla Jenkins  Joshua Thomas
Bradley Fleiss  Hannah Konigsberg  Aubrey Voetsch
Jeremy Fleiss  Izzie Liberati  Robert Zielinski
Jayden George  Alex Nagorny
Lola Grabel  Abigail Pacor

A huge thank you to those who participated in our January Writing Celebration for Secret Pal Day! Students were asked to think of a person whom they admire, and send them a secret letter to let them know how special and important they are. It warmed so many hearts to receive such a nice gesture and let them know how much they are cared about.

Nathaniel Aguilar  Peyton Clark-Leon  Jazlene Melendez
Samuel Akinbola  Ryan Fleitas  Aiden Morrison
Allison Aparicio Sanchez  Lola Grabell  Alex Nagorny
Tara Baranowski  Zoey Griffin  Abigail Pacor
Max Braverman  Anika Gursahani  Katherine Pesce
Serena Buonocore  Kayla Jenkins  Lilianna Rubino
Max Buonocore  Ava Keriazis  Dylan Suarez
Joseph Candria  Hannah Konigsberg  Joshua Thomas
Roman Capobianco  Farrah Kulage-Hussain  Robert Zielinski
Valerie Castillo  Izzy Liberati

A huge thank you to those who participated in the February Writing Celebration. February 14th is Ferris Wheel Day and in honor of this wonderful ride, students were asked what their favorite amusement ride is and why.

Valerie Castillo  Izzie Liberati
Lola Grabell  Gabriella Oliveira
Ella Johnson  Lilianna Rubino
Mrs. Pecora’s Entire Class

We are excited to share our March Writing Celebration in honor of Columbus Avenue/Kensico’s 100th Birthday! In conjunction with our PARP theme, students will be asked to research something that is 100 years old and write about it. Be sure to tell us why you chose this item, information about the item, fun facts, and pictures. We are so excited to see what the students come up with and the wonderful things they learn!
New York State Assessments (dates listed above)

Every spring, New York State administers English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics tests to all students in Grades 3 to 8. The goal of the NYS Education Department is that all Grades 3-8 testing will be delivered on computers by 2020. All grades will be administered computer-based tests (CBT) in ELA and Math. Kensico has been preparing all grades for the move to CBT in the following ways:

- The NYS Education Department has released a Question Sampler to familiarize educators/students with CBT. The Question Sampler lets educators, students, and families see what the Grades 3-8 ELA and Math test questions will look like on a computer. The Test Question Sampler is available at: https://ny.nextera.questarai.com/tds/#practice.

- All classroom teachers and our STEAM Teacher, Mr. Ward, has been providing regular opportunities for students to work with digital tools to enhance their ability to navigate the online testing environment.

- Grade 3 students were administered a CBT simulation on February 11th to help them understand what testing would be like.

The NYS Assessments are developed with NYS Learning Standards in mind and offer the opportunity for children to demonstrate what they know utilizing a variety of learning tasks. Participating in the ELA and Math assessments helps provide our teachers with information regarding how your child is meeting the state standards. They identify areas of strength and weakness to help teachers guide their instruction to strengthen student learning.

These are not tests students can study for, but rather they assess the skills and content that children have acquired throughout their schooling years. A friendlier testing environment continues to be the focus for students. The ELA and Math tests will be administered over 2 days and remain untimed. By removing time limits, students will be able to work at their own pace to complete the tests to the best of their ability. NYS educators are deeply involved in the test development process, and student performance on the 3-8 assessments are not linked to a Teacher or Principal evaluation, the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR).

The following chart offers the breakdown of the ELA and Math Assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 ELA Test Design</th>
<th>2020 MATHEMATICS Test Design</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Session 1 Grades 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 3, 4</td>
<td>25 multiple choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 reading passages</td>
<td>Grade 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 multiple choice</td>
<td>30 multiple choice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 reading passages</td>
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<td>35 multiple choice</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Session 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Grade 3, 4, 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>8 multiple choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 reading passages</td>
<td>6 short-response questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 short-response questions</td>
<td>1 extended response question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 extended response question</td>
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</tbody>
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Student Drop-Off Time

Please note that any child dropped off before 8:20 a.m. is unsupervised. Teachers are not required to begin supervising children until 8:20 a.m. Please be aware of this situation.

Attendance and Punctuality

It is important for children to be at school on time, to settle down and get in the routines of the day. All students should arrive between 8:25 and 8:35 a.m. Being on time will teach our children the importance of time management. Being on time is important for academic success!!

Letters are sent home to families who are in excess of the absence/tardy limits set by the VUFSD.