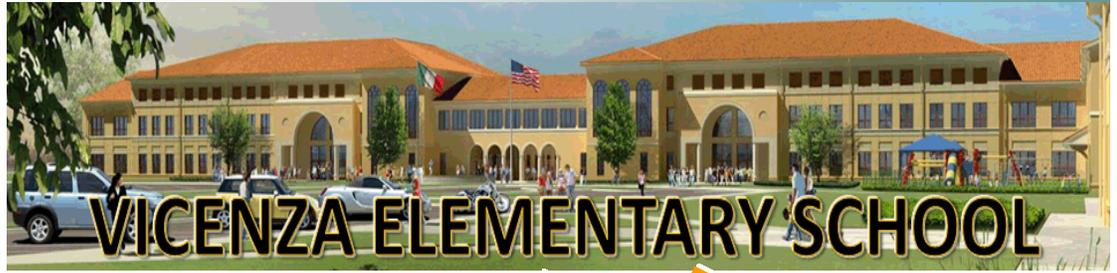


January, 2013

# Cub's Corner



## "Home of the Cougar Cubs"



### Principal's Paws



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**Dr. Joan Islas,**  
**Assistant Superintendent**  
**MED District**

Dear Vicenza Elementary School Community,

I am thrilled to be here at VES as part of the leadership team until we select a Principal for the school. Until that time, I will be working with Dr. Reinhardt and the wonderful educators and support staff to ensure that your child continues to receive an exceptional education.

I am new to the Mediterranean District. I recently arrived from Germany, where I served as the Assistant Superintendent in the Bavaria District for almost 5 years.

In the past 14 years with DoDEA, I have served as an elementary school teacher, assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent. I love working with young children!

If you have a questions or concerns, please see your child's teacher first. If you need additional guidance or assistance, Dr. Reinhardt and I are more than happy to help. To set up an appointment with us, please contact the front office.

I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you and your children.

Thank you,  
 Joan Islas



**IMPORTANT DAYS**

**February**

15 CSI Half-Day  
 (Students Dismissed 1105)

18 President's Day-Federal Holiday

**March**

11- 15 Terra Nova Testing

22CSI Half-Day  
 (Students Dismissed 1105)

27 Early Bird Registration

**Report Cards – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter SY2012-13** will be mailed to all parents'/sponsor's Mail Box addresses sometime during the first week of February 2013.

**Half Day of School – no lunch**  
**Students released at 11:05 am**

- Friday February 15, 2013
- Friday March 22, 2013
- Thursday April 4, 2013



#### DoDEA MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all DoDEA students for success in a dynamic, global environment.

#### Vision Statement for Vicenza Elementary:

Vicenza Elementary School will provide a learning environment for our students which is nurturing, safe and supported by the community. This atmosphere of success will enable each child to reach his or her potential in a global society. We will respect the diversity of our children, accommodate differences in learning styles, and assure quality and equity for all.

#### Vision Statement—According to Students:

Our school is a safe place to learn and the school officials care about kids. Our School encourages kids to reach our goals. Our School respects the differences in kids, accepts different learning styles, and provides equal chances for all to do our best in our world.

#### School Improvement Goals:

##### SMART Goal 1:

All students, by June 2017, will improve understanding of number sense, as measured by the selected system-wide and school based assessments.

##### SMART Goal 2:

All students, by June 2017, will improve reading comprehension in all curricular areas, as measured by the selected system-wide and school based assessments.



by Dr. Lorena M. Reinhardt ,  
Assistant Principal

## EFFECTIVE FEEDBACK

Following is a review of “7 Keys to Effective Feedback,” an article by Grant Wiggins in the September 2013 edition of Educational Leadership.

Formative assessment that includes a lot of feedback and opportunities to use that feedback, enhances student performance and achievement. The term *feedback* is often used to describe all kinds of comments that include advice, praise, and evaluation. However, none of these are the kinds of feedback that help students reach a goal. Comments such as “Good work...This is a weak paper...You got a C on your presentation...I’m so pleased by your poster” make a value judgment. There is little or no feedback, and no information about what occurred.

Feedback that helps with educational progress is information about how we are doing in our efforts to reach a goal. Helpful feedback has seven elements. It: 1) focuses on a goal, 2) is tangible, 3) is actionable, 3) is user-friendly, 4) is timely, 5) is ongoing, and 6) is consistent.

### *Goal Referenced*

Effective feedback requires that a person has a goal, takes action to achieve the goal, and receives goal-related information about his or her actions. Feedback tells whether a person is on track toward a goal or needs to change course. Some goals are implied. However, young learners may be unclear about the specific goal or task or lesson, so it is essential to remind them about the goal and criteria for self-assessment.

### *Tangible and Transparent*

Any useful feedback involves a clear goal and tangible results related to the goal. The best feedback is so tangible that anyone who has a goal can learn from it.

### *Actionable*

Effective feedback is concrete, specific, useful, and provides actionable information. Saying “Good job” and “You did that wrong” are not feedback. A learner should be able to tell specifically what to do next time based on feedback information.

### *User-Friendly*

In addition to being specific and accurate, feedback must be understood by the learner. Highly technical information may be confusing to a novice. For example, telling a 6-year-old about torque and other physics concepts will not likely yield a better baseball hitter. Likewise too much feedback may be confusing. It’s better to concentrate on one or two key elements of performance.

### *Timely*

The sooner the feedback, the better. Waiting for hours or days to find out whether children learned and to provide them with feedback does not provide the best results for learning. Learners need opportunities to use feedback while the lesson is fresh in their minds.

### *Ongoing*

Adjusting performance depends on having opportunities to use feedback to better achieve the goal. The more feedback, the better the performance will become. The ability to quickly adapt one’s performance is a mark of great achievers and problem solvers. Students learn from their errors.

### *Consistent*

Performers can only adjust their performance successfully if the information fed back to them is stable, accurate, and trustworthy.

In conclusion, feedback answers the question, *Where is the child going?* The aim is to reduce the gap between where children are and where they should be. Appropriate feedback is a positive influence on learning for home, school, teacher, and curriculum.



## Parents' Corner

The Vicenza Elementary School administrator invites you to respond by email to the following statements. Your comments and the responses will be placed in the next newsletter.

1. Something I like about Vicenza Elementary School.
2. Something I would like to know.
3. Something I would like to suggest.



Please send your responses to the following email address:

[vicenzaes.principal@eu.dodec.edu](mailto:vicenzaes.principal@eu.dodec.edu)

# EMERGENCY CONTACT

Dear Parents/Sponsors,

It is very important that the school has your current updated emergency contact information. You may update your emergency contact information by asking for the slip at the school front desk. Information will be updated in our school computer program and your child (ren)'s Teacher(s), School Nurse, & Bus Office will be notified upon receipt.

Bellow is a copy of the actual slip for your information.

### Change of Emergency Contact Slip

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / 20\_\_\_

Vicenza Elementary School allows two emergency contacts.

Name of person making change: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of New Contact # 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number of New Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of New Contact # 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Islas  
Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Lorena M. Reinhardt  
Assistant Principal



# 2013 Vicenza Elementary School PTSA Spelling Bee

The 2013 VES PTSA Spelling Bee was a huge success! It lasted 15 rounds and the contestants spelled a variety of difficult words! The contestants are all highly commended for a job well done! The top 10 winners will participate in next Wednesday's January 23rd Spelling Bee Finals at 6:00 p.m. in the MPR.

The winners are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - S D - 5th grade - Ms. M's class
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - D E - 5<sup>th</sup> grade - Mr. L. class
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - M P - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade - Ms. M's class



A BIG THANKS to Dr. H Dr. R , and Mr. T for being our fabulous judges and to Mr. T for being a fantastic Master of Ceremonies! Thank you, Mr. D for being so wonderful in helping us set up the chairs and tables for this year's Spelling Bee! And a special thanks to all the classroom teachers who supported their students in this year's Spelling Bee! You're all welcome to come to the final Spelling Bee on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in MPR! Parent letters of invitation will be handed out soon to the Top 10 contestants.

T D  
Spelling Bee Coordinator



## 2013 VES/VMS Spelling Bee Championship News



The Vicenza Schools PTSA sponsored the 2013 VES/VMS Championship Spelling Bee on January 23, 2013 in the VES/VMS multi-purpose-room from 1800-2000. Eighteen top spellers, 9 from the elementary and 9 from the middle school battled through 28 rounds of words. A D won the bee for the third time with the word, “turban.” B B and A C held their ground during the lengthy rounds. A fell to third place, missing the word, “panelist”, and B took second place after missing the word, “withdrawal.”

The final bee this year featured four sets of siblings going for the gold! M S (7<sup>th</sup> grade), G S (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), A D (8<sup>th</sup> grade), S D (5<sup>th</sup> grade), S A (8<sup>th</sup> grade), P A (4<sup>th</sup> grade), B B (4<sup>th</sup> grade), and J B (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) all did their absolute best to be the last person standing! Z B (7<sup>th</sup>), M P (3<sup>rd</sup>), Q C (6<sup>th</sup>), K J (5<sup>th</sup>), E K (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), C T (7<sup>th</sup> grade), A H (6<sup>th</sup> grade), D E (5<sup>th</sup> grade), D S (7<sup>th</sup> grade), and A C (8<sup>th</sup> grade) added fuel to the fire to make sure that this was a championship to remember! **All are to be congratulated!!!**

**A D** will go on to represent our schools in the DoDDS-Europe Regional Bee which will take place on March 16, 2013 in Ramstein, Germany. **B B** will be Anuk's first alternate, and **A C** will be the second alternate, in the event A or B cannot attend. A has won the DoDDS-Europe Bee for the past two years and has gone on to compete in the National Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Will A be able to win the regionals for a third time? That is the question. We will be rooting for him no matter what happens!!!

Special thanks go to our Master of Ceremony, F V who has been our VES/VMS school pronouncer for the past three years and to Mr. G T, who took over as MC for our individual school spelling bees! Cheers and thanks go to our Spelling Bee Judges Col. M B, Col. B McK, Dr. N H, and Mrs. N McC, to Mr. B D who set up the MPR for the final bee; and, to PTSA President M R and the Vicenza Schools PTSA. Also thanks to our teachers, students, and parents who supported the BEES. Finally kudos once again to Dr. G, Dr. R, Mrs. D W, and **T D (VES Sponsor)** for your help and support.

T T, VMS BEE Sponsor



# PTA Reflections SY 2012-2013

## (Local Level)

Theme: *"The Magic of a Moment"*

Vicenza Elementary School;  
Divisions

### Primary: Preschool – Grade 2

Category: Visual Arts

1st Place – L T-*"Leaning Tower of Pisa"* (Kindergarten)

2nd Place M K –*"Sprinkler Time"* (1st Grade)

### Intermediate: Grades 3-5

Category: Visual Arts

1st Place L K *"Alps at First Sight"* (3rd Grade)

Category: Literature

1st Place C B *"Green"* (5th Grade)

2nd Place M P *"Pula Croatia"* (3rd Grade)

\*PTSA (in behalf of our student body at all three of our schools), would like to thank Global Federal Credit Union for supporting our local PTA Reflections program this year. Thank you for providing the awards and prizes for all of our winners and for being one of our Partners in Education.

\*\* First Place entries in all divisions and categories will be submitted for the next round (our European PTA level). Top entries selected from the European PTA round will be recognized at the Annual PTA Awards Ceremony at our Garmish Resort in Germany. First Place winning entries from each division and category will be submitted to the final level, National PTA.

### Help Wanted

**Substitute teachers:** if you are interested in substitute teaching at VES, please apply in

USAJOBS at:

Please stop by the VES office if you need more information.

### Volunteer

If you would like to Volunteer as a chaperone, aide for special events or in the classrooms; please stop by the office to get an application packet to become a VES registered Volunteer.

**KUDOS**

T,

Thank-you for all you do every year for our children, families, and school above and beyond! Much time, thought, planning and dedication went into making the Spelling Bee possible and a success for all involved... To include you running to get the cake and drinks and more before the bee started!

Appreciate you,

A



Big Thank you to our Volunteers ,Ms. S W and Ms. B L, for starting the VES Teacher Support Program, to assist the faculty with preparation of classroom instructional materials to include lamination and copies.

X



## Counseling Corner

# CHARACTER COUNTS IN VICENZA!



This month's character Pillar is:



At Vicenza Elementary School, we teach our students to:

- Play By The Rules
- Take Turns and Share
- Be Open-Minded and Listen to Others
- Not Take Advantage of Others
- Treat All People Equally
- Include Everyone
- Work to change things that are unfair

**I never thought about losing, but now that it's happened, the only thing is to do it right.**  
 – *Muhammad Ali, boxer*

**It is your response to winning and losing that makes you a winner or a loser.**  
 – *Harry Sheehy, athletic director*

**"We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate."**  
 – *Martin Luther King Jr.*



## Counseling Corner, continued

# Reintegration

Over the next few months, many students of Vicenza Elementary School will be reunited with family members as the deployment closes. Whether it is your first, second or third deployment, it is important to remember reintegration as an ongoing experience enduring beyond the first welcome-home moment. This readjustment and its attendant changes affect the family and home settings, whether overtly or indirectly. School, however, can be viewed as a stable, constant setting prior to, during and after a deployment. Given this stability, schools with families can jointly assist children to provide an optimal setting for a positive reunion.

While stress levels can be high with the returns from a deployment, tips to foster a cheerful return include:

### Communication

Talk with your child prior to the return of a family member

Talk with your child's teacher

Do not criticize and do allow your child to talk about his/her feelings

### Sensitivity

Understand that your child may experience an array of feelings

Happy that the parent has returned home

Excited about returning to old familiar routines

Jealous of the time now given to the returning family member

Afraid that the returning family member may not approve of changes

Understand that behavior may fluctuate

Behavior will be influenced by the renegotiations and compromise between the adults at home

While your child may test family rules, avoid discipline extremes

Your child may not initially or easily respond to discipline from the returning family member

Expect some negative feelings and reactions

### Time

Your child may need time to accept the returning parent. Allow your child to set his/her pace

Allow for special time between your child and the returning family member

Reintegration is a process. The goal is for reintegration to be positive despite difficult moments encountered as a family reconnects and learns about individual changes brought on by a deployment. Should the difficult moments begin to outweigh the joyous ones talk, outreach, and seek assistance. Seeking assistance in order to find solutions is a sign of strength and love.

### Resources:

<http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/directorates/acs/documents/mobilization/USAREURReintegrationGuide.pdf>

Army in Europe

Pamphlet 600-8-109-2

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/reintegration/guide-pdf/FamilyGuide.pdf>

United States Dept. of Veteran Affairs





# University of San Diego Visit



Dear DOD Vicenza Educators,

Thank you so much for opening your doors to our group. In particular, I'd like to thank M G for coordinating our trip and involving her amazing students! We had an incredible day and are very grateful for the opportunity. We got to see the inner workings of a place that is very special. Everyone was extraordinarily kind and truly went above and beyond what I would consider a typical tour. I have the professional privilege to visit many schools. I try to pay close attention to little things like how adults talk to kids, or the level of unfiltered excitement educators have about a particular project or student accomplishment. Throughout my visit it became very clear that all of you are extremely passionate about what you do. I loved to see how proud and fired-up you all are about your work. It was inspiring on many levels and I encourage you to keep up the great work!

Now that I am back in the states, it is time to put the wheels in motion to figure out how to come back! I am excited about exploring these opportunities with all of you, our great colleagues at the University of Verona, and with Dr. J C at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. I believe that we have the resources and momentum to explore some reciprocal partnerships that may benefit our future educators, your faculty, and (most importantly) your students.

Sincerely,

I M, Ed. D.

Assistant Professor  
Counseling Program  
School of Leadership and Education Sciences  
University of San Diego





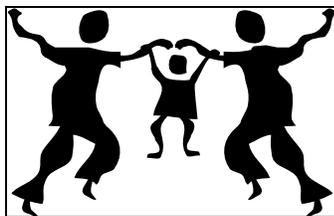
# Italian Fridays



*How good is your Italian? Come practice with us the last Friday of each month!*

*On the last Friday of each month, immersion teachers will speak only in Italian to students, who will be encouraged to reply in Italian. However, they may respond in English when necessary. All who can speak Italian (faculty members, staff, cafeteria crews, cleaning people...) will speak to children in Italian.*

*Please join us and challenge your Italian skills!*



## GET a JUMP on Development!

You can have your infant, toddler or preschooler screened by a member of the Early Intervention Team or the Developmental Preschool Team.

These teams offer a free developmental screening for your infant, toddler or preschooler -- birth through five years of age.

To schedule an appointment for your baby from birth - 35 months of age call EDIS at 636 9230 (0444 61 9230) to schedule an appointment.

To schedule an appointment for your toddler or preschooler 36 months up to 60 months, contact us at 0444 71 7710 or 6583 to schedule a screening for your son or daughter.

The Case Study Committee involves parents in the special education process. The CSC ensures procedural safeguards are followed and that confidentiality is protected.

## *Did you know that .....January is:*

Eye Care Month

National Blood Donor Month



National Braille Literacy Month

National Thank You Month



- Jan 3rd : J.R.R. Tolkien's birthday—Born in 1892
- Jan 4th : Isaac Newton, Jakob Grimm's birthdays
- Jan 7th : Elvis Presley's birthday—Born in 1935  
1882

- Jan 17th : Benjamin Franklin's birthday - Born in 1706
- Jan 27th : Lewis Carroll's birthday—Born in 1832
- Jan 30th : Franklin D. Roosevelt's birthday—Born in



## CLUB INFORMATION



**Marco Polo Club** – Mondays from 2:40 until 4:00 P.M. in room # 1066. We will read, gather information, research, and have lots of fun as we **explore** and work with crafts, art activities, technology, and lots more to find out all the answers. **This club is opened for third and fourth graders only with a capacity of 24. POC : Ms. T**



**Homework Club** - Wednesdays from 2:50 until 4:00 P.M. in room # 1249.

**DATES:** Nov: Jan:9, 16, 23, 30 Feb:6, 13, 20, 27, March: 6, 20, 27 April: 3, 17, 24, May:1, TBD. **This club is opened to third, fourth and fifth graders. POC: Mr. McKI**



**MATH**  
OLYMPIAD

Will meet in my room # 1247 from 2:45-4:00 on Mondays.

The dates are:

January 7 & 28; February 4, 11 & 25; March 4, 11 & 25; April 1, 2013

**This club is opened to fourth and fifth graders with a capacity of 25 students. POC: Ms. B**



**Student Council** Will meet every Monday from 2:40-4:00 in room # 1221.

The dates are as follows: Feb 4, Feb 11, Feb 25, Mar 4, Mar 11, Mar 18, Mar 25, Apr 1, Apr 15, Apr 22, Apr 29, May 6, May 13, and May 20. The LAST MEETING WILL BE HELD MAY 20<sup>th</sup> 2013

**This club is opened to third, fourth and fifth graders. POC Ms. L**



**Library Explorers Club** for Grades 4 and 5 **before school**. Club will run from 11 Dec-4 April on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Mornings 7:30-8:00AM. **We will use this time for individual research, book exploration, library helper training and computer usage for individual school assignments. POC: Ms. M**



**ART CLUB**

Grades 1 and 2 will meet on Monday 4 Feb., Monday 11 Feb., Wednesday 20 Feb., and Monday 25 Feb. from 2:45-4:00.

Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> will meet on Mondays in March. That will be March 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 2:45-4:15. POC Ms. A

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> CHARACTER COUNTS CHOIR AND DRAMA CLUB- STARTS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup>**

The Character Counts Choir and Drama Club will be held **every Monday and Wednesday after school from 1445-1630**. Students will prepare choral songs and solos to be performed at the 3rd grade CHOICES COUNT musical production to be held on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> in the MPR from 930-1030 am for the school and at 1830-1930 for parents and community. **POC Ms. H**



*Unit 31401, Box 11  
APO, AE 09630*

*Phone: 0444-71-7710  
DSN: 634-7710  
Fax: 0444-71-6743  
DSN Fax: 634-6743*

*In case of inclement weather or emergency situations, please visit this website: [http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/staff\\_org/safety/road\\_conditions/index.asp](http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/staff_org/safety/road_conditions/index.asp) The community commander may determine that it is necessary to close school, delay the opening of school, (usually a two hour delay), or release students early. The decision to close or delay the opening of school cannot be made by school officials. On mornings with heavy snow, ice, or fog, students and their sponsors should listen to AFN radio for announcements about school closure or delays. Consult your school's "Student Handbook" for guidance specific to your location.*

**Find us in the web:**

**<http://www.vice-es.eu.dodea.edu/>**