

NOVEMBER 2008

Excellence

ON DISPLAY

VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS MAGAZINE



Above photo taken by VJH Student Henry Benschop

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VCS Board of Education

Jenner Davis
Timothy DeLucia
Mark Hamilton
Kathryn Hart
Stephen Martin
Robert Rose
Scott Sprague

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.

Board Clerk

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

Superintendent of Schools

Timothy J. McElheran

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

(585) 924-3252 ext. 1407

www.victorschools.org

A Message from Superintendent Timothy J. McElheran



Dear Residents,

The 2008-2009 school year began in an incredibly strong manner. From welcoming dozens of enthusiastic new students and staff to the rededication of Corbit Field your support continues to amaze me. Unfortunately, with every positive moment we celebrate, it seems we are faced with challenges, as well.

Over the past several weeks our state and nation has been grappling with liquidity issues in the financial markets, plunging stock prices, a subprime mortgage debacle and credit crunches that are preventing not only individuals from running their households but businesspeople from operating their businesses.

From rising unemployment figures to numerous bank foreclosures and failing financial firms, the news has been extremely distressing.

As an outsider, it is easy to perceive this crisis as something beyond us or something that will be taken care of for us. After all, Congress recently passed a \$700 billion dollar rescue plan for our financial systems and global banks joined in solidarity to cut interest rates. While these are both positive steps toward remedying our ailing financial situation, this may by no means end the storm and that is why I am writing to you today.

Thirty-five percent of our school district's revenue comes from state funding – funding from a state government that is has been directly hit by this financial storm. Last week, Governor Patterson projected that New York State would end this fiscal

year with a \$1.5 billion deficit and projects a \$12.5 billion dollar deficit in the next fiscal year beginning on April 1, 2009.

Governor Patterson has not minced words or worries, telling the Associated P the crisis this year and in 2009-2010 without raising taxes.” He has also said that while he wants to avoid midyear cuts in school aid, schools should prepare for reduced spending in the coming fiscal year. On November 18, he is calling the New York State Legislature back for a special budget session to discuss the economic issues we are facing.

As Victor Central Schools moves forward in developing next year's school budget, I can assure you that we will be taking an extremely conservative approach – analyzing, strategizing, streamlining and tightening areas that will have the least impact on our students. It will not be an easy task but I am confident that together we will emerge stronger than ever. At this time, I am asking all of our staff for suggestions they may have on economies we can make in the coming fiscal year. Your ideas would be most welcome, as well. The bottom line is that next year's budget will be the most transparent ever. Now, more than ever, you have the right and the

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VCS Welcomes New Staff

Dozens of new staff members joined us over the summer. New teachers can be found at any one of our buildings, from the ECEC to the High School. When you see them on campus, be sure to give them a warm welcome in person!



At the Early Childhood Education Center:
Kathryn Monahan
Victoria Russotti



At Victor Primary School:
Rebecca Feistel
Sarah Wood
Michelle Donahue
Katherine Terradas
Susan Meskos
Dawn Stout
Carolyn Colombo



At Victor Intermediate School:
Loryn Figler
Staci Thibodeau
Kristin Mathis
Katherine Dineen
Marie-France Nothnagle
Sarah Lyon
Jackeline Boss
Michelle Everett



At Victor Junior High:
Amy Stahl
Timothy Quigley
Jamie Zeller
Bridget Strub
Jennifer Arelline
Rita Kladstrup
Christie Gordon
Laura Glaza



At Victor Senior High:
Laura Dunbar
Tim Clapp
Kimberly Przbysz
DeAnna Hoobler
Deborah McManis
Erin Slayton

Heart of Excellence

They keep our schools running in ways that many of us rarely think about.

Often, they work behind the scenes, during early morning hours or late into the evening. Some, even work on the weekends, but that does not stop them from doing their best, being their best, giving their best.

This June during the 2008 Opening Day ceremony for all Victor Central Schools staff, Superintendent Timothy McElheran recognized our 2008 Unsung Heroes and Heroines, a group of men and woman who were chosen by their peers as exemplary coworkers. This esteemed ensemble not only represents the heart of our school, but they also represent the Heart of Excellence.



Food Service Team:
Nancy Varley
Employed at VCS since 2000

Nancy's Roles and Responsibilities: Nancy works at the Senior High snack line. She is responsible for stocking her area with the snacks and beverages that she sells. She cheerfully and accurately operates one of the cash registers in the snack room on a busy daily basis. Says Nancy's supervisor, Director of Food Service,

Janet Elman; "Nancy knows her customers so well that they don't even have to ask her what they want. She just says, 'The usual?'"



Teacher Aide: **Teresa Maves**
Employed at VCS since 1999

Teresa's Roles and Responsibilities: Teresa has done it all for Victor Schools, working as both a teacher's aide and clerical assistant. This year, she spends her time at the Junior High working half time in the nurse's office taking attendance and the other part of the day working at the main office front desk answering the phone, greeting people, and doing whatever else is needed. VJH Principal Carl Christensen says Teresa is an incredible worker. "Whatever we need done, she does it way above and beyond what is expected. She is a model staff member," he says.



Clerical Staff: **Diane Hartz**
Employed at VCS since 1986

Dianne's Roles and Responsibilities: Dianne works in the Senior High Guidance Office. In addition to setting appointments for students, parents and their Guidance Counselors, she performs numerous other tasks to keep the department organized. She also oversees the registration process for PSAT and AP exams. Says one colleague; "Dianne is a diligent worker who has a strong work ethic. She takes pride in her work and pays special attention to detail. She is respected by her co-workers because of her cooperative ways and pleasant personality."



Transportation Department: **Dean Rice**
Employed at VCS since 2003

Dean's Roles and Responsibilities: As a bus driver Dean transports more than one hundred Primary and High School

students on a daily basis. Director of Transportation, Darren Everhart says Dean is one of the best bus drivers he has ever worked with. "Dean is not only fair and consistent with his supervision of all of his children but his driving skills are top-notch," he said.



Building and Grounds Department: **Bill Dunbar**
Employed at VCS since 1995

Bill's Roles and Responsibilities: Bill is an evening cleaner at the Primary School. Besides cleaning the building, his duties include helping with set ups for school and community activities. Another big part of Bill's job is being available to help when activities are going on in the building. Chris Marshall, Director of School Facilities and Operations says Bill takes real ownership of the Primary School and plays an important role on that team.

Ambassadors to the World

Five VCS Students Travel Abroad This Summer

They took gondola rides in Venice, biked along windmills in Holland, sat beneath the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and marveled at the sight of the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy. These are just a few of the adventures five Victor students experienced this past summer through participation in two international exchange programs, AFS and People To People.

From gaining a better understanding of other cultures to tasting new and exotic foods and traveling to rich, historic places, each one of our summer student ambassadors engaged the world like never before.

Brett Turner VCS Sophomore

His parents may have originally inspired him to go on the trip but after traveling through Greece, Italy and France for twenty two days, Brett Turner is inspired all his own. As a Student Ambassador in the People To People exchange program, Brett had the opportunity to explore some of the world's



Brett Turner

most well celebrated sites—from the Louvre and Eiffel Tower to Versailles, Notre Dame, the Coliseum and Leaning Tower of Pisa. “Venice, Italy was the most memorable part of my trip with the city being surrounded totally by water,” Turner said. Turner says he learned a lot about other peoples’ customs, cultures and lifestyles from his international excursion. “Go ahead and take part in this program. It’s a lot of fun and you get to make a lot of new friends,” he said.

Alina Urbanic VCS Junior

Ever since she was young, Alina Urbanic dreamed of being an international exchange student, no doubt due to her mother’s influence. During her senior year in high school, her mother, Carol Urbanic went to Troyes in Northern France with AFS, known then as *the American Field Service*. Alina cannot say enough about her five week expedition to Italy. As a participant in the AFS International Programs’ Northern Italy Summer Program, Alina had the opportunity to not only live with an Italian family for an entire month but explore their part of the world, as well. “I loved going to Venice and seeing the canals and architecture and riding in a gondola,” Urbanic said.



Alina Urbanic seated on right.

As for the people... “I found that Italians are very open and caring people and they love their culture. My host

family was incredibly kind and generous,” she said. “AFS is a great opportunity and so much fun. In just five weeks, I learned so much of the language and life and I got to see so much of Italy! I would encourage anyone to apply for an AFS program,” Urbanic said.

VCS Engages The World is an on-going feature dedicated to telling the community how VCS students, teachers and staff are connecting with the world both during and after school. If you have a story with international connections, please contact the Office of School and Community Relations at 924-3252, ext. 1407.



Elizabeth Marearai VCS Sophomore

She spent ten days in Holland playing...literally. As a People to People Sports ambassador for basketball in the Holland Youth Friendship Games, Elizabeth Marearai learned one very valuable lesson about her new international friends -- "Our cultures may be unique but our lives are really very similar." Elizabeth says it was her love of travel and desire to learn about a different culture and meet new people that inspired her to take part in the summer exchange program, an experience that has changed her life. "Besides making so many new friends, the most memorable part of my journey was the bike ride along a canal where we saw a windmill." As for her advice to other students who might be interested in international travel through an exchange program: "Take the opportunity and go on any trip you can. You'll really be missing out if you don't!"



Elizabeth is the second player from the left in the second row.

Molly White VCS Junior

Molly White has received invitations from the People to People Student Ambassador program for years but she says her parents weren't ready to send her away for so long. That changed last year when Molly, now a junior in high school, received an invitation with an itinerary that included all of the countries she longed to explore. "When we got the invite and the countries were Greece, Italy and France, my parents decided that I was old enough and could go... It was the right trip for me." White's 18-day European vacation, which she took with fellow-VCS junior Colin O'Shea, took her to places she once only dreamed of – destinations such as Florence, Italy, Mt. Vesuvius near Naples, Italy and the Eiffel Tower and Versailles in France. Molly says she can't say that one part of this amazing experience was more memorable than another. "I loved every minute of it but if I had to choose one part that really made this trip so wonderful, it was the friends that I made in my delegation. We became like family. Thinking of joining the next People to People summer ambassador program? Molly says "go for it!" "I wouldn't give up any part of it for the world and would go back in a heartbeat."



Molly shown on the right.

Colin O'Shea VCS Junior

Colin O'Shea says curiosity drove him to take part in the People to People Student Ambassador program this past summer. "I was really curious as to what else was out there. After spending eighteen days in Greece, Italy and France, Colin is no longer curious about "what's out there" because he has seen it, face to face. "The most memorable part of my trip was the home stay because it was interesting to see French culture first hand," O'Shea said. He says he also really liked the Coliseum in Rome, Italy. Colin, along with fellow VCS junior, Molly White, who participated in the same People to People delegation, came home with a new found perspective on the world. "I learned that teenagers in other countries are just like us. The family I stayed with in France had a teenage daughter who watched MTV, had a Facebook, liked to go to the mall and go swimming just like American teens." Are you curious about participating in a foreign exchange program? O'Shea says he would definitely encourage it. "It was a great experience and a great way to see the world outside of New York."



Colin is second from right.

VCS Celebrates 23rd Annual Senior Citizen's Day

On Monday, November 3, nearly one hundred local senior citizens attended the district's 23rd annual Senior Citizen's Day. From breakfast held in the junior high cafeteria to a variety of entertainment held in the new JH/SH Arts Center—a concert by several Kindergarten classes, a VIS Orff performance and a sneak preview of several scenes from the upcoming Junior High play, *Fiddler on the Roof*—our seniors had one busy morning at school!



Senior Connection

The day before school started, the Class of 2009 headed to Camp Arrowhead in Pittsford for a day of team building. This annual event, comprised of group activities involving cooperation and trust, began in September 2000. It was developed to create a cohesive senior class and a feeling of community throughout the school year.



Superintendent Message

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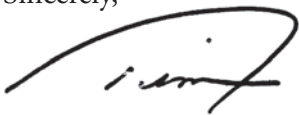
need to know where our dollars are going. Together, we will demonstrate that, despite difficult times, we will not let our children down. We can and will persevere.

On a final note, it is no secret that today's economic conditions are impacting many of us in ways that we have never experienced. Between rising costs and dwindling incomes, many families are experiencing stress levels that affect every aspect of their life. If you are experiencing any difficulties that are impacting you and/or your child (ren) and would like make us aware of them, please do not hesitate to contact me, your child's teacher or any other school administrator for support.

Victor Schools have a long history of teamwork and talent and I am confident that despite the economic issues we face, we will address the challenges and emerge a stronger organization.

Thank you for your support of our schools and our children.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. McElheran
Superintendent of Schools

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Comes To Victor Central Schools

BRAVO! On Wednesday, October 22, The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra filled the new JH/SH Arts Center with their beautiful music under the direction of long time RPO Principal Pops Conductor, Jeff Tyzik. As one attendee said, "It was a night to remember."

Hundreds of school and community members attended the debut community concert, sponsored by the Victor Farmington Rotary. A special thank you to Rotarians Brian Pancoast, President, Al Rosbrook, Event Chairperson, Anna Alger, Victor Arsenault, Bob Barry, Bruce Chapman, Ross Cottone, Jim Crane, Mark Donahue, Brian Emelson, Dave Luitweiler, Diana Marro, Jordan Pappas, Karen Parkhurst, Galen Powers, Tom Schwarzweller, and John Summers.

Stay tuned...the RPO was so impressed by our venue and community spirit that they are planning an encore concert at our new Arts Center this spring!





Victor Marching Blue Devils Compete in First National Class Competition

The Victor Marching Blue Devils took 5th place in their first year in the National Class at the New York State Field Band Championships at the Carrier Dome in October with a score of 92.70.

The band's show, *Gold Rush*, featured music from Joseph Curiale's "Gates of Gold" Suite and was inspired by the California Gold Rush in the mid to late 1800's where several thousand Chinese immigrants took a dangerous gamble for the prospects of becoming rich on "Gold Mountain" or California. *Congratulations to all of our participants!*

Upcoming Musical Events

Fiddler on the Roof: November 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m., Arts Center

Third Grade Concert: December 3, 7:00 p.m., Primary Auditorium

Intermediate Choruses & Orff Concert: December 4, 7:00 p.m., Arts Center

Intermediate Strings Concert: December 9, 7:00 p.m., Arts Center

Intermediate Gold, Blue & Jazz Concert: December 10, 7:00 p.m., Arts Center

Junior High Choral Holiday Concert: December 11, 7:00 p.m., Arts Center

Senior High Department Holiday Concert: December 15, 7:00 p.m., Arts Center

Junior High Instrumental Concert: December 18, 7:00 p.m., Arts Center

Tickets are now available online for *Fiddler on the Roof* and the Senior High Fall Play, *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Go to www.victorschools.org, on our home page under "Quick Links". Senior Citizens and children ages five and under are FREE. Complimentary tickets are available at the JH/SH Main Offices.

Victor Junior High School

presents

Fiddler on the Roof



November 14 and 15, 2008

7:30 PM

Victor Jr/Sr High School Auditorium

All Seats \$6.00

available at www.victorschools.org - Quick Links
Free Senior Citizen tickets at the Junior High Office



Victor Senior High School Presents
Arsenic and Old Lace

**November 20, 21, 22 at 7 p.m. and also at
1 p.m. on Saturday**
Victor Education Ctr. Auditorium

Tickets available online
www.victorschools.org
Home Page under "Quick Links"
Senior Citizens FREE

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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.