

October-  
November  
2017

# Connections Current

VHC newspaper



## The New iPads for Third and Fourth grade

By: Andrea Belisle

iPads came for the 2017-2018 class of third and fourth grade students at the Home Connection this year. Unlike upper grades, however, students cannot take them home, but they do use them at school. Some of the students say that they enjoy their iPads because it's the only electronic tool they get to use in class.

This year they are learning to be respectful and responsible with their iPads, which means they are learning to take care of the technology. On Friday, in iPad Exploration 3-5, students are learning to use the apps PuppetPals and Trading Cards. They also multiply on a math application and wrote their newspaper article in Google Docs.

After completing a project, they take a picture and use Seesaw to show their parents. They can also use the Reading Wonders app to learn to read.

This year, the third and fourth graders are also hoping to be in the district's "Culture Parade". To research their project, they use Culture Grams for Kids. Students say they also love the app Pic Collage.



## Trip to Washington D.C

By: Autumn Payne

Last Spring Mrs. Dani Ramirez accompanied a group of 7th and 8th graders and some of their parents to Washington D.C. They visited several places including all of the monuments and some former presidents' homes. The trip lasted from June 26 to June 30, 2017. According to Mrs. Ramirez they took the trip to visit the nation's capital and learn more about history and government. The VHC group traveled there with some students from Jason Lee Middle School.





## Wooly Bear in Mrs. Pipers Room!

By: Stephen Gruzin

Second grader Xavier Uralap brought a caterpillar into Mrs. Piper's room (with permission of course). The caterpillar was named Wooly Bear. When Xavier brought it, it was in a container with its own habitat, covering the container was aluminum foil with hole. Xavier planned to set the caterpillar free. When the children held the Wooly bBear, it tickled their hands when the Wooly bear crawled. The Wooly bBear probably had a good time in Mrs. Piper's room



## Mrs. Susen in Morocco



## Ms. Susen's trip to Morocco

By: Camden Austin

During July 2017, Allison Susen, a teacher at Vancouver Home Connection, went on what she called "a magical trip to Spain and Morocco" as a birthday present. In Spain, she went to Basque Country and the Galicia Region.

On Ms. Susen's trip, some of her college friends accompanied her. One of her friends was a Spanish teacher who really wanted to take lots of pictures to show her students.

In Morocco, they saw lots of different animals like camels, lizards, and goats that would climb the trees for food and shelter. Also, Ms. Susen rode a camel, and she said it was bumpy at first; then she remembered it was just like riding a horse.

Ms. Susen also found out that the landscape is a diverse place. Many people think of Morocco as a desert place, but in the winter there is snow on the mountains and people can ski. Also on the coast it is very cool and people can surf along the beaches.

"The food was amazing," Ms. Susen stated. She especially liked the lamb tagine. Ms. Susen even took a class to learn how to make the dish chicken tagine and she had to go buy a *live* chicken at the market for the chicken tagine. Ms. Susen did not enjoy buying a *live* chicken at all, but her dinner was fresh.

## Mrs. McEwan visits Europe

By: Rome Carse

Several months ago on June 13 -28, Mrs. Courtney McEwan took a two week trip to Europe with her husband. She found the trip both educational and enjoyable.

“In Venice our favorite things to see were Saint Mark’s Basilica, Doge’s Palace, Piazza San Marco and the gondola ride through the canals of Venice. My favorite food in Venice was risotto,” she said.

In Florence she visited the Uffizi Gallery, the Duomo and saw art from Michael Angelo, Rafael, Leonardo da Vinci, Vincent Van Gogh, Botticelli, and Matice.

In Rome she enjoyed all the Roman history at the Coliseum and Roman Forum.

“We then drove through Sienna on the way to pizza. We visited the leaning tower of Pizza before heading back to Germany,” she said.

She enjoyed amazing food, history, art, scenery and unforgettable memories with friends on her trip.

## School Bingo Night First Night Event!

By: Kayla Crandall

Bingo night is one of the most exiting events at Leiser. Anyone who is able to come gathers in the school cafeteria and plays bingo! Each table has bingo boards and pencils. On a separate table there are nachos, drinks and popcorn! After everyone arrives, takes a seat and eats, the game begins! When you get a bingo you yell “BINGO!” The leaders come to get your card, and check to see if you did get a bingo. There are two tables full of prizes! The prizes are books, pens, pencils, erasers, netbooks, stickers, book sacks, and much more!



## Mrs. Pearl Griffin travels to Barcelona

By: Gracie Garner

This summer from June 29th to July 5th, Mrs. Pearl Griffin went to Barcelona, Spain. She visited Spain for a graduate school creative writing class and it’s the type of class you call a low residency. This was the first time Mrs. Griffin traveled to another country by herself and she learned that she can navigate on her own.

While in Barcelona she went to this church called the Sagrada Familia built by a man named Gaudí. It had pillars that looked like trees and blue windows on the east side and orange windows on the west side, so that when the sun rose it would look blue in the church and when the sun set it would be orange in the church. Mrs. Griffin said that half of Barcelona had a middle-aged look and the other half had a modern look to it. Mrs. Griffin seemed to have a lot of fun on her trip and it sounded like she learned about herself!



## Wonder what's happening in our classes?



### What's happening in 8th and 7th grade English class?

By: Larissa Crandall

Mrs. Terri Clements, teacher of 7th- 8th grade English teacher, has started her class with reading and essays. They just finished Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry as the first novel of the year.

Mrs. Clements says "I'm really excited about this book because it discusses the racial inequalities African Americans suffered in the 1930s in the south and it is very relevant to our culture today."

Later in the year, she intends for the class to read and write essays from primary source documents. (Primary source means straight from the person who is involved in whatever the document is talking about.)



### What's happening in High School English?

By: Neveah Allgood

VHC high school students have been working hard on informational essays, grammar review, study skills, critical review, and the habits of being a good student, according to teacher Jon Selby, in mid-September.

Besides working from the bottom up, all of this review also serves as an evaluation process, Selby added. "By going through the basics first, it shows which student knows the material, and who needs more practice," he rationalizes. However, he is still trying to figure out a good strategy to teach those that already know the material and for those that need more practice. Thankfully, since the class is small this year, it gives Mr. Selby a chance to work with each student individually and teach them as individuals and not as a whole class.

As was mentioned before, they have been writing informational essays on the medium of their choosing that they have to independently research. In the classroom, the freshman are doing primarily grammar and composition. The sophomores are doing English and history. The juniors are reading historical fiction to get better in English. There are no seniors this year, making the class-size smaller than in previous years. Only time will tell in what great things the high school students will accomplish this year, but there is no doubt that this year will be one full of achievements.

# Wonder what's happening in our classes?

## What's happening in 1st and 2nd grade?

By: Emmalei Reynolds

This year Mrs. Chris Piper and Mrs. Meg Perlick get the opportunity to teach the fabulous first graders. In Mrs. Piper's class they are currently reading Those Fabulous Frogs, because they are studying the lifecycle of frogs. Also they are reading Frog and Toad Friends, because they are learning the attributes of friendship. The last book Mrs. Piper is currently reading is called A Place for Zero. It is a book about extending their number system 1-9 to infinity.

Mrs. Perlick is currently reading Flat Stanley when she has the time. Between all the fun books the classes get to read, they are also able to learn more and grow more by doing projects. Currently Mrs. Perlick is not doing any projects, but will be doing some in the second semester. Mrs. Piper is working in clubs to practice writing numerals and her class is also building math bead necklaces bead by bead to show their progress.

With all fun first grade things there has to be goals they are looking to accomplish. Mrs. Perlick's personal goal is to use nonverbal cues and as a class goal, she hopes to teach her class how to write in complete sentences. Mrs. Piper also has goals. As a personal goal, she hopes to make learning fun and communicate math and science in a way that expresses excellence. As a class goal she hopes to build a community of learners with her 1st grade and other class of second graders.



## What's happening in 5th grade?

By: Titus Swope

Terri Clements' 5th grade English class is working on summarizing so that they can be able to break an article down to a minimum of 23 words or less. They are now working on sequencing in writing, as well as plot, setting and characters, and their very own Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, book. Their stories will be based upon the book, Alexander and The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, and they will be using the app, Book Creator on their school iPads to create their books when their stories are written.

In social studies, Terri Clements reviewed longitude and latitude and Native American tribes in North America with her class. The 5th graders are also preparing to study the arrival of European in the North American continent, and early English settlements in North America..

Rebeca Divine has been teaching the 5th graders in math class how to use associative properties, identity property, zero property, and communitive property.

Fifth graders in Rebeca Divine science class are starting to work on controlled experiments, they are starting by building terrariums and aquariums



# Wonder what's happening in our classes?

## What's Happening in 7th and 8th grade Science?

By: Savannah Ginter

Allison Susen is teaching 4th grade Science and English, as well as 7th and 8th Science. Even with her plate full, she still loves to teach. One of the things that Ms. Susen really looks forward to is the big solar system model. The seventh and eighth graders started their Planetary Science unit in early October.

The seventh and eighth graders started the year with Alka-Seltzer experiments. What they did was snap a tablet of Alka-Seltzer in to fourths and put it into a film canister half full with water. Then, after a few seconds, the canister would blow up into the air! The kids split into individual groups and changed one factor of the experiment. Some of them changed the liquid they put in. One group used Gatorade and one group used soda. In all, the 7th and 8th graders had a really good time.

Ms. Susen likes teaching science because she is always curious about how things work and why do they work. Ms. Susen likes learning about Earth, the moon, different planets and gravity. She likes learning about planets because scientists learn new Information every year and we get to learn it because of them and she likes learning new facts. This year, the 7th and 8th graders main project is the solar system model but they will also be studying properties of matter. They will also start to do things like skits, plays, and cartoons to help explain what they are studying. The 7th and 8th graders will be starting the solar system model this semester.

Ms. Susen has kept a few of the models from previous years and they look very professional. I hope we will see more models like this. Ms. Susen is an excellent teacher and all of her students truly enjoy her classes. If you ask any of the kids that she has in her classes, you can tell that they aren't just having fun, but they're learning.



# Wonder what's happening in our classes?

## What's Happening in the 4th Grade?

By: Celina Anzaldo

This school year hosts eight new fourth graders in the VHC—three boys and five girls. Fourth grader teachers are Mrs. Allison Susen and Mrs. Kristen Beck.

These students have joined other fourth grade students in learning how land affects water and how water affects land in their science class. In the reading, students just wrapped up a newspaper article about an event in school to learn the who, what, when, where, why and how of writing. What are they doing in math class? They are learning two-digit multiplication and division, as well as fractions, decimals and problem solving. In social studies, they are studying Washington State history, and also learning about longitude and latitude.

In Community this year, fourth grade students initially covered iPad safety and responsibility. It's the first year fourth grade students have had use of iPads at the Home Connection, and it's important for students to learn the proper use and care of this tool.

Fourth graders also have the opportunity to participate in school sports for the first time this year. In the fall, they can play volleyball. In the winter, they can participate in basketball, while in spring, they have the opportunity to take part in track. On Oct. 5, 2017, fourth-grade student visited Clark Public Utilities on a three-hour field trip. These students were able to learn about electricity, water and why they are important.

"It's a great class, with amazing students who are kind and good learners," said Mrs. Susen. "I love having them a second year. The second year is helpful because they know the teachers, the behavior



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## What's Happening in the 6th Grade?

By: Esther Stefanyuk

This year Mrs. Terri Clements has the amazing opportunity to teach the 6<sup>th</sup> graders in English and World Studies. In World Studies, they are learning about Ancient Mesopotamia and they are using lots of technology! Meanwhile, in English they read a book called, *All Of the above*, a book based on a true story about the delightful and suspenseful tale of four inner city students and their quest to build the world's largest tetrahedron.

Following completion of the novel, students will begin a writing unit, which will include some research on the founding of the United States.

Ms. Rebekah Divine teaches the 6th graders math and science. In math they are learning about "writing percent as a fraction" at the moment. They are doing lots of IXL lessons and Coach Digital Lessons. They are doing most of their work in Notebook's. In Science the 6th graders are learning about weather factors. They have already done a couple experiments!



# Wonder what's happening in our classes?

## What's happening in 7th and 8th grade Social Studies?

By: Mylia Pax

Did you know that both the 7th and 8th grade Social Studies are taught by the same person? You might know her as Dani Ramirez, or as Vancouver Home Connection's Dragon Boater!

In 7th Grade Social Studies, Dani Ramirez has assigned an advisement about the Five Regions of Washington. In an app called "Book Creator", students decide to pick a region in Washington and make an advisement telling people why to visit or move to that region. Closer to the beginning of the year, 7th graders worked on lunchroom fighting scenarios, where you, as a student, are put in the position of a principal!

In 8th Grade Social Studies, students have been assigned to critical thinking. This means they have to evaluate why they believe something, or why they think it's true. For example, they talk about why movies don't always have a realistic story. At the beginning of the year, 8th graders learned about The Bermuda Triangle and murder scenarios...

Many situations in middle school Social Studies relate to the real world. Even though history is in the past we can still learn from it now!

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Student scenes from playground, classroom and cafeteria at the VHC.





## Lantern Tour at Fort Vancouver

By: Stephen Gruzin

The Fort Vancouver National Historical Site Lantern Tour is a tour you walk in the night feeling like you are in the old days. As soon as you walk into the fort there is no electricity, but there are lanterns to make you see where you go. In one building there is a jail and there are other places like the doctor's building. The blacksmith building is very interesting; there is a blacksmith that is making all sorts of hooks or something with metal. As you walk by there are actors that act, but don't talk to you. When you are in the fort there is a fine aroma of lanterns. A former VHC teacher Cheri Briggs went to the Lantern tour several years ago and she said "I would recommend it for everybody".

The lantern tour will be at the Barracks/Fort Vancouver. Reservations for all Lantern Tours are required, and payment for the tour must be made at the time of reservation. The Lantern Tour season runs from October through February each year. Dates:

- November 25, 2017
- December 16, 2017
- January 27, 2018
- February 17, 2018

About 30 people will be allowed at a time so a reservation must be made.

### ***Lantern Tour: Walking Vancouver Barracks***

Cost: \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 15 years and under. About 15 people will be allowed at the barracks per time.

## Inclement Weather

By: Titus Swope

The Superintendent of the Vancouver Public schools closely monitors weather conditions so that they can inform parents, in the morning. If weather becomes dangerous, schools will be closed.

If there is bad weather, with advice from the transportation crew and the meteorologists, the superintendent will make a decision regarding the operations of the schools. If possible, the decision will be made by 5:00 a.m. If a two-hour late start was declared the prior evening, then they will try to make the decision at 7:00 a.m.

When weather is dangerous the transportation crew drives around different areas of the school district. They also make the buses ready for certain weather conditions, and if needed they will hook up chains to the buses.

Safer and more efficient snow bus routes have been developed for some VPS schools, they use it if the road is icy or wet.

Source:

[vansd.org](http://vansd.org)



## Veteran's Day was November 11

By: Rome Carse

Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938.

In other words... the first Veterans Day was called Armistice Day. This was first observed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month the first anniversary of the end of World War I.

Congress passed a resolution in 1926.

Veterans Day officially became a national holiday beginning in 1938 for an annual observance. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

## Lieser Students Shine at Skilleree

Lieser fourth and fifth grade students capped a season of practice Monday, Nov. 13, with the Volleyball Skilleree at Lakeshore Elementary. Skilleree Judge, Barry Young, said that he was "impressed" with the skill performance of the VHC students.

Coaches Dani Ramirez and Rebekah Divine led the students in twice weekly practices for about six weeks leading up to the Skilleree.

The end of the season party was at Lieser on Nov. 15.





## Does Daylight Savings actually save Daylight?

By: Rome Carse

Does Daylight Savings Time actually save time? Well, no. We can't save time. Time goes on, no matter what the clocks say. However, by setting our clocks ahead during the spring, we get an hour more daylight in the evening. This is because the sun rises early in spring and stays that way throughout summer.

Come fall, we set our clocks back an hour to Standard Time, and then we gain an hour of sunlight, which we would have lost due to a late sunrise. Sound confusing? To put it simply: Kids and parents benefit from Daylight Savings Time by not having to drive to school and work in the dark during fall and winter, and by having more time outside for fun and play during late spring and summer.

Daylight savings ended on November 5, 2017 and starts again on March 11, 2018.

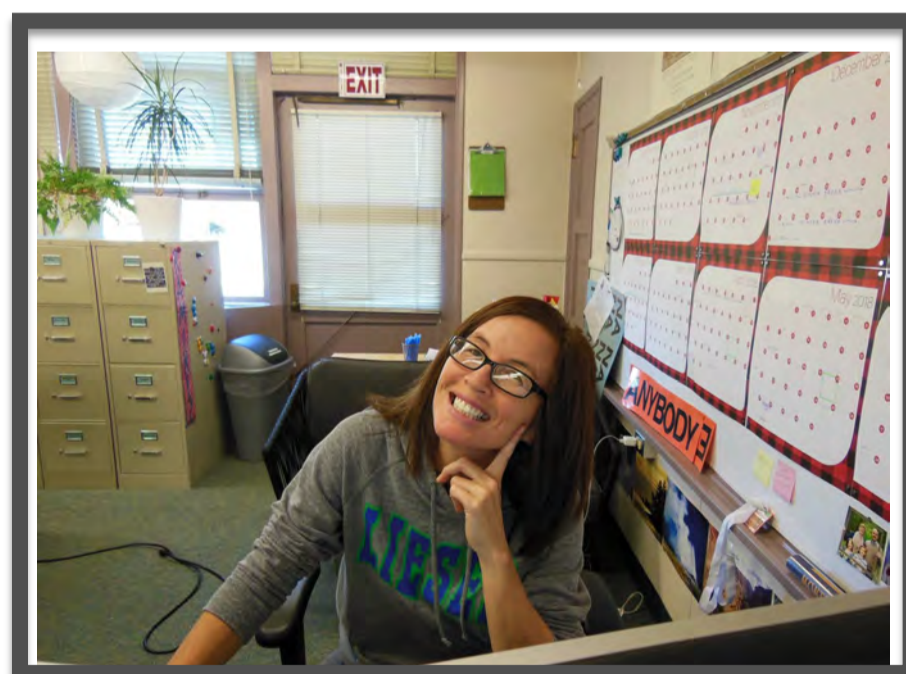
## PBIS and Spirit Awards Given at Lieser

By: Valeria Echeverria

PBIS, also known as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support, is a positive way of interacting with all students to reach their maximum potential and become a positive member of the Lieser community.

"We hope to support students with emotional and academic growth." Says Mrs. Courtney Mcewan. PBIS is also connected with the SPIRIT awards, which are awards given to students who show Success, Perseverance, Independence, Respect, Integrity, and Thoughtfulness. "These awards are given to recognize students who are demonstrating some of the core values of our school," says Mrs. Mcewan.

To recognize who these awards should be given to, teachers and staff notice students who show everything that SPIRIT stands for, and they award students from kindergarten to high school.





# Spirit Week



Students relive the decades in their dress.