



# THE VILLAGE BLUEBIRD

Village Elementary School

Volume 10, Issue 6

## Summer Wishes

Dear Families,

The Village School is grateful to our parent community for your involvement and support this year. It has made our efforts to support student learning especially meaningful.

We are grateful for our PTA presidents, Mrs. Zoffinger-Guidette and Mr. Swerdlow, their executive board and team of volunteers for enriching our lives with social and cultural activities that support our academic programs. We appreciate the tremendous amount of effort and enthusiasm that you put into all you do for VES. Thank you!

We are also thankful for the VES staff and student body for their hard work, and enthusiasm! We will celebrate our year and wish our 4<sup>th</sup> graders well during the clap off and full school gathering on the last day of school.

In August, remember to look for placement and school and staff information for the 2013-2014 school year. Additional updates as well as report card access information and supply lists for next year are included in this issue.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

*Ms. Lacy and Mr. Hadinger*

## Suggested Summer Reading

~Mrs. Antoniewicz, Media Specialist



Suggested reading lists for 3rd and 4th graders are available on the VES homepage for your review.

Outgoing 4th graders may also find summer reading selections at the LMS Homepage. Go to: *Departments – Language Arts*, then *Food for Thought & Resources*

## Report Card Access

3rd marking period report cards will be available online starting June 21st at 1:30pm. They will be available to view, print, and save.



To log in:

1) Visit <https://parents.mtsd.k12.nj.us>

2) Enter your username, which is your email address, and your password. If you forget your password, use the "Forgot My Password" link just below the Login button. Your password will then be sent by email in a few minutes.

If you unable to log in or do not have an account, please contact Jaime Velez at [jvelez@mtsd.us](mailto:jvelez@mtsd.us)

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- **June 21: Last day of school (1:30 Dismissal), Report Cards Available Online**
- June 24: Staff Development
- June 25: BOE Mtg., UMS, 7:30pm
- Aug. 28: VES Open House, Grades 3 and 4, 8:30-12:00
- Aug 28: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, LMS, 9:30-10:30
- Aug 28: OHES Open House, Grades 1 and 2, 8:30-12:00
- Sept. 3-4: Staff Development
- Sept. 5: Rosh Hashanah, Schools Closed
- **Sept. 6: First Day of School**
- Sept. 16: 3rd Grade Back to School Night/Book Fair
- Sept. 17: 4th Grade Back to School Night/Book Fair
- Sept. 17-18: School Pictures
- Sept. 25: 5th Grade Back to School Night
- Oct. 14: Staff Development, Schools Closed



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# Online Tools to Prevent Summer Regression

This summer our schools are providing free access for every student to two electronic resources that can help them to counteract summer regression: *Raz-Kids* and *Compass Learning Odyssey*.

*Raz-Kids* is a reading program that will differentiate reading instruction for your child by providing access to hundreds of animated leveled books. Students can listen to books for modeled fluency, read books with pronunciation and vocabulary support and record their own reading. They are able to complete interactive quizzes at the end of the book to check for understanding. Your child should have received his or her login and password already. If not, please check with your child's teacher.



*Odyssey* is another web-based resource available to help students review content and practice skills in Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts. Student logins have already been provided, and Village School students have been using it both at school and at home. Data from our June MAP assessments will be used to create newly differentiated learning paths in *Odyssey* for all VES learners.

*Raz-Kids* and *Odyssey* can be accessed from our school website at <http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/student> along with several other recommended web-based educational programs.

## Summer Skills Sharpener Books

Sometimes parents ask us for recommendations for additional print resources that can support or extend the topics learned in school. In response to this request, we are providing you information regarding the Summer Skills series by Tri-C Publications. This print based program is not provided by the school district, but can be purchased by families who would like their children to maintain or extend their skills over the summer months.

The *Summer Skills Sharpener* books...

support topics in Montgomery's curriculum

provide a refresher of basic skills already taught during the preceding year. (A student usually works in the book for the grade level most recently completed. Some children benefit from books at higher or lower grade levels. Speak with your child's teacher if you are unsure as to whether or not your child is working on, above or slightly below grade level so that you can order the book(s) appropriate to his or her level.)

contain a series of varied and interesting tasks on each page

provide enough pages so students can refresh their skills three times per week for ten weeks

contain an answer key and/or solutions for each task. "Tutorial Help" pages are also included.

are organized by one grade level per book for K-8 Language Arts and in the same way for K-8

Mathematics. In addition, there are subject specific books for Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Spanish I and II, French I, Keyboarding, and High School Review.

use a mixed skill format in the single subject books that pinpoint the areas of difficulty and reinforce the most important concepts over the summer months

You can find all of the materials offered by Tri-C Publications at their website at <http://www.summerskills.com>

Orders can be placed with the company at 800-411-8186.



# VES and OHES Introduce *Math in Focus: Singapore Math*

Dear Orchard Hill and Village Families,

I am pleased to announce that our schools will adopt and begin implementation of *Math in Focus: Singapore Math*, a new elementary math program, in Grades K-4 during the 2013-2014 school year.

Beginning with a major curriculum revision between 2010 and 2012, we have been working hard to align our curriculum to the Common Core Standards and to improve on our already high performing math program. In the spring of 2012, a process began to select new K-4 mathematics materials that would help teachers to implement this new curriculum with consistency. The process included a review of available textbook programs, polling of surrounding high performing districts, the development and implementation of a Kepner-Tregoe Decision Analysis Protocol, a pilot of the materials with a wide variety of students in nineteen K-4 classrooms, faculty meetings and professional development opportunities throughout the year, and the collection of feedback from teachers, students and parents. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Education approved our recommendation to adopt *Math in Focus: Singapore Math* as the resource to anchor our K-4 mathematics program.

In researching the programs great care, thought, time and attention was devoted to several considerations, including faculty, student and community feedback, the Common Core State Standards, the upcoming PARCC assessments, the alignment of programs with Lower Middle School, feedback from other districts using the various programs, and most importantly, our goal to provide excellent math instruction that balances depth of understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application.

We are confident about our decision because it is an excellent match to the things we value most as a K-4 community: rich mathematical experiences, consistently high levels of instruction using the best materials, tools for clear and frequent communication, the meaningful use of technology, and most importantly- the focus on growth for all students no matter their starting point. With an abundance of resources to support the instruction in the classroom and at home, Math in Focus will help teachers to meet the needs of all learners. As a school team we are fully committed to its successful implementation.

Please look for an upcoming family night in the fall to introduce you to *Math in Focus* and to continue our conversation about how we can work together to best support your children's mathematics education. Currently you can find powerpoint presentations and resource materials posted on our school websites. Additional materials will begin to be posted on the school websites over the summer. We look forward to the continued improvement of our home-school connection. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me by e-mail at [awish@mtsd.us](mailto:awish@mtsd.us).

Have a wonderful summer!

Amy Wish  
K-4 Supervisor of Mathematics and Science  
Montgomery Township School District



# General 2012-2013 Supply List For Rising 3rd Graders

Dear Incoming Third Grade Students and Families,

In an effort to make your supply shopping easier, the third grade team has come up with a list of supplies that you can begin to look for. We have chosen these items carefully and feel that they enhance our instructional program. **Toward the end of the summer, you will receive information regarding additional items specific to your classroom.**

- 12 sharpened pencils
- 1 set of crayons OR colored pencils (keep to no more than 24 colors)
- 2 rolls of scotch tape in individual plastic dispensers
- 4 dry erase markers
- 1 pencil box (standard plastic rectangular one)
- 1 highlighter
- 4 Post-It note pads
- 4 composition notebooks
- 1 one-subject spiral notebook
- 2 glue sticks
- Headphones in a Ziplock bag with your name on it – for your personal use

As you shop for a backpack, please **DO NOT** buy one with wheels. Your choice of a backpack must fit easily into your cubby in the classroom.

Remember to be on the lookout in August for a letter from your classroom teacher with some additional supplies as well as a warm welcome to VES.

Enjoy your summer and we will see you in September!

Sincerely,  
The Third Grade Team



# *General 2012-2013 Supply List For Rising 4th Graders*

Dear Rising 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Families,

In an effort to make your supply shopping easier, the fourth grade team has come up with a list of supplies that you can begin to look for. We have chosen these items carefully and feel that they enhance our instructional program. **Toward the end of the summer, you will receive information regarding additional items specific to your classroom.**

- Sharpened pencils – enough to last a while
- Soft pencil case
- Scotch tape
- Post-it Notes with lines (not the “Super Sticky” variety)
- Headphones in a Ziplock bag with your name on it – for your personal use

Feel free to bring in your own scissors, colored pencils, crayons, etc. Each classroom will have a supply, but many students prefer to have their own.

As you shop for a backpack, please DO NOT buy one with wheels. Your choice of a backpack must fit easily into your cubby in the classroom.

Enjoy your summer and we will see you on September 6<sup>th</sup>!

Sincerely,

*The Fourth Grade Team*



# General 2012 -2013 Supply List For Rising 5th Graders

Dear Parents,

Below please find the general list of supplies that all new 5th Grade students need to bring in on the first day of school. You may also find this list at <http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/Page/9720>. Additionally, there are specific lists for each team of teachers. When you find out your child's schedule in August, please visit the page of your child's teacher team to find out what you need to purchase for those classes.

We look forward to meeting your children soon!

5th Grade Teachers

All incoming 5th grade students will need to purchase the following supplies.

They will be necessary for their core classes and cycle/elective classes.

## Bring to school on the first day:

- Soft pencil case
- Box of pencils
- 2 different color pens (one red and another color )
- 3 different color highlighters
- Erasers
- Hand-held pencil sharpener
- Colored pencils
- 6 *refill* rolls of ¾" tape (dispenser is not needed)
- 1 box of tissues
- Scissors
- 3 pads of Post-Its (3" x 3" minimum)
- Dry erase marker (Expo for individual use)
- White board eraser (a clean sock works just as well)
- Safety goggles in a Zip-loc bag (Be sure that you bring goggles as opposed to safety glasses. Do not bring ski goggles, swimming goggles, or goggles with tinted lenses. Goggles should feel comfortable to wear.)



## Cycle/Elective Class Supplies:

- New, unwashed, white, cotton tee shirt (for Industrial Technology)
- #2 Drawing Pencil (for Art)
- 2" binder and five divider pages (for Spanish/Communications)
- 4 x 6 index cards (for Communications)
- 3 x 5 index cards (for Spanish)
- Loose-leaf paper (for Spanish/Communications)
- White poster board (22 in. X 28 in. minimum) (for Communications)
- Box of Pencils (for Reading Support)
- 1 subject notebook (for Chorus)
- 1 folder (for Chorus)

### Do Not Purchase:

- Zipper Binders/Trapper Keepers
- Liquid White Out
- Rolling backpacks
- Gel pens
- Permanent markers

Village Elementary School  
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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.*

SUSAN LACY, PRINCIPAL  
EMAIL: SLACY@MTSD.K12.NJ.US  
ALFRED HADINGER, VICE PRINCIPAL  
EMAIL: AHADINGER@MTSD.K12.NJ.US  
Phone: 609-466-7606  
Fax: 609-466-7196

Get the latest weather updates and information from our VES weather station and camera by clicking on WeatherBug at the VES site!

## Moving?



If your family is moving out of district, to any other address within district, or if your child will not be returning to Montgomery Schools next year, please notify Mrs. Bidetti in the main office as soon as you have finalized your plans. Mrs. Bidetti can be reached at 609-466-7606 or [lbidetti@mtsd.us](mailto:lbidetti@mtsd.us).

## A Note From The Health Office

~ Mary Ellen Foley, RN CSN and Janis Woodard, RN  
Phone (609) 466-7606 Fax (609) 466-7190



If your child currently has medication in stock in the health office, please plan to stop by anytime between today and 1 pm on June 21<sup>st</sup> to pick it up. Per New Jersey State law, schools may not store medication over the summer for the following school year. Any medication, including Epi- Pens, inhalers, insulin, prescription and non-prescription medications such as Tylenol and Advil will be discarded in compliance with state regulations at the end of the school day on June 21, 2013. Students are not allowed to carry any medication home in their backpacks per Montgomery Township School District Policy. Exceptions cannot be made to this policy.

The health office will be open August 26– 30, 2013 to accept any medication your child will require on a regular or as needed basis for the upcoming school year. Please contact the school nurse directly at ext. 2600 to schedule an appointment.

I wish you a warm, healthy and relaxing summer.

Regards,

Mary Ellen Foley, RN, CSN

## Lost and Found Clothing Donation



Please be aware that the PTA will be donating unclaimed student clothing such as jackets and sweatshirts to a charitable organization at the close of the school year. Stop by the lost and found in the cafeteria to reclaim any clothing your child may have left at school. You will have until **Friday, June 21st** to do so. Thank you!