

# The Pine Cone

Village Pines School

## Remembering 9-11

The children and staff of VPS remembered 9/11. On Friday September 9th Village Pines dressed their red, white and blue and remembered the almost 3000 lives lost in the 9-11 tragedies.



Students raising the flag at the remembering 9-11 event



Volume 2, Issue 1  
October 2011

### October Birthdays:

L3	Aubrey Sanko	4th
3	Seth Williams	10th
4	Kaitlyn Sloan	10th
Teach	Maria Williams	12th
4	Kameron Darville	15th
2	Diego Torres	18th
1	Nicky Nielson	19th
2	Peyton Buettner	19th
Teach	Stephen Hylton	23rd
1	Stephanie Parada	28th

## New School Year Resolutions

By now all the kids are settled into their new classrooms, us parents are finally getting into the school routine again and the teachers are hard at work educating an enthusiastic bunch of kids.

I have a friend who blogs, she wrote a book on a kids allowance, since I have helped out as a chapter author and as an expert of the month I read her blog often. A few weeks ago she presented the idea that we parents have two opportunities a year to make resolutions,

once at the start of the New Year in January and once each year when our kids go back to school. This got me thinking about what I wanted to resolve to do this new school year and how I can help my kids grow academically, socially and spiritually this year. Here is what I have come up with :

Foster more accountability in completing school tasks (homework, projects, etc). This year I am not checking my 3rd grader's home work .

Encourage more reading and less TV watching. TV off at 7:30 each night so that we can all share in a good book either together or on our own.

Play more with my kids. I am acutely aware of how quickly time passes; while the dishes can wait, you can't get back time with your kids. I vow to spend more quality time doing things with each of my children that they like to do.

What are your 2011-2012 school year resolutions!

Feel free to stop me and ask me how I am doing on mine!

*J. Sanko*

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## Pajama Day Was a Blast!

Students, teachers and staff alike donned their bedtime best and had fun at Village Pines' annual PJ day.



## VPS Fitness

### Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run P.A.C.E.R 20 meter run - September 2011

The P.A.C.E.R test is a 20 meter run that is executed back and forth, it progressively gets faster every 7 laps, each lap has to be completed within a certain time.

Every month each child is tested to see if there is cardiovascular improvement by the amount of laps completed.

Below are the test scores for the month of September 2011, the results can also be found on [villagepines.org](http://villagepines.org) under field day.

#### Grade 5

Allyson Averhoff 19  
Kai Bartolone 32  
Isabella Molina 21  
Valentina Riveros 26  
Emi Teh 34  
Katerina Vazquez 30  
Daniel Viola 28  
William Wade 21  
Brandon Williams 31

#### Grade 4

Joseph Breivogel 11  
Daniela Castaneda 8  
Sesbastian Castillo 37

Alysia Daley 18  
Kameron Darville 6  
Bailey Hunt 37  
Julian Joa 37  
Courtney Longman 8  
Kailee Moore 10  
Jorjana Patton 21  
Maya Singh 22  
Allen Smiley 10  
Zoe Teh 37  
Jaden Vanderblugt 19

#### Grade 3

Emiley Araujo 21  
Miranda Araujo  
Paulina Araujo 10  
Sabrina Coto 21  
Kyhaun Emanuel 13  
Skye Emmons 21  
Yamani Jackson 11  
Grant Kleber 5  
Michael Longman 12  
Mylein Parlade 12  
Caden Sanko 13  
Seth Williams 20

#### Grade 2

Ismael Alvarez 9  
Arianna Beltran 18  
Payton Buettner 14  
Sydney Cetta 9

Paris Hunt 11  
Sydney Lancaster 18  
Matthew Llovet 21  
Liya Myrie 14  
Baker Riddlehoover 9  
Sophia Ruiz 28  
Maya Shah 9  
Brandon Sheppard 12  
Diego Torres 29  
Miguel Vazquez 18  
Isabella Velazquez 25

#### Grade 1

Juan Almeida 12  
Matthew Araujo 10  
Alexander Botero 14  
Maurice Champion 13  
Taliyah Gopie 12  
Stephanie Hylton 10  
Kali Davanaugh 13  
Ryan Kleber 14  
Carla Lombardo 18  
Paul Longman 12  
Nicholas Nicholas 6  
Stephanie Parada 9  
Paris Parise 14  
Soleil Pauly 5  
Jason Richardson 14  
Maylani Rodriquez 12  
Jonah Schachter 9  
Isabella Torrente 9

Eva Sanko  
Drake Vandervlugt 5  
Peter Vandervlugt 2  
Jack Wade 9

*Stephen Hylton*  
Coach

## From Mrs. A's Desk

It is wonderful to observe all of the wonderful happenings at Village Pines School! Each classroom displays a comfortable learning environment with confident students. All of the interactive white boards are being used daily to enhance our curricular areas. The staff continues to be creative and caring each day. Our parent community is active, supportive and so appreciated. Our monthly character education goals are visible and reinforced. Our upcoming events continue to maintain great school spirit and cooperation.

Please remember to support our **We Give Books** campaign that allows you reading time with your children and the giving of books to less fortunate children throughout the world. You are our best

ambassadors to continue to build our school community. It is a major goal for the staff and parents to work toward increasing our enrollments. Exciting incentives and marketing ideas are in the works.

*Please remember to support our **We Give Books** campaign that allows you reading time with your children and the giving of books to less fortunate children throughout the world.*



Mrs Amerling

## News From The PTO

**PTO meetings will take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.** Please join us for these important meetings and get involved!

Pizza days are now offered on a monthly basis. In order to participate you must sign up for the entire month. Thursdays will be used as alternate days for pizza days when holidays or events are scheduled on Fridays.

Updates for all the smart boards have recently been completed, funded by the PTO.

The PTO has a goal of raising \$20,000 this year for new playground equipment and new seating for school functions. Please do what you can to help out during each fundraising event.

### Target Red Card Take Charge of Education

Whoever has the Red Card Target Credit Card or Debit Card can go to: <https://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-005158>

*PTO meetings will take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each*

Select Tab that says "By Target School ID"  
Enter: 5222  
Make sure it says Village Pines School  
Select "Select This School"  
Input RedCard info in secured website  
**And from that moment on, Target will donate up to 1% of**

## Up Coming Events at Village Pines

### Trunk-or-Treat

**October 28th 2011 at 6:30pm**

**Don't forget to sign up to decorate your car and/ or to participate in dinner. Please donate candy to be given out from the cars.**

**October 31st No school this day.** For pre arranged conference but alternate appoint-

ments also will be made around that date.

Every parent will have the opportunity to meet with classroom staff to discuss goals and progress to date



Red Ribbon Week.. October

24-27th



**Trunk-or-Treat 2011**

## Fifth Grade Feature

It was a dark and foggy Halloween night. Patrick and his scared friend, Zach, were out truck-or-treating. Patrick was wearing a leprechaun costume. Zach was dressed as a knight. They had already gone to neighborhood houses. They had collected lots of taffy for their pumpkin bags. They came to the haunted house at the wide end of Haunted Street.

"I don't want to go to that haunted house", said Zach. "It is too scary."  
 "C'mon", insisted Patrick. "Don't be such a nerd." Patrick walked up the stone path. Zach followed slowly behind. They came to the tall door. It was black and brown. On the door was hanging a web. Above the doorbell was a sign that read, "Get Out of Here."  
 "Let's leave," said Zach in a reassuring voice. But Patrick rang the doorbell. A ghostly sound filled the air. "Let's go," begged Zach. "This place is too dark."

At that moment, the door opened with a creaking sound. A muscled old woman appeared. Her hair was purple and violet. Her eyes were like portals. Her nose was shaped like a sausage. She was wearing a long nose ring. On her head was a Mo-hawk. "What do you want?" she asked in a rocky voice. Zach was too surprised to talk. Patrick managed to say, "What's up?" The woman's narrow eyes widened like a hawk. "I'll give you kids a fine nose job", she said in a voice like a teenager. She held out one of her mechanical hands. In it was her number. After that she said, "If you ever need a nose job, call me."

The two boys went home and asked their moms "can I get a nose job?" Their moms answered, "When you are eighteen!" So when they turned eighteen they both got a nose job and a free nose ring.



**Kai Bartolone is our 5th grade author for October.**

*I don't want to go to that haunted house", said Zach. "It is too scary." "C'mon", insisted Patrick*

## October's Book Recommendations

Have you read a good book lately? We want to know about it.

Each month we will list books which our school community recommends. These book recommendations can come from parents, teachers and kids. Please send your monthly recommendations to Jill Sanko at [jsanko@comcast.net](mailto:jsanko@comcast.net).

Kids Choice:

1. Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
2. Benjamin McFadden and The Robot Babysitter by Timothy Bush
3. My Name Is Not Isabella: Just How Big Can a Little Girl Dream? by Jennifer Fosberry
4. The Shadow Thieves by Anne Ursu

Adult Recommendation:

Topic: Parenting

1. Easy to love, Difficulty to Discipline by Becky A Bailey
2. Nurture Shock, The New Thinking About Children. By Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman
3. Earn It Learn It: Teach Your Child About Money, and Time Well Spent (earn my keep allowance program) By Alisa Weinstein

Topic: Fiction

1. The Help by Kathryn Stockett



## Guest Speaker— Parent Education Series

Dr. Monique Levermore was educated at some of our nation’s most prestigious universities including Howard University, Harvard Medical School and Johns Hopkins Medical Institutes. She is also an alumni of the University of Miami. Dr. Levermore has extensive experience in inpatient hospitals, state training schools, outpatient settings and college counseling centers encompassing conducting psychotherapy and testing with individuals, couples, families and groups as well as in service training, program development and grant writing.

Dr. Levermore has conducted numerous workshops and seminars focused on violent media and aggression, stress management, teambuilding and practice manage-

ment skills. Currently she is the founder of a guidance consulting firm – Private Guidance Consulting – illuminating the path toward college for talented prospective college applicants. For more information or resources please visit [www.levermore.com](http://www.levermore.com) and [www.privatecollegeadvisor.com](http://www.privatecollegeadvisor.com) on the world wide web.

What does Violent Media Teach our Children  
Please join us in a discussion of the various ways that our children are being exposed to all levels of violence and aggression in the television shows, movies, music and games that we allow them to play. What does the research say? Dr. Monique Levermore, a Board Certified Psychologist will provide information about the history of this genre of entertainment and the effect that desensitization and practice can have on

our vulnerable children. We will also discuss ways of limiting this worrisome exposure while encouraging our children to develop socially in a more appropriate manner.

**Save the Date!**  
**November 9th at the PTO meeting– 7 PM**



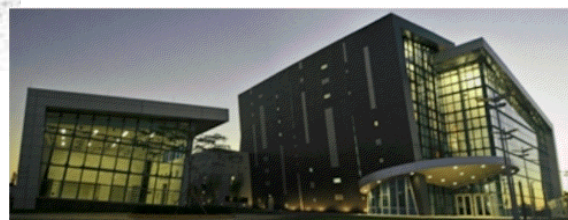
## VPS Student Takes Part In The Grand Opening Of The New Cultural Arts Center



From left, Prince Day Jr., 7, Justice Sheppard, 4, and Dianah Day, 6, sing with the South Florida Boys & Girls Choir during the opening celebration of the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.

*Justice Sheppard took part in the opening celebration of the new cultural arts center in South Dade.*

South Miami-Dade Culture Arts Center provides a world-class, multi-disciplinary cultural venue and community gathering place in the southern part of Miami-Dade County. The Center plays a key role in the economic and cultural development of the area. It celebrated its opening on October 1st 2011.



## Village Pines School

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Miami, Florida 33176  
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Established in 1960

Lucille L. Frazier, Director  
Kergerq Amerling, Administrator



*Caring and Excellence Since 1960*



Village Pines School believes that all students are capable of learning. We provide a safe, caring environment that is child-centered. In order to promote lifelong learning, we provide a developmentally appropriate curriculum that encourages problem solving, critical thinking and creativity. Partnerships formed between parents, the school, and community support character development to assist children in learning to make appropriate choices and become responsible citizens. The Village Pines team works together to establish goals. This approach supports the efforts of faculty, staff, parents, and students as Village Pines strives for school excellence.



## Mental Challenge of the Month

Each month we will present a mental challenge. You are invited to submit the answer to the challenge each month to Jill Sanko. The first person to send the right answer will be recognized the next month and also win a \$5 Starbucks gift card! Good luck.



**Happy Halloween**

to [jsanko@comcast.net](mailto:jsanko@comcast.net)

October's Monthly Challenge of the Month is:

It appears that you have angered the spirit of Halloween by failing to revere the Great Pumpkin, and now a curse has befallen you. On the walkway to your house is a ward of seven jack o'lanterns arranged in a circle. If midnight comes and any of the seven are still lit, a dark reaper and seven dark horses with seven dark riders shall visit thy abode. They shall surround thy domicile and, while circling it, they will proceed to pelt thy dwelling with eggs and cream of shaving. And come morn there will be a great mess to be reckoned with. So you better get those lanterns out.

You quickly discover something odd about these lanterns. When you blow out the first one, the lanterns on either side

extinguish as well! But there is more. If you blow out a lantern adjacent to one that is extinguished, the extinguished one (s) will relight. It seems that blowing on any lantern will change the state of three - the one you blew on and its two neighbors. Finally, you can blow on an extinguished lantern and it will relight, and its neighbors will light/extinguish as applicable. After trying once and finding all seven lit again, you decide, being the excellent puzzler, you sit down and examine this closer. But hurry, I hear the beating of many hooves...

What mathematical property can you use to figure out how to extinguish all the lanterns? And how many steps will it take you to accomplish your goal?

