



TO: Charles Glaes, Superintendent
Vicksburg Board of Education

FROM: Tonya K. Nash

OCTOBER 13, 2014

2013-2014 COMMUNITY EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

The 2013-2014 year marked another challenging, busy and exciting year for the Community Education Department. The department continues to make improvements in service delivery, enhancing efficiencies, and provide a high level of customer service. Below is the overview of the Community Education highlights.

Programs and activities in community recreation continue to be well attended. The youth sports programs: basketball, volleyball, tennis, and summer sports camps average over 500 participants each year. These experiences provide a safe and fun introduction to sports. Slice of Summer camps are exciting summer alternatives that are always at capacity. The youth dance program continues to be a very popular program with four nights of classes all year long and two recitals at the Performing Arts Center. Over 1,300 enrollments took place throughout the year in this highly successful dance program.

The Kids Klub Before and After School Child Care program finished its 21st season of operation with 233 students participating. Again this past year, sites bumped up against our state licensing maximum requirements. Staff continue to focus on new experiences for children. The Kids Klub staff continued to be enthusiastic, resourceful, creative, and dedicated to providing a quality childcare opportunity to the families of Vicksburg.

The B4K preschool program operated two half-day classrooms for the 14th year at Indian Lake Elementary School. Lead Teacher, Alyssa Thompson, with the assistance of Associate Teacher, Kylee Schlabach, and classroom aide Jamie Long did an outstanding job with the District's preschool program. Thirty-four participants had a great preschool experience (see attached report). We continue to be one of the top 5-star rated programs in Southwest Michigan.

Summer Reading Camp for first and second graders had a successful summer with 50 children completing and having a fun and enriching reading experience.

More than 1,700 Vicksburg students visited the Outdoor Education Center (OEC) last year for seasonal visits.

The Community Education Office continues to orchestrate all facility usage and rentals for the District. Last year over 4,716 reservations were run through the office totaling over 13,000 hours of after-school usage of District facilities. Our Dynal updated software has provided us with enhanced back office features, more intuitive for users/viewers and allows people to sync calendars to their personal calendars. The Department monitors flyer distribution and other forms of student and staff solicitation as the District continues to experience increases in requests.

The District's United Way Campaign contributed \$7,938.00 with 52 people participating.

The *Red & White* production team continues to produce a professional publication with appealing photos and interesting school news. The production team's efforts manifest six superior issues of the *Red & White*. The team includes five building site reporters, Printing Services, and Beckie Oswalt. With the team's commitment and energy, Vicksburg continues to produce one of the finest newsletters in southwest Michigan, possibly the whole state of Michigan.

The Adult Education High School Completion program had four graduates this past year and many individual student successes. Despite minimal funding from the state of Michigan, Vicksburg continues to provide a valuable educational service to the South County area and one of the few High School Completion programs in Southwest Michigan.

The 27th Annual Hearty Hustle 5K Walk/Run was held May 10. Four hundred and twelve enthusiastic participants ran or walked into the Vicksburg Stadium. This was the first year that our new partner, Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation, helped with planning the event and their support was a great help. Fun and fellowship took first place at this community event. Vicksburg Community Education, Bronson Vicksburg Outpatient Center, The Village of Vicksburg, Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation along with volunteers and participants created an amazing display of community spirit and collaboration. The theme, "Here Comes the Run," helped usher in a sun-filled day!

The Community Education staff endeavors to stay active in community events and activities by being involved with the Vicksburg Recreation Committee, the Vicksburg Historical Society, The South County Community Garden Network, Vicksburg United Way Committee, Vicksburg Preschool Committee, Walkable Communities Committee and the Bronson Vicksburg Hospital Advisory Board. Last year the 5th Annual Community Tailgate Celebration was a great success.

The Community Education Department continues to support the District's public relations and marketing efforts. The District's web page is one of the best in the area. It maintains a professional look and relevant information. The District's fan page on Facebook continues to increase in the number of followers and share great happenings in the District.

With continued support from the community, staff, administration, and the Board of Education, the Vicksburg Community Education Department can capitalize on boundless opportunities to address community issues and do great things to meet the challenges of our community.