



Insights from the Board

It is back to school again and the Vincennes Community School Corporation has hit the ground running. As news of the first weeks of school spread across the community I am reminded of the awesome responsibility we have, to provide our children the best education possible. This responsibility lies not only with the members of the school board, the principals or classroom teachers, but with every citizen in this community. Our children need all of us to help give them an education that will support them for the rest of their lives.

As you read this newsletter you will see how new programs are being developed in all our schools to help every student maintain the highest level of success. Thanks to our administrators and teachers for recognizing this need and continuing to search out the best opportunities for our students. We have to continue to be innovative and diligent in our quest to provide programs that will reach all of our students needs.

Our business community is also stepping up to the plate to provide support for our schools. You will read how one local business provided an amazing gift to Riley Elementary School. The impact of this gift has been great on not only the students and staff but I am sure those Lowe's employees have a deeper sense of pride in their job. Imagine what could be accomplished if mores local businesses would get involved in the education of our children. It truly takes all of us to successfully educate our students. I encourage you to show your support of those businesses who are going above and beyond.

Finally, I would like to encourage all parents to understand the need to show interest in your children's learning, helping with homework, reading to and with them, and being involved in their school. Decades of studies have shown that children whose parents are involved in their education have higher grades and are more likely to graduate than those whose parents aren't involved. They have higher attendance, are more motivated, have higher self-esteem and are less likely to use drugs and alcohol or engage in violent behavior. When it comes to academic achievement, parent involvement is more critical than income, education level or cultural background. So, I challenge all the parents to find a way to be involved.

It takes a community to educate children to their maximum potential. I am proud to see our community demonstrating this as we begin another school year and change lives. Our children are worth it!

Melissa Turner

Construction Update



September and the coming of fall brings lots of exciting progress to the new Vincennes Clark Middle School. You can start to see glimpses of the finished exterior of the building showing up on the north and west sides of the building.

By the end of October the building stone and brick veneer will be complete. After that you will be able to watch the start of the aluminum storefronts and exterior metal wall panels. As the year comes to a close the outside of the building will round into shape. That will mark the change of focus towards the inside of the building.

But that does not mean work is not already moving rapidly inside the building. While the exterior has been taking shape, the interior metal



Opportunities, Achievements, Success... For Life!

Vincennes Community School Corporation
1712 South Hart Street Road
Vincennes, IN 47591

PRSAT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
VINCENNES, IN
PERMIT NO. 100

Homecoming Friday, October 2

3:45 Parade
7:30 Football Game



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



Lowe's Team Makes a Difference

In newspapers, on television and radio, in the mail, by telephone, we receive and hear constant pleas for financial assistance, donations, gifts and contributions of time. We hear from schools, hospitals, churches and all kinds of community organizations. Schools and non-profit organizations are constantly looking for grants to write and other funding sources. But how often do we hear of a company offering to help with a project without being asked?

That is exactly what happened to Riley School Principal, Susan Marchino, one, hot day this past summer. It all started when VCSC Maintenance Director Jerry Booe asked Lowe's for a bid on some new fencing for the playground at Riley. Lowe's workers came to look at the fencing and from there the idea for their next community service project was inspired. The plan went right along with the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation which focused 2009 on basic needs for students and communities striving to create and maintain safe gathering places.

Nelson called Marchino and left her a message asking to meet her at the school one day. Marchino recalls, "I really thought they wanted me to write a grant that is offered by their company and they would work to help me get it." A meeting was arranged and Marchino met with not only Nelson, but also two others from the local store. "I was completely taken aback when they explained that the employees had decided that our school would be their community service project and all labor and materials would be donated. Words can't describe my surprise when he explained what they wanted to do for Riley."

The four walked the grounds of Riley and discussed all the improvements that could be made. They asked Mrs. Marchino to point out things that she would like to see and she explained to the group some of the reasons problems were present. As they walked the grounds, the team from Lowe's took pictures and made a list of the materials that would be needed to complete each of the ideas. They returned once more to finalize the materials list before the project date.

The first part of the project began on Friday, July 26 when a truckload of mulch arrived at Riley. "My secretary, Jennifer Qualls, happened to be at school when the truck pulled into the alley. She sent me a picture on my phone and said it's like Christmas in July." Marchino stated. On Sunday, July 28, at 12:00 p.m. the work was scheduled to begin. A large truck pulled into the parking lot and a crew of volunteer employees started unloading the truck. Team members were given matching shirts to wear and some even brought their families to help, as well. Once the truck was unloaded, the work began.

Workers were spread around the grounds at Riley. Some were busy working on the landscaping around the school, others were in charge of rebuilding the merry-go-round and teeter-totters, some started painting, while others were working on the roof to cover the gutting. The work continued throughout the day and lasted until roughly 8:00 p.m. And even though the grounds looked great, the work was not complete. The Lowe's volunteers came back the following Sunday and worked throughout the afternoon to complete the job. Teacher Carole Culp said, "It was so exciting to see so many workers here working and caring about our school. The outside of our school looks so nice and inviting; like a good place to be."



All materials and labor on the following projects were donated by our local Lowe's store.

- Rebuilt/painted merry-go-round
- Replaced boards/painted teeter-totters
- Landscaped all around building
- Cleaned gutters and added some gutter guards
- New mulch on playground
- Painted playground equipment and added new border around handicap equipment
- Painted bases on playground
- Painted basketball goals and replaced nets
- Painted bike rack
- Painted picnic tables
- New lattice on handicap ramp
- Painted curbs and handicap parking spot
- Painted floor in boys' bathroom
- Painted floor in teachers' lounge bathroom

"This has just been amazing," Marchino recently said. "Our students were so excited when they returned to school and saw the difference. Their support of our school means so much, especially since it was unsolicited. This kind of community support is so important in the education of our students. We want to provide them with a safe, clean environment, and Lowe's has helped us do that. And they continue to support our school even though this project is complete."

It is obvious that the faculty and staff at Riley is thrilled with the generosity of Lowe's and their employees; but even more obvious is the excitement the generosity created with students. Fourth grade student, Brody Patrick commented, "I think it is awesome that they would pick our little school and do it for free. The mulch is nice because when you fall down it doesn't hurt." And second grade student, Austin Watts, stated, "It's nice and looks pretty! They did a good job." Fifth grade student, Bianca Anderson simply said, "Thank you for taking time during the summer to fix our playground!"

this issue

Summer Projects	P.1
Letter from Superintendent	P.2
SchoolReach System	P.2
VEF News	P.2
Through the Halls	P.3
Insights from the Board	P.4
Construction Update	P.4

Vincennes Community School Board Members

Mrs. Melissa Turner
President

Mr. Bryan Thais
Vice-President

Mr. Aaron Bauer
Secretary

Mr. Philip Grounds
Member

Mr. Ronald Boger
Member

Expected Completion Date

June 2010

Editor Contact Info

Sandra Hatton

812-890-1522





Vincennes Community School Corporation
Administrative Team

Mr. Douglas D. Rose
Superintendent of Schools
882-4844

Mr. Thomas Nonte
Executive Director for Instructional Services
882-3668

Mr. Chad Blacklock
Executive Director for Financial Services
882-6971

Mrs. Sandra Lange
Director of Special Education Services
882-0102

Letter from the Superintendent

The first day of school is always one of my favorite days of the year. Making an appearance in each building on this day is something I wish everyone could experience. On this day you get to see joy, enthusiasm, smiles, hugs, new clothes, frowns, and tears. Mostly, it is more smiles, joy, and enthusiasm that you see and it reminds me why education is so important to not only Vincennes but also to our nation.

This first day for our kindergarten students means they have 13 years or 2,340 days until they graduate from Lincoln High School. During this time each child will have a positive learning environment, be motivated, and be challenged as we help prepare them to become a productive and responsible citizen. For these students the 2,340 days, or almost 50% of their life from age 6-18, is spent on education.

The education process was established long before my time and as with most things it is not perfect. Yet with changes over the years in education, the fundamental concept of education remains. This educational process is still one of the driving forces that the United States was built on and it all starts in schools all across our great nation.

Vincennes Community School Corporation wants to provide each child with an opportunity to be successful, to promote lifelong learning, to provide encouragement, and to challenge children to reach their full potential and the list could go on and on. In order to do all of these things, it requires help from parents, patrons, and community. Just reflect back to your first day of school and all the people who influenced your life during the entire educational process.

"...you get to see joy, enthusiasm, smiles, hugs, new clothes, frowns, and tears."

It is easy to remember our favorite teacher, principal, secretary, coach, or custodian that guided us along our education path, but there are many others who helped mold our lives also. That is why it takes the entire community to assist in the educational process in order to have a successful school corporation.

Welcome back to the 2009-2010 school year and remember it takes the entire community to educate our children. My favorite quote says it best, "What have you done today that will help a child for the rest of their life?"

Douglas D. Rose
Superintendent of Schools

SchoolReach Communication System

Vincennes Community School Corporation has implemented a mass communication system for parents and students of Vincennes Community Schools. Once you contact your student's school and update your contact information, our new system will send you a message about school cancellations and delays to better help your families structure your mornings or make arrangements for the day ahead of time. Our new system will allow our administrative team the option to send personalized messages to you in advance of the local news and media outlets.

SchoolReach states that, "We provide school administrators the ability to deliver personalized phone messages to every parent or staff, or select groups, through an affordable and easy-to-use web based system that requires no on-site hardware, software or phone lines."

This cost effective system will provide the families of our school children instant communication to their cell phone, home phone, or if you choose, both listed. We anticipate this system will be well utilized and an extremely powerful tool for our team of administrators to communicate with our community members.

Please contact your child's school to make sure that your contact information is correct or simply contact them to confirm the accuracy of your information.



Through the Halls A look at academic life at every level

Elementary School Summer of Projects

The summer of 2009 has been the summer of projects for the Vincennes Community Schools. The corporation custodial and maintenance staff worked diligently to complete routine maintenance and in-depth cleaning while corporation facilities also received improvements from local area contractors. Many of the larger projects that have or will be completed are listed below.

- Franklin Elementary**
 - Interior and exterior painting
 - Exterior brick tuck pointing
 - Installation of a security camera and buzz in system at the front entrance
 - Installation of new energy efficient lighting
 - Installation of a new energy efficient boiler
 - Installation of new carpet in the office area
- Riley Elementary**
 - Installation of new playground fencing and gates
 - Installation of new carpet in the office area
 - Painting of the office area
- Vigo Elementary**
 - Installation of a second set of security doors and buzz in system at the front entrance

- Washington Elementary**
 - Installation of a new energy efficient boiler
- Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary**
 - Interior and exterior painting
 - Exterior brick tuck pointing
 - Installation of dry erase whiteboards
 - Installation of new carpet in the library
- Lincoln High School**
 - Installation of dry erase whiteboards
 - Remodeling of existing space for new Guidance Counselor Offices, Knox County Special Education Cooperative offices, Corporation Technology offices, a new Alternative Education classroom and ROTC classroom
 - Locker room locker and restroom repairs
 - Installation of a new roof over Ader Auditorium
 - Installation of three new high efficiency chillers and controls

As you can see, the Vincennes Community School Corporation has many exciting things happening. The goal for completing these and upcoming projects is to provide the students and staff of Vincennes with an inviting, safe and secure learning and work environment. All while maintaining and improving the facilities, so they are visually appealing and energy efficient.

The corporation has been able to complete many of these projects due to a recent issue of Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs). QZABs are a federally supported program that provides schools the ability to issue bonds at a very low or sometimes zero percent interest rate.

Middle School PBS, for social and academic success

Clark Middle School is very excited about a new systems approach (PBS) for establishing the social culture and individualized behavioral supports needed for the school. PBS (Positive Behavior Support) will result in students achieving both social and academic success. The goal at Clark is to help each child develop self-discipline. Parents and Teachers share responsibility for developing good citizens. Parents, teachers, and students must work together to maintain a safe learning environment. PBS is evidence based and includes: Prevention; Defining and teaching positive behaviors; Arranging consistent consequences for problem behavior; On-going collection and use of data for decision-making; Continuum of individual interventions; Administrative leadership – team-based implementation (systems that support effective practice.)

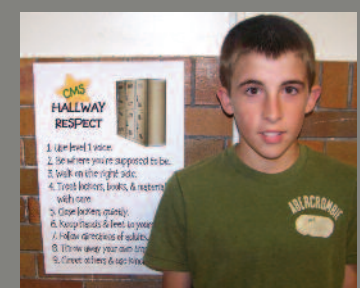
- School Wide Expectations are:
1. Respect Learning – Act in ways that show you are prepared and involved in doing your best work;
 2. Respect Yourself – Act in ways that show care, confidence, and pride in yourself;
 3. Respect Others – Act in ways that use nice words, positive behavior, and kindness;
 4. Respect Environment – Act in ways that show care and pride in our school.

During the previous school year, a PBS Team was established to create the common languages/strategies to be utilized within the program. Team members include – Dave Couchenour, Jill Bailey, Beth Lindsey, Dolores Lane, Dana Colvin, Melissa Schroeder, Cody Trueblood, Marsha Miller, Connie Coulter, Christy Webb, Chrisy

Tipton, and Mitch Breidenbaugh. These members worked together in collaboration with CMS administration, faculty and staff to create the PBS system for Clark Middle School.

Prior to school this year, volunteer training took place for teachers and staff. During the first two days of school, PBS educational trainings were completed for grades 6-7-8. Areas which were covered included: location specific behavioral expectations were taught which include: restrooms, tunnel/hallway/stairs, arrival to school, cafeteria, computer stations, and dismissal. Additionally – dress code/cell phone expectations were taught. With PBS, the students are hearing the same expectations in the same language from all faculty and staff all day every day. "Voice level 0 please". "Voice level 2 please." "Keep to the right." The students understand what each of these statements mean due to the training which occurred during the first few days of school. Reviewing of PBS will continue throughout the year. Consistency and unity with all staff gives clear messages to students and will result in positive improvement in the climate at Clark.

The students responded to a survey titled What Does PBS Mean to Me? The majority of the students appear to have an understanding of the program. Some comments to: Do you feel that the CMS expectations will make you feel more comfortable and safe at school? Include: "Helps people RESPECT each other", "People will respect others", "It's more calm". Additionally, there is a reward system when students are given star tickets as recognition for showing respect and following the school expectations, as well as improving grades and attendance. Weekly drawings along with Clark Middle School socials are planned to recognize the students who are accumulating the star tickets.



Vincennes Education Foundation

Alumni Spotlight

How did Lincoln High School help you to be the person you are today?

"Lincoln High School was a vital part in developing my foundation for where I am today. LHS gave me the opportunity to excel by providing great coaching and guidance both on the playing field and in the class room. The academics that I received from LHS prepared me for college and paved the way for my graduation with a degree in Computer Graphics Technology. On the field, some of the best coaching around combined with great competition pushed me in every aspect and allowed me to play at my very best year in and year out."



- Curtis Painter
Class of 2004

Homecoming Friday, October 2 Parade 3:45 • Game Time 7:30

The Lincoln Homecoming Celebration Committee has announced recent changes regarding the Vincennes Lincoln Homecoming Celebration. All preparations have been moved from the Patrick Henry Drive area to the Riverfront Pavilion and surrounding area. Bathrooms and parking will be more accessible, plus handicap parking is available at the Old National Bank parking lot directly across the street.

Classes will start gathering throughout the day on Oct 2. Spots will be designated by Class numbers and classes must register in advance.

A Beer Garden will be available and food sponsored by the Vincennes Education Foundation will be served at the Pavilion entrance on Second Street starting at 11:00 AM. The band "Three Legged Dog" will provide music that evening.