



THE

RED & WHITE

JUNE 2024

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: TRADITIONS IN EXCELLENCE



VHS CLASS OF 2024



A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

As we reach the end of another great school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our collective achievements as a district and express my gratitude for the dedication and hard work demonstrated by our entire school community.

Our students have excelled academically, athletically and in the arts. Our teachers and staff have been the backbone of these successes. And our families and community are what holds it all together.

I am so thankful for the partnerships we have here in VCS. Your support at home and your active participation in our schools is what makes Vicksburg a special place.

As we look ahead to a well-

deserved summer break, I encourage everyone to take time to relax and rejuvenate. Let's celebrate the successes of this past school year and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

While many of us take much needed breaks, our construction crews have another busy summer planned. Thanks to the support of our wonderful community, more bond work will once again be happening in every one of our school buildings. At Vicksburg High School and Middle School, new classroom ventilation units will be installed, including AC. There will also be upgrades to bathrooms, flooring, lighting, and ceilings.

At Tobey, Sunset Lake and Indian

Lake Elementaries, renovations will include upgraded bathrooms, new classroom flooring, and fresh classroom paint.

These summer construction projects are made possible once again thanks to our voters and community who support our schools.

I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together this year and I am excited for what the future holds. I hope you all have a safe and restful summer.



Regards, **Keevin O'Neill**, SUPERINTENDENT

Planting Trees at Sunset Lake Elementary

BK students at Sunset Lake Elementary planted a tree in May and we can't wait to watch it grow right along with them!

Retired arborist John Disbro, whose grandson is in the class, gifted the tree to the school.

It is a Maple Red Sunset, and should grow to 45 or 50 feet tall and roughly 35 feet wide! It'll be a great shade tree with vibrant fall colors. Check it out in the bus

loop by the lower elementary playground next time you pass by.

Each student got to add dirt to the tree and help in the planting process.

Thank you Mr. Disbro for your amazing donation and for helping our students learn about how trees are planted and grown.



CTE Senior Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our 2024 Outstanding CTE Seniors, all of whom won scholarships at the KRESA Outstanding CTE Breakfast!

Clara Centofanti - YWCA Women of Achievement Award

Megan Burke - DAR "Good Citizen of the Year Award"

Megan Burke - Principal's Leadership Award

Megan Burke - KRESA Foundation Scholarship

Marissa Buder - CTE Veterinary Science

Connor DeVries - CTE Computerized Manufacturing

Dakota Dragicevich - CTE Horticulture

Andrew Habel - CTE Marketing



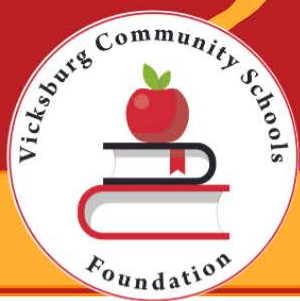
Trentin Harp - CTE Horticulture

Collin Schramer - CTE Accounting

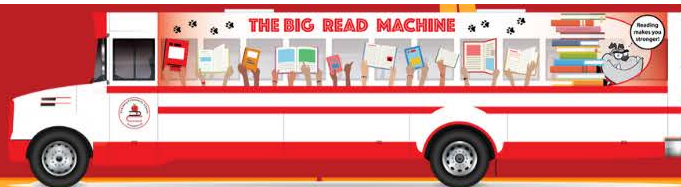
Reed Tassell - CTE Computerized Manufacturing

Grayson Louis - CTE Information Technology

Peyton Smith - KRESA Foundation Scholarship



Big Read Machine Summer 2024 Schedule



	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
June	<p>June 12: 5:30-8:30pm Burg Days of Summer</p> <p>June 19: 9:30am-12pm Sunset Lake Elementary</p>	<p>June 20: 9:45am-10:45am Little Bulldogs 11am-12pm Kids Court</p> <p>June 13 & 27: 6-7pm Centennial 7:30-8:30pm Tobey Elem</p>	<p>June 14 & 28: 2-6pm Farmers Market</p>
July	<p>July 10: 5:30-8:30pm Burg Days of Summer</p> <p>July 17 & 31: 9:30am-12pm Sunset Lake Elementary</p>	<p>July 18: 9:45am-10:45am Little Bulldogs 11am-12pm Kids Court</p> <p>July 11 & 25: 6-7pm Centennial 7:30-8:30pm Tobey Elem</p>	<p>July 12 & 26: 2-6pm Farmers Market</p>
August	<p>Aug 14: 5:30-8:30pm Burg Days of Summer</p>	<p>Aug 1: 9:45am-10:45am Little Bulldogs 11am-12pm Kids Court</p> <p>Aug 8: 6-7pm Centennial 7:30-8:30pm Tobey Elem</p>	<p>Aug 9: 2-6pm Farmers Market</p>

Downtown Businesses Meet with 4th Graders

Thank you to the Downtown Vicksburg businesses who opened their doors to our 4th graders from Sunset Lake Elementary for their annual business walk.

The students got to tour multiple local businesses and speak with the owners. They were able to ask questions about business ownership and how they market their products and goods as well as any other questions they might have.

It was a great day of bringing their recent lessons to life and showing off all the great businesses we have in Vicksburg!



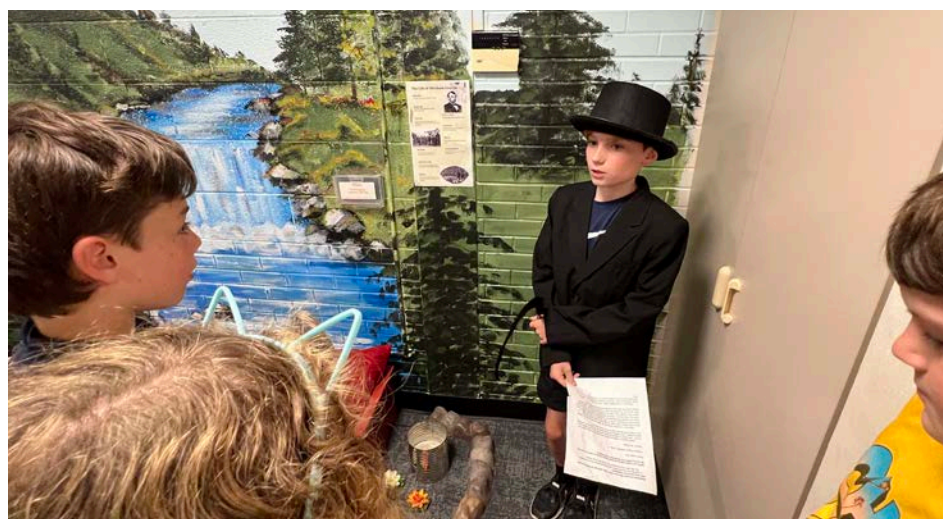
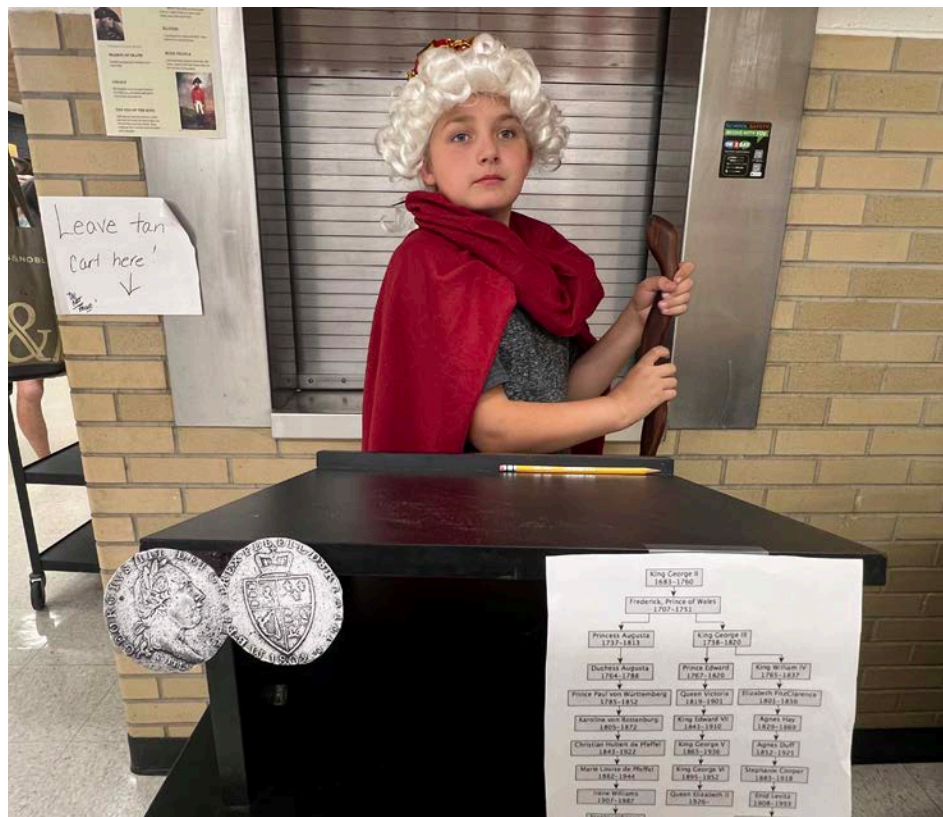
Indian Lake Student Wax Museum

Indian Lake Elementary held their annual Wax Museum displays.

5th grade students pretended to be historical figures and presented a speech including research on their chosen subject when a button in front of them was pressed.

They had to dress as the character and stand like a wax figure in front of a poster they created.

Families were invited to tour the museum along with students from other classes.



Smith Wins Lottery Educator of the Year Award

A Vicksburg High School teacher has been honored with an Excellence in Education award from the Michigan Lottery.

David Smith is a creative writing teacher at Vicksburg High School who incorporates life lessons into class periods and helps any student that is struggling.

"I always have my door open, and they know they can come in and talk," said Smith.

Smith was nominated for the award by a student.

We are so proud of Mr. Smith and happy that he has been recognized. It is a well deserved honor!

Winners of the weekly award receive a \$2,000 cash prize. At the end of the school year, one of the weekly winners will receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and a cash prize of \$10,000.



VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FREE BUS SAFETY CARNIVAL



August 15th
5:30 to 7:30pm
at the VAB Parking lot

**ALL PRE-K & ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS ARE INVITED!**



- Learn School Bus and Fire Safety
- Visit the Big Read Machine
- Free hot dog & water for each child
- Free Games, Prizes and More!



Strive Awards Breakfast

Our Vicksburg High School Strive Students were celebrated at the annual awards breakfast in their honor.

Strive is a partnership with the Rotary Club of Vicksburg to help make sure our students have the support they need to graduate. Students receive a mentor who meets with them and provides encouragement. The goal is to improve their GPAs, attendance and attitudes.

The top students get scholarships to help them continue their education.

Congratulations to the following members of the class of 2024:

Alana Falbo, who received the top award of a 2 year scholarship to KVCC.

Anna Franklin, who received the \$1,000 Trustee Scholarship from KVCC.

Anna Bartholomew, who received the \$500.00 Tim Moore Scholarship from Tim and Marty Moore.

Dana Lockwood, who received the \$500 Rotary Scholarship.

Eddie Daniels, who received the



\$500 JR Fulton Scholarship.

Adam Smith, who received the \$500 Vicksburg Community Foundation scholarship.

Thank you so much to our incredible mentors who help make sure our students are successful. This year's Rotary mentors were: Kathy Forsythe,

Krista Ragotzy, Larry Forsyth, Marti Moore, Kimm Mayer and Dave Aubry.

Sunset Lake Leader Day

Sunset Lake Elementary hosted a Leader Day to show off all the great skills their students learn by being part of Leader in Me.

Students taught their families, VCS administrators and local

community leaders about their Leader in Me school status and what it means to be leaders inside and out of the classroom.

It was a great celebration of their strong character.



VMS Junior Achievement at WMU

A group of 8th grade girls from Vicksburg Middle School recently got to attend the Junior Achievement Girl's Dream Fair: A STEM Experience, hosted at Western Michigan University.

The one-day workshop brought together middle school girls and more than 25 professional women working in STEM careers.

The day included three special

speakers who told their own stories as young teens, how they found career mentors, as well as the challenges they experienced along the road to success in high-tech environments. Students discovered potential careers and learned about various STEM jobs. They also investigated STEM careers and educational opportunities with volunteers from local organizations at a mini trade show.



VMS Mentor Comes to Sunset Lake Elementary

Sunset Lake Elementary is working to bring back former students to be mentors.

Each Friday, VMS 7th grader Choyce Johnson has been taking the bus after school to

Sunset Lake to help out in the classroom.

Currently he's working in Kellie Hillsburg and Kristina Newhouse's second grade class.

Great job Choyce!



Student Collection Helps Tornado Victims

Shoutout to the generosity of our community!

Students at Indian Lake Elementary collected household and personal care items for the Red Cross Rapid Response Team helping the victims of the recent tornado.

Each class has been competing to see who can collect the most and the response has been wonderful! They filled multiple boxes with hundreds of items for those in need.

Great job Indian Lake!



Career Day at Indian Lake Elementary

Indian Lake Elementary once again held an incredible career day for their students!

They were able to visit nearly 40 booths from local businesses and workers.

Students learned about farming, various types of trades and construction jobs, different medical fields, banking, video

game creation and so much more! They rotated between the booths both inside and outside the school.

Thank you to everyone who took the time out of their day to help educate our students! And great job to school counselor Heather Richeson for organizing the event.

