

# VILLAGE SCHOOL

Middle School for Girls

Update: December 11, 2009

## Village School Craft Fair

The craft fair was a big success despite the wintry weather. The 6th grade **donated \$700** from the proceeds to *Operation Smile*, an organization dedicated to making the world a better place by healing children's smiles. Thanks to all of the parents and students who sold and bought craft items at the fair. Special thanks to **Marcy Rampini** and **Adelaide King** for organizing the day.



## See you tonight for the 6th Grade Dance

Tonight, Friday, December 11, 5:30-7:30 pm the whole school is invited to a dance hosted by the 6th grade to benefit the 8th grade bridge project.

We will have pizza, dessert, music and fun. Hope you can come!



## Village School Winter Concert

Sunday, January 31 at the Sanctuary of the Haven at First and Market

3:00 pm Student Drop Off; 4:00 pm Concert

This year we are using a beautiful, newly renovated space for our Winter Concert.

The Sanctuary of the Haven is located off of the downtown mall at the corner of First and Market Streets.

We ask that students be dropped at the Haven at 3:00 pm to warm up before the 4:00 pm concert.

## Drama Performances

7th Grade: January 27, 2:15 & 5:30 pm

8th Grade: January 28, 2:15 & 5:30 pm



Please note that we will have a **12:00 noon dismissal next Friday, December 18**

and there is **no afterschool**. Folders will not be sent home next Friday.

Have a safe and happy Winter Break. Happy New Year!

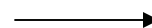
The **6h Grade** will have **Philosophy** during **Community Lunch** next Thursday, December 17. The topic is justice.

Please go to our website [www.villageschool.us](http://www.villageschool.us) to see videos of the Big/Little Sister lunch on the downtown mall.

**Sunny Speaks:** "In the depths of **winter** I finally learned there was in me an invincible summer"  
— Albert Camus



More on Back



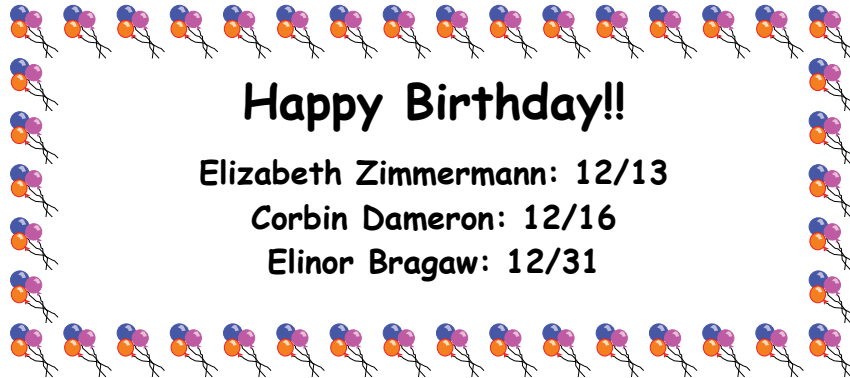
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Congratulations to 6th grader **Ariana Smith!**

Her design won the Omni Charlottesville Hotel's Annual Holiday Art Card Contest and will be used on the front of the Omni holiday cards this year.

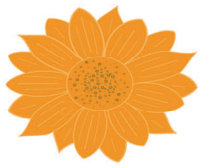
Honorable mention in the contest goes to **Meredith Hooper, Jaya Nanda, and Claire Zenker.**



## Village School Calendar

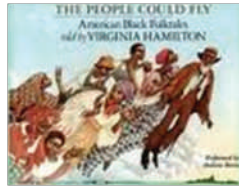
- December 18: Last Day Before Winter Break—Noon Dismissal, No Afterschool
- January 4: Back to School
- January 15: End of the Second Quarter
- January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (No School)
- January 19: Teacher workday ( No School)
- January 20-22: Interdisciplinary Days: *Village School Takes Flight*
- January 27: 7th Grade Drama Performance, 2:15 and 5:30 pm
- January 28: 8th Grade Drama Performance, 2:15 and 5:30 pm
- January 31: Winter Concert at Haven at First and Market, 3:00 pm Students Arrive, 4:00 pm Concert





## English

**Fifth Graders** are currently studying folk tales in English class. We have viewed, listened to, and read examples of this oral tradition. Today, students presented in a "reader's theater" format several African-American folktales from the anthology *The People Could Fly*. Next week, the students will pen original tales as well as explore family folklore.



The **sixth graders** are in the midst of a short "ancestor project." Students are writing epitaph poems on ancestors modeled after examples from *A Spoon River Anthology*. Next week, students will write personal poems following a similar format.

The **seventh graders** are very busy! Today, they completed the rough drafts of their essays of inquiry. The final versions of these four- to five-page papers are due next Thursday. Meanwhile, students are also reading *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* and writing journal responses to this work in class.



The **eighth grade** will finish *The House on Mango Street* on Monday. Next week, they will turn in two creative responses to this novel: a book of personal vignettes and a metaphorical representation of "home."

## History

**Fifth graders** have finished all their research and have written note cards for the Colonial Newspaper Project. Next week, they will begin writing front page stories and will complete their newspaper upon returning to school in the new year. We will start studying the Revolutionary War period as soon as the newspapers go to press

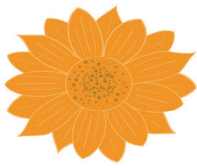
The years between 1880 and 1917 are explosive ones in U.S. economics, politics, and social change. **Sixth graders** are starting off their studies by learning about the rise and phenomenal success of Carnegie, Rockefeller, and Morgan. As industry expands, politics tries to keep up with the growing need of government oversight. Social change is driven by the influx of immigrants and the rapid growth of urban areas. The U.S. is on the rise!



**Seventh graders** are presenting their oral reports on Southeast Asian countries, and they are doing a terrific job. In the new year, we will begin our study of African countries. In January and February, we will be using the textbook and following the routine of outlining, reading quizzes, and tests. In March, we'll work on another research project involving African countries.



**Eighth graders** will have an in class essay next week on Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, and Hume. Comparing and contrasting these thinkers is an avenue for clearly defining the goals of rationalism and empiricism. Also, these different perspectives can serve to accentuate how modern philosophy can be seen as extensions of Plato's and Aristotle's influence. In the new year, we will welcome in Kant as part of our tour through western thought. After encountering Kant, my hope is that the students will never see the world as quite the same again.



### Latin

The **fifth grade** learned how to make the plural forms for three types of nouns and continued to study freedmen in Ancient Rome. We will have a test on Lessons 7–9 (pp. 41–56) early next week. The students also began working on their Latin heroic family trees.

The **sixth graders** finished Chapter 10 this week and began to prepare for their test next Thursday on



Chapter 8, 9, and 10. We have worked on verb forms and reviewed several noun forms we now know, in addition to our translation skills. We took some time as well to hear the story of Aeneas.

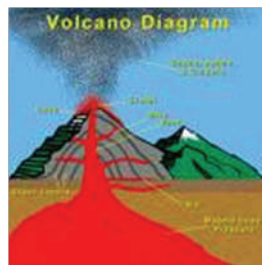
The **seventh graders** finished Chapter 23 this week, in which we started learning about the Future Tense in Latin. They will have a test on Chapters 21, 22, and 23 next Thursday, which will cover vocabulary, translation, and various grammatical topics from our notes in class. The class also began looking at some Latin inscriptions to review Dative case.

The **eighth graders** worked on Chapter 40 this week and began to review for their test next week on Chapter 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40. This reviews numbers, numerals, and a very peculiar brand of verb. The students also began working on short passages of challenging Latin for a short translation project with their partner.

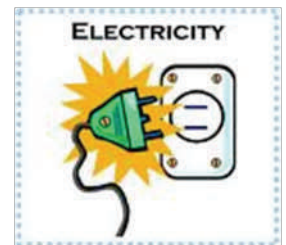
### Science

The **fifth grade** did a great job on their vertebrate characteristics quiz. They are practicing their graphing skills using reptile temperature data. These graphs will be used to compare temperature variation in ectotherms and endotherms. Next week they will consider the two remaining Chordate groups, the birds and the mammals.

Earthquakes and volcanoes mark Earth's tectonic plate boundaries. The **sixth grade** is studying the properties of seismic waves and the structure of volcanoes. They will have their final geology test Tuesday December 15.



Village School Mini Med School (MMS) is in full swing. The **seventh grade** is studying bones and muscles. The class is using ADAM software to explore these body systems. Please contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to be a MMS guest speaker this year.



The **eighth grade** finished their chemistry unit this week. The next unit will be electricity and magnetism. They are starting this unit by exploring energy. Next week students will perform experiments developed by the *National Energy Education Development Project*. Special thanks to NEED and Dominion Power for providing Village School with these project kits.

### Enrichment



The **fifth graders** are currently finishing a newsletter they wrote and put into Publisher about the novels they are reading. We are also working on our vocabulary and staying organized.

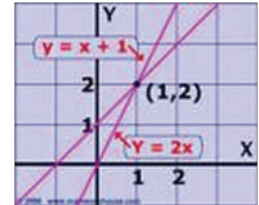
In the **sixth grade** the girls finished their submissions to the *Letters about Literature* writing contest. Each participant writes a letter to her favorite author. Students also started working on a "Road Sign" project to complete "Rules of the Road." Ask your daughter about extended metaphors.

### 7th & 8th Grade Math

**Pre-Algebra** classes are just beginning a study of number types, especially rational numbers (fractions). After a survey of all operations with all types of fractions, we will explore equations that involve fractions both as coefficients and as solutions.

**Algebra classes** have also just completed a large unit on word problems and are now learning about concepts surrounding the idea of a function. This includes notation, recognition of functions, and evaluation of functions. This work will lead the class into a study of linear equations.

**Geometry** is in the midst of a study of triangle properties and triangle congruence. The class will examine these ideas in the context of formal two-column proofs. A review of algebraic concepts surrounding slope and the derivation of linear equations given a pair of points will also be mixed into this unit.



### Ms. Giacherio's Math

The **fifth graders** took a test on Chapter 6 yesterday and we will continue to work with fractions and then move into percents. We will begin a project to combine all of these big concepts and help the girls see real world use for these math concepts.

$$\frac{1}{2} = 2 \overline{)0.50} \quad 1.00$$

In **sixth grade** students took a test on Chapter 7 yesterday. I'm sure everyone did very well. Next, we will begin a project on scale drawing and start on some algebraic concepts as well.

### Ms. Pace's Math

Right now in **fifth grade** math, we are learning about percentages. The girls are working to convert back and forth between fractions, decimals, and percentages. They are also learning how to calculate the percentage of a number.



In **sixth grade** math we are working on percentages. Because this is a review from last year, I split the class in to four groups and had each group teach a topic involving percentages. The group presentations were taped and will be used to help the fifth graders learn more about percentages. Each group also created a ten-question worksheet for their classmates. Everyone did a great job, and I think they even had some fun!

### Math Lab



The roller coaster project has finally come to an end. The girls presented their final projects at the 2009 Roller Coaster Fair. The girls did a wonderful job, and we had a great turnout of parents and teachers. This quarter in Math Lab the girls are going to be working on creating their own computer programs using the Alice programming system.

