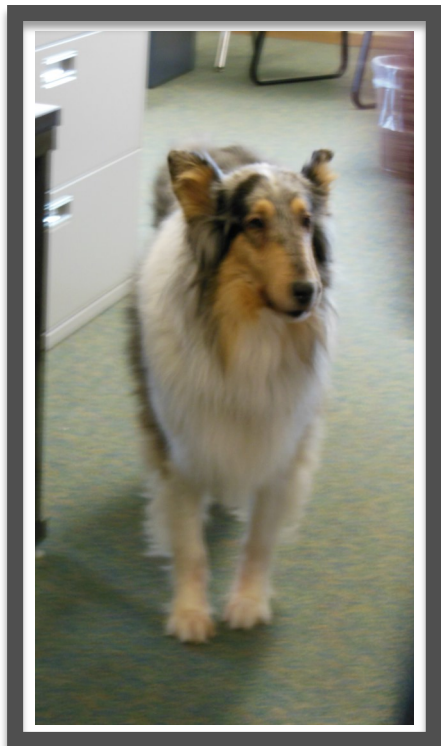


Connections Current

Dec.- Feb.
2018



Angel

Come and Meet the Associate Principal's Dog, Angel!

By: Stephen Gruzin

Associate Principal, Mrs. Anita Chase, brought her collie on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2017, to be Lieser School's first therapy dog. The dog's name is Angel.

Angel is a collie that came from King's Valley Collies in Polk County, Oregon. Angel is a service dog that used to help Mrs. Chase's grandson, Leo. Leo has physical disabilities and needed a service dog to help him, so he got Angel. Angel helped Leo so much that soon Leo was able to use crutches and he did not need Angel. Since Leo did not need Angel, he gave her to Mrs. Chase.

Rather than leaving the dog home all day, Mrs. Chase brought her to school on Nov. 6, 2017, and she has been here since. She is well-trained and rarely barks. The dog is also extremely special, because of its service training. Mrs. Chase's dog is a nice addition to the Lieser Campus and no one seems to mind having a four-legged student here.

Groundhog's Day Means a New Spring or Continuing Winter?

By: Savannah Ginter

Did you know that the Groundhog's Day tradition started in Europe as Candlemas Day? Germans who settled in Pennsylvania in the 1700s brought this custom with them. The groundhog was named Punxsutawney Phil and he has supposedly lived for over a century. Every February 2, Phil wakes from hibernation and publicly comes outside. He looks around and if he sees his shadow, which he does 87 percent of the time, he gets scared and runs away from it.

Quotes of the Month:

Wherever there is a human being, there is a chance for kindness!

This means that there will be 6 more weeks of winter. He is only right 39 percent of the time. Groundhogs normally live 6 to 8 years but Phil gets a drink of a "magical punch" every summer, which gives him 7 more years of life. This has been a holiday since 1887. The average groundhog is 20 inches long and weighs 12 to 15 pounds. Phil, on the other hand, weighs 20 pounds and is 22 inches long.

Groundhogs are one of the only animals that really hibernate. Hibernation isn't really a deep sleep, but a deep coma. The body temperature drops to a few degrees above freezing, the heart hardly beats, the blood nearly stops flowing and the body almost stops breathing. Groundhogs are born in the spring and by July, they are ready to be on their own. A litter of groundhogs is 4 to 9 babies. A baby groundhog is called a kit or a cub. This holiday is very special to the people in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.



Art Class Clay Sculptures

By: Andrea Belisle

This year in art class we are doing clay sculptures! The teachers of this great project are Mrs. Jennie Martin and Mrs. Ann Cedeño. There are many things you can create! And I mean many... you can make a square jar, a round jar, a pot, etc....and you can add any design! You can also make solid figures like, dragons, cats, dogs, turtle, etc..... and many more!



November 3rd was the first day we got to play with clay! It was amazing! Some people made unicorns, uni-kittys, narwhals, and much more! It was super messy, there was clay and water everywhere! There was rolling pins and clay utensils everywhere!

Well at least it was super fun and amazing!



Quotes of the month:

May you experience the music of heaven during this special time of year!

Who made the Honor Role?

By: Madison Nadzieja

Some of you might be wondering what the honor role is! Well the honor role is for all the people who excel on their grades. Students are graded by numbers; all those numbers mean your grade. For example, if you get an A on your work you would get the number 4. If you got a B on your work than you would get the number 3. If you got a C on your work than you would get the number 2. Same things with D and F.

The average grades of the honor role is 3.3 or higher! If you got on the honor role then the school gives you a certificate of success with your name and grade on it! For first trimester, here are some of the people who earned the honor role, 6th grade: Madison Nadzieja, Chloe Klock, Autumn Payne, Rome Carse, Esther Morgan, Nathaniel Prater; 7th grade: Emma Casey, Lyric Moody, Savanna Ginter, Valeria Echeverria; 8th grade: Esther Stefanyuk, Mae Carse, Mason Clark, Danny Castenada, Mark Balan, Julieann Goodnight, Camden Austen. High school students included Vera Pukhalska, Regan Bradley, Lucas Carter, Amy Gruzin, and Dennis Balan.

If you got an honor role, then that's great! But if you didn't get an honor role, then that's ok. It doesn't mean you didn't do well; it just means that you need a little more practice. But don't worry, everyone needs practice! Even the people who did get an honor role!

Elementary Spirit Awards



What was VHC like at the Jim Parsley Center?

By: Autumn Payne

Have you ever wondered what VHC was like when it was located at the Jim Parsley center. VHC was very different before it moved to Lieser. One thing that was different was that there were not as many people. Over the years VHC has grown a lot. VHC moved to Lieser campus in 2012 - 2013.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like for a student at VHC when it was at the Jim Parsley Center? Well first students had to get their energy out inside! There was no playground they could use. To get to most classes you had to go upstairs, and you had to climb a big flight of stairs. One student who was in 9th grade at the time says, "The most memorable thing about it was that there was a pool downstairs." It's true there was a pool downstairs that many students loved to play in after school.

When VHC moved to Lieser Camus a lot changed and over the years. There have been a lot of changes and a large increase in the amount of students. There was also an increase in the amount of staff. Before there were less students, less teachers, and less class options. Now VHC has a lot more things that are very convenient to have at a home school program.



Check out the new library!

By: Noah Mcbroom

There's a new library in the cafeterias stage. Mrs. Ellison is Lieser schools new librarian! She has been a librarian before at Marshall . People have donated more than 2,000 books to our new library! People are also donating their own time to help with our new library. There is a very good variety of books, there's nonfiction to fiction. A library is a very good learning system to help kids get better and more confident at reading.



What's happening in 5th grade?

By: Titus Swope

In Vancouver Home Connection, Ms. Divine's 5th grade class is currently learning about ecosystems in science. Ms. Divine's science class is split into multiple groups. Each group has built their eco-columns. VHC's 5th grade students are learning about operations and decimals in Ms. Divine's 5th grade math class.

The 5th grade English class is finishing up on learning about expository performance tasks, and poetry. Mrs. Clements's 5th grade English class finished up on their own Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Day stories. In Mrs. Clements's 5th grade Social Studies class, the students are learning about the founding of the thirteen colonies.

Door Designing Contest Took Place

By: Neveah Allgood

As the students have anticipated, the door designing contest occurred in December. The door competition variety in the artistic side of decorating the doors. This isn't just about the competition of it, it also encourages students and teachers alike to work together and express themselves through



Christmas teacher survey

By: Camden Austin & Emmalei Reynolds

Did you know that teachers celebrate Christmas too? This year we had the opportunity to ask some teachers what they like about Christmas. Ten of seventeen of all the teachers we asked prefer the Christmas color green over red, 6 of 17 of all the teachers we asked prefer the Christmas color red over green, and 1 of 17 of the teachers we asked like both colors depending on the shade. Six of the seventeen teachers we queried favored having a snowball fight over building a snowman, and 11 of 17 of all the teachers we asked, favored building a snowman over having a snowball fight. Cocoa is preferred over egg not among our teaching staff, as 15 of 17 said they liked the chocolate drink better, while only one of 17 said he/she didn't like either one.

We also had some funny answers that we liked. Mrs. Divine said that she likes "FAKE!" trees because "Real trees have real bugs". Mr. Young answered his question of would you rather build a snowman or have a snowball fight by saying "Fight" so we thought Mr. Young likes to fight snowmen. We also thought that some answers described the holiday season very well. Mrs. Cedeño said she liked the Christmas color "Green- because it is the color of life.". Mrs. Walchli said "Nothing beats a cup of hot cocoa on a cold winter day".

We were able to learn what fun family Christmas traditions the teachers enjoy. It was very cool to be able to see what fun and exciting things the teachers like to do during the holidays. We enjoyed getting to know them.



Movie Night Was A Huge Success!

By Andrea Belisle

This year was the first “Lieser movie night!” on December 4. The snacks started at 5:30, the movie started at 6:00. It was the Christmas movie, *The Polar Express*. As everyone got there, they

put their blankets on the cafeteria floor, but some people had chairs. There were snacks like popcorn, candy canes, and hot chocolate. Peppermint hot chocolate was also served.

After the movie, one of the parents from the PTO, did a raffle for three different items: 1) a pack of three science books, 2) a terrarium-with a frog and mushroom statue, and 3) a giant prize pack with-emoji posters, three erasers, a cat and dog puppet, an *All About Me* book, a fake phone, chocolate calculator, target gift card, and gummy worms!

This is a great event and I hope Lieser will do it again!





December 2017 Spirit Awards



Celebrate Either Valentine's Day, or Single Awareness Day

By Savannah Ginter

Lots of people know that Valentine's Day is on February 14, but did you know that there is a holiday one day after Valentine's day called Single Awareness Day? Well, there is and has been celebrated since 2005. People celebrate this holiday so they don't feel so alone on the most over-romanticized day of the year. Single people can get together and watch sad, cheesy chick-flicks while eating a whole gallon of ice cream and junk food! This holiday is meant to provide solidarity and unity to the people who need it most this time of year. But if you do have someone special in your life, it is a great time to celebrate by taking them out for a night of fun and tell them just how much you love them.

Valentine's Day to a lot of people means chocolates and roses, but who was St. Valentine? There has been about a dozen St. Valentines, plus a pope. The name 'Valentinus' means strong, worthy, or powerful in Latin, so it was very popular during the second through eighth centuries AD. But, the St. Valentine who inspired the holiday could've been two different men. Officially recognized by the Roman Catholic Church, St. Valentine is known to be a real person who died around AD 270. In spite of this information, his real identity was questioned at about AD 496 by a pope named Gelasius I. One report from the 1400s illustrates Valentine as a temple priest who, near Rome by the emperor Claudius II, was beheaded for helping Christian couples marry. Another record seems to think that Valentine was the Bishop of Terni, who was also killed by Claudia II just outside of Rome. As a result of the similarities of these records, it is thought that they may be referring to the same person.



If you are busy this February 14, you can certainly celebrate Valentine's Day different times of the year. You can choose to celebrate the saint different times each year because of the extensive records of St. Valentines on the Roman Catholic register. Besides February 14, you could decide to celebrate St. Valentine of Viterbo on November 3. Valentine's Day can be celebrated on January 7 for St. Valentine of Raetia. You can also celebrate the only female St. Valentine (Valentina) on July 25. If you ever find yourself in Rome on Valentine's Day, you can see St. Valentine's skull on display in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome. You can also find other parts of St. Valentine's skeleton on display in Ireland, Scotland, England, France, and in the Czech Republic. Here's hoping you have someone to spend

What's happening in First grade?

By: Emmalei Reynolds

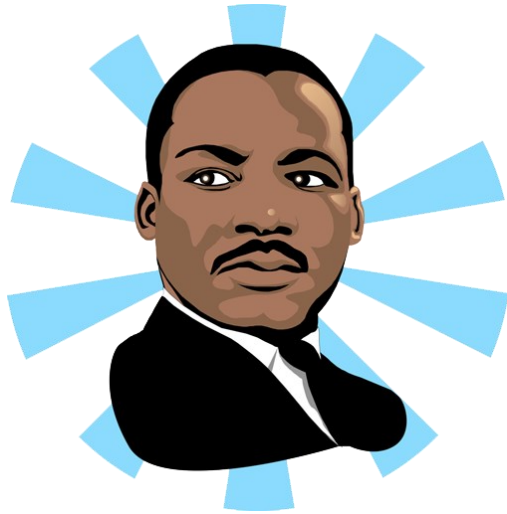
The fabulous first graders are at it again working hard and excelling. This month in Art, Mrs. Meg Perlick and her students are making popsicle stick snowflakes. And students are learning about how snowflakes are made.

In ELA the first graders will be talking about folktales and reading the folktale The Nice Mitten. They will also be talking about and working on the soft letters C and G. First grade will also be writing and working on word choice, but Mrs. Perlick still is not quite sure what that writing assignment will be.

In Social Studies they are working on Families Live in Neighborhoods. The students will also be introduced to a map key and they will get to draw a map of their neighborhood.

In Mrs. Chris Piper's class they are also busily at work. Both teachers are glad to be teaching this year and are excited for the new year.





Martin Luther King Remembrance

By: Neveah Allgood

Martin Luther King, Jr. is known for his peaceful protesting against racism in the mid-1950s until his assassination on April 4th, 1968, by James Earl Ray (Biography.com). In honor of Mr. King, January 15th is the official Martin Luther King, Jr. day because he was born on January 15th. On a lighter note, in 1946 Mr. King had submitted an article to the editor of The Atlanta Constitution saying that black people “are entitled to the basic rights and opportunities of American citizens.” The Atlantic Constitution had published it. On the 5th, of December of 1955, at a meeting at Holt Street Baptist Church the MIA (Montgomery Improvement Association) is formed. Mr. King is appointed as the president. On January 30th, 1956, Mr. King’s house is bombed. On a later date, specifically in 1961 on the 16th of October, Mr. King meets with President John F. Kennedy.

Dr. King asked him to issue a second Emancipation Proclamation, trying to eliminate racial segregation. In June of 1964, he publishes another book titled *Why We Can’t Wait*. In the same year, on the Dec. 10, he receives a Nobel Peace Prize, and that every penny will go to the then constant struggle of civil rights. (Stanford, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute). All of his efforts were not lost. In 1964, discrimination was prohibited in many settings, such as public education, public facilities, public accommodations, voting, employment, and federally assisted programs. In 1965, Congress passes the Voting Rights act, which finally let African Americans vote (Find Law).

Make your dream come true day!

By: Andrea Belisle

“Make your dream come true day” is, well..... the name says it all. “Make your dreams come true day” was founded not by one founder, or just one founding date, either. Make Your Dream Come True Day is a day that came into existence as a result of the hard work and persistence of all of the people in this world who have been able to make their dream reality. From Bob Dylan, who composed music and lyrics based on his own dreams, to Mary Shelley, who wrote Dr. Frankenstein based on a nightmare she’d had, and to James Cameron, whose masterpiece Avatar was also based on a in incredibly colorful and detailed dream he’d had. Make Your Dream Come True Day honors all of these people and more who have had the courage to pursue their dreams and make them a reality. As should you.

How to celebrate make your dream come true day:

The absolute best way to celebrate Make Your Dream Come True Day is to, of course, think of a dream you’ve been dreaming for a while, and then find a way to make it come true. Mind you, it may not be easy, and fulfilling this dream will likely not be done overnight, but you owe it to yourself to do something for yourself in your life. To prove to yourself that you really can, and that the routine of everyday life has not defeated you.

