THE FALCON FOCUS

VALLEYWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL
JANUARY, 2015

PRINCIPAL: ARMINDA WESTRA
DEAN OF ACADEMICS: TODD HENDRICKS

Parent Teacher Conferences

You may schedule your conference online by visiting our KENTWOODPS.ORG webpage, going to VALLEYWOOD and finding the links on the front page. If you are unable to schedule online, a scheduling copy was sent home with your student on Wednesday, January 7th. Below are the days and times of our Parent Teacher Conferences.

Wednesday, January 21st

from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 22nd

from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Student Progress Reports will be available at the check-in desk.

Early dismissal at 11:17 on Friday, January 23rd.

JANUARY 2015

January 13	School Wide Spelling Bee - 8:15 a.m.
January 14	PTC Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
January 19	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development for Staff
January 21	Parent / Teacher Conferences - in the Gym - 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.
January 22	Parent / Teacher Conferences - in the Gym - 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.
January 23	Early Dismissal - 11:17 a.m.

538-7670

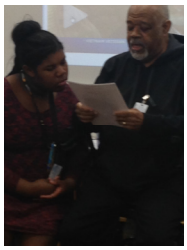
Flu season is in full swing in Michigan. Please remember to call in your child's absence if he/she is ill and needs to stay home. Thank you!

Reminder to check Valleywoodorchestra.weebly.com for concert and solo and ensemble updates.

Wizard of Oz - Call for Costumes and Props and Parent help!

Mrs. Cleveland is looking for costumes for the upcoming VW school Play, The Wizard Of Oz! If you or a loved one has anything that you think we may be able to use for our show, please email Mrs. Cleveland at tara.cleveland@kentwoodps.org

We will also be looking for parent help with painting, assembling sets, and making meals for our show week, March 16-20. If you or someone you know can help, Please let Mrs. Cleveland know!



Local Vietnam Hero Tells Story of Survival

It's not very often that one gets to meet a real life hero, but on Veteran's Day 2014, Sp/4 Robert Brown (A Company 1/14 Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, Vietnam 1966) shared his story of bravery, heroism, and healing with 7th graders in Mrs. Batdorff's ELA class. His story was one not only of Patriotism, but also of the will to survive and overcome challenges both on and off the battlefield.

A conscientious objector, Brown didn't support killing but he did support his country through his service in the U.S. Army as a medic. Students were on the edge of their seats as he told of a search and destroy mission in the jungles close to the Cambodian border. His platoon of 52 encountered the enemy and a battle ensued that lasted several hours.

Thinking only of his wounded comrades, Brown repeatedly ran through the line of fire to attend to the wounded. Armed with only his Bible, Brown took shrapnel to the face, and arm but still cared for the injured. Although Brown and his men were severely outnumbered, they were able to hold off the enemy until they were rescued by another Rifle Company and the N. Vietnamese withdrew. Brown stayed with his men until all were airlifted to safety.

The bullet meant for his heart that day was absorbed into the Bible he still carries with him today.

Sp/4 Brown does not view himself a hero, rather, a man of faith who was doing his duty. Among many of his awards, Brown won the Medal of Valor. At Valleywood that day, he won the hearts of the students.

8th Grade IMPACT Partners with EK AP Biology

8th Grade IMPACT students visited EKHS in December to work with Mr. VanHouten's AP Biology students. During that time, the AP Biology students (mostly seniors) mentored our middle school students as they worked through some cool science experiments. This was a collaborative effort to get middle school students to start thinking about embracing difficult tasks and taking harder classes in both middle and high school so they are more prepared for these fun and challenging classes when they get to EKHS. What a great job of modeling growth mindset and helping young people recognize the importance of growing smarter as a result of taking on more difficult tasks!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER

FABULOUS FALCON'S

A Fabulous Falcon nominee is a young adult who is an exemplary person both in the classroom and in the Valleywood community. This award recognizes students who are knowledgeable, ethical, caring, and good decision makers, as demonstrated through the loyalty to themselves and Valleywood Middle School.

Fabulous Falcon Criteria

Actively participates in class and school events

Displays good manners

Is Honest

Is respectful towards his/her peers and faculty

Demonstrates leadership and a willingness to help

Consistently is a positive role model

Exhibits an optimistic and mature attitude

S.O.A.R.s

DECEMBER

Abigail Deforest

Zander Masten

Carolina Arvizu

Juan Rizo

Nakisha Hall

Martel Russau