



# THE VILLAGE BLUEBIRD

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Dear Families,

Thank you for your continued involvement and support of VES during this season. Our school would not be the great place of learning that it is without the outstanding work of our entire community.

In December, students supported our annual Young Scholars Institute fundraiser, participated in holiday learning activities, winter parties sponsored by our gracious room parent volunteers, music concerts and our annual school-wide sing-along.

In January, we will be setting goals at school and reminding children of all the things we can do together to make our school year safe and productive. In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. our character education trait for the month of January is *fairness*. Ways to practice fairness will be shared during our morning announcements, teachers will discuss Dr. King's goals and accomplishments, and the library will feature books about him

and related traits and principles. Also in January, our PTA will help us host 3rd grade visiting author Debbie Dadey, and our New Year's Around The World celebration.



In February, we look forward to our Character and Caring Valentine's parties and out PTA-sponsored Invention Convention, Presidents' Day recognition, and the Lunar New Year. Read more in this issue about the upcoming PARCC assessments and preparations that are underway.

We wish you and your extended families the very best in the New Year!

*Ms. Lacy and Mr. Hadinger*



### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Jan. 14: Debbie Dadey, 3rd Grade Author Programs
- **Jan. 16 : Staff Development, Schools Closed**
- **Jan. 19: Martin Luther King Holiday, Schools Closed**
- Jan. 21: PTA Mtg. OHES, 9:45
- Jan. 23: VES Spirit Day
- Jan 26: 3rd Grade Class Trip
- Jan 27: BOE Mtg. UMS, 7:30
- Jan. 30: New Year Around The World Celebration, VES, 7-9.
- Feb. 7: PTA Science & Invention Convention, MHS
- Feb. 10: BOE Mtg. UMS, 7:30
- Feb. 12: Valentine's Character & Caring Parties
- **Feb 13: Staff Development, Schools Closed**
- **Feb. 16-17: Presidents' Day Schools Closed**
- Feb. 18: PTA Mtg. VES, 9:45
- Feb. 19: Lunar New Year
- Feb. 20: Box Tops Due
- Feb. 24: BOE Mtg. UMS, 7:30
- March 2: Read Across America
- March 2-3: Music Concerts, MHS 7
- March 2-27: PARCC Window
- March 10: BOE Mtg. UMS, 7:30
- March 13: Bingo Gr. 4
- March 16: 4th Grade Art Show, VES, 7
- March 20: Bingo Gr. 3
- March 24-27: Early Dismissal Days, Staff Development & Conferences
- March 30: James Howe, 4th Grade Author Visit
- April 2-12: Spring Break

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PARCC ASSESSMENT INFO	2
SCHOOL/COMMUNITY INFO	3



## Village School PARCC

### Performance Based Assessment Schedule

March 2 - March 27, 2015



Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) gives schools a twenty day testing window in which to administer five days of assessments to each third and fourth grade classroom in March. Three days are for Language Arts and two are for Mathematics. Village School chose to schedule each class for one full week of PARCC testing for several reasons.

First, this replicates the testing schedule that we have successfully used for over a decade with the NJ ASK. Our fourth graders experienced it last year, with students testing for four consecutive days, beginning in the morning. This is exactly what our PARCC testing schedule will look like. We don't believe that compressing it into fewer days or spreading it out over several weeks would be helpful.

Unlike the NJ ASK, which was a pencil and paper assessment, the PARCC is computer-based, and we currently have the ability to test one third of the entire student body simultaneously. As a result, we leveraged our available Chromebooks to create three, one week sessions with nine or ten classes testing for a full week. Makeup testing will take place during the fourth week of the PARCC testing window.

Classes not taking the PARCC assessments on a particular week will be able to have a full academic schedule with full length related arts classes, something that wasn't possible with NJ ASK testing. Related arts classes may take place at a different time, and a few classes may have lunch at a slightly later time.

Our teachers have been preparing Village School students for the PARCC assessments all year through their everyday, Common Core based instruction. This includes writing and math experiences using Chromebooks and practice with the PARCC test format. Students will also try out the accessibility features during Technology class. As we previously informed you, all VES students now have Ready Test A-Z as an add-on to their Raz Kids account. Parents can work at home with their children on this PARCC-like tutorial, and students will be using it here in school.

Taken together, we believe that these tools and strategies, along with the aforementioned schedule will enable our students to begin their PARCC testing lives in a positive, lowest possible-stress environment and build confidence for their future testing experiences.

Finally, we want to remind you that all students will need to provide earbuds or inexpensive headphones for use with PARCC. We know most of your children already have them, but we wanted to remind you about this ahead of testing. Thank you for your ongoing support!

The Village School Team

<b>March 2-6 (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Classes)</b>	<b>March 9-13 (3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)</b>	<b>March 16-20 (4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes)</b>	<b>March 23-27</b>
Sears/Carro Cramer Ryan Bonnet/Furfaro Vucin Damato Gluck Uhaze/Loiacono BRodriguez Potter/Brown	Furman/Shockey Cresap Pliskin Maccarone Franey Benke Vanatta Hum Barone/Chianese	MRodriguez Lucas Orsini/Hynes HartDorn Yulo/Borelli LoCoco Winer Truscinski/Brockner Pignataro/Maxwell	Makeups

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  
Alfred Hadinger, Vice Principal  
Email: ahadinger@mtsd.us  
Phone: 609-466-7606  
Fax: 609-466-7196  
Absence Reporting Line:  
609-466-7610

WWW.MTSD.K12.NJ.US



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 for one day, **phone and e-mail 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)
- **NJ 101.5 FM**
- **Channel 27 (Local Access Cable)**

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Get the latest weather \*  
 \* updates and information \*  
 \* from our VES weather \*  
 \* station by clicking on \*  
 \* WeatherBug at the VES \*  
 \* website! \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

VES Families: 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 later in the school year. See the district calendar for details.



*January's Pillar of Character is Fairness*  
*February's Pillar of Character is Caring!*



**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!**

**IMPORTANT! The MES PTA will be donating all unclaimed coats and jackets to a local charity on January 30th.**



**Thank you for supporting our Young Scholars Holiday Drive! The delivery was a great success and the YSI team and families are so very grateful for our students' and community's generosity this holiday season!**



YMCA After School Program at VES

The YMCA of Princeton provides childcare before and after school for children who attend VES. The YMCA 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: [Princetonymca.org](http://Princetonymca.org) or call the YMCA After School Program Office at: 609-497-9622. Please clearly state your name, your child's name, and a phone number where we can return your phone call.