



vapt enote



November 2009

Welcome New Members!

A vital component of the mission of APT and VAPT is to support the professional development of our members. VAPT has 195 members currently. Please help us top 205+ by the end of the year. VAPT was tied for the 4th highest increase in branch membership this past year (at 13.4%).

New members, please visit our branch website at <http://vapt.cisat.jmu.edu/> and go to the Membership Map. Click on your area of the state and find the name and contact information for your chapter chair. You can communicate with them to learn more about trainings and other play therapists in your area. We are so glad you are part of our playful and talented learning community! Playfully, *Anne*

Joining VAPT in JUNE

Sheila	Balian	Charlottesville
Cynthia	Burke	Yorktown
Nicole	Jalazo	Alexandria
Arlene	Malone	Virginia Beach
Sydney	Peltier	Bristol
Tanya	Pizzullo	Roanoke
Susanna	Williams	Charlottesville
María Ines	Butler	Oakton
Linda	Montagna	Arlington
Chelsea	St.Clair	Forest
Jolene	Wilson	Portsmouth

Joining VAPT in July

Lennis	Echterling	Harrisonburg
Krista	Hummer	Alexandria
Elizabeth	Keener	Richmond
Linda	Lindamood	Manassas
Teresa	Viers	Abingdon

Joining VAPT in August

Susanne	Preston	Virginia Beach
Kristina	Krakowski	Norfolk

Joining VAPT in September

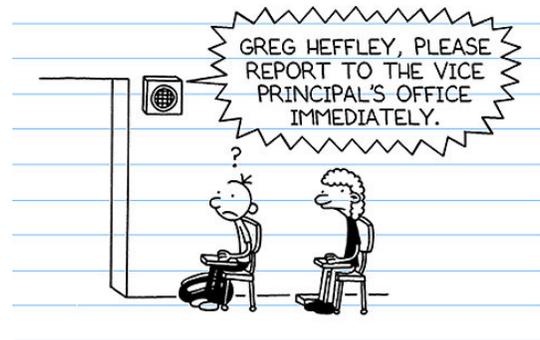
Richard	Mason	Virginia Beach
Heather	Moul	Haymarket
Holiday	Rondeau	Waterford
Meg	Hardt	Richmond
April	Miner	Williamsburg

Joining VAPT in October

Kathleen	Schweiker	Oak Hill
Amy	Holleman	Henrico
Helen	Wright	Staunton

1. New Children's Storybook Series The Wimpy kid dilemma: Love it? Hate it?

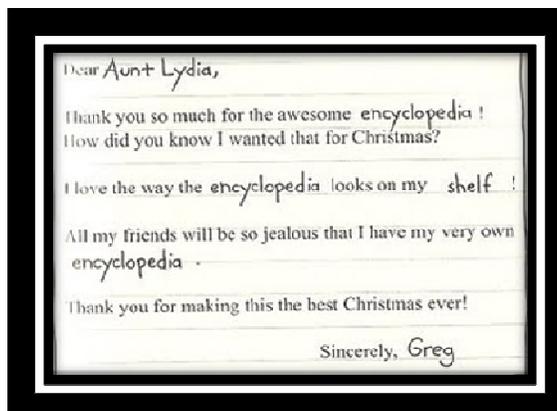
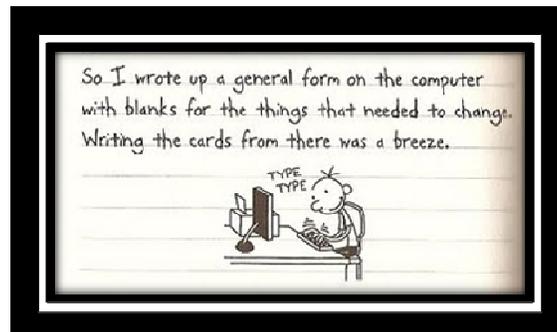
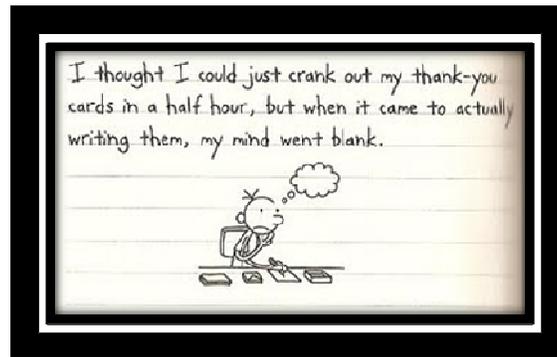
When it comes to choosing a storybook for children to read and facilitate discussion about growth, ethical or moral issues and emotions, it can be quite a challenge as some children just do not enjoy reading as much as play therapists. Some of the older children may find the picture story book too easy and childish, while disliking those books with heavy text and lessons to teach.



Diary of the Wimpy Kid: Dog Days, which came out in October, has already become the best seller on Amazon.com. The fourth book of its series, *Dog Days* is about a middle school child named Greg who explore his environment with his mischief, wit and laziness. Despite its ability to capture the hearts of 8-12 year-old children, parents have mixed reviews about the book. While some parents love it and enjoy reading it with their children, some think Greg is a bad model for the kids. "As a parent, I would like to see Greg learn more from his actions and show more maturity and emotional growth as he gets older. As a kid, they love that he gets away with things and gets himself into hysterically funny situations that he can't get himself out of" states a parent who reviewed the book on Amazon.com.

Such debate raises an important question, "What is a good read for a child?" What are some assumptions our society holds for a good story book? Are we expecting a good book to teach a child some moral lessons and/or be educational? Despite the fact that most parents would want their child to behave the opposite of Greg, they might be amazed by how some young children are capable of reflecting on the content. Jeff Kinney, the author of the series, told the New York Times, "if there is a lesson in the book, it's to do the opposite of what Greg does. Even my kindergarten child understands that Greg is being naughty, and that he shouldn't act like him." Kinney conveyed in the series' official site that all he wanted to do was to tell a story about the funny parts of growing up, not the serious parts. The book might be a good source to discuss ethical dilemmas and let the child share with you what growing up means to him or her. Skeptical about the book? Read it yourself first. Here is a sample of the book's content.

Greg's advice on writing Thanksgiving notes



Excerpt from Diary of a Wimpy Kid

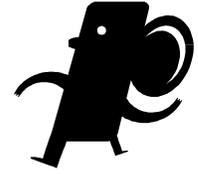
2. Fun Thanksgiving Activities

“Forever on Thanksgiving Day; The heart will find the pathway home.” (Wilbur D. Nesbit)

Play therapists can help encourage satisfying and meaningful family interactions during the holidays. Identifying family traditions and holiday rituals are great conversations to promote with caregivers and children. Here we provide you with some fun family activities. Feel free to reprint for your clients!



3. After Thanksgiving Day - 27 November



National Day of Listening

To celebrate the National Day of Listening, StudyCorps is urging Americans to tape a conversation with a loved one. Play therapists can recommend this meaningful activity to encourage family conversations and interactions. It is one day after Thanksgiving which provides an excellent opportunity for family members to gather. To begin, visit www.storycorps.org to get some feature questions, such as "What are you most proud of?" You can also encourage your client to come up with their own set of questions.



4. SAVE the DATES

VAPT's come play with us workshop will be held the week of June 14 to 19, 2010. The week long conference will feature national and state presenters.

Special thanks to wonderful James Madison University graduate student **Phoebe Wan** for creating this November enote!