



Panther Pride



Virден Elementary School: Educate - Inspire - Transform

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Grades Prepare for ISAT

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 8	Progress Reports Home
Feb. 14	Valentine Day Parties
Feb. 14	PTO - 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Hall of Presidents
Feb. 17	4th Grade to Sangamon Aud.
Feb. 20	No School
Feb. 21	Kindergarten Round-Up
Feb. 22	Casual Picture Day
Feb. 22	Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 29	Dismissal - 11:05 a.m.
Mar. 2	Young Author Books Due
Mar. 5	No School
Mar. 6	ISAT Testing Begins
March 9	Dismissal 1:20 p.m.

ISAT Tests Begin

ISAT tests will be March 6 - March 16. Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be given reading and math tests. In addition, students in grade 4 will be given a science test. There are several parts to each test. The tests will be spread over a number of days.

To help your child do his/her best, please read the following tips:

- ⇒ Students should get enough rest before the tests.
- ⇒ Eat breakfast each morning.
- ⇒ Be at school on time. Students who miss a day of testing do not usually do as well.
- ⇒ Do not let the tests intimidate you. Do your best!
- ⇒ Use all the time given for each test. Points are not given to those who finish first.



Thank you for making sure your students are here those testing days!

Thank You



- ⇒ A special thank you to the 5th grade classes and staff who collected \$520 for the Friend-in-Deed Program in December. How generous the students and their families were!
- ⇒ Virden Elementary students raised over \$2000 through the Box Tops in Education program. This money is used for special activities throughout the school year.
- ⇒ Thanks to the parents contributing to the Art Outreach program in the classroom. Students learn about art with these parents.

PBIS Assemblies

The North Mac High School cheerleaders performed PBIS cheers for the students to begin our second semester of school. Check out the pictures on our website. In addition, Richard Landry and his rabbit Snowball held a wonderful PBIS Assembly for all students.

Young Author Program



All students brought home information on the Young Author Program. This is a program Virden Elementary Students have been doing for years. Please help your child set aside time at home to write a story to be turned in.

It should be secured in a durable folder of some type and returned to school by March 2.

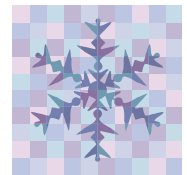
All students who turn in a book will receive recognition at a school assembly!

For any district information, including school calendars, breakfast and lunch menus, homework help, and so much more..... Log onto the school district website! That address is:

www.northmacschools.org.

Reminders

- ⇒ Students who come in to the school late in the morning **MUST BE** accompanied by a parent.
- ⇒ Please watch for lunch balances and pay for breakfast/lunch on a regular basis.
- ⇒ Please remember to call the school in the morning if your child is going to be absent.
- ⇒ February in Virden is cold. We often go outside. Please send students in heavy coats, hats, and mittens.
- ⇒ Make sure the school has a working phone number on file so you will not miss any phone calls about emergency school closings.



Help Needed

Please continue to send in your Box Tops for Education from specific items. This is an easy way for the school to make money.

Parents who wish to help with our Art Outreach Program are needed. Please call the school office. It only involves several hours in the morning or afternoon each quarter. You can work with your child's grade level if you wish.

E-mail is a wonderful way to communicate with the school. Please put your child's name in the subject line so the teacher knows it is important.

WITHIN THE CLASSROOM

Kindergarten

A highlight for our kindergarten students was getting to see "Treasured Stories from Eric Carle" at Sangamon Auditorium. It was wonderful to see the stories come to life.

The children learned about Martin Luther King, Junior and the importance of getting along with others and appreciating their differences.

They are studying winter animals that hibernate, migrate, and adapt to their environment. Our PBIS reward involves hibernation Day.

A second list of sight words went home, as well as sight word sentences.



Second Grade

The new year is off to a great start in the second grade. Students have settled back into our daily routines and are continuing to show safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors. In math, we are beginning to make the switch from addition to subtraction on our weekly timings. Please continue to practice with flash cards at home. In science, our study of the solar system started with a visit to the StarLab. You may catch your child looking for constellations in the night sky!

Fourth Grade

In literature we are reading Hatchet, a student favorite by Gary Paulsen. Please ask your child about his/her plan to complete the AR assignment each month. We are continuing with steps in division while reviewing for the ISAT test in math. Students need to continue being responsible for their homework.

Students have just finished writing autobiographies. We will be starting on our Young Author stories. Each student will be completing an original story to enter in the contest. Watch for information coming home. In English, we have completed chapter 5.

We are heading South for the winter in social studies, learning the 14 states, capital cities and abbreviations. Information on the land, climate, and troubled history including the Civil War and Civil Rights movement will be discussed. Science is electrifying and magnetic right now, but soon it will be "out of this world" as we will study our solar system and visit the star lab for a few unique lessons.

First Grade

First graders will be learning all about place value, greater than, less than, and practicing basic math facts. You can help your child at home by continuing to count coins, and using flash cards to help with basic +0 and +1 facts, as well as double facts.

First graders are now learning long vowel sounds which include the consonant, vowel, consonant, silent e pattern (CVCe). Of course we practice, practice, practice our reading everyday through guided reading, re-reads, and partner reading!



Third Grade

We congratulate those students that made honor roll! We are proud of you. Third graders are out of this world this month for science. They have been reading about the solar system in preparation for exploring Starlab. Students are doing a variety of projects based on their knowledge of the planets.

In math, geometry is our focus. Students are making 3-dimensional figures and identifying edges, faces, vertices, and other geometry terms. We have been working hard to use cursive handwriting throughout our curriculum. Remember, spelling words should be written in cursive.

Remember, the goal for Accelerated Reader is to read a 1 point book and pass the AR test. Happy Reading!!!

Fifth Grade

Fifth graders have been working on a presidential unit in many classes. In spelling, the students are learning how to spell the names of presidents. In English, they are learning the many steps involved in writing a research report. These steps include researching, note taking, writing outlines, rough drafts, and a final copy. In computer class, students have learned to cite their research in a bibliography. The culmination of this unit will be the Hall of Presidents on February 17.

In reading we have begun reading the novel Island of the Blue Dolphins. In addition, students are reading an AR book. In math we are reviewing various skills necessary for the ISAT test. Students are reinforcing those skills using Study Island.

Starlab will be at Virden Elementary for two weeks. Fifth grade will share it with the entire elementary. We will be looking at constellations and their myths, comparing planets in our solar system, and looking at fault lines and ridges on Earth.

In social studies we are studying the 13 colonies making comparisons and looking at the type of government that existed in each. The fifth grade will determine the choices each colonist had which would affect their lives forever.