

October 2009

Dear Parents,

Here is information that I hope will be helpful:

1. **Safety:** In the fall, we practice safety drills to ensure that we are prepared in case of an emergency. We have evacuation drills, a lockdown drill, two bus drills, and a weather drill. Our VFES Safety/Wellness Committee meets 4 times/year to review issues that need attention. For the past three years, the Safety/Wellness Committee has encouraged a school-wide effort to reduce the amount of sweet treats for birthday and holiday celebrations. Parents have made good use of fruit, popcorn, 100 % juice drinks, etc. in creating something special for a classroom party. Please join this effort as we continue our focus on helping our children celebrate special events with a variety of foods and games.
2. **School Pictures-** Every other school year, we have two picture days. For the 09-10 school year, October 6th will be school picture day for individual shots and a whole class picture with the teacher. A second picture day for only individual shots will be scheduled later in the year, probably in early springtime.
3. **Check Your Calendar Dates**
 - Friday-Sunday, October 2-4 Walkway Over the Hudson opening weekend opening; consult the newspaper for times and dates of events. Both Poughkeepsie and Highland have joined together with events celebrating the opening.
 - Tuesday, Nov. 3rd No School Superintendent's Conference Day
 - Nov. 4th, 9th, and 17th VFES Parent Conference Days;
Dismissal at 11:30 AM, no PM Kindergarten
 - Nov. 11 No School Veterans Day
4. Here are great ways to earn cash for our school:
Hannaford's Helps Schools – Sept. 6 to Dec. 6.
 - Last year Vail Farm Elementary School earned \$1,287.
 - When parents purchase 4 participating products they will receive a coupon for 3 "school dollars". Purchase 8 participating products, and receive 6 "school dollars" coupons.
 - These "school dollars" coupons can be sent into school with your child to be deposited in the yellow Hannafords Helps Schools bin on display in our school lobby. Coupons can also be placed in the coupon collection tower at the Hannaford's in Wappingers Falls. Our school is not on display at the LaGrangeville Hannaford. If you shop in LaGrange, please send coupons to school.
 - The list of participating products can be found on the Hannafords website <http://www.hannaford.com/hhs/>. Among the many brand names are Clorox, Glad, Tyson,

Carnation, Juicy Juice, Kellogg's and Nestle. Items are very easy to find in the grocery aisle as they are clearly marked with a "Hannaford Helps Schools" tag.

Stop & Shop's A+ Bonus Bucks - October 9 – March 25, 2010

- Parents register their Stop & Shop cards (available at the courtesy counters for parents who don't yet have one) on the Stop & Shop website. Parents then do their normal shopping.
 - Points accrue with each purchase when the card is used. It even works with purchases made online with Peapod. At the end of each month, these points determine Vail Farm's cash total which is credited to our account automatically. Gift cards, pharmacy, alcohol and cigarette purchases are excluded from accruing points.
 - Program dates are 10/9/09 through 3/25/10.
5. **Lunch with My Child Days October 21 and 22** will be two days when a parent can make a reservation to eat with his/her child in the cafeteria. The parent and child go through the lunch line together and are seated at tables on the stage. Contact Mrs. Walberer or Mrs. Riley in the office to make a reservation. A confirmation slip with details will come home with your child a few days before. Space is limited. If space fills up, we will plan a day in the spring for those on the waiting list. don not bring other children for lunch that day. This day is for adults only.