



VARINA HIGH SCHOOL



In This Issue !!!



**Season's Greetings from VHS
plus . .**

**Photography & Art Classes Hit the Big City
ROTC and Key Club Help Christmas Charities
Japanese Club Feasts on Traditional Meal
Honors for Coach Brown, Ms. Kelly and Mrs. Evans**

Student Achievements: Check out some of our awesome students

Mr. Stooks' Class Hits the Big Apple



In the wee morning hours on December 5, Mr. Stooks' Imaging Technology students and Ms. Kelly's and Ms. Duffy's Advanced Art students boarded a bus to head to New York City for the day! The purpose of the trip was to allow students the opportunity to photograph and attend museums to enrich the classroom instruction that goes on in every class.

Upon arrival, art students went with Ms. Kelly and Ms. Duffy to the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). A special Van Gogh exhibit was at the museum so the students were able to see "Starry Night" as well as many other modern art pieces discussed in their art classes. Then they had time to visit the shops on 5th Avenue before they met the rest of the group in Times Square for dinner.

Imaging Technology and Photography students followed Mr. Stooks on a lengthy walk throughout the city! Photographing the all of the sites, students started in Rockefeller Center to visit the Christmas Tree and the ice-skating rink, then down to 5th Avenue to the Macy's District on 34th Street, back around up to Central Park and met up with the art students in Times Square at Planet Hollywood for dinner.



After a quick meal at Planet Hollywood, the entire group headed over to see New York City from atop the Empire State Building! As tired as students were, the chaperones were surprised with the sounds of students singing Christmas Carols along the way! After arriving, students packed into elevators to climb up to the 86th floor observation deck for a fantastic view of the city. Before boarding the bus to depart for Varina, students spent a few minutes with some coffee and hot chocolate at Starbucks!



VHS NJROTC Supports Local Christmas Charities



For the 5th consecutive year, cadets from NJROTC are collecting toys in support of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's "Toys for Tots" program. In addition to collecting at school, cadets also marched in the annual Varina "Big Toy Parade"; providing an opportunity for Varina residents to donate toys along the parade route.

In addition to Toys for Tots, the unit also adopted an "Angel Tree" angel. Cadet Brittany Gantz came up with the idea of the unit adopting an angel; the response was overwhelming. Cadets felt the true spirit of the season knowing that they helped a young man have some items he wanted under the tree.

Japanese Club Throws Sushi Party

On Thursday December 4th the Japanese club held its annual sushi party. In all, 21 students from the club attended this party and participated in Japanese tea ceremony and sushi roll making. The students also had the opportunity to taste traditional Japanese miso soup and various rice balls. Seniors and Japanese club Co-Presidents Emily Hyatt and Lizzy Harding planned and organized the sushi party and demonstrated various sushi rolling strategies to the students. Emily's grandmother, who lived in Japan for several years, was on hand to share stories about Japan and inform the students about the various Japanese foods they were trying. Overall the Japanese club students enjoyed this rare cultural experience.

Key Club Officers Lead the Way

Key Club President, Matt Nolte, recently accepted a plaque from Key Club International designating Varina as a Diamond Level Club, an honor presented to only 40 clubs throughout the world. Our success is due to the hard work and leadership of our officers: Becky Gregory,

Secretary; Stephen Hudson, Vice President; Matt Nolte, President; Megan Allensworth, Treasurer; Samantha Moran, Reporter.

The club's most recent endeavor included over 20 Varina students working with other Key Club and Kiwanis members in the area at the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Warehouse sorting the mountain of donations collected through malls and stores in the area to assure that children will receive the toys and gifts meant just for them!



Teacher Feature: Do we have great teachers or what!?!

PE Teacher Central Region Football Coach of the Year

Congratulations to Coach Stu Brown who was named Central Region Coach of the Year in his first season as head coach of the Blue Devil's football team. Coach Brown led the team to a 12-1 record and a spot in the State Semifinals.

Varina Art Teacher Has Her Thesis Show



On Friday, November 28, art teacher, Dawn Kelly featured her art ArtWorks Gallery. The show titled "Material Things" was the final requirement for her Master of Interdisciplinary Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her work ranges from large acrylic paintings to small mixed media fabric paintings and will hang until January 18, 2009. Ms. Kelly will graduate on December 13, with her Masters from VCU.

In The Know: Updates on the VHS Community

Mrs. Evans Honored By School Board

Varina's own Traci Evans was honored by Superintendent Fred Morton and the Henrico County School Board on Thursday, December 18. Mrs. Evans received the ABCD Award for going Above any Beyond the Call of Duty. Mrs. Evans is an invaluable member of the Varina family and we would like to thank the Board and Superintendent Fred Morton for letting the rest of the county know what we already do. That Mrs. Evans is GREAT!!! Thank you for all you do Mrs. Evans!!!!



Senior Ads for the Yearbook

Senior ads for the yearbook were due December 17th. We still have very limited space available. We will continue to take ads the first two weeks of January or until the space is gone. If you would like to place an ad for your senior, please contact Kim Hodges at kshodges@henrico.k12.va.us

DTLR Supports VHS

Downtown Locker Room, better known as DTLR has a new home at the Shops of Willow Oak. To show their support of the Varina Community, DTLR's community outreach is donating \$40 a month to students who show outstanding drive and motivation towards excelling in SOL assessments. These gift certificates will be handed out as SOLs get closer. DTLR realized the importance in a good education and want to reward VHS students for their hard work in class. Be sure to stop by their store and thank them for their year long support!



School Counseling Information

The New Year is fast approaching and with that comes preparation for the 2009-2010 school year. A letter has been mailed home to all 9-11th grade parents and students informing them of the upcoming scheduling process. Selecting courses is a big decision and one that must be thought out carefully to ensure a successful school year academically. Below is a list of important dates that you should mark on your calendars regarding the scheduling process, deadlines, etc. Detailed information about each event will be forthcoming, however a copy of the letter that has been mailed home to you can be found online at <http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/HS/VarinaHS/counseling.html>

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| January 5-16 | Planning Guide and Course Selection Classroom guidance for all 9-11 th grade in English classes |
| February 5 | Course Request forms will be distributed to students in homeroom
Curriculum Night: Curriculum Fair 6-7:30pm and AP Panel 6:30pm |
| March 10 | Parent override deadline (guaranteed) |
| April 30 | Parent override deadline (if space available) |
| May 21 | AP evening visitation 6-8pm |
| June 12 | Last day for students to change course request for 2009-2010 |

Happy holiday from the School Counseling Department

PTSA Information

NEXT PTSA MEETING: Our next PTSA General Membership meeting will be January 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. The program is "Enough is Enough" Internet Safety 101: Empowering Parents. This program is provided by the State PTA & Verizon. **Enough Is Enough (EIE)** understands that Internet safety is a shared responsibility between the public, the Internet industry, and the legal community. However, parents remain the 'first line of defense' in protecting their children against Internet safety dangers. As the nation's leading Internet safety organization since 1994, EIE has responded to this call for action by creating *Internet Safety 101*, a comprehensive effort that addresses the critical need for parental education and empowerment.



A Board Meeting will be held in the library starting at 6 p.m.

JOIN PTSA AND RECEIVE GREAT INFORMATION:

You can join the PTSA for only \$5.00!! Friends, family and students are eligible for membership. Print out your PTSA Membership Form on the PTSA website, fill it out, add a check or cash, and turn it in to your student's first block teacher.

NEW ITEM AVAILABLE IN THE BOOKSTORE:

Do you need a stocking stuffer idea? The bookstore has a limited supply of 2009 peel and stick calendars for \$1.00. These calendars can be placed on your computer monitor, laptop cover, bulletin board, etc.

FIRST 9 WEEKS PTSA AWARDS 2008-09:

The following students were recognized for a positive attitude: Kristyn Brown, Calvin Melton, Jennifer Maxey and Emily Hyatt. The Teacher Choice Award winners were LaRon Johnson, Kimberly Grimsley, Iesha Hackett and Latashia Green. Chelsea Hooper, Abby Pendleton, Alyssa Bilter and Elissa Abruzzese were recognized for Student Assistance with the PTSA. The Academic Improvement Award winners were Jasmine Battle, Andie Austin, Hannah Flippen and Allison Bassett. Congratulations to all the winners!

BLUE DEVIL PRIDE FUND

Have you donated to the Blue Devil Pride Fund? Your donation is 100% tax-deductible, and doesn't involve canvassing the neighborhoods or harassing the grandparents.

Benefits of donating to the Blue Devil Pride Fund:

- Your TOTAL contribution goes directly to Varina High,
- It's tax-deductible. (Please consult your tax advisor as to the proper treatment of your individual contribution.)
- Your contribution is increased by the matched amount if your company matches contributions.
- Family and friends can support the school without having to buy anything.

Obtain a contribution form at <http://www.varinahs-ptsa.com> and return to your student's first block teacher. In recognition of your contribution you will receive a 2009 peel and strip calendar to place on your computer monitor, bulletin board, etc.

Help Select the Blue Devil of the Month

Every month Varina High School wishes to honor a teacher or other staff member who has made contributions to our school. To nominate someone for this monthly award please go to the following web site. <http://www.quia.com/sv/228595.html>

Thank you for your assistance in recognizing those who help make Varina great.

Happy Holidays from
the Varina High School
KEY CLUB!

Thanks for your
support of our
projects during 2008!

Enjoy your break!



The Symbol Of Quality!



Dates to Know: Add these to your calendar!

December 19 – Winter Break Begins @ 3:45 pm

January 5 – Return from Winter Break

January 10 – Varina Wall of Fame Reception

For more sports and activities dates go to:

<http://dynacal.com/henrico/calendar.asp?T=F&D=N&CID=4626&EO=Y&OrgID=8161> OR
http://highschoolsports.net/defaultcal_300.cfm?ct=2d&school=VA232314561&spt=-1&lvl=-1&division=-1&timezone=240

*Please do not reply to this email as it is not maintained by any school member. If you need to get in touch with VHS, we have all of our contact information on our website.

<http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/hs/varinahs/>

*If you no longer want to receive the Blue Devil Biweekly then please notify William Cody Streightiff at VARINALink@henrico.k12.va.us