



Vincent Smith Voice

A Publication of the Vincent Smith School P.T.A. ~ Winter 2011/2012



What's New and Wonderful at VSS

~ **Faculty & Staff Addition** - Bernadette Phelan, 4th/5th grade teacher
 ~ **Student News** - Congratulations to **Kailyn Shupnick**, who spoke on a teen panel at this year's AHA Fall Conference held on Oct. 24 & 25 at Eastern Suffolk BOCES and **Alicia Fine-McCullough** for being selected to participate in this year's educational seminar in Boston on Oct. 28 conducted by Massachusetts General Hospital Department of Psychiatry.

Happenings:

- Senator Martins toured VSS and addressed student body and he will be returning in winter of 2012 to conduct "Pizza & Politics" with Student Council
- Bracelets for Wounded Warriors sponsored by Student Council
- Addition of Student Council Reps
- Addition of computer programs (Mobi and United Streaming)
- Student Council selling Autism Awareness Bracelets

VSS Donor Tree

Have you noticed our Donor Tree in the High School Lobby?

What a great way to acknowledge accomplishments or special occasions such as an anniversary or graduation or to recognize a special family or faculty member. You can do this with a leaf on the Vincent Smith School Donor Tree. Each leaf is \$250.00. Call the office for more information at (516) 365-4900. (Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.)

Up Close & Personal

Ellen Forrest, our School Board Chair, sat down with **Christine Cralidis**, our new Principal, for a little Q & A and here is what she found out.

Q - What has your experience as Principal of Vincent Smith School been like so far?

A - My experiences at the VSS so far have been rewarding and empowering. I have respect and dignity for the School's mission, and all that Mrs. Wishnew has incorporated and invested into having this school run smoothly. The staff and students make me feel welcome every day and I enjoy sharing my expertise and love of education with Administration and the teaching staff. The students are loving and give of themselves through our structured academics and socialization groups. I have been embraced by the parents and guardians of our students.

Q - What are the most rewarding or enjoyable aspects of your job?

A - I get to see our students mature and develop into the fine young men and women I know they can be. Along with Mrs. Wishnew, we create programs that enhance our 'learning differently' styles. Our S.A.M. program focuses on social cognition skills needed to work and live in the fast paced 21st century. As Principal, I have developed a Principal's Advisory Committee that will work with the teaching staff to discuss and evaluate VSS issues such as curriculum, writing and reading programs as well as student involvement through CLUBS, Student Council and College Transitional Preparation.

Q - What are the most challenging aspects of being Principal?

A - The most challenging aspects of being a Principal are developing clear, concise communication with staff, students, and parents. My "Open Door" policy is a policy that I deeply believe in for the VSS community. My time is well spent visiting classrooms, CLUBS, and attending PTA meetings to become involved in an environment that supports education and a strong community bond. I actively meet with students at lunch, teachers throughout the day, and parents by phone, just to "catch up" and send support for hard work and dedication to our school. I enjoy working with the faculty and students in creating programs that improve the daily commitment at VSS. The school has taken part in food and coat drives, creating a MASCOT for the S.A.M. Club and a toy drive for the holiday season. Daily challenges of a Principal are daily rewards here at Vincent Smith.

Q - What has impressed you the most about our school?

A - What has impressed me about VSS is the tradition and history that encompasses the School. Mrs. Wishnew has committed herself to keeping education and socialization in the forefront of the School's mission statement. It is our belief that VSS empowers students with knowledge, skills, and values that support academic health, fitness, and social wellness of our student. I am impressed with the helpfulness of the Office Staff and how they assist me daily in keeping the school running smoothly! My teaching staff brings levels of dedication and professionalism to their jobs, and the students are fortunate to have their expertise. They are mentors, educators and role models for our students.

Q - What are the best ways a parent can help his/her child have a successful Vincent Smith School experience?

A - The best ways parents/guardians can help his/her children have a successful VSS experience are to utilize our open communication policy and stay updated with Mrs. Wishnew and myself if concerns arise regarding their child. Parents are an integral part of this educational community. Joining the Parent Teacher Association, attending the Lecture series, and special events, such as Special Persons' Day, the Fashion Show, Walk-a-Thon, and school-wide Thanksgiving Dinner, are ways to stay connected while enjoying themselves. I am honored and privileged to be an integral part of the Vincent Smith School family. I look forward to every challenge that greets me at the door each day.

Honor Roll

Term I ~ 2011/2012

Grade	Honorable Mention (84+)	Honors (88+)	High Honors (94+)
7	Alexis Hausner Taylor Knepple Jacqueline Koretz	Athena Prastos Kyle Spiegel Samuel Tesch	
8	Grant Reed	Austin Caldwell Alicia Fine-McCullough Jared Goerke Andrew Hubschman Joseph Keenan Frank Najmi Nicolina Steinhoff Jake Strobel Peter Tarantino (merit award) Nico Varrialle Bridget Vecchione	
9	Ariel Atias Matthew Only	Caroline Ellis Melanie Miranda Katie O'Leary Brittany Russo Greyson Thomas	Odalys Flores
10		Craig Montalbano Brian Siegel (merit award) Justin Wolder	
11	Jazmine Miley Sheena Mondesir Sven Peart Samuel Rubin Victoria Russo	Michael Amodio Paige Giangreco Stefan Goumaris Jerome Muscarella Steven Paul Alize Ryans	
12	Pamela Popeil	Max Berenson Andrew Bloch Aaron Harris	

VSS 6th Grader Wins Sen. Martins' Thanksgiving Essay Contest



Miss Sabrina Myers of the 6th grade won Senator Jack Martins' Thanksgiving Essay Contest. The theme for this holiday contest was, "What are You Most Thankful For?". Sabrina was very thankful for her family, her daily journey through her life and her education. Pictured is Sabrina and Senator Jack Martins at the awards presentation. Honorable mention went to entire 6th grade and teacher, Mrs. Shapiro.

Where We're Going - School Field Trips

- February 10** (Grades 9-12) - Tilles Center at C.W. Post Brookville Campus
- May 4** (Grades 9-12) - Caumsett State Park in Lloyd Harbor
- May 7** (Grades 4-8) - Caumsett State Park in Lloyd Harbor
- May 27** (Grades 4-12) - Field Day at Manorhaven State Park in Port Washington

People Making a Difference

Our special thanks and gratitude goes out to the following parents for their very generous contributions and continued support of VSS.

~ **Don Russo/Unity Electric**-continues his quest to replace all the lighting at VSS. Thus far he has coordinated the updating of lighting in the cafeteria, library, entire Middle School and currently in the process of working on the High School

VSS Students Serving the Community

~ **Food Drive** - students conducted a food drive and all the food collected was distributed to St. Francis Dematteis Center located in Old Brookville

~ **Coat Drive** - coats, jackets scarves, gloves and hats were collected this holiday season and distributed to needy families at Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Long Island in Islandia

The VSS Spectrum

Don't forget to order a copy of our VSS School Yearbook, *The Spectrum*. We are offering a special pre-order price of \$50.00.

Upcoming Events – VSS 2012 Calendar at a Glance

Jan.	3	Tu	School Re-opens	8:45 am
	10	Tu	College Career Night (Jr. Parents)	7:30 pm
	16	M	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (School Closed)	
	17-23	Tu-M	Mid-terms	
	21	Sat	Admissions Open House	12-3 pm
	24	Tu	Term II Ends	
	29	Sun	Family Bowling Night	5 pm
Feb.	11	Sat	Admissions Open House	12-3 pm
	20-24	M-F	Mid-Winter Recess (School Closed)	
	27	M	School Reopens	8:45 am
Mar.	5	M	Parent-Teacher Conferences (School Closed for Students)	7:30 pm
	16	F	Teacher In-Service Day (School Closed for Students)	
	24	Sat	Admissions Open House	12-3 pm
	26	M	Middle & High School Orientation	
	28	W	Term III Ends	

Apr.	5-13	Th-F	Spring Recess (School Closed)	
	16	Th	School Reopens	8:45 am
	22	Sun	Scholarship Fund Fashion Show Brunch	12-3 pm
	23-27	M-F	Standardized Achievement Tests (Gr. 4-12)	
	28	Sat	Admissions Open House	12-3 pm
May	3	Th	Sports Awards Dinner (Swan Club)	7 pm
	5	Sat	SATs (administered at local HS)	
	7-8	M,Tu	Extended Time SATs (administered at VSS)	9 am
	19	Sat	Admissions Open House	12-3 pm
	21-24	M-Th	Art Show	
	24	Th	Senior Dinner (Swan Club)	7 pm
	25	F	Field Day	
	28	M	Memorial Day (School Closed)	
June	4-8	M-F	Final Exams (Gr. 7-12)	
	8	F	Lower School Closing Exercises & Sixth Grade Grad.	9:15 am
	11	M	Middle School Graduation	10:30 am
	12	Tu	Senior Commencement & Last Day of School	10:30 am
	16	Sat	Admissions Open House	12-3 pm
	24	Sun	Alumni Reunion	12:30-3 pm



Save the Date

**Sports Awards Dinner
Swan Club, Roslyn
Thursday, May 3, 2012**



Vincent Smith School P.T.A. Newsletter
322 Port Washington Blvd.
Port Washington, NY 11050

Save the Date

Join us for the

VSS Scholarship Fund Fashion Show Brunch

Sunday, April 22, 2012

1:00 to 5:00 pm

at the Westbury Manor