



THE

RED & WHITE

APRIL 2024

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

I hope you had a restful spring break and were able to enjoy time with your family and friends.

As we enter the final months of the school year, I want to celebrate the progress we've made and the achievements that lie ahead. I am looking forward to all of the spring sports and activities as well as our upcoming celebrations of our senior class.

Our VCS Vision Statement is that "All students will graduate college

and career ready." It's something we talk about often. We want to maximize the potential of all our students, no matter who they are, and make sure they are ready for whatever lies beyond Vicksburg Community Schools.

As I see our 5th graders preparing for middle school, our 8th graders preparing for high school and our seniors entering their last few months in the district I am so proud of all their hard work and the work of our staff to help them achieve their full potential.

In this issue of the Red and White you'll read about the amazing achievements of our VHS girls basketball team this season, as well as ways all of our schools are fostering a love of reading for our students and making it fun.



Regards,
Keevin O'Neill, SUPERINTENDENT

AP Art Students Make Principal Portraits

Vicksburg High School AP Art students created these fun grid portraits of principals Mr. Brush and Mr. Hawkins.

Each student drew one section of each portrait using a photo reference. They had to try to match the colors and lines as

close as possible to ensure a good fit with the other sections.

Each piece was then put together to create the full portraits.



Wolverine Conference Champions, District Champions, and Regional Champions!

The VHS Girls Varsity Basketball team had a season for the record books, and we could not be more proud!

This season's incredible postseason run featured just the third district title in program history, and the first regional playoff win, in addition to the first Regional Championship ever for the girls varsity program.

They also boasted 5 all conference players as well as Wolverine Conference coach of the year.

Thank you to the students and community members who traveled far to support the team on their playoff run. And thank you to the amazing group of players and coaches for a season that was so fun to watch.



Thank you for a great season!



Sign Up for the 2024 Hearty Hustle

Registration for the 37th annual Hearty Hustle 5K Race is now open!

All the proceeds from the fun community event benefit the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation, which funds programs that would not otherwise be supported by tax revenues. Teachers and students directly benefit through educational, literary, scientific and extra-curricular activities.

The Hearty Hustle is taking place Saturday May 11th at 9am. It's \$30 to register and that includes a 37th annual commemorative

t-shirt. There is also a one mile fun run for the kids.

To be guaranteed a race t-shirt, registrations need to be in by May 1st.

You can register on the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation tab on vicksburgschools.org or by scanning the QR code.

SATURDAY, MAY 11TH



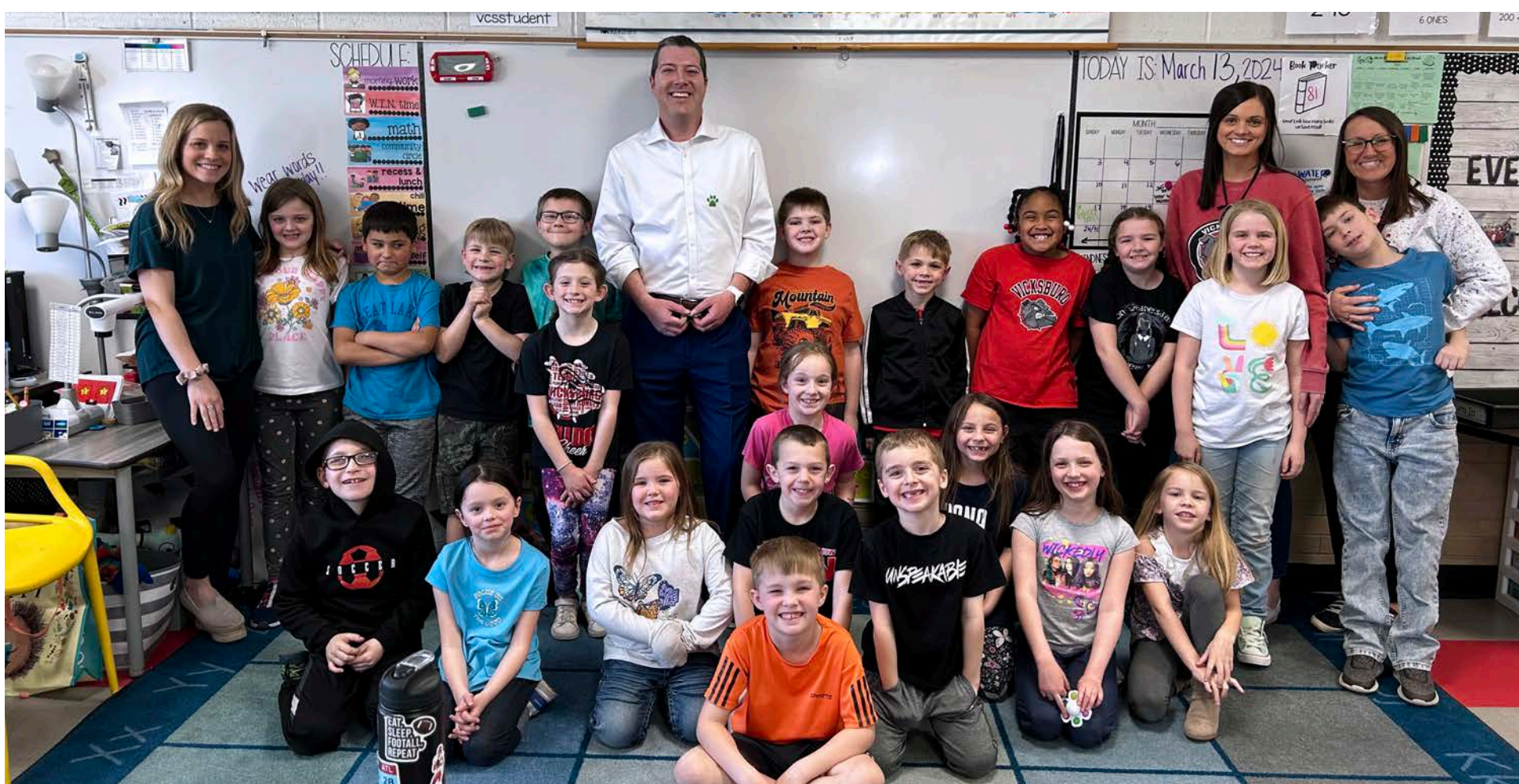
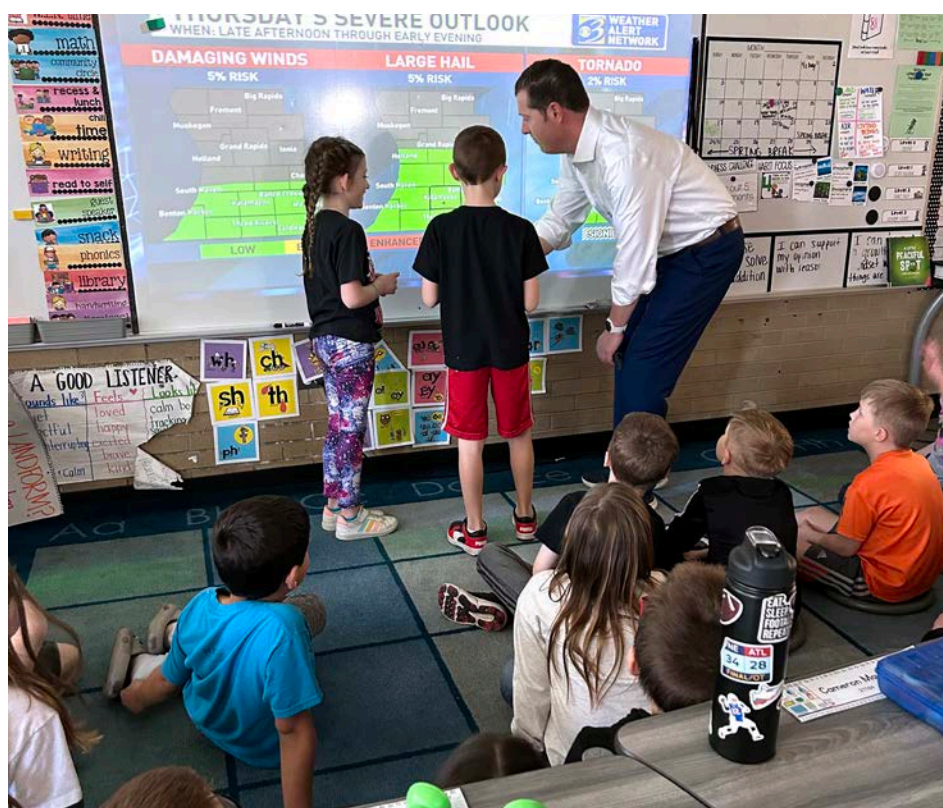
Sign up for the Hearty Hustle today!



Jeff Porter Talks About Weather at Sunset Lake

Thank you to WWMT's Jeff Porter for visiting our Sunset Lake second graders in Kellie Hillsburg and Kristina Newhouse's class.

He talked about forecasting the weather and how to make a safety plan in the event of severe storms.



FFA State Degrees Presented

Congratulations to Dr. Noreen Heikes for earning the FFA Honorary State Degree!

2 students also received FFA State Degrees. Congratulations to Adele Buder and Trentin Harp.

The awards were presented at the 2024 Michigan FFA State Convention.

The State FFA Degree is open to members in 11th grade or higher who are involved in chapter leadership, state-level activities and community service.



Books Before the Bell

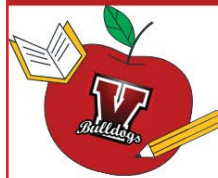
In celebration of March is Reading Month, Indian Lake Elementary families and staff gathered for Books Before the Bell.

The event featured fun spring and growing themed read-alouds, as well crafting stations and family reading centers, all before the school bell rang.

It was a great way to celebrate their love of reading and give families time to bond together over books.



KINDERGARTEN KICK-OFF 2024!



Kick-off your child's kindergarten education with Vicksburg Community Schools!

Kick-off Dates & Times:

- Tobey:** April 2nd from 6 to 7pm
- Indian Lake:** April 4th from 6 to 7pm
- Sunset Lake:** April 10th from 6 to 7pm

Parents/Guardians can meet the teachers, learn about the curriculum, transportation, food service & before/after school care.

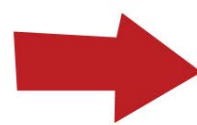
This event is for adults

A meet & greet for students will be scheduled at a later date.

Contact your school for more information:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Indian Lake
(269) 321-1400 | Sunset Lake
(269) 321-1500 | Tobey
(269) 321-1600 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

Make sure to start the registration process by scanning here:



The Art of Jewelry at Pathways

Vicksburg Pathways High School students have spent the last few months learning to make jewelry and even jewelry boxes to help store their creations.

VPHS partnered with KRESA's Education for the Arts, and every Thursday morning, local artist Meg Tang brought her art studio to Pathways.

Tang has a heart for inspiring young people to create art. Over the last 2 years, she has brought her printmaking, painting and jewelry-making talents to VPHS.

Students in the jewelry-making class made a variety of jewelry including bracelets, earrings, key chains and decorative pieces. They also hand-painted jewelry boxes to store them in.



City Building at VMS

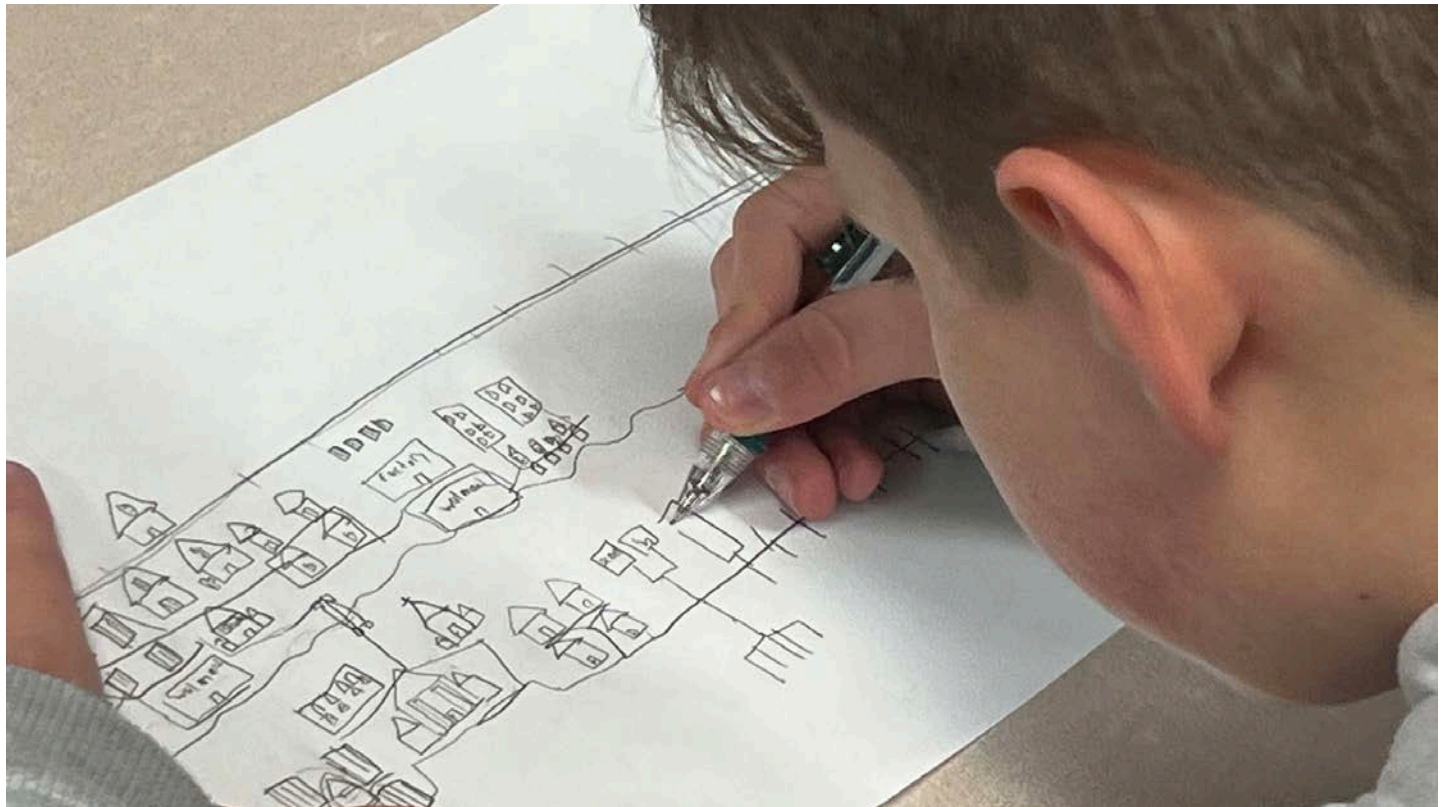
If you had to design a city or town from scratch how would you start?

6th grade social studies students at VMS had to first draw their own cities in stages, as many often grew.

As they added more and more to their pages, they discussed the potential issues that happen as cities and towns grow.

Then they were challenged to draw their own cities from the beginning, knowing in the end what was needed and how to best plan for spacing and needs.

It was a fun and eye-opening exercise in urban development.



High School Plant Sale Coming May 11

CTE Horticulture students at Vicksburg High School have been having fun planting and preparing for their plant sale this spring.

Each year, the students have to determine plant space availability in the greenhouse, when they need to plant, germination light, seed depth, pest control, as well as calculate prices for the sale and so much more!

Save the date - this year's plant sale will be Saturday May 11th at the VHS Greenhouse!



Tobey Celebrates Captain Russell

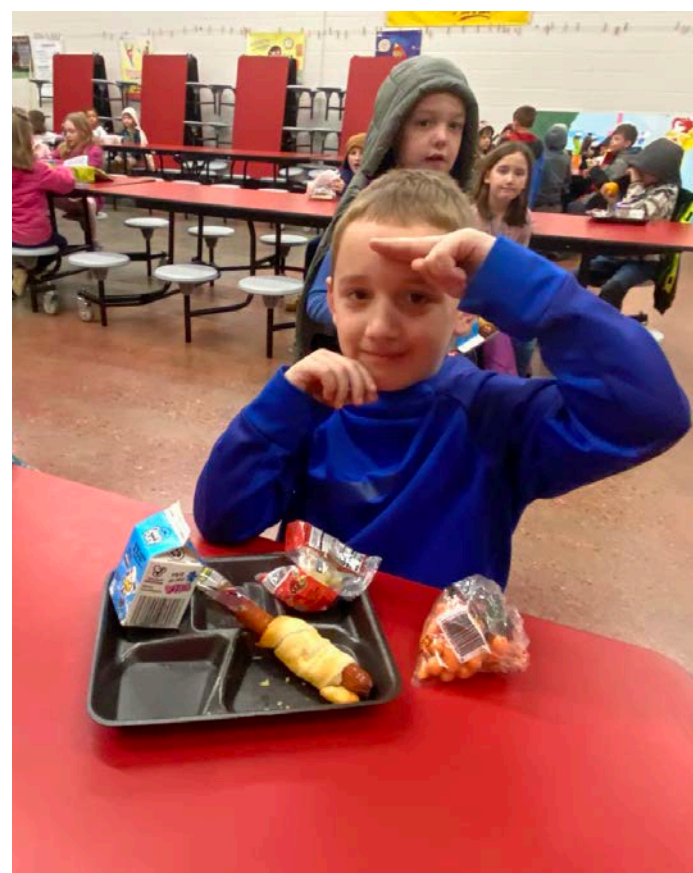
Students at Tobey Elementary once again paid special tribute to a 2004 Vicksburg graduate who died serving our country in Afghanistan.

Capt. Drew Russell died in

October 2011 and since then his parents have celebrated his birthday every year by bringing in cake or cupcakes for all students at Tobey, where Drew attended school from kindergarten through 5th grade.

This year, his parents Jim and Patti Russell, along with many other family members and friends, brought in the treats to honor Capt. Russell. They were also joined by members of the ROTC from WMU who helped pass out cupcakes.

They served the cupcakes during each lunch period where the students also had a chance to see pictures of Capt. Russell and learn more about his time in Vicksburg.



Tobey Collects Donations to Practice Kindness

Tobey Elementary recently celebrated a month of kindness.

In addition to learning exercises and activities all around kindness, they hosted drives for both personal care items for those in need as well as dog treats for the Kalamazoo Humane Society.

The school was able to collect multiple boxes full of hair care and toothpaste as well as multiple boxes full of dog treats and bones.

Thanks to everyone who helped celebrate kindness by giving back to others!



The Magic of Reading at Sunset Lake

Reading is Magic!

Thanks to magician Alan Kazam for helping to kick off March is Reading Month at Sunset Lake Elementary School.

He brought his Reading is Magic

assembly to the school to help get the kids excited about reading. Teachers and students each got to participate in some of his magic tricks and he even showed them some of the mechanics behind his magic.

