

# Excellence *on display*

fall 2014

VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS MAGAZINE





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## VCS Board of Education

Patrick Bolger  
Timothy DeLucia  
Gary Gilbert  
Kathryn Hart  
Deborah Palumbo-Sanders  
Trisha Turner  
Michael Young

The Board of Education meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Victor Education Center at 7:15 p.m. Residents are welcome to attend.

## District Clerk

Maureen Goodberlet,  
(585) 924-3252 ext. 1402

## Superintendent of Schools

Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo, Ed.D.

*Excellence on Display* is the official publication of Victor Central School District.

(585) 924-3252 ext. 1407  
[www.victorschools.org](http://www.victorschools.org)

# A Message from Our Superintendent Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo



The 2014-2015 school year is well on its way, engaging students in everything from rigorous academics and challenging arts to spirited athletics and heart-warming acts of altruism, too!

I am always amazed at how quickly students adapt to the schedule of a full school day after long and relaxing summer days. Their focus and enthusiasm is a tribute to not only their fortitude and resilience but to the incredible support of their teachers, parents and community.

In this publication, you can read about many of our accomplishments so far this year. Beginning on page 10, you can learn about our libraries and on page 5 you can gain a better understanding of our new

Offices of Educational Services department. On page 6 you can meet our 2014 Unsung Heroes and Heroines and on page 4 you can get to know a little bit about this year's foreign exchange students. In News Notes, on pages 14 – 19, you catch up on a variety of other great happenings at Victor Central Schools.

On behalf of the staff, students and Board of Education, welcome back to another successful year at VCS!

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dawn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dawn

## ARE YOU RECEIVING THE VCS E-NEWS?

**SPECIAL EVENTS • IMPORTANT UPDATES!** Throughout the school year, our VCS Superintendent and building Principals send out electronic newsletters highlighting special school events, unique accomplishments, important updates and other timely information. Are you receiving these vital sources of school information? If not, we strongly urge you to sign up for both the Superintendent's and building Principals' e-news by going to our web site: [www.victorschools.org](http://www.victorschools.org)

# VSH Engages Students from Thailand, Denmark and India

This year, Victor Senior High School is home to three young women from two different continents, Europe and Asia. This year's visitors may all have different experiences in America, but they all agree on one thing – VCS is one great place to go to school!

**Pitchaya “Belle” Ratchapaisan, age 16**  
**Year** Junior

**Hometown** Bangkok, Thailand

**Host Family** Angela and Leo Fisher

**Program** Belle comes to Victor through Ayusa

**Likes** Belle loves the more casual feel of Victor Central Schools. Back home, she must wear a uniform. She also really likes the open interactions with her teachers here. “They are so nice and kind and easy to talk to,” she said.

**Hopes** Belle hopes to experience as much as she can while she is living here. Right now, she is playing tennis for Victor Central Schools, and thanks to her host parents, Angela and Leo Fisher, she has already had the opportunity to camp, canoe and kayak.

**Frederikke “Marie” Rosentoft**

**Year** Junior

**Hometown** Charlottenlund, Denmark (20 minutes from capital of Copenhagen)

**Host Family:** Angela and Leo Fisher

**Program** Marie also comes to Victor through Ayusa

**Likes** Although it can be confusing at times, Marie likes the freedom of the school day at VSH. Back home, she must stay in one classroom and wait for her teachers to come to the room. She also enjoys the openness of students here. “Here, kids talk more and are much more social!”



Varda Shah, Frederikke “Marie” Rosentoft, and Pitchaya “Belle” Ratchapaisan

**Hopes** There are no sports or clubs in Marie’s school in Denmark, so she plans on taking full advantage of everything available at VSH. Among the special activities Marie hopes to experience are track and field, Thanksgiving and Homecoming!

**Varda Shah, age 17**

**Year** Senior

**Hometown** Mumbai, India

**Host Family** Debbie and Chuck Gallagher

**Program** Varda comes to Victor through the Rotary International Youth Exchange program

**Likes** Varda is absolutely amazed by the serenity and natural beauty of Victor, a far cry from the hustle and bustle of a big city like Mumbai. “It is so green here and the setting is so slow and silent,” she said. Varda also “loves” American food and has become a big fan of “Papa Jacks!”

**Hopes** Back home in Mumbai, Varda played basketball. She hopes to join the Victor team this winter. She also wants to play lacrosse and travel as much as possible when she is not in school. This winter, she cannot wait to build a snowman!





# Victor Central Schools Introduces The Offices of Educational Services

Victor Central Schools is proud to introduce a brand new department, The Offices of Educational Services. The Offices of Educational Services is a combination of several already familiar services on campus, most notably, Curriculum and Instruction, Pupil Personnel Services, and Special Education, along with many other new and enhanced offerings.

Kristin Swann, Associate Superintendent for Educational Services says the new department exists in order to create a learning environment that ensures all students have access to the very best learning opportunities. "The office assists faculty, staff, students and the general public in a wide range of areas. These include registration, data management, curriculum, instruction, pupil personnel services, special education and health services. Our vision is to help all members of our learning community rise to a higher standard in order to ensure that every student reaches his/her fullest potential," she said.

Swann says the reorganization of services will enable Victor Central Schools to utilize the power of professional communities. "The structure of schools and the ways of organizing and operating them has remained fairly stable throughout this century. However, we know that our students must be adaptive to their ever changing environment in order to compete and be successful in our global society. In order to provide our students with the tools they need to succeed, our instructional practices must also be adaptive and highly effective. The Offices of Educational Services has integrated the support structures of several offices to enhance and spread good instructional practices throughout the school district. We believe that helping teachers develop a shared expertise and work toward a common purpose will significantly improve student learning," Swann said.

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***"The Offices of Educational Services has integrated the support structures of several offices to enhance and spread good instructional practices throughout the school district."***

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*~ Kristin Swann, Associate Superintendent for The Offices of Educational Services*



*left to right: Melanie McGuire, Director of Special Programs and Compliance; Kristin Swann, Associate Superintendent for The Offices of Educational Services; and Veronica Puglisi, Director of Educational and Support Services*

# Heart of Excellence

*This past August, at our annual Opening Day ceremony for VCS staff, Superintendent Dawn Santiago-Marullo recognized this year's VCS Unsung Heroes and Heroines. Unsung Heroes and Heroines are VCS staff members who are nominated by their peers as living and working examples of excellence. Whether they are serving food, cleaning classrooms, working with students, driving buses or supporting our buildings, these men and women define excellence. They are the Heart of Excellence at VCS!*

## **Glenn "Skip" Anderson**

### ***Food Services***

*Employed since August 31, 2010*

According to his nominators, former U.S. Marine, Glenn "Skip" Anderson takes gallantry, honor and integrity to a new level with humor and a ready smile. Because of this, students in turn stand a little taller, walk a little prouder and some even salute! As a member of the Food Services Department this year's Unsung Hero recipient is said to be versatile and gung-ho in whatever job he is given. Whether he is working for his supervisor, Janet Elman, serving kids or delivering supplies, Glenn leads by example.

## **Richard Fast**

### ***Facilities and Grounds Department***

*Employed since May 11, 2009*

Richard Fast always goes above and beyond what his job entails. According to his nominators, he delivers in more ways than one. "He is very pleasant and accommodating and gets everyone laughing and smiling with his quick wit and happy go lucky attitude." Fast's supervisor, VCS Director of School Facilities, Chris Marshall, agrees Rich is a quality employee who is always customer service driven. "He is one of the most consistent employees in our department and he always takes pride in the work he does here," Marshall said.

## **Peter Deckert**

### ***Transportation Department***

*Employed since April 10, 2010*

More than twenty people nominated Peter Deckert for his unending positive attitude, kindness and caring toward others. As the daily bus driver for two physically challenged students, Deckert is known for not only ensuring our wheel chair bound students are secure in their chairs but happy, too. One nominator said, "He offers cheery and optimistic conversation as he wheels the students into the school and is often heard telling them to 'make someone smile today!'"

When it is raining, he provides his special riders with an umbrella and during harsh winter days, he quickly, but safely moves them into warmth. In the words of another nominator, "he does much more than provide transportation to two students. He reminds them that a cheerful word and an encouraging thought can make a difference in their lives as well as the lives they touch."

## **Marie Vara**

### ***Clerical Staff***

*Employed since September 7, 2010*

The more than thirty nominators of Junior High School Guidance Secretary, Marie Vara said they would have nominated her the year she arrived if she had been eligible

# Heart of Excellence



*From left to right: Jayne Heuring, Glenn “Skip” Anderson, Richard Fast, Peter Deckert, and Marie Vara*

that soon. Here is some of what they had to say about her. “She is an amazing part of our family and we all know how fortunate we are to have her. She is one of the most positive and dedicated members of our staff. She has the patience of a saint and her patience is tested on a daily basis. She is always juggling numerous requests from students, teachers, staff and administrators while navigating multiple interruptions from both adults and students. She handles her responsibilities with grace and dedication completing her work well, in a timely fashion and with a smile. In addition to her work responsibilities, she is a fabulous individual to work with – caring, thoughtful and genuinely interested in the well-being of all the students, staff and faculty.”

## **Jayne Heuring** **Teacher Aide**

*Employed since September 18, 1995*

Jayne Heuring’s nominators describe her as much more than a teacher aide. “She is professional, organized and caring, a loyal

friend and confidante. She is a person who is truly interested in working with children and does an excellent job. Teachers are delighted to have her in their classrooms because she can handle anything. She is one of the most caring and dedicated employees at VCS! As a central figure in the Kindergarten screening process for many years she is extremely kind and understanding when parents bring their children to school for the first time. She always makes a wonderful connection with students and eases their parents worries, too. Through thoughtful and focused efforts, she finds a way to connect with students and provide them with the support and guidance necessary to feel successful and overcome challenges. She can often be found masterfully using her sense of humor to turn a child’s day around. She believes whole-heartedly in the children that she supports and does not allow them to reach for anything but the stars! The children and staff at the Victor Primary School are lucky to have such a special teacher aide.”

# Victor Central Schools Name Two New Principals

*Brian Gee, Junior High Principal*

*Kevin Swartz, Intermediate Principal*



Brian Gee has been named the new principal at the Victor Junior High School.

Gee comes to Victor Central Schools from Brighton High School where he was the assistant principal for the past seven years. Prior to that, he was an English teacher there for six years. Before moving back to New York

State, Gee spent three years at the Norwell Middle School in Massachusetts as an 8th grade English teacher.

Gee received a BA in English and Secondary Education from Oswego State University, an MA in teaching from the Simmons College of Boston and his Administrative Certificate of Advanced Study from SUNY Brockport.

Gee says he looks forward to continuing his career at Victor Central Schools. "I am excited to continue my career serving a community that values education and to build upon an already academically excellent and responsive school with high expectations for each of our students."

Gee currently resides in Fairport with his wife Shannon their two daughters, Emerson (5) and Regan (8) and their pug, Duncan. When he and his family are not going to dance recitals, cheer competitions and music recitals Gee says they like to spend time outdoors and visiting family and friends.



Webster, NY native Kevin Swartz has been named the new principal at the Victor Intermediate School.

Swartz comes to Victor Central Schools from the Bay Trail Middle School

in Penfield, NY where he was the "House A" principal. Prior to that administrative post, Swartz taught middle school social studies for ten years in the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District.

Swartz received his undergraduate degree at St. Bonaventure University, his Master's degree at SUNY Geneseo and his Administrative Certificate of Advanced Study at SUNY Brockport.

Swartz, who resides in Victor, NY with his wife Bethanie and their two children, John, a second grader at the Primary School and Allison, a Kindergartener in the Early Childhood School says he and his family already thoroughly enjoy being members of the Victor community and supporting its many activities.

"It is both an honor and privilege to be named the next principal at the Victor Intermediate School. Victor is a community that is committed to both academic and social excellence for its students and I am excited about the opportunity to share in meeting these goals."



# Victor Early Childhood School Offers Full Day Pre-K Program

This past August, Victor Central Schools learned that it was a recipient of a \$360,000 grant offered by New York State to offer a full day Pre-Kindergarten program. Victor was one of 81 school districts and community based organizations state-wide to receive a portion of the \$340 million in funding opening full-day classroom slots to nearly 37,000 children. Thanks to the grant, 46 new VCS students are now attending the five-hour “full day” Pre-Kindergarten program. (36 students are receiving benefits of the full day program on the Victor Campus and 10 students are receiving benefits at our off-site affiliate locations, Doodlebugs, KinderCare and TLC.)

Prior to the full day program, the Victor Early Childhood School offered a daily half-day program and the Good Start Program. These programs are still offered in addition to the new full day program.

Dorothy DiAngelo, Victor Early Childhood School Principal says the new full day Pre-K program is a huge benefit for our youngest learners. “The new full day Pre-K program provides a rich, developmentally appropriate learning environment for students with additional opportunities for the development of language and social skills. It also acclimates children to the routines inherent in our Kindergarten program,” she said.

As for how our little learners are doing with the new extended schedule, DiAngelo said they are thriving on many levels. “The opportunity to have lunch in their room as a class is one of the benefits of full day Pre-K which allows students to have additional opportunities to socialize and bond as a classroom community.”

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***“The positive, long term impact of high quality Pre-K programs is well documented so I am thrilled that we were able to add the full day as an option for parents.”***

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*~ Dorothy DiAngelo, Principal,  
Victor Early Childhood School*



# Check Out Our 21st Century Librarians

*"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers.  
A librarian can bring you back the right one."  
~ Neil Gaiman, Author*

Today's librarians do much more than check books in and out. They are teachers, trainers and technology experts. Victor Central Schools is fortunate to have five of the best librarians around.

## ***Danyelle Westbrooke*** *Senior High School*

The Senior High School library is very diverse in the needs it fills for both students and teachers. On an average day the library sees about 150 students, and that does not include students who are coming



in as a class. Senior High Librarian, Danyelle Westbrooke says students come in first thing in the morning before classes start at 7:20 am and stay

until 3:30 pm or later if there is someone there to stay with them. "I teach an average of 15 classes a month and an additional 50 classes come in with their teachers to use our computers for research and word processing," Westbrooke said.

Recently, the Senior High library started a book club in the morning called "Books and Breakfast." This group meets about every six weeks before school. In addition, the library features many new book displays every month. Last year, the staff began promoting what they are reading by hanging signs outside their doors. "This

has caused a friendly competition between some teachers," Westbrooke said.

Throughout the year, the Senior High library provides a variety of activities that engage students, from prize giveaways during "Teen Read Week" to special visits. Last year the library brought in local veterans and a WWII footlocker filled with actual supplies for students to explore.

Despite heavy extracurricular involvement, Westbrooke is proud to report that circulation statistics for high school students reading for pleasure have increased!

## ***Michele Linse*** *Primary School*

The Primary School library is known for mixing technology into its lessons. Primary School Librarian, Michele Linse, supports literature comprehension, creative writing, poetry, and storytelling but her main focus is nonfiction reading and writing. "As a Nationally Board Certified Librarian, I strive every day to earn my building nickname of "The Nonfiction Chick," Linse said.

Among the most beloved projects students enjoy in Linse's library are the nonfiction pod-

cast reports, where students record short snippets of information they have crafted for a student audience. "One interesting





recent project we completed was an interactive fiction experience where students wrote a story, then used a different modality to tell each chapter, for instance a comic strip, a video of a puppet show, a poem, or dramatic voice recording,” Linse said. It is never a dull moment in the Primary School library. Every year, the library plays a game to encourage children to read. Last year the students were archeologists, digging in a sandbox for a code that directed them to a library shelf. “The challenge was to explore that shelf then borrow a book

from it when it might not be their first choice of topic,” Linse said. Another interesting exploration the Primary library has led has been loaning

every classroom an iPad. “Exploring how just one iPad can impact education is an ongoing project,” Linse said.

### ***Maggie Elliot*** *Intermediate School*

Intermediate School Librarian, Maggie Elliot is constantly being asked whether she thinks libraries will exist in 10 years. This National Board Certified Librarian’s answer is; “Yes, of course! Libraries are more important than ever. School libraries in particular provide access to

books, information and technology for all students. They level the playing fields for students,” she said.

One of the many facts about libraries that Elliot thinks most people are unaware of is that librarians (Library Media Specialists) are teachers.

“The certification is a NYS teaching certification. Our degree trains us in many areas: information literacy, research skills, literature and reading. We are trained to co-teach with content or subject area teachers,” Elliot said.

As the Intermediate librarian, Elliot’s role is diverse. She participates in Homespun Days and Medieval Days. She coordinates the annual Community Read, hosts book fairs and author visits and collaborates with her building’s Inquiry program to provide book clubs for students. Elliot also serves on district-wide and building-wide committees and participates at grade level and department meetings. She also helps with curriculum writing and Summer Academy.

“We are one of the few people in a school who work with everyone (staff and students),” Elliot said. As more information is presented digitally, Elliot says she believes the expertise that librarians have in locating and evaluating information is increasingly important. “No longer is all





# Our 21st Century Librarians *continued*



the information reliably stored in a collection that is housed in one room. Students need to begin to examine where their information is coming from at an early age. That training comes

through a good library program in collaboration with classroom teachers,” she said.

Despite the lure of technology, Elliot is proud to report that students still read a lot! “I hear all the time that children don’t read, but that is not my experience. It doesn’t matter if it is a traditional book, e-book, or magazine, students are engaged by stories written for them by authors across many genres. Libraries are a conduit to introduce students to both classic and new authors. We are the matchmakers whose broad knowledge of literature helps us connect kids to books that will spark their interest,” Elliot said.

## ***Linda Tabit***

### *Junior High School*

“Do children still read?” is the surprised question Victor Junior High Librarian, Linda Tabit hears frequently.

“YES, they still read and I am fortunate

to work with students and staff who love discovering new fiction and non-fiction in our library. For those who

aren’t quite that excited about reading I like to think that they just haven’t found the right book - yet! One of the best parts of my job is matching a student with a book that they will enjoy,” Tabit said.

Tabit says that when people hear she’s a librarian they automatically know that she likes to read, but her favorite part of being a school librarian is that she is a teacher. “I collaborate with staff to

create research-based lessons to teach our students how to access, critique, and interpret the information they discover in books and on the internet. Our students use library resources to research topics in English, social studies, science, and all their other classes. A lot of those resources are available as physical books, but access to databases opens the information world to our students in a safe, structured, and reliable format. The old-fashioned card catalog has been replaced by a sleek electronic version that allows for easier searching techniques and that makes our collection more accessible,” Tabit said.

Whether she is busy teaching our students or simply caring for her building’s collection of resources, (Tabit is responsible for over 9,000 books, DVDs, and other items). Tabit is excited about her role as the Junior High School librarian. Among the many programs she is most proud of are SOAR – Stop Open And Read, a Monday morning program designed to offer 20 minutes of uninterrupted reading for staff and students, International Education



Week, National Foreign Language Week, the Teen Book Festival and, of course, author visits.

**Christina Burke,**  
*Early Childhood School*

This past spring, the Rochester Regional Library Council selected the Early Childhood School library to receive an Honorable Mention award for the 2014 School Library of the Year. If you have ever visited the library, you can understand why it was selected.

The atmosphere is welcoming and inspiring. The room boasts a fresh color scheme that appeals to children's senses and defines the space as child friendly. Comfy corners and cozy chairs provide spots for children to read by themselves or with a friend.



Shelves hold colorful browsing bins that allow students to shop for books by a favorite subject or series. The shelves are the perfect height and

depth to match the needs of little arms. Victor Early Childhood School Librarian, Christina Burke says that this set up and design provides a sense of ownership and independence for our youngest readers. "Pre Kindergarten classes especially enjoy choosing their own books and taking them home to share with their families. When they check out a book they feel trustworthy and responsible," Burke said.

Among the most popular books for our youngest students these days is *The Elephant and Piggy* series where every adventure is laugh-out-loud fun. "What

the beginner readers do not realize is that the series offers word repetition and text clues in color coded speech bubbles," Burke said. Whatever students choose to explore in the VECS library, Burke says it is always an exciting discovery. "I get to know and make a connection with each student through their book choices and become quickly exposed to their unique topics of interest. Whether the subject is dinosaurs or dance, readers become mini experts and love to share their new-found knowledge." This year, in addition to books and author visits, Burke says the VECS library will begin integrating technology via databases, e-books and a brand new SmartBoard.



## Snackpack Program Continues to Support Local Families

The Victor Cares Club, in cooperation with the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard and Foodlink, will continue to offer the Snackpack program this year. This CONFIDENTIAL program is intended for families who need help providing food when school is not in session. Students in Pre-K through grade 12 qualify. In order to participate in the FREE program, a parent or guardian needs to call 585-924-3252, ext. 5105 to register and leave an **Address, Phone Number, and Number of Children**. The only qualification is a stated need for extra food.

Students involved in the Cares Club will be packing orders one week before the following scheduled school breaks:

November 11th: Veteran's Day (packing on 11/5)  
 November 26th - 28th: Thanksgiving Recess  
 (packing on 11/19)  
 December 22nd - January 2nd: Holiday Recess  
 (packing on 12/17)  
 January 19th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (packing on 1/14)  
 February 16th - 20th: President's Recess (packing on 2/11)  
 March 30th - April 3rd: Spring Recess (packing on 3/25)  
 April 27th: Superintendent's Conference Day  
 (packing on 4/22)  
 May 22nd - 25th: Memorial Day Holiday (packing on 5/20)

Items in demand include peanut butter, soup, crackers, juice boxes, granola bars, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, and cereal. Donations are greatly needed, and can be dropped off in the main office of the senior high school. Drivers are also needed to help with deliveries.

If you have any questions about the program or would like to help, please contact Victor Cares Club Advisor, LeeAnne Birkemeier at [birkemeierl@victorschools.org](mailto:birkemeierl@victorschools.org) ■

## 2014 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees Named

On Saturday, October 18th VCS held its 2014 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction ceremony at the Burgundy Basin Inn in Bushnell's Basin. This year's inductees were:



**Charlie Moynihan**  
*Class of 1992*  
 Cross Country and Track



**Vince Sherry**  
*Class of 1998*  
 Cross Country and Track



**Courtney McVicker**  
*Class of 2000*  
 Basketball, Volleyball  
 and Lacrosse



**Hannah Sharp**  
*Class of 2004*  
 Basketball and Volleyball

The Victor Hall of Fame was founded in 1999 as a way to:

Recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding athletes, coaches and Blue Devil supporters.

Reconnect those individuals and their families with Victor Central School.

Deepen the current student-athlete understanding and appreciation for the history of the Blue Devil athletes by seeking their participation. ■





## Victor Senior High Play:

### *Death of a Salesman*

Friday, November 7th: 7 pm

Saturday, November 8th: 1pm and 7pm,

*Victor Early Childhood School Auditorium*

*Ticket:* \$7 Adults, \$5 Students/Children  
Seniors Free.

Tickets available at the door.

Victor High School takes on Arthur Miller's classic tragedy, *Death of a Salesman*, in this fall's dramatic production. Theater director Jeremy Hawkinson says the student actors and crew are hard at work on the play. "This is a challenging tragedy that really speaks to young people today about the nature of parent-child relationships, and how too-high expectations can sometimes be detrimental to the family structure." ■

## Victor Junior High Musical

### *Shrek, The Musical*

Friday, November 21st: 7 pm

Saturday, November 22nd: 1pm and 7pm,

*JH/SH Arts Center*

*Ticket:* \$9 Adults, \$7 Students/Children  
Seniors Free **at the door.**

Tickets are available online at [victorschools.org](http://victorschools.org), under the "purchase tickets" tab and at the door.

Join Shrek on his wild adventure with Donkey to rescue princess Fiona from a tower guarded by a fire-breathing dragon. All of your favorite fairytale characters take on personalities you never knew they had as they attempt to fight against Lord Farquaad, his guards, and various other obstacles to secure their own little place in the world. What makes them special makes them stronger! ■

## Upcoming Music Events:

### December 3, 2014

VSH Wind Ensemble and  
Orchestra Holiday Concert,  
7:00 pm, *JH/SH Arts Center*

### December 4, 2014

VJH Instrumental Holiday Concert  
7:00 pm, *JH/SH Arts Center*

### December 8, 2014

5th Grade Chorus and Band Concert  
7:00 pm, *JH/SH Arts Center*

### December 9, 2014

6th Grade Chorus, Band and  
Allegro Orchestra Concert  
7:00 pm, *JH/SH Arts Center*

### December 10, 2014

VJH Choral Concert  
7:00 pm, *JH/SH Arts Center*

### December 15, 2014

VSH Choral and Symphonic  
Band Holiday Concert  
7:00 pm, *JH/SH Arts Center*

### December 16, 2014

Beginning & Vivace Orchestras  
and Suzuki Group  
7:00 pm, *JH/SH Arts Center*

### December 17, 2014

3rd Grade Holiday Concerts  
6:30 and 7:30 pm, *VPS Auditorium*

### December 18, 2014

Victor Community Band &  
Choral Concert  
7:00 pm, *JH/SH Arts Center*



## Victor Central Schools Honors Two 2014 Graduates of Distinction

*Former Ontario County Sheriff and Victor Town Supervisor, Edward Guinan, Class of 1947 Gorbel President and CEO, Brian Reh, Class of 1991*

On Thursday, September 11th, Edward Guinan, a 1947 VCS graduate and Brian Reh, a 1991 VCS graduate accepted the prestigious Graduate of Distinction award at the Board of Education meeting. The formal Board recognition followed an informal congratulatory reception that was held in the Early Childhood School cafeteria earlier in the evening.

On Friday, both Guinan and Reh went to the high school for a special Graduates of Distinction Day where they had the opportunity to share their stories with students and staff, and tour the building. ■

## 2015 – 2016 Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

Pre-K and Kindergarten registration will begin on Monday, March 2, 2015

- 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Victor Early Childhood School Board Room
- Children who are 5 years old on December 1, 2015 are eligible to register for Kindergarten.
- Children who are 4 years old on December 1, 2015 are eligible to register for Pre-K.
- The lottery for Pre-K will be held on Wednesday, April 1st.
- Notification letters will be mailed by Friday, April 10th.

*(Please note that lottery results will not be shared over the phone.)* ■

## NYS STAR (School Tax Relief) Program Registration Deadline is March 1st.

If you are not a senior citizen and you filled out an application last year for the Basic Star exemption, you do not need to apply again. If you are not a senior citizen and are either a new homeowner in the District or you did not apply last year for the Basic STAR exemption, **YOU MUST APPLY BY MARCH 1, 2015.**

For more information see page 16 in the District Calendar. ■

## CONNECT—ED Q & A

**What is Blackboard Connect?** Blackboard Connect is a service offered by the Victor Central School District that allows administrators to reach all parents of the district's more than 4,400 students within minutes.

**I have never received a Blackboard Connect. How can I sign up?** In an effort to keep parents and students informed with the latest news and information we ask that parents who have NOT received a Blackboard Connect school closing message in the past to please contact their child's school so that we may add their name and phone number to the list.

## Victor Central Schools Welcomes New Staff

### Victor Early Childhood

*Kimberly Dieter, Leah Daniels – Farren, Kimberley Gingrich, LeeAnn Shattuck, Erin Dobbertin, Jessica Fronczak, Krista Cooper, Erin Lettman, and Lynne Reeves*

### Victor Primary

*Julia Hyman, Mary Ann Buckley, Meredith Schiralli, Jen Cole, Jill Wood, Trang Quintot, and Katie McCarthy*

### Victor Intermediate

*Nicole Inzana, Jamie Randall, Kathleen Goodberlet, Rachel Simmons, Thomas Cheevers, Lauren Beikirch, James Mauro, Carissa Binger, Joanna Schoff, Julie Danella, Casie Neil, Shawna Spriggs, Colleen Lerner, Omar Santiago, and Vilayphone O'Malley*

### Victor Junior High

*Lesley Henry, Jennifer DeWitte, Tara Visca, Nicholas Sculli III, Lynne Forsyth, and Kathryn Powell*

### Victor Senior High

*David Arnold, Sara VanValkenburg, Alyse Wuest, Steven Metzger, Andrew Macmillan, Troy Bajardi, Michael Muscarella, Kyli Knickerbocker, Michael Cutaia, Candice Humphrey, Allison Dentinger, Karin Juroe, Gina Clement, and Moira Platzer*

### Building and Grounds

*Tyra Hamilton*

### Food Services

*Sharon Fullerton, Peri Kofahl, Robin Pauly, Erin Relyea, Sarwat Saleem, and Valerie McHenry*

### Transportation

*Doreen Benschop, Steve Limbeck, Joe LeMark, Robin Bates, Sheri Todd, David Welsh, Steve Zumbo, James Nitché, Mila Nachtman, and Sara Davis* ■

## VCS Announces Leadership Changes

A new school year means new changes at Victor Central Schools, from the District Offices to several of our schools.



Melissa Parkes-Goho, who served as a school psychologist and an administrative intern at the Early Childhood School last year has been named the assistant principal in that building.



Former sixth grade teacher, Christopher Barnard, has been named the assistant principal at Victor Junior High School.



Linda Izzo will not be teaching our Kindergarten, this year. She will be working with Jan Soucier as a mentor teacher, supporting all of our new teachers. ■

*from top to bottom:  
Melissa Parkes-Goho,  
Christopher Barnard,  
and Linda Izzo.*

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 26 - 28

### WINTER BREAK

December 22 - January 2



## Attention Parents Of Students Who Attend Private/Parochial Schools

### Important Busing Information

In order to be eligible for transportation to a private/parochial school, parents must submit a written request no later than April 1st of the previous year. In addition, you must live within 15 miles of the school of your choice.

*Please send written request to:*

**Victor Transportation Department**

Attention: *Darren Everhart*

953 High Street

Victor, New York 14564 ■

## Victor Resident Receives Helping Hand Award



Congratulations to Victor resident Patricia Hall. This fall she was awarded the 2014 Farmington-Victor Kiwanis Club Helping Hand award.

Hall, the Chairperson of the PTSA Health and Wellness committee, a pediatric nurse practitioner and parent of two, shares her commitment to healthy living through a variety of programs at VCS. ■

## AED Locations

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable device that checks the heart rhythm. If needed, it can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm. AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Victor Central Schools is proud to offer these life-saving devices at several locations on campus. ■



BUILDING	LOCATION
Bus Garage . . . . .	Hallway by the Break Room
Senior High . . . . .	One Located Outside the Trainers Office
. . . . .	One Located Pool Lower Level inside Door
. . . . .	One Located Pool Upper Level inside Door
. . . . .	One Located Outside the Nurse's Office
Junior High . . . . .	Hallway Outside Gym and Auditorium
Intermediate . . . . .	Hallway Outside Gym
Primary . . . . .	One Located at the Back Entrance
. . . . .	on Gym Hallway
. . . . .	One Located West Front Entrance
Early Childhood . . . . .	Outside Gym
Board Room . . . . .	Inside Board Room Entrance

## Board President Named Citizen of the Year



The Farmington-Victor Kiwanis Club has named long-time VCS Board of Education member, and current president, Tim DeLucia, the 2014 Citizen of the Year. DeLucia, a district resident for the past 28 years, brings a

seasoned perspective to all of his volunteer pursuits. Even though his own children have long graduated from VCS, DeLucia believes in making a difference in the lives of all children. ■

## The 411 on Winter School Closures

## What factors determine a winter weather closing at VCS?

- Road conditions
- Temperatures, including extreme wind chill factors
- Power outages
- Weather radar and forecasts

*How will I know if school is closed?*

- A phone call will be made directly to your home, via a Blackboard Connect message from Superintendent Dawn Santiago-Marullo.
- The local media will alerted (YNN, WHEC-TV, WROC-TV, WOKR-TV, WHAM, Democrat and Chronicle, etc.)
- Facebook and Twitter messages will be posted.
- An updated school status will be recorded on the school district's main telephone switchboard.
- This process applies not only to full day school closings, but also to two hour delays, early dismissals and evening cancellations.

*School is closed and it's not even snowing! Why?*

According to VCS Physician, Dr. Cynthia DiLaura Devore, extremely cold temperatures can impact a school closing.

“No one should be outside with unprotected skin with wind-chill factors in the range of  $-40^{\circ}$  F. If there is such a thing as a medical reason for closure, this would be a probable medical indication for school closure and suspension of outdoor activity, including interscholastic outdoor sports, and even cold weather sports.

Injuries can occur sooner and at lower temperatures. As we approach wind chills of -25° F, it may be time to consider closure,” Devore said.

## Why Are You Starting School Two Hours Late? Why Not Just Close For The Entire Day?

If we choose to open our doors two hours late it will be because roads and temperatures are expected to improve greatly later in the morning.

Missing a few hours of school versus an entire day benefits our children not only from a safety standpoint but an education one, too. With rigorous new standards, we want to give our students all of the instruction time possible so they are prepared for their futures. ■

# TEN WAYS TO MAKE IT A Blue Devil Day!

- 1 Be a Cheerleader!** Attend any one of our hundreds of yearly sporting events.
- 2 Support the Arts!** Take the family to a school musical, play or art show.
- 3 Get in Tune With One of Our Music Programs.** Go to a band, orchestra or choral presentation.
- 4 Play!** Take some time with your children after school or on the weekend and play on one of our great playgrounds.
- 5 Get Involved.** Volunteer in your child's classroom or for a special event or organization.
- 6 Jump In!** Take a dip in our swimming pool during open or family swim times.
- 7 Make a Difference.** Take part in one of our District's food drives or community service efforts.
- 8 Take a Walk.** Our new campus fitness trail makes for great exercise.
- 9 Show Your School Pride.** If you are a VCS alumni, get involved in the VCS Alumni Association or attend your class reunion.
- 10 Stay Connected.** Check out our website on a regular basis for the latest news and information at [www.victorschools.org](http://www.victorschools.org)

Victor Central School District  
953 High Street  
Victor, NY 14564

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Victor, NY  
Permit # 10

## To: Victor Central School District Residents

*The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services maintains a list of registered sex offenders and offers many resources through its web site, <http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us>. People may search the Sex Offender Registry using the criteria of name, county or zip code. Parents and guardians may want to talk with children about interacting with adults and people they do not know.*

# Fourteenth Annual Senior Citizens Ball

Free and open to ALL  
**Victor Central School District**  
Senior Citizens!  
(55 and Older)

**Presented by**  
**VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS**  
**Office of School &**  
**Community Relations**  
**and the Senior High Key Club**

*Special Thank You to the Kiwanis Club  
for Their Support*

**Saturday, May 9, 2015**  
**7 – 9 p.m.**  
**@ Victor Intermediate School**  
**Gymnasium**

**Entertainment by**  
**"Western New York Big Band"**

Reservations required, call School & Community Relations  
at 924-3252, ext. 1407 or e-mail  
[welche@victorschools.org](mailto:welche@victorschools.org) or [laskysh@victorschools.org](mailto:laskysh@victorschools.org)

Scenes from our 2014 Ball

To follow us on

## Facebook

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Victor Central  
Schools Facebook

To follow us on

## Twitter

search  
[@victorschools](https://twitter.com/victorschools)

## VCS Seeks Names of Distinguished Graduates

Do you know a Victor Central School alumnus who has made a significant contribution to society? The Graduates of Distinction program honors such individuals. Applications are currently available in the Office of School and Community Relations or on-line at [www.victorschools.org](http://www.victorschools.org). Alumni selected for this honor will be recognized at a special Graduate of Distinction Day next fall.

Nominees to the Victor Central School District Graduates of Distinction program shall be selected based upon the following criteria:

- A. Nominees must have graduated from Victor Senior High (or have attended Victor Schools BEFORE there was a high school in the case of Honorable Recognition) at least 15 years before they are eligible for selection. The committee may waive the graduation time limit requirements in certain circumstances, as it deems necessary;
- B. Significant achievement after attending Victor Schools which include: (1) Educational achievements; (2) Professional achievements; (3) Job-related achievements; (4) Honors, awards, professional affiliations, publications; (5) Civic or community involvement; (6) Other appropriate qualifications which the committee believes merit consideration;

*Nominations must be submitted by Monday, January 5, 2015 to:*

**Graduates of Distinction Committee**

**c/o The Office of School and Community Relations**

**Victor Central Schools 953 High Street, Victor, New York 14564**