Dear Parents,

We will soon begin using a new communication tool to provide information about what is happening at Virginia Run Elementary including news and updates.

This new tool is a subscription-based email called **News You Choose**. We will send you our first communication in February which will be the Viking Voice and you will have the option to continue receiving it. At this time, the Viking Voice will be the only news and updates we will be using through News You Choose, however in the future, we will be looking into adding more topics. Subscribers always have the option to unsubscribe by clicking on a link at the bottom of the email.

**News You Choose** replaces the *Keep in Touch Plus* subscription portal which will no longer be used.

**News You Choose** will not replace the essential information FCPS communicates using the Blackboard Connect system (*Keep in Touch Basic*). Parents will continue to receive emergency messages, delayed openings and school closings, attendance messages, low lunch balances, and other critical information to the email address listed on a student’s emergency care card. Parents are automatically signed up to receive this essential information and will continue to receive messages.

Anyone can subscribe to **News You Choose**. As a subscriber, you can select which schools you want to receive information from and how often – as it happens, once a day, or once a week.

Laraine W. Edwards  
Principal  
Virginia Run ES  
703-988-8900
With the new year upon us it is a good time to reflect on routines and procedures here at school. Please review Virginia Run’s Kiss and Ride procedures listed below. The complete copy of these procedures along with other useful information can be located in the Parent-Student handbook located on the Virginia Run website [http://www.fcps.edu/VirginiaRunES/parents.html](http://www.fcps.edu/VirginiaRunES/parents.html).

If you have any questions or concerns about the Kiss and Ride procedures please feel free to contact Jason Skerker.

The Kiss N’ Ride is a designated area (identified by signs) for parents picking up or unloading their children by private vehicle. The area is separate from the bus loading/unloading location so there is no conflict with the two operations. For the Kiss N’ Ride to function properly, several procedures must be followed:

1. *Children load and unload from the passenger side of the car only, so they will not have to cross the driveway in front of traffic.*

2. *Drivers remain in the car. Safety patrols and staff will assist with the car door.*

3. *Cars stay in a single file line as they move to and from the Kiss N’ Ride.*

4. *Parents wanting to enter the school must park in an available parking space. They are not to enter the Kiss N’ Ride line in this case.*

5. *Arrive early. The busiest time at the Kiss N’ Ride area is five minutes before the start of class. Plan to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before the tardy bell, when the traffic is lighter.*

6. *For the safety of our students and staff, please refrain from using your cell phones/texting during arrival or dismissal.*
**2-Hour Delay March 1st**

On **March 1st**, there will be a **2-Hour Delayed Opening** due to the Presidential Primary Voting that day. We are anticipating high volume of voters coming in early that morning, so the school board has approved a 2-Hour Delay. School will begin at **11:15am on March 1st**.

**Winter Attire**

*Please remember to dress your child(ren) appropriately for the weather. Students need winter coats, gloves and hats when going outside for recess.*

**Advanced Academic News**

If you have a student in grades 2-6 and are interested in having your child screened for the AAP Center, you may initiate the full-time AAP Level IV screening process by completing and submitting an Advanced Academic Program Level IV Referral Form. **This form and any optional materials must be submitted to Mrs. Edwards or Mrs. Sesso no later than January 15, 2016.** Second grade students **not** in the pool and **all** students in grades 3 - 7 are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP website at: [http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/forms.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/forms.shtml) and in the Parent Information Packet at [http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/packet/ParentInformationPacketFCPS.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/packet/ParentInformationPacketFCPS.pdf)

Please do not wait for test scores before submitting a referral for your student in grades 2-7 as there will be no referrals for level IV screening accepted past the January 15, 2016 deadline.
NEW THIS YEAR:
VRES PTA now receives a percentage of your Amazon purchases!!!
Please go to www.amazonsmile.com and designate Virginia Run Elementary PTA! Happy shopping!

Club Picture Day & Class Group Candid Pictures

Friday, January 15th (during school)
A LifeTouch photographer will be at school to take pictures of all of our clubs starting right after announcements. These pictures will be used in the yearbook. Students are welcome to wear club t-shirts, bring instruments, patrol sashes, etc. It's a good idea to remind younger students what clubs they participate in so they can listen for their club to be called down for a group picture. In the afternoon we will stop by the classes to take a candid group shot for Yearbook.

2016 Variety Show

Calling all Comedians, Dancers, Gymnasts, & Musicians!!

Mark your calendars for this years Variety Show -
The show will be on Sunday,
February 21st at 3:00 pm.
The Snow Date will be on Sunday, February 28th if necessary.

Important dates to make note of:

*Parent Meeting - January 6th, 2016
*Kindergarten - 3rd Grade Rehearsal - January 20th, 2016
*4th Grade - 6th Grade Rehearsal - January 27th, 2016
*Kindergarten - 6th Grade Rehearsal - February 3rd, 2016
*Snow-Day Make Up Rehearsal - February 10th, 2016
*Dress Rehearsal - February 20th, 2016

Please contact Johannah Evans for more information:

johannahevans@yahoo.com
**Spirit Night**

Take the night off and don't cook! VRES PTA is hosting another spirit night on **Wednesday, January 13 at the McDonalds in Centreville** (close to Shoppers Grocery Store). Our spirit night runs from 5-8pm. Hope to see you there!

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**Science Quest**

Registration will start this week. Start planning your experiments and get ready for a great night of Science Fun on **March 10th**. Ideas and information are posted on PTA website or you can email virginiarunsq@gmail.com for specific questions.

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**Movie Night!**

Movie Night!

Bring your blankets and pillows, wear your coziest pajamas and join us for Movie Night on January 22th at 6:30pm. The results are in and the most popular movie choice was MINIONS! This PTA-sponsored event will take place in the VRES Cafeteria from 6:30 pm – 8:30pm. Cost will be $2 per child. There will be concessions provided by 6th Grade. Flyers will come home in January with RSVP information.

We hope to see you there!
January Energy Train: 60 Minutes for Better Focus!

Winter is here and there is a chill in the air meaning our bodies need to conserve energy to use as heat. In the winter we might eat a little more and spend more time inside being less active. This can lead to the "winter blahs." Kids and adults may feel more tired, less energetic or bored.

One good way to kick this feeling is go outdoors and play! Winter is a great time for you to enjoy playing outside. The more you move, the warmer you are! So, dress warmly, go outside and take brisk walk or play tag with your friends. And if there’s snow on the ground go sledding or build a snowman! www.fitness.gov

More Info:
http://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/physicalactivity/guidelines.htm
http://kidshealth.org/parent/educator/elementary-exercises.html
http://www.fitness.gov
## Virginia Run Elementary School

### January 2016

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<td>Winter Vacation School and Office Closed</td>
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<td>Variety Show Parent Meeting, 4 PM</td>
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<td>Spirit Night McDonald’s-Centreville 5-8 PM</td>
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<td>Club and Candid Pictures</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King’s Holiday, Schools and Offices Closed</td>
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<td>Variety Show Rehearsal Kindergarten—3rd Grade 4:00-7:00 PM</td>
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<td>Variety Show Rehearsal 4th—6th Grade 4:00-7:00 PM</td>
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# February 2016

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<td>PTA Meeting, 7 PM</td>
<td>Variety Show Rehearsal</td>
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<td>President’s Day Holiday, Schools and Offices Closed</td>
<td>5th Grade Field Trip GMU</td>
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<td>February 20th:</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Dress Rehearsal</td>
<td>Centreville HS</td>
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<td><strong>February 21st:</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Show Time!</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Centreville HS</td>
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