

Hello Van Buren Families,

It is with great sadness that I share the passing of Van Buren Kindergarten teacher, Lisa Hamilton. As some of you may know, Mrs. Hamilton has been battling ovarian cancer since May of 2020. Lisa has been a loved and admired kindergarten teacher for the past 20 years at Van Buren. Her humor, passion for children, and kindness will be greatly missed by all staff, students, and families that knew her.

We have not shared this information with your child as each of our students may know her differently. We ask that you share this information with your child in a way that best meets the needs of your child.

Counselors, teachers and other support personnel will be available to students, teachers and parents on an ongoing basis. Please call the school, 558-2377 if you want assistance.

As parents, you may want to talk to your children too. The death of a teacher may affect a child in a variety of ways depending on the age of a child, how well your child knew Mrs. Hamilton and the child's prior experience with grief.

When reacting to a death, a child may:

ØAppear not to be affected	ØBe thinking about it privately
ØAsk a lot of questions	ØBe frightened
ØBe agitated and angry	ØBe sad and withdrawn
ØTry extra hard to be good	

We suggest you listen to your children. If they seem to need to talk, answer their questions simply, honestly and possibly over and over again.

[Here is a link to her obituary:](#) Our thoughts are with her husband and daughter.

**Upcoming Dates for your Calendar:**

Monday, January 18th - No School

Monday, January 25th and 26th - No School

**PBIS News & Updates (from Miss Dvorak & the PBIS team)**

Hello, VB families! We hope you all had a wonderful first week of 2021! Below are a few updates to pass along from the PBIS team. Thank you for your continued support.

## Be the One Expectations

Just as the Van Buren teachers and staff talk to the students about what our expectations and behaviors look like in the classroom, in the hallway, in the bathroom, on the bus, and on the playground, parents can also talk to their children about what those behaviors might look like at home. Below is a chart with our Be the One expectations listed, as well as some examples of what those expectations might look like at school and at home too. Next week, the PBIS team will share some ideas on how parents can acknowledge their children at home when they do follow expectations. Thank you!

<b>Be the ONE Expectations</b>	<b>School Examples</b>	<b>Home Examples</b>
<b>Take Ownership</b> - <i>I am motivated, engaged, and self-directed.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay organized.</li><li>• Listen without interrupting and think about what is being said.</li><li>• Show self-control by using appropriate body language and facial expressions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask instead of demand.</li><li>• Say "please" and "thank you."</li><li>• Look at adults when they are talking.</li></ul>
<b>Make No Excuses</b> - <i>I am responsible for my own actions, attitude, and behavior.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respect all adults and students.</li><li>• Keep your body and your voice under control.</li><li>• Follow directions right away.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clean up toys and games when finished playing.</li><li>• Do chores.</li><li>• Use eating utensils properly.</li></ul>
<b>Give Your Best Effort</b> - <i>I am fully committed to working hard.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set a good example by being a model for others</li><li>• Even when something is hard, keep trying.</li><li>• Stay positive and willing to do your best at all times.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Repeat directions back to an adult.</li><li>• Tell the truth.</li><li>• Admit mistakes and apologize.</li></ul>

## January Ticket Goal and Celebration

Our Chargers are off to a great start with tickets! We are currently at 2,822 tickets, but we still have a few classes left to enter their totals from last week. Once all ticket totals are entered, that should put us well over 3,000 tickets for the week! Awesome job, Chargers! Please continue to encourage your child to follow all expectations at school and keep earning those Charger tickets. Our goal for

January is 12,000 tickets. The PBIS team will be planning our next school-wide celebration at their meeting this week. Students are working towards having a Glow Party on Friday, Jan. 29th. We are excited to share more details with you about this special event in the coming weeks! In the meantime, have a wonderful week. Stay safe and healthy!

Please reach out with any questions or concerns,

Mrs. Evans

Principal of Van Buren Elementary

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Amy Evans

Principal of Van Buren Elementary

319-558-1064

