



Vassar News

303-752-3772 • Fax 303-326-1241 • Attendance Line 303-326-1641 • Office Hours: 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

School Hours: 8:45 AM - 3:15 PM • Website: Vassar.aurorak12.org • 18101 E. Vassar Pl. Aurora CO 80013

NOVEMBER 2018

Principal: Stacey Stuart
Vice-Principal: Janelle Treese

Dates to Remember

- 11-1 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11-5 Vision Screenings
- 11-7 Student Council 3:15 to 4:30 PM
- 11-7 3rd Grade Music Performance 6:30 PM
- 11-8 2nd Grade to Children's Museum
- 11-9 **1/2 Day** – School ends at 11:45 AM
- 11-13 5th Grade – Ameritown (1st Group)
- 11-14 5th Grade – Ameritown (2nd Group)
- 11-17 Turkey Trot 11:00 AM Saturday
- 11-20 Party Bus for Fundraiser Winners
- November 21, 22, 23 – Thanksgiving Break**

ATTENDANCE COUNTS



EVERY DAY, ALL DAY



From the Administrators:

As our 1st quarter of the 2018-19 school ends and we begin 2nd quarter, we want to celebrate some of the great things happening at Vassar.

- There is a decrease in student tardies. Being on time is so important for your student and the classroom and teaches important lifelong habits.
- Increased student independence as learners and community members.
- We are celebrating students who have perfect attendance on a monthly basis with an extra recess or a treat.
- In August we had **231** students with perfect attendance!
- In September we had **184** students with perfect attendance!
- 1st quarter Top Hawks were honored

We are looking forward to the next quarter of learning and experiencing life together at Vassar Elementary. Please continue to encourage your students to always do their best at everything they do, to persevere when thing gets tough, and to always make positive choices.

Ms. Stuart and Mrs. Treese

VASSAR PTO

Parent Teacher Organization

Vassar PTO would like to thank everyone for participating in our fall fundraiser. It was a big success! The money raised will be used for many different family and student focused activities throughout the year such as field trips, classroom parties and a Valentine's Dance.

ART Class

Vassar's artists are busy creating beautiful work. Kindergarten is learning to paint, first grade is making collages inspired by the artist Henri Matisse, second and third grade are learning to give and get feedback, revise their art based on feedback and write reflections about their work. Fourth grade is learning to create light and dark values using paint as they paint nighttime landscapes. Fifth grade is learning about color and texture as they create sculptures using rolled strips of paper. DLC is practicing using scissors and glue to make a variety of small projects.

Ms. Small, Art Teacher

Flu season is just around the corner in Colorado!

There is no way to predict in advance how severe flu activity will be so prevention is the best strategy to stay healthy. The single best way to avoid getting influenza is to get vaccinated each year. Wash your hand often with soap and water. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.



It's COLD outside!

Dress warm! Students will be expected to go outside for recess each day if the temperature is **20 degrees** or above therefore, students should wear coats, hats and gloves to school during the winter season. On days when the temperature is below 20 degrees or if there is precipitation, the students will have inside recess and be supervised by staff members in their classrooms.

Note: Students well enough to be in school are expected to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess. Please do not ask for your student to stay inside unless you have a doctor's note. The clinic is very busy with medication and injuries during lunch time and the front office cannot conduct business and supervise students during this time.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Our next student council meeting will be on Wednesday, November 7th from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. We will be planning the next Spirit Day and ways that Student Council can help support the Turkey Trot. The Turkey Trot will be held Sat Nov. 17th at 11:00 at Vassar. Students that turn in their "Turkey Trot" forms by Oct. 31st will receive a free T-shirt the day of the Turkey Trot. Student council is also working with the Health Team of Aurora to help establish healthy school wide goals for Vassar Elementary School.

Mr. Chapla & Mr. Fischer

11th Annual Vassar Turkey Trot - Fun Walk/Run



Meet at Vassar Elementary School

Saturday, November 17 at 11:00 a.m.

All Vassar families are invited to walk or run the 1.5 mile race course around the neighborhood. This is a great way to build physical fitness and school community

Parents, please plan to attend the entire event with your child/children. No drop offs

**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
AFTER THE RACE!**

Free T-Shirts were ordered for students who **pre-register by November 2nd.**

NOTE: Families may still participate by filling out the flyer (available at the office) ...however, T-shirts will only be available if you registered before November 2nd.

**Enjoy a fun afternoon of
fun, fitness and food!**

Nick Chapla
Physical Education Teacher
Vassar Elementary



Music Notes:

5th grade students will be performing their show, "The U.S. Constitution," on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Vassar Gymnasium. **NOTE: THIS IS A DIFFERENT DATE THAN WAS ANNOUNCED EARLIER IN THE SCHOOL YEAR!** Speaking parts will be assigned to all students who asked for one. All speaking parts need to be memorized by November 30 for grade level rehearsals.

3rd grade students will be performing their show, "Matter and Its Properties," on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Vassar gymnasium. Students who asked for speaking parts have received them and should be practicing. All speaking parts need to be memorized by November 1 for grade level rehearsals.

Instead of recorder study, this year 2nd-5th grade students will learn to play the ukulele. A classroom set of instruments is available for students to use during class, but students who have their own ukuleles are welcome to bring them to use during music class. This will be a fairly short unit for most classes.

Did you know that a Music Room website has been created? Find information about grade level programs, ukulele songs, Vassar Choir, and how your child learns music in Mrs. G's classroom. A link to the music website can be found by scrolling down on the Vassar's main website page, through the following QR code, or through the following link: <http://bit.ly/VassarElementaryMusic>

Mrs. Gonzalez
Music Teacher



Sanford Harmony

We are excited to share that we are implementing **Sanford Harmony** in our classrooms this year. Sanford Harmony is a five-unit social emotional learning program that focuses on diversity and inclusion, critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and peer relationships. This social emotional learning curriculum empowers children to develop skills that allow them to connect with others, communicate effectively, resolve conflict, and enhance their learning potential.

Sanford Harmony was researched and developed by Arizona State University over a seven-year period and use of this program in schools has resulted in a number of positive outcomes. Students who have participated in the program report increased enjoyment and achievement in school as well as improvements in empathy which is foundational to building strong social skills. Also, schools who have utilized this program have experienced a decrease in stereotyping, bullying, teasing and aggression.

Our faculty has been trained in the Sanford Harmony program and it is being implemented in each classroom at Vassar. During the coming year students will begin the program by being taught to recognize and appreciate one another's similarities and differences by creating an inclusive environment in the classroom.

You can help support your child's learning and growth by asking questions that help build on the concepts they are learning in this program.

Ideas for questions include:

- What does diversity mean?
- What are you good at?
- What makes you proud?
- What does it mean to belong and to be a community?



Also, encourage your child to talk about some of the communities or groups to which your family belongs. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Sanford Harmony program please reach out to Dr. Sara Smith, School Psychologist.