

### Principal's Pen



Vice Principal - Ami Weems



While this season is meant to bring feelings of love and cheer, it is also a time of stress for many. Holiday parties, shopping, and activities galore are all things I find myself stressing over. Thanksgiving was a great time for me to reflect and realize I am way too blessed to be stressed! I am so blessed to be a part of the Deer Valley family. I can leave my own home frazzled and stressed in the morning but the minute I walk through the doors of Deer Valley, it vanishes. Each day I am overwhelmed by the hugs that flow freely, the words "good morning, you look beautiful, you're the best and I love you Mrs. Weems!" The students melt my heart daily and I am reminded of why I love my job so much! It is

also comforting to know that I work with the most generous, dedicated, and brilliant staff a school could house. Deer Valley is blessed with wonderful parents and I am amazed at how you serve Deer Valley in so many various capacities. You trust us with your most special gift, your children, and you go above and beyond to support us in our efforts to empower children to become responsible, resourceful and respectful citizens. One of our custodians, Mr. Nick, has a passion for trains and before Thanksgiving he expressed to me that he would love to share this knowledge with the students. He plans to teach lessons to all 41 classes before the Winter Break. What a blessing! I am so thankful for the blessings I have and I encourage you to appreciate the blessings in your life and take none for granted!

What I am thankful for

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>W</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>S</b>		1 My 2 daughters Presley and Ava Hayes
2 The greatest school on Earth-DVES.	3 My husband Lance	4 T.J. MAXX	5 Fabulous Teachers- DVES has the best!	6 My 4 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Levie	7 Students-past, present, and future	8 An awesome lunchroom staff...Best steamed cabbage ever!
9 My church	10 College Football (War Eagle Forever!)	11 My workout group	12 The front office staff at DVES.	13 Coffee	14 Highway 30A	15 Saturdays
16 My 10 years as a PE teacher at DVES.	17 My dog Memphis	18 The ability to DVR my favorite shows	19 Teaching an Explorers class...Cooking	20 Mexican Food	21 Dr. Richardson	22 Great Friends
23 My wonderful parents	24 Music	25 The DVES Custodians	26 DVES parents	27 The ability to be able to dance	28 Watching my girls play basketball	29 French Fries
30 The sound of laughter	31 A job I LOVE!!!	<b>D</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	

# Choose Wisely - A Guide to Gifts for Children

Dr. Wayne Richardson

With so many choices, a trip to the local toy store is likely to make you dizzy. I did some research and more importantly asked the advice of my teachers on how to best choose gifts for children. Hopefully these gifts will provide years of value and entertainment.

**Play together:** Look for toys and games that require family participation. Personally, my family loves (For older kids) “Speed Scrabble”, “Baulderdash”, “Last Word”, (For younger kids) “Cranium Conga” and (For everyone) “In a Pickle”, and “Jenga.” Family playtime is good for everyone, even if it’s just a game of “Go Fish.”

**Promote independent play:** As important as family time is, children should be able to entertain themselves, too. Make sure your child has toys and activities he or she can enjoy alone, such as Legos, building blocks, stuffed animals, puzzles, and craft kits. Building blocks are wonderful gifts because children can build something different every day. They can build simple things at age 3 and elaborate buildings when they are 8 years old. By the way a Lego Table given to a 5 year old will keep them engaged for a good four years. (That is a pretty good estimate)

**Make something happen:** Look for toys that promote creativity. Providing dress-up clothes, art supplies, puppets, tools, or gardening equipment are easy ways to stimulate your child’s imagination. Inventing, creating, and make-believe should be a part of every child’s free time.

**Ready, action:** Children need physical exercise. A ball, bat, and glove, junior golf clubs, a tennis racquet, in-line or ice skates, a jump rope, hula hoop, frisbee, or a badminton set are great ways to promote physical fitness. Doing these activities as a family gives you more family playtime and helps keep everyone fit.

**Something to show for it:** Children love to produce things. Think about buying an inexpensive or disposable camera and photo album, a paint set and some paper, a sketch book and colored pencils, mosaics,

sewing or weaving kits, beading materials, origami paper, or a cookbook and cooking utensils.

**Lesson learned:** If your children show interest in a particular sport, activity, or art project, (or if you think they’d like it), sign them up for a few lessons or an introductory class. Hoover Community School offers beginner classes in activities like art, computer, karate, baton, piano, basketball, and stain glass. There are also many other agencies in our communities that offer opportunities for children. Personally I have always wanted to go to the Birmingham Fencing Club. Who knows you might ignite a lifelong passion.

**Make reading a gift:** Give a subscription to an age-appropriate magazine (Sports Illustrated for Kids, Ranger Rick, etc.), a book on tape, or combine a toy with a book (i.e., a stuffed bunny and a story about rabbits, or a piece of sports equipment and a biography of a famous athlete). Ask the school librarian for suggestions on appropriate books or magazines for your child.

**Avoid the screens:** Video games remain popular gifts. If you decide to purchase video games, buy only age and content-appropriate games (check the game’s Entertainment Software Rating Board rating. Visit [www.esrb.org](http://www.esrb.org) for more information) and limit the amount of time your children spend playing them.

For more suggestions on great gifts for school-age children, check out these Web sites:

**[www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)**-The International Reading Association lists book titles recommended by children and teachers.

**[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)**-The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has information and publications on toy safety.

**[www.toyportfolio.com](http://www.toyportfolio.com)** and [www.drtoy.com](http://www.drtoy.com) These sites test, review, and rate children’s products. They also offer tips for selecting toys, books, videos, software and audio recordings.

**[www.parents-choice.org](http://www.parents-choice.org)**- This site rates and reviews new children’s media, including videos, television shows, & software as well as toys, books, & magazines.

**[www.stevespanglerscience.com/category/top-gift-ideas](http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/category/top-gift-ideas)** - Steve Spangler has top 15 or 20 gift recommendations and there are some neat science ideas.

# Health Room Reminders Karen Fuller, RN

## Flu Season is Just Around the Corner

Influenza, also known as the flu, is a viral infection of the lungs and airway. It is spread when a person who has the flu coughs, sneezes, or speaks and sends the flu virus into the air. The virus enters the nose, throat or lungs of a person and multiplies.

Symptoms of influenza might be confused with the common cold. Influenza and the common cold both have symptoms that affect the throat and nose; however, influenza symptoms are usually more severe than cold symptoms. These symptoms include a stuffy or runny nose, sore throat and cough. Other symptoms affect the whole body such as headache, tiredness, body aches, fever and chills. Symptoms of influenza usually start 1 to 3 days after coming in contact with an individual who is ill with influenza. Most people feel better after several days but cough and tiredness may last 2 weeks or more.

For the quickest recovery from influenza, get plenty of rest; drink fluids like juice, water or hot tea and take Tylenol, Motrin, Advil, ibuprofen, etc. for muscle aches and fever. Do NOT give aspirin to a child or teenager who has the flu. A doctor can also prescribe certain antiviral medications. These medications may make symptoms milder if taken within 1 to 2 day(s) of when the symptoms begin.

There are steps you can take to prevent spreading influenza to others:

- Wash hands often, especially after coughing, sneezing and wiping or blowing nose.
- Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Use paper tissues when wiping or blowing the nose: throw tissues away after each use.
- Stay away from crowded living and sleeping spaces, if possible
- Keep hands away from eyes, nose and mouth.

A sick child is advised to stay at home during the first days of illness when symptoms are most severe and the infection is contagious. He/She can return to school when his/her temperature has been less than 100 degrees for 24 hours without the help of any medication to help him/her be fever free.

If your child has been diagnosed by a doctor with the flu, please let the school know as soon as possible. We are keeping documentation of how many doctor diagnosed cases of influenza that we have. We have had several cases of the flu already this year.

The best way to avoid getting the flu is to get vaccinated against it!!!



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## Student Council Christmas Collection for Custodial Staff

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that Christmas will be here soon. This is the season for giving, and the Deer Valley Student Council members recognize the hard work of our custodial and lunchroom staff. To honor these special people, we will be accepting monetary donations the week of December 3rd through December 7th. The money contributed will be divided among the custodial and lunchroom staff members.

Thank you so much for your support in honoring our staff members.

Christina Collier and Rebecca Neuberger



## SLIMED!

In October the students and parents of Deer Valley met our fundraising goal for the year with our Change for Cheetahs Coin Drive. Dr. Richardson and Mrs. Weems agreed to have a friendly competition if we achieved our goal. So on November 9th they participated in a competition put together by the students with the help of Mrs. Emerson. The winner was Mrs. Weems and that meant that Dr. Richardson got slimed!! Thanks again parents for your support of Deer Valley.

Rhonda Lewis



**The Deer Valley Singers will help make spirits bright at the Ross Bridge Christmas tree lighting on Friday night, December 7th.**

Their performances this year have included the Galleria mall's Christmas tree lighting and the DVES Book Fair held at Barnes and Noble.



Betty R. Wilson, Music Teacher

**The Physical Education department cordially invites you to our Winter Wonderland!**

Please join us for a morning of performances on December 14!

Performance times are as follows:

Kindergarten 8:10-8:40

1st & 2nd grade 8:50-9:20

3rd & 4th grade 9:30-10:00

- We ask that students wear festive holiday colors (red, green, white, blue)
- Please make sure your child(ren) wear shoes they can dance in!!
- Any questions, please email Mrs. Emerson at [cemerson@k12.hoover.al.us](mailto:cemerson@k12.hoover.al.us)!



# In the Classroom



## Electoral College, Huh?

Trying to understand the election process can be very confusing. The week before the Presidential Election I taught a lesson to my class and Mrs. Culpepper's class on the difference between popular votes and electoral votes. We began by reading *Grace For President* by Kelly DiPucchio. It is a great picture book that explains the election process in a simple and understanding way. Then, we looked at the U.S. map of how electoral votes are divided. Next, came the fun part. I gave each student a slip of paper with a state on it. I allowed them a few minutes to find their states on the map and shout (or moan) about how many (or few) electoral votes they had. Then I broke out the soda. Yes. Coke vs. Pepsi. Then, the students began casting their votes. While they enjoyed sipping on their choice of beverage, we pulled up an interactive electoral map onto the "big screen" and began to tally the votes. By clicking on the state you can choose whether you want it to be red or blue. We made the Coke votes be RED and the Pepsi votes be BLUE. The winner was....COKE! There were more electoral votes of Coke, so it was declared the winner of our election.



*Students voted Coke or Pepsi*

Alisha Chiaramonte



## Deer Valley Fourth Graders Visit the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville.

Friday, November 16th, DVES fourth graders, as well as many parents began a very early day when we left school to explore the NASA Space Center. They learned about space travel, examined artifacts, performed science experiments and rode several rides.

One of the exciting moments for our group was viewing the IMAX movie about Hubble telescope and our vast universe. Just ask them about black holes and the Milky Way. It was great to see the massive Saturn V moon rocket and learn about the Apollo missions. We found that being an astronaut was very difficult and required much teamwork, especially learning to maneuver where gravity almost ceases to exist. These brave heroes faced many challenges as they made lasting contributions to mankind.

Math Alive was a blast! The possibilities of math at work are endless and our imaginations ran wild as we experienced interactive games that helped us understand some of the robotics behind the rides. Speaking of rides, the Space Shot Simulator and the G-Force Simulator were out of this world!

It's hard to believe that it has been 43 years since Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, stepped onto an unexplored territory known as the Moon and planted our U.S. flag. We wondered if he started with a school science experiment, just as we did. After a nice day, it was time to head back to DVES. We carried with us many memories of a fun and exciting day. Maybe Space Camp will be in our near future.

Lana Griffin



# News



## Employee of the Year

Penni Koch, library aide at Deer Valley, was recently awarded Employee of the Year. Mrs. Lieber, DV librarian, nominated Penni for all her fine efforts around the school.

Mrs. Lieber describes Penni as a true gem. “Mrs. Koch is extremely patient and nurturing to the students. Anytime I present her with a project, she’s ready to support it. I can’t imagine our library without her. We didn’t know one another until a couple of years ago, and I’m so happy we get a long so well” said Mrs. Lieber.

“She is a great library teacher. She’s really nice,” shared Kai from Ms. Irvine’s class.

Penni’s many duties put her in contact with all Deer Valley students as well as their parents. Penni substitutes in classrooms, leads a weekly cooking class for 4th graders, facilitates carpool, assists with several library duties, watches over kindergarten students each morning - and much more.

Penni has worked at Deer Valley for 10 years, volunteering, substituting and now as our library aide. She and her husband are the proud parents of 4 lovely children. Please make sure you congratulate and thank her for making Deer Valley a great school.

Raquel Lieber



## Congratulations to Our Award Winning Staff

Patti Sisk is our Teacher of the Year.

Becky Edwards is our nominee for Jacksonville Teacher Hall of Fame.



## Deer Valley Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization 2012-2013

President	Rhonda Lewis
President-Elect	Christine Hofmann
Fundraising Director	Kristy Glover
Assistant Fundraising Dir.	Jennifer Junkin
Volunteer Director	Jo Ellen James
Communications Director	Emma Wang
Secretary	Rachel Hawkins
Hospitality Director	Ashley Sutterlin
Asst. Hospitality Director	Terri Schrock
Treasurer	Julie Slocum
Co-Treasurer	Paul Lewis
Year Book Director	Angela Roberts
Assistant Year Book	Lee Kate Hamff
Parliamentarian	Tricia Simpson
Teacher Representative	Racquel Lieber
Principal	Wayne Richardson
Assistant Principal	Ami Weems

### EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

(Board policy, 6.6) No student will be unlawfully excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the Board on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, national origin, sex, immigrant or migrant status, non\_english speaking ability, or homeless status. All career and technical education opportunities are offered to all students regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.

Dr. Barbara Mayer, IDEA Coordinator  
 Dr. Tara Ferguson, Section 504 Coordinator  
 Dr. Deborah Comp, Title II Coordinator (grades K-5)  
 Ron Dodson, Title II Coordinator (grades 6-12)  
 Dr. Barbara Mayer, Title III Coordinator  
 Carol Barber, Title IX Coordinator  
 Hoover City Schools  
 2810 Metropolitan Way  
 Hoover, AL 35243  
 (205) 439-1000

### EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

(Board policy, 513.1) The Board is an equal opportunity employer. Personnel actions and decisions will be made without regard to factors or considerations prohibited by federal or state law (as such laws may from time to time be amended), including but not limited to race, gender, age, disability, national origin, citizenship, and religious preference. Subject to the limitations set for in 4.6.2, the general complaint (grievance) policy (4.6.1) may be used to present any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination or harassment. Inquiries regarding compliance and complaint procedures can be directed to:

Mary Veal, Equal Opportunity Employment Coordinator  
 Hoover City Schools  
 2810 Metropolitan Way  
 Hoover, AL 35243  
 (205)439-1000

4990 Ross Bridge Parkway  
 Hoover, AL 35226  
 Phone: 205.439.3300  
 Fax: 205.439.3301

Dr. Wayne Richardson, Principal  
 Ami Weems, Assistant Principal  
 School calendar:

<http://deervalleyelem.al.hce.schoolinsites.com/>

Leaving a mark on our School and Community.  
 This monthly newsletter of the PTO of Deer Valley Elementary is produced with help from faculty and parents of DVES. We welcome your comments and submissions.

PTO President: Rhonda Lewis  
 Newsletter Editor: Emma Wang  
 Contact Info: [emma.wang@att.net](mailto:emma.wang@att.net)

Deer Valley thanks our sponsors If you'd like to be a sponsor in the next issue of Paw Prints, please contact Emma Wang  
[emma.wang@att.net](mailto:emma.wang@att.net)



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