

# The Village Bluebird

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Feb. 15-18: Staff Dev & Presidents' Day Schools Closed
- Feb. 21: PTA Meeting VES 9:45
- February 26: BOE Meeting UMS 7:30
- Feb. 28: Montgomery Night Off
- March 4: Third Grade BRAVO assemblies
- March 6: Band 2 & Chorus Concert, MHS, 7pm
- March 7: Band 1 & Orchestra Concert, MHS 7pm
- March 12: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- March 13-14: McCarter Theater Odyssey Assemblies, VES
- March 15: Wear Green for St. Patrick's Day (Sun.)
- March 18: 4th Grade Art Show, 6-8 PM, VES
- March 19, BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- **March 19—22: Staff Development, Optional P/T Conferences, Early Dismissal**
- March 21: PTA Mtg, OHES 9:45. PTA Founders' Day, MHS 4:30pm
- **March 25-29: Spring Recess, Schools Closed**
- **April 1: Staff Development, Schools Closed**
- April 5: Arbor Day 3rd Grade
- April 9: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- April 12: 4th Grade Trip to Pennsylvania Manor
- April 18: PTA Mtg, VES, 9:45
- April 19th: 4th Graders to LMS for Orientation
- April 23: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- April 24: 5th Grade Orientation for 4th Grade Parents
- April 25: Administrative Professionals Day
- April 26: 4th Grade Author Program. Administrative Professionals' Day, 5th Grade Movin on Up Party for 4th Graders, 6-9
- April 27th: MTEA Music From the Heart, MHS
- May 1: 3rd Grade Orientation
- May 6: 3rd Grade Music and Art Show, Lunch 1, VES, 7 PM
- May 7: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- May 8: 3rd Grade Music & Art Show, VES, 7 PM, Lunch 2. School Nurses Day
- May 16: PTA Mtg, OHES 9:45
- May 13-17: NJASK Testing,
- May 20-24: NJASK Makeups
- May 21: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- **May 27: Memorial Day - Schools Closed**
- May 29: Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- June 3-4: 4th Grade Music Concerts, MHS, 7
- June 13-14: Fun Days
- **June 21: Last Day of School,**



## Winter Greetings!

Dear Families,  
Our new year is off to a great start. In January, we celebrated the life and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and thanks to our amazing PTA we closed the month with another successful New Year's Around the World family celebration. Our students did a fantastic job creating informative posters to teach us about ways the New Year is celebrated throughout the world! Third graders have been raving about the PTA sponsored Debbie Dadey author visit while our fourth graders are eagerly awaiting the arrival of author/illustrator

and Caldecott Medal winner Brian Selznick!

In February we are celebrating African-American History Month, traditional festivities of the Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. In addition, young scientists who were scheduled to participate in the Invention Convention are sharing their innovations in school with classmates or on the morning news!

In March, guest readers will join us for *Read Across America* in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, McCarter Theater will bring experiential drama to our students with a production of *The Odyssey* and

the Princeton Symphony Orchestra will present BRAVO string assemblies to our 3rd graders. Dr. Bell, Ms. Housten, Dr. Goldman and Mrs. O'Connor are preparing for the upcoming 4th grade *March into the Arts* concerts and art show. Read more in this edition about the program schedule and highlights. Other March highlights include Bingo parties, Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day, PTA Founders' Day, Parent-Teacher conferences, and finally spring recess

Stay warm and enjoy the remainder of winter!

*Ms. Lacy and Mr. Hadinger*

### REPORT CARDS, STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND OPTIONAL SPRING CONFERENCES

- Report Cards will be available on Parent Resources from **March 15th at the close of the school day through April 30th.**
- **March 19th—22nd** are also early dismissal days for students. Parent pick-up begins at 1:15. Buses will depart at 1:30. Teachers will engage in professional development on the 21st. Optional parent-teacher conferences will be held on the 19th, 20th and 22nd. 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 e-blasted to parents.
- **April 1st—** Staff Development for faculty. Schools Closed

### Save The Dates!

#### **Fifth Grade Orientations**

- April 19th - Day Visit for 4th Graders
- April 24th, 7:00 pm - Presentation for 4th Grade Parents
- April 26th, 6-9pm - 5th Grade Moving On Up Party for 4th Graders

#### **Third Grade Orientations**

- May 1, Day Visit for 2nd Graders
- May 1, 7:00-8:15pm Presentation for 2nd Grade Parents

#### **Summer Open Houses**

- August 28th
- 8:30am – 12:00 noon OHES and VES
- 9:30-10:30 am LMS Grade 5 Only

### Inside This Issue

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## COLD and FLU SEASON HAS ARRIVED AT VES

Many parents struggle with the decision of whether or not to send their possibly sick child to school. Juggling the demands of work and the demands of their students school work may make the decision even more difficult. It's tempting to give a dose of Tylenol or Motrin and hope for the best. However, school age children are especially good at spreading germs and children cannot learn as effectively if they are sick. How do you know if it's just a cold or if your child is really too sick to go to school? Here are some strategies to guide you through these murky waters:

### FEVER:

- First and foremost, purchase a thermometer and use it to check your child for fever before deciding to send them to school.
- Do not send a child to school with a fever of 100 or more. They will feel increasing miserable throughout the day and are most infectious when they are febrile. Doses of Tylenol or Motrin will not decrease their contagiousness.
- Montgomery Township School District policy states a student must be fever free without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours before they can return to school. If your child is sent home from school with a fever, they must stay at home the following day even if they are fever free.

### VOMITING/DIARRHEA:

- Do not send your child to school if they are vomiting or have diarrhea. If your child begins to vomit or experience diarrhea they must stay at home. Do not assume because your child feels better after vomiting that they are better.
- Students must be free of vomiting and/or diarrhea for 24 hours and able to tolerate a normal diet before they can return to school.

### POSITIVE CULTURES AT MD:

- Strep throat is a highly contagious condition caused by bacteria. If your child complains of a sore throat, fever, and often a headache and stomach ache, they should see a doctor for a diagnosis and treatment. If the strep culture is positive, your child should remain out of school until he/she is fever free and has been on antibiotics for 24 hours.
- Pink Eye (conjunctivitis) can be caused by an allergy, a virus or bacteria and is highly contagious. The eye will be reddened and a yellow discharge is usually present. Eyelashes may be stuck together when your child wakes up. Consult with your child's doctor to see if antibiotic eye drops are indicated. Your child should stay home until symptoms subside and he/she has been on antibiotic drops for at least 24 hours.
- Rashes can be tricky to interpret. Consult your child's doctor prior to sending them to school to discuss treatment options and length of time your child should be out of school.
- Please notify the VES health office if your child is diagnosed with any of the above.

### COUGHS AND COLDS:

- Check your child's temperature before deciding to send them to school. If your child is not coughing, does not complain of trouble breathing and does not have a fever it's generally okay to send them to school. The health office does not stock nasal or chest decongestants, cough suppressants, throat lozenges, or allergy medications so make sure you address that prior to putting them on the bus.
- Check with your child's physician as to the best way to manage your child's cold or cough.
- Please do not give Tylenol or Motrin to cover chills or body aches and then send them to school. If your child is feeling badly enough to require this level of intervention, a day of rest at home is in order.
- Persistent coughing can indicate a worsening cold, asthma or secondary infection such as pneumonia. Please consult your child's physician for advice. Children with persistent cough should be kept at home.

All of these illnesses can spread easily and rapidly in school and at home. Hand washing is the single most important thing you can do and teach your child to do to help prevent the spread of infection. If you are in doubt as to whether to send your child to school, please call your child's doctor before doing so.

### Cleaning out closets??

The health office at VES supplies many students with a change of clothes throughout the year for various reasons such as a slip in the mud at recess or spilled milk in the cafeteria. We don't always get back what we loan out and our supplies are getting low. We would gladly take any clothing that you are able to donate. We are in need of gently used sweatpants or jeans (sizes 8-10) or new, unopened socks and underwear (no boxers please).

Mary Ellen Foley, RN, CSN

Janis Woodard, RN

## Fourth Grade Orchestra, Band and Chorus Concerts

*Wednesday, March 6th, 7 P.M., MHS – Band #2 and Chorus Concert*

*Thursday, March 7th, 7 P.M., MHS- Band #1 and Orchestra Concert*

### BAND~MS. HOUSTEN

Students in both 4<sup>th</sup> grade bands have been busily preparing for the upcoming concerts. During band rehearsals and lessons, we have continued to focus on fundamentals in music literacy, tone production, technique, and general musicality. The children have increased their range from six notes to more than an octave while also becoming more proficient at reading and performing quarter and eighth note rhythms.



For the March concerts, band students are beginning to learn how to play more independently. They will be performing “full-band arrangements”, which means that each instrument has a different part. When all of these parts are put together the music is much more interesting, with harmonies and rhythms that interact with each other. With several parts going on at once, students are developing independent playing skills as well as listening skills. The children have learned to listen to other instruments rather than simply focusing on their own part and are continuing to learn how to play as part of a large ensemble. Although many students find that this type of music is more difficult than unison songs, almost all of them remark that this music sounds better because it is more like real music and less like an exercise.

### ORCHESTRA~DR. GOLDMAN

VES Orchestra is getting ready to perform in the MIOSM Spring Concert. Students have been working hard on their posture and technique for the past few months and are looking forward to showcasing their instrumental accomplishments and budding ensemble skills. The program will feature several string orchestra arrangements of folk songs from different parts of the world and chamber music pieces from classical repertoire performed by the VES String Ensemble.

### CHORUS~DR. BELL

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Chorus will be performing at the Montgomery High School Performing Arts Center on Wednesday March 6th at 7 pm. They are singing Folk Songs from around the world, including 19<sup>th</sup> Century America, Japan, Africa, Russia, and Mexico. It should be a fun concert and we look forward to seeing you there. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders are preparing for their concert in May, held here at VES. They are also learning and practicing reading notes, so they can be fully equipped to sing in chorus and join the band or orchestra next year. If you have any questions about the program, feel free to contact me anytime. [lbell@mtsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:lbell@mtsd.k12.nj.us).

## Fourth Grade Art Show

*Monday, March 18th, 6:00-8:00*

### ART~MRS. O'CONNOR

*During the school year your Fourth grade students have been busy learning about the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Many artists and cultures were studied while students created beautiful and individual masterpieces.*

*On Monday, March 18th, from 6-8, please come visit VES to see all of the wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> grade artwork on display throughout the school. There will be art displayed in the main foyer, in the main hallway and by some of the fourth grade classrooms.*

*It will be a wonderful evening filled with art and a special musical performance by Ms. Houston!*

*Please come out and see what fabulous creations your students have made!*



## Parent Book Club Invitation from VES Guidance Counselors

Dear Parents,

The School Counselors at VES are very interested in beginning a book club with parents this spring. We are asking parents to email Mrs. Fornal at [lfornal@mtsd.us](mailto:lfornal@mtsd.us) to express interest and to share topics you would like to learn more about and discuss with us and other parents. Social-Emotional topics can include but are not limited to character development, anxiety, social skills, attention struggles, depression, and bullying.

We welcome any input, opinions and ideas parents would like to offer and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lauren Fornal  
VES School Counselor

Ava Laera  
VES / OHES School Counselor

PTA Corner

Dear VES Parents,

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers—we understand how precious your time is and we appreciate all you do for our children and the VES staff to make our school such a great place to work and learn. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to volunteer yet this year, we hope that you can make some time to do so at an upcoming event—there are so many fun and rewarding opportunities coming to VES this spring. We look forward to seeing you around school!



MES PTA

### **Bingo Coming to VES**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Bingo returns to VES in March. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Bingo will be on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to help the children with their Bingo boards so please contact the committee chairs if you would like to come in and help your child's class!



4<sup>th</sup>: Robin Roeper ([Robin@roeper.com](mailto:Robin@roeper.com)) and Mary Pellizzari ([marypellizzari@aol.com](mailto:marypellizzari@aol.com))

3<sup>rd</sup>: Claudia Hopkins ([claudiahopkins@gmail.com](mailto:claudiahopkins@gmail.com))

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### **Market Day**

Market Day is proving to have another successful year with over \$2,100 earned already! This money will go towards McCarter Theatre's Sunjata Kamalenya coming to OHES and The Odyssey Experience coming to VES in the spring. We still need your help to meet our goal to make the performances happen.

***Make busy nights a little easier on yourself while helping your school with ready-to-cook meals, or you can order vegetables or meats to put into your own recipes.***

Online orders due for February by Saturday, February 2nd at midnight with pick up on Friday, February 8th from 3:30-4:30pm; and for March by Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at midnight with pickup on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-4:30pm. Not sure how to get started?

Other questions??? Contact Cathy Mallon [catmallon@live.com](mailto:catmallon@live.com) or Vivian Conners [vivianconners@gmail.com](mailto:vivianconners@gmail.com)



Thank you in advance for your participation and support of our organization. Good luck!

**Montgomery Township School  
District**



Blazer says, "Be Your Best at VES!"

Village Elementary School  
Home of Blazer the Bluebird  
100 Main Boulevard

Susan E. Lacy, Principal

Email: [slacy@mtsd.us](mailto:slacy@mtsd.us)

Alfred Hadinger, Vice Principal

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[WWW.MTSD.K12.NJ.US](http://WWW.MTSD.K12.NJ.US)

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**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MISSION STATEMENT**

*Our mission as a forward-thinking community is to ensure that students grow into confident, compassionate, and successful learners in a global society by providing engaging and challenging educational experiences in a student-centered environment.*

**Emergency School Closing Information**

In the event of inclement weather, hazardous road conditions, or any other emergencies requiring us to close schools, phone messages will be used to notify families. You may also check the following:

Message Line (609-466-7610)

District Website [www.mtsd.k12.nj.us](http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us)

WKXW 101.5 FM Trenton or Channel 27 (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 during the school year. Please refer to the District calendar for details and visit the VES website for the 6-day rotation schedule.**

***CARING & FRIENDSHIP  
are the Pillars of  
Character for February  
and March!***

**Remember to dress children appropriately for outdoor recess! Label your child's belongings and check the lost and found in the cafeteria for missing items!**

## YOUNG SCHOLARS' INSTITUTE UPDATE:

This past December, our Village School Community continued our nearly two decade old tradition of partnering with the Young Scholars Institute to provide support during the holidays for families of the greater Trenton area. This tradition goes back to the years when third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades were still at Orchard Road School. Young Scholars provides their students with academic support as well as career and college counseling to enable them to be more successful in school and in life. Many of the families served by Young Scholars struggle financially. The money raised by our students and staff helped bring holiday cheer in the form of gifts and turkey dinners to these families. Wegmans of West Windsor Township partnered with Village School to arrange and deliver the meals. At Village, Ms. Lucas, Mrs. Bonnet, Mrs. Pignataro, Ms. Ciosek, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Barone, Ms. Laera, Ms. McMullen, Ms. Lacy and Mr. Smith coordinated with Young Scholars and our Fourth grade Peer Partners to provide motivation, collect donations, wrap gifts and load Mr. Hadinger's van. The gifts were delivered on a Saturday before winter break. The sentiments expressed by the families as they picked up their meals and children's gifts helped us recognize what an important tradition this is, and how much our families' assistance means to others.

We thank you very much for your generosity, and have provided the addresses for the Young Scholars Institute below, in case you are interested in finding out more about this important service organization.

***Young Scholars' Institute***  
**349 West State Street Trenton, New Jersey 08618**  
[www.youngscholarsoftrenton.org](http://www.youngscholarsoftrenton.org)

Please visit the bulletin board of YSI thank you cards and letters, near the band room and gym entrances!



**YWCA After School Program at VES**

The YWCA of Princeton provides childcare before and after school for children who attend VES. The YWCA tailors its hours to accommodate working families, and offers children diverse and enriching activities in a safe and nurturing environment. Registration packets will be available in the main office. For more information, you may visit our website at: [www.ywcaprinceton.org](http://www.ywcaprinceton.org) or call the YWCA After School Program Office at: 609-497-2100 X327. Please clearly state your name, your child's name, and a phone number where we can return your phone call.