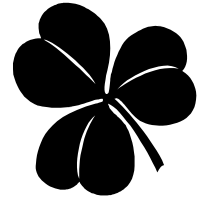




The Village Bluebird



Greetings from the Principal

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Special Dates:

- ☉ March 2: PTA Mtg. 9:30, Read Across America Day! VES Chorus/Orchestra Concert—VES, 7:00
- ☉ March 3: 4th Gr. Band Concert—OHES, 7:00
- ☉ March 4: 3rd Gr. Author Visit, End of Marking Period
- ☉ March 8: BOE Mtg.—MHS, 7:30
- ☉ March 9: 4th Gr. Author Visit
- ☉ March 11: Report Cards Home, Mardi Gras-7-9:30 pm
- ☉ March 14-18: NJ ASK
- ☉ March 21-24: NJASK Make Ups,
- ☉ March 21: Staff Development, Early Dismissal (1:10)
- ☉ March 22-24: Optional Parent Conferences- Early Dismissal (1:10)
- ☉ March 25-April 3: Spring Recess
- ☉ April 4: School Reopens
- ☉ April 8-9: 4th Grade Sleepover at MMS, Pink Flyer tells more!

Greetings families!

I hope your February was as productive as ours! We've enjoyed school spirit days together, BINGO events, character & caring parties, orientation trips to MMS, staff development workshops, Presidents' Day, BRAVO—Princeton Symphony Orchestra's string musicians, Black History assemblies, and Mix-It-Up at Lunch Day.

Whew! There is so much to learn and more to come! In March we look forward to celebrating March into the Arts and Music in Our Schools Month. Please note the dates and locations of upcoming performances and art shows. More information is on page 5. Please respect the efforts and talents of all involved and help us model this behavior for our children by keeping small children seated with you and staying with us throughout the duration of the performances. We hope to see you at the shows!

Everyone at VES will celebrate Dr. Suess' birthday on March 2. We will read, listen, and enjoy stories throughout the day. A number of guest readers will share the joys of reading with the children. Later in the month, Brian Lies will talk to 3rd graders about his craft and Robin Moore will share his works with 4th graders during upcoming Author Visits.

For family fun, please join us for our annual Mardi Gras celebration! This event is always a big hit. Come on out and play games, dance, eat good foods, and spend time with friends and family. Don't miss this one. Fun is in store for everyone!

As the month progresses we will

prepare for the NJ ASK, professional development workshops for staff, optional parent conferences, and spring recess! Please note that March 21 is an early dismissal and staff development day. March 22-24 are early dismissal and optional parent conference days. Teachers will contact parents directly with whom a conference is required during a time that is mutually convenient. You may also choose to initiate a conference. Details and procedures regarding the upcoming reporting and conference period will be sent home on March 11 with your child's report card. Early dismissal days conclude at 1:10. Lunch will be served on each of these days.

A warm welcome is in order for Jayne Venanzi, our new pupil services office clerk. She replaces Denise Guaimano who is now in a full time position at OHES. We wish Denise all the best in her new position.

We are so proud of Village School's Founders Day honorees. Congratulations are due to third grade teacher, Donna Potter; guidance counselor, Peggy Cummings; and Language Arts Director, Russ Walsh. Each was recognized for their dedication to the children of Montgomery at a celebration held at Montgomery Middle School on February 23.

Congratulations are also in order for fourth grade teacher, Mr. Max Rodriguez for being selected as this year's Governors Teacher of the Year. He is a superb teacher who is so very deserving of this honor. I will celebrate this recognition with him at a special luncheon in the spring. He will represent Village School well. Have a great March!

VES Students Raise \$5000 for UNICEF & Young Tsunami Victims

Thank you for supporting our Kid's Art note card sale and our Red Wagon Collection to help young victims of the Tsunami. Fourth grade teacher, Ms. Winer spearheaded this project with the support of Ms. Lucas, our UNICEF coordinator, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Tsai, Ms. Davenport and the Peer Partners, and The Village School Tsunami Relief Planning Team.

The children did such great work with compassion and enthusiasm. Thanks again for helping us make a difference.

PTA Corner

Keep Those Box Tops Coming In



The classes with the highest number of Box Tops sent in will have a pizza party sponsored by the PTA. Remember, we earn \$.10 for each Box Top collected from General Mills products. Send them in an envelope marked *VES PTA Box Tops Contests!* Winning classes will be announced on March 18th!

Mrs. Bauer, VES Box Tops Chairperson

VES Memory Book

Please remember to order a VES Memory Book. The cost is just \$11.00. Order forms are in the main office.

The committee is also accepting pictures of your children on trips, at assemblies, or during class parties until March 9 in the main office. Pictures cannot be returned.



VES Celebrates Mardi Gras

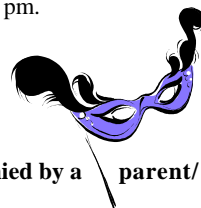
When: March 11, 7:00-9:30 pm.

Where: VES

Cost in advance: \$15.00 per family or \$3.00 per person

Cost at the Door: \$4.00 per person

Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.



Ten games and crafts tickets will be provided for each \$3.00 admission purchase. Additional tickets can be purchased on the day of the event @ 10¢ each or 12/\$1.00. Hotdogs & Pizza can be purchased for \$1.00 each. There will be desserts & drinks provided at no additional charge.

Festive costumes are encouraged!

Contact Mrs. Rao 908-431-1731, Mrs. Szigeti 609-466-6778 or Mrs. Barnes 609-564-0423 to volunteer or for more information.

Friend Finder (Student Directory)

There are extra Friend Finders available for purchase. If you wish to do so, please complete the form (available at OHESPTA.ORG "click on friend finder") and submit via backpack mail in an envelope marked "Friend Finder". Your check should be made payable to OHES PTA for \$6 (even if your child is at VES).

Please make the following additions / changes to your 2004-2005 book. This information can be added / pasted to the blank pages at the back your book(s). It is always helpful to save these additions as you may need them later on in the year. Questions regarding updates or purchase of an additional book can be directed to:

VES Lisa Bolt Lisa@SignalControl.com
OHES Anita Leidi Anita@Leidli.com
Christine Ark ChristineArk@patmedia.net

K-D-am
Alger, Eleanor
 51 Wilshire Drive
 Belle Mead, NJ 08502
 908-874-7918
 Alexander & Mary Ann
 maalger@msn.com

K-D-am
Ark, Allyssa
 5 Vorhees Lane
 Skillman, NJ 08558
 908-359-1998
 Jon & Christine
 ChristineArk@patmedia.net

4-WI
Berteletti, Maxwell
 53 Jamestown Road
 Belle Mead, NJ 08502
 908-874-7989
 John & Kimberlee

5-B/P
Berteletti, J. Zachary
 53 Jamestown Road
 Belle Mead, NJ 08502
 908-874-7989
 John & Kimberlee

1-Gia
Chang, Richard
 30 Goldenrod Drive
 Belle Mead, NJ 08502
 908-359-6752
 Chaeyong & Heethwan

5-B/P
Mohan, Lani
 54 Sycamore Lane
 Skillman, NJ 08558
 609-497-7374
 Puneet & Tammy
 tammymohan@yahoo.com

1-SO
McKenna, Lilianna
 9 Burton Circle
 Princeton, NJ 08540
 609-430-9731
 James & Katherine



5-L/A
Mednikov, Mark
 2 Stockton Court
 Belle Mead, NJ 08502
 908-874-5203
 Alexander & Zoya
 amednidov@patmedia.net

K-G
Narla, Avinash
 11 Burnt Hill Road
 Skillman, NJ 08558
 Ramaiah & Gowri
 R-Narla@hotmail.com

4-LO
Zhang, Johan
 11 Goldenrod Drive
 Belle Mead, NJ 08502
 908-431-9472
 Jie & LianYing

Practice
Respect, Fairness,
Trustworthiness,
Citizenship, Caring,
& Responsibility



Health Alerts from the Nurses' Office



Healthy Hands

To prevent the spread of germs teach children to wash their hands for as long as it takes to sing *Happy Birthday* twice or the *ABCs*. Hands should be washed with warm water and liquid or bar soap. Scrub wrists, the backs of hands, between fingers and under the nails. Rinse well and dry with a clean or disposable towel. In public restrooms, use a paper towel to turn off the faucet.

Washing hands well and often is one of the best things to do to prevent illnesses such as the cold, flu, and gastrointestinal disorders. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers that don't require water can be good substitutes when water is not available.

Health & Hygiene Check-Up Information

At times throughout the school year it is not unusual for cases of head lice to occur. Parents should remain calm and be aware of factual information. Head lice are not a health hazard or a sign of uncleanliness, and are not responsible for the spread of any disease! The best method for curtailing the problem is frequent head checks. We encourage every parent to inspect their child's head at least twice a week for the presence of nits.

What to Look for-

Tiny eggs or nits are what you will see. These are the egg sacs left by the adult louse. Nits attach to the hair shaft with a glue like substance and are difficult to remove, thus differentiating them from dandruff which flakes off. When inspecting your child's head it may be helpful to use a magnifying glass and natural daylight. They may be easier to spot at the nape of the neck or behind the ears and within 1 cm. from the scalp. They cannot be brushed away.

If lice or nits are found-

You will need to shampoo the hair with a pediculicide. There are several of these treatments available over the counter. However, treatment instructions should be strictly followed! Your physician can recommend a treatment that he or she feels is best for your child.

- ___ Examine all family members, daily, for at least 2 weeks.
- ___ Notify the school nurse.
- ___ Notify close contacts.

It is prudent for children to be taught not to share personal items such as combs, brushes and hats. One of the major indicators of head lice is an itchy scalp. The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests that children with active head lice infestation have likely had the infestation for a month or more by the time it is discovered. Please contact the nurses if you would like additional information or assistance. Two websites that may be helpful are:

- http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/f_headlice.htm
- <http://www.aap.org/policy/o203.html>

Practice

**Respect, Fairness,
Trustworthiness,
Citizenship, Caring,
& Responsibility**

New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK)



Third and fourth graders will take the state-mandated NJ ASK assessment March 14th - March 18th. All tests will be given in the morning. If your child arrives late on one of these days, she or he will be asked to wait in the office until a break in the testing occurs. For that reason, we urge you to make sure that your child arrives at school by 9 AM. Our school testing schedule is as follows:

<i>Monday, March 14</i>	<i>Language Arts Literacy</i>	<i>Grades 3 & 4</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 15</i>	<i>Language Arts Literacy</i>	<i>Grades 3 & 4</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 16</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Grades 3 & 4</i>
<i>Thursday, March 17</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
<i>Friday, March 18</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
<i>Make-up Testing: March 21-24</i>	<i>Flexible</i>	<i>Grades 3 & 4</i>

Information about the NJ ASK is available at <http://www.state.nj.us.education> and <http://www.ets.org/njask/>. Teachers have information and practice test booklets from the State of New Jersey. They will talk about the test, administer and discuss the sample questions with their students, then send them home to parents. Montgomery students typically do well on New Jersey State assessments since our curriculum is fully aligned with the New Jersey State Core Curriculum Content Standards. Tested skills and knowledge are acquired as part of their everyday school learning experiences. As such, no special preparation is required. Children should get a good night's sleep and have a healthy breakfast in the morning.

Students will need to provide an inexpensive, four operation calculator that they may choose to use on a few sections of the math assessment. Your child may already have one in school. If not, please send one in with your child the week before testing. We would suggest that you write your child's name on it. Teachers will collect and keep them in a safe place until testing. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about this.

Montgomery Township School District
 Village Elementary School
 100 Main Boulevard
 Skillman, NJ 08558

Susan Lacy, Principal
 Email: slacy@mtsd.k12.nj.us
 Alfred Hadinger, Vice Principal
Ahadinger@mtsd.k12.nj.us

Phone: 609-466-7606
 Fax: 609-333-0280
 Absence Line: 609-466-7610



Montgomery Township School District—Mission Statement

The Montgomery Township School District shall establish the highest standards of excellence for educating all individuals to use knowledge, values and skills enabling them to function with self-esteem self-respect, self-discipline, integrity and compassion as responsible members of society. The school district will provide a nurturing, stimulating environment, a dedicated staff, an innovative curriculum and the opportunity for community involvement and support.

www.mtsd.k12.nj.us

Remember to dress for wintry weather!

YWCA After School Program at VES



The YWCA Princeton provides childcare after school hours for

children who attend this school. The YWCA Princeton After School Program tailors its hours to accommodate working families, and offers children diverse and enriching activities in a safe and nurturing environment. For general information or to receive a brochure/application, please call 609-497-2100, ext. 327."

Village Elementary School
 Bluebirds

District Emergency and School Closing Hotline: 609-466-7610

TV and Radio Stations:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| WPST 97.5 FM | Princeton |
| WCTC 1450 AM | New Brunswick |
| WQMR 98.3 FM | New Brunswick |
| WKXW 101.5 FM | Trenton |
| Channel 12 or Channel 14 | (Local Access Cable) |

In the event of an emergency school closing, the 6-day rotation cycle will remain unchanged. For example: If we have an emergency closing/snow day on day 1, the following school day will remain day 2. Missed days will be made up at the end of the school year.

Birthday Bag Drive

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 841 is collecting birthday supplies for our Silver Award. We are creating "Birthday Bags" for those who cannot afford to throw a birthday party by themselves. These "Birthday Bags" will include a variety of party supplies such as cake mix, icing, balloons, party hats, paper plates, noise makers, cups, sprinkles, Kool-Aid mix, napkins, cake tins, assorted candies, birthday candles, and other supplies necessary for throwing a birthday party. The "Birthday Bags" will be given to the Food Bank. Collection boxes for the above supplies will be located in front of the main offices at both VES from March 7 through March 18 and OHES from March 14 through March 24. Thank you!

Tyler Mulford—Troop 841

Pick-Up and Drop-Off Safety Reminders

Your Support is Needed!

For everyone's safety during parent drop-off and pick-up, please remember to travel west on Spruce Drive to the rear entrance. Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated by the school, fellow parents, and most importantly our children. One way travel will eliminate sharp turns and minimize congestion and unsafe driving conditions in this area. **For your safety, your child's safety, and the safety of others, stay to the right, do not block the flow of traffic or the roadway. In addition parents must walk children into the building in the morning and an adult must sign children out in the cafeteria in the afternoon.**