



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 visiting authors Audrey Vernick and Roxie Munro, and our New Year's Around The World celebration coinciding with the Lunar New Year.

In February, we look forward to our Character and Caring Valentine's parties and our PTA-sponsored Invention Convention. Read more in this issue about the great work of our PTA, details about upcoming events and ways you can get involved.

We wish you and your extended families the very best this season! Have a wonderful start to the New Year!



Ms. Lacy and Mr. Hadinger

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **December 23-January 1: Winter Recess, Schools closed**
- **January 2: Schools Reopen**
- Jan. 7: BOE Mtg., UMS, 7:30
- Jan. 15: Audrey Vernick 3rd Grade Author Programs
- Jan. 16 : PTA Meeting, OHES, 9:45
- **Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Holiday, Schools Closed**
- Jan. 24: Roxie Munro 4th Grade Author Programs
- Jan. 31: New Year Around The World Celebration, VES, 7-9. Lunar New Year.
- Feb. 8: PTA Science & Invention Convention, MHS
- Feb. 13: Valentine's Character & Caring Parties
- **Feb 14: Staff Development, Schools Closed**
- **Feb. 17: Presidents' Day Schools Closed**
- **Feb 18: School Open due to Snow Day on December 10th. Day 3.**
- Feb. 20: PTA Meeting, VES, 9:45
- March 3: Read Across America
- March 4-5: Music Concerts, MHS 7
- March 14: 4th Grade Bingo, 4-5:30
- March 20: 4th PTA Meeting OHES, 9:45
- March 21: 3rd Grade Bingo, 4-5:30



Young Scholars Fundraiser



Village School teachers and administrators will be delivering VES holiday gifts to the Young Scholars Institute in Trenton on Saturday morning, December 21st. Thank you, families, for your amazing support of this community service project that will brighten the holidays for many children and families. Our Villagers made great contributions and learned a great deal from this experience. This effort is a wonderful correlating activity for the holiday season.

The VES Team

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| GUIDANCE NOTES | 2 |
| HEALTH OFFICE INFORMATION | 3 |
| PTA NEWS | 4 |
| SCHOOL/COMMUNITY INFO | 5 |

During this holiday season, it is natural for our minds to be focused on both giving and receiving. In fact, flipping through the channels on your TV, you can find commercial after commercial, advertising the great new flashy products that have just been released. It is very easy for children to take these short, alluring clips and create magical lists of all the things that one would like to have. As a result, children can receive the message that what they get is more important than what they give.



Generosity, simply put, is giving to others. However, remembering Winston Churchill's quote, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give", can help us understand the true importance of generosity. It is not the giving of a gift that makes someone a generous individual. Generosity should instead be defined by one's selfless desire to provide assistance where it is needed and to show compassion where it may be lacking thereby encouraging the feeling of joy through the simple act of giving.

To help our children grow into generous adults, we must be good role models. There are many ways we demonstrate generosity throughout the day. Giving an item of material worth is one way to exhibit generosity. However, generosity can also be displayed in acts of kindness that comes from your heart. Giving your time or a friendly ear to someone who needs to talk are examples of how we can give gifts of the heart. Also, lending a helping hand or giving encouragement to someone in need of support are other ways we can model generosity.



It is important to find something that will work for your family that can be incorporated into your daily routines. Finding time to share these moments with your children can help them understand the true value of generosity. It can also provide an opportunity to do something as a family.

Mrs. Fornal and Mrs. McCarthy in Guidance

UNICEF Total: \$ 2913.36

Thank you children and families for your support!



Goal Setting in the New Year *Mrs. Fornal, Guidance Counselor*

Around this time, many people, young and old, create personal goals to help improve their health and happiness. New Year's Resolutions can be great motivators to feeling more satisfied with your life. However, in addition to creating a goal for yourself, try to think of a goal that would benefit and strengthen your family as a whole. Use this time to reflect on your family priorities and how routines, activities, lessons, and appointments impact what is important to your family functioning as a happy unit. Perhaps you want more quality time together or maybe you would like to create a family tradition. You may want to work on family communication skills or disagreeing in healthy ways. Regardless of the goal you chose, keep these important tips in mind.

- Focus on realistic and measurable goals
- Break your goal into manageable steps
- Know what your set backs might be and create a plan to defeat them
- Don't wait for the "right time" – start immediately!
- Make time to reflect as a family on your progress
- Compliment one another when you see someone doing something to help your family reach its goal



NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

The current cold and flu season has brought an increase in reported cases of strep throat, respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses. The nurses of Montgomery Township School District would like to remind everyone that they can help protect themselves and their families from many of these illnesses by following these guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control:

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough and throw it away afterwards. Cover your nose and mouth with the inside of your elbow if you don't have a tissue.

Wash your hands often with soap and water especially after coughing or sneezing and before eating.

To avoid spreading germs, try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

Send your child to school dressed for the winter. Children should wear layers of loose fitting clothing, mittens, or gloves, a hat and a warm jacket.

Stay away from people who are sick.

Stay home from work or school if you or your child gets sick or develops a fever.

Please remember that children who have a fever must stay at home until their temperature is below 100 degrees for a minimum of 24 continuous hours without the use of a fever reducing medication. Children with vomiting or diarrhea also need to stay at home for 24 hours without symptoms before they may return to school.



Regular attentiveness to signs of the presence of head lice is important and will go a long way in helping to control the spread of lice in your child's classroom. Lice are spread by direct head to head contact with another person who has lice. Lice cannot hop or fly. They are transmitted by crawling from one head to another and cannot be spread by contact with pets. Please check your child head at least twice per week by carefully parting it into small sections, (clip the hair with a hair clip as you go) and combing through each section of the looking for hair nits and active lice. Nits are often confused with dandruff, scabs, or hair spray droplets. Remember, nits are firmly cemented to the hair shaft (won't flake away like dandruff will), are oval-shaped, usually yellow or white, very small (about the size of a knot in thread) and hard to see. Head lice and head lice nits are found particularly around and behind the ears and near the neckline at the back of the head. More information about lice can be found on our webpage.

Educating your child about the transmission of lice is an important aspect of lice prevention. Talk to your child about the importance of not putting their head next to anyone else's head (as when reading a book together, playing a game together such as telephone tag or sharing a pillow at a sleepover). Teach your child not to share hats, hairbrushes or hair ties and clips.



Your child's asthma can be triggered by cold temperatures. If your child's physician has prescribed an inhaler for your child for either routine use or on an as needed basis, please alert the health office. All medications, including inhalers, need to be kept in the health office and your child's physician will need to complete an asthma treatment plan.

Please do not hesitate to call the health office if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's health.

Mary Ellen Foley, RN, CSN

Janis Woodard, RN



2014 Science & Invention Convention!

Is your child innovative, creative, and has a passion for science?
Join us for this joint MMS PTO & MES PTA event for 3rd-8th grades on
Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the Montgomery High School

At this exciting non-competitive event students will prepare a project in advance to discuss with evaluators (our parent volunteer judges). All participants will receive a T-shirt, certificate and medal!

Registration can be completed and paid for online (through Pay-Pal) at the MES PTA website www.vespta.org. The \$18 per student entry fee includes a T-shirt, medal and certificate of completion. Please note this is not a fund raiser.

Registration Deadline is January 17, 2014

In case of inclement weather, the convention will be moved to the next Saturday (02/15/2014) at Montgomery Lower Middle School (LMS).

Please contact co-chairs David Zhang at david.chao.zhang@gmail.com and Mita Bhattacharya at replymita@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to be an evaluator.

MES PTA Upcoming Events

January 31st - New Years Around the World - VES

February 8th - Science & Invention Convention (Snow date: 2/15.)

Please visit our website at www.vespta.org for details!

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:

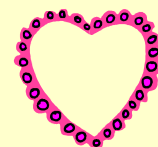
- **Message Line:** 609-466-7610
- **District Website:** www.mtsd.k12.nj.us
- **NJ 101.5 FM**
- **Channel 27 (Local Access Cable)**

 * 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!

The Class of 2015 is rescheduling the Holiday Brunch for this Saturday, December 21st (same time) 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, in the Orchard Hill cafeteria.

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 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.