



The Village Bluebird

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4

MARCH/APRIL 2014

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- March 4: Band 1 & Chorus Concert, MHS, 7pm
- March 5: Band 2 & Orchestra Concert, MHS 7pm
- March 11: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- March 14: Wear Green for St. Patrick's Day (Sun.) 4th Grade Bingo 4-5. End of 2nd Marking Period.
- March 17: 4th Grade Art Show, 6-8 PM, VES
- March 18: PTA Founders' Day, MHS 4:30pm
- March 20: PTA Mtg, VES 9:45.
- March 21: 3rd Grade Bingo. Optional conference letters sent home.
- March 24: Report cards available
- March 24-31 MAP Reading testing
- March 25, BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- April 3: Art Extravaganza, MHS 7
- April 4: Arbor Day 3rd Grade
- April 8: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- April 8-11: Optional P/T Conferences, Staff Development, Early Dismissal
- **April 16-18: Spring Break—schools closed**
- April 22: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- April 23: Administrative Professionals Day
- April 23-24: Experiential Theater's Perseus shows
- April 25: 4th Graders' Orientation visit to LMS
- April 28-May 5: MAP Math testing
- April 29: 5th Grade Orientation for 4th Grade Parents, LMS 7
- April 30th: Orchestra field trip to Richardson Auditorium
- May 1: 3rd Grade Orientation
- May 5: 3rd Grade Music and Art Show, Lunch 1, VES, 7 PM
- May 7: 3rd Grade Music & Art Show, VES, 7 PM, Lunch 2. School Nurses Day
- May 9: Movin' On Up party for 4th Graders, LMS, 7-9
- May 12-16: NJASK Testing
- May 13: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- May 15: PTA Mtg, VES 9:45
- May 19-23: NJASK Makeups
- May 22: Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- May 27: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- **May 26: Memorial Day - Schools Closed**
- May 29: 4th Grade Trip to Pennsbury Manor.
- June 2-3: 4th Grade Music Concerts, MHS, 7
- June 4-6: PARCC pilot tests
- June 10: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- June 11-12: Fun Days
- June 17 3rd Grade Parent Instrumental Music presentation
- **June 20: Last Day of School**

March Greetings!

Dear Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and eagerly awaiting the spring season. While the snow has posed a challenge to our school schedule our learning opportunities continue to keep us positive and productive.

In February, we celebrated African-American History Month, honoring the contributions of local and national leaders as well as Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. In addition, our young scientists shared their amazing innovations at the PTA sponsored Invention Convention.

March, began with visits from guest readers for *Read Across America* in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, and will be

followed by our March into the Arts concerts and shows. Read more in this edition about the program schedule. Other March highlights include Bingo parties, Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day and PTA Founders' Day.

As April approaches we are planning for parent-Teacher conferences, a slightly shortened spring recess, The Experiential Theater Company's production of Perseus, 3rd Grade's Native American assembly with Kevin Two-Steps and 5th grade transition activities.

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 24th at the close of the school day through April 30th.**
- **April 8th—11th** are early dismissal days. Parent pick-up begins at 1:15. Buses will depart at 1:30. Teachers will engage in professional development on the 11th. Optional parent-teacher conferences will be held on the 8th, 9th and 10th. 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 reporting and conference periods will be e-blasted to parents.
- **April 14th-15th** – Schools Open
- **April 16-18** - Schools Closed for Spring Recess, Schools reopen April 21st

Save The Dates!

Fifth Grade Orientations at LMS

April 25th - Day Visit for 4th Graders

April 29th, 7:00 pm - Presentation for 4th Grade Parents

May 9, 7-9pm - Moving On Up Party for 4th Graders

Third Grade Orientations at VES

May 1, Day Visit for 2nd Graders

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

Summer Open Houses

August 27th

8:30am – 12:00 noon OHES and VES

9:30-10:30 am LMS Grade 5 Only

(See attached LMS letter for details)

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Health Office News

Medications

If your child should require any medication (**prescription and/ or over the counter**) during the school day, it **MUST** be stored in the health office and administered by the school nurse. Students are not permitted to carry medications on their person or in their backpacks at any time. If your child should require medication while in school please adhere to the following procedures:



- Please call the health office at extension 2600 prior to the date the medication will be need to be administered to notify the nurse of your child's health issue and to obtain the proper form to be completed as mandated by MTSD policy.
- All medications, including over the counter medications, must be brought into the health office by a parent in its original pharmacy container or prescription bottle.
- Parents must pick-up the medication when it is no longer needed or at the end of the school year. Medication not picked up will be discarded on the last day of school.

NOTE: Students with asthma may carry their inhaler and self administer it if, in addition to the above criteria, there is a doctor's note stating "child may carry inhaler at all times." Students with certain allergies may be permitted to carry an Epi-Pen provided the above procedures are followed and there is a note from the doctor stating "child may carry an Epi-Pen at all times." This will also allow the student to take his/her inhaler and/or Epi-Pen on field trips.

Doctors notes

- If you send your child into school with a note from a physician regarding specific health needs please place the note in a sealed envelope and write **Health Office** on the front of the envelope. Your child should deliver the note directly to the health office as soon as they arrive at school. Please do not send doctors notes to your child's teacher .
- Doctor's notes that are being sent in to excuse an absence should be brought to the **Main Office**.

Parent Resources Account

The spring will bring an opportunity for field trips for students at VES. Please log onto your parent resources account and update all of your contact information as your emergency contact information stored there will be used to compile parent contact lists for use when students are away from the building. Also, please be sure that your email address on your parent account reflects the most current electronic address for you as I will be sending important health information and forms to you via email in May.

Mary Ellen Foley, RN, CSN

News From Mrs. Fornal in Guidance

Dear Parents,

With much excitement and anticipation, I am happy to inform you that my husband and I are expecting our third child sometime in late April / early May. Therefore, my last day this year at Village Elementary School will be April 4th. Many VES students already know that I will be leaving early. However, over the next couple of weeks, I will be informing students that I work with about my last day to help prepare them for the transition. The good news is that we are in the process of selecting a replacement from an outstanding group of highly qualified individuals. More good news is that I will be returning to VES in early November of next school year to continue working with our Village Elementary School Family.

If anyone has any questions or concerns they would like to share with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lauren Fornal



Music in Our Schools Month Concert Schedule



Tuesday, March 4th, 7 P.M., MHS – Band #1 and Chorus Concert
Wednesday, March 5th, 7 P.M., MHS- Band #2 and Orchestra Concert

Ms Houston, Band Director ~ Dr. Goldman, Orchestra Director ~ Dr. Bell, Choral Director

Students have been busily preparing for the upcoming concerts and look forward to showcasing their musical accomplishments with you!



March into the Arts with Us! Fourth Grade Art Show

Monday, March 17th, 6:00-8:00

Mrs. O'Connor , Art Teacher



Art will be on display in the main foyer, in the main hallway and by some fourth grade classrooms.
Join us for an evening of art and a special musical performance.
Please come out and see what fabulous creations your students have made!
All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Bingo Fridays

Coming to VES SOON, the spring version of our popular student BINGO! This is a FREE event but students still MUST REGISTER ONLINE at the PTA website. Please consider volunteering to help with your child's class at the event.



4th Grade - Friday, March 14, 2014, 3:45pm-5:15pm. For more info on 4th contact Jignya Patel

3rd Grade - Friday, March 21, 2014, 3:45pm-5:15pm. For more info on 3rd contact Leslie Hauben

Yearbooks

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOKS TODAY !! - the online pre-order form is now available on our website. For those who do not wish to order online, be on the lookout for order forms coming home SOON!

PTA Founders Day

Congratulations to our 2013-14 PTA Founders Day Recipients: Mrs. Zoffinger-Guidette and Ms. Winer. The celebration for all district recipients will take place on Tuesday, March 18th at 4:30 in the MHS Commons.

Minkyo Chenette & Greg Swerdlow

MES PTA Co-Presidents

Montgomery Middle School



Michael Richards, Principal
Georgianna Kichura, Assistant Principal

Lower Campus
373 Burnt Hill Road
Skillman, NJ 08558
(609) 466 - 7604

March 4, 2014

Dear Parents/ Guardians of 4th Grade Students:

On **Friday, April 25th** your fourth grade student will have the opportunity to visit the Lower Campus Middle School for an Orientation Program. The move from fourth to fifth grade is a major transition for our children. This orientation is an opportunity for us to introduce ourselves to your children and begin to make them more comfortable about coming to LMS.

On this day, your fourth grade student will be transported to the Lower Middle School, accompanied by their 4th grade teachers. They will gather in the cafetorium for an explanation of the many different and exciting Lower Middle School programs. In the past, the music department has also presented a short concert so our future 5th graders can start thinking about their music elective. This may be a very important part of their middle school experience.

After the presentation, our Ambassadors will provide a tour of the entire building; visiting classrooms, the gym, and the "PODS". We are sure that your child will enjoy their first visit to the Lower Middle School. It is our further hope that this orientation will help to calm some of the fears and anxieties that our future 5th graders may be feeling.

On **April 29th** at 7:00 pm in the LMS' cafetorium, you are invited to attend an the **5th Grade Parent Orientation Program**. We will discuss the program of studies, the school day, music electives and possible field trips. The music program will be described in detail to allow you and your child to make the most informed decision of their music elective. We hope that the evening Orientation Program will help to answer many of the questions that you, the parents, have about next year's Lower Middle School experience.

On the evening of **Friday, May 9th** the PTO is tentatively planning our annual Movin'Up Party for our incoming 5th grade students at LMS. Please be on the lookout for student sign-up sheets and parent volunteer requests from the PTO in the very near future.

There will also be an opportunity on **Wednesday, August 27th** for incoming fifth grade students to walk through the building. Of course, if you are away that week, please know that once schedules are mailed out you are welcome to visit anytime.

We look forward to meeting you soon,

Michael Richards
Principal

Georgianna Kichura
Assistant Principal

NJASK and PARCC Information

March 3, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians of VES Grades 3 and 4 Students,

In a few months (May 12-15), New Jersey 3rd and 4th grade students across the state will take the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) for the last time.

In 2014-2015, New Jersey schools will be transitioning to a new statewide assessment as part of a group of nineteen states. The group of states, called the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), has been working for the last several years to develop tests that are aligned to new content standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics that were adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education in 2010.

As a member state, New Jersey educators are helping to develop next-generation, computer-based tests in ***math, reading, and writing*** that are of exceptional quality and will measure students' content knowledge and key skills, such as their ability to think critically, solve problems and use information from what they read to write well-developed essays. Students in ***grades 3-11*** will take the computer-based PARCC assessments beginning in the ***spring of 2015***.

The PARCC assessments have six priority purposes:

- Determine whether students are college- and career-ready or on track
- Assess the full range of the Common Core Standards, including standards that are difficult to measure
- Measure the full range of student performance, including the performance high- and low-performing students
- Provide data during the academic year to inform instruction, interventions and professional development
- Provide data for accountability, including measures of growth
- Incorporate innovative approaches throughout the assessment system

To address the priority purposes, the PARCC assessment system is comprised of multiple components. Each component will be computer-delivered and will use technology to incorporate innovations.

Two summative, required assessment components designed to:

- Make "college- and career-readiness" and "on-track" determinations,
- Measure the full range of standards and full performance continuum, and
- Provide data for accountability uses, including measures of growth.

Two non-summative, optional assessment components designed to:

- Generate timely information for informing instruction, interventions, and professional development during the school year.

The overall assessment system design will include a mix of constructed response items, performance-based tasks, and computer-enhanced, computer-scored items.

For further information: <http://www.parcconline.org/about-parcc>

For frequently asked questions: http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCFAQ_9-182013.pdf

For sample questions: <http://www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes>

Thank you for all you do on behalf of your children. Please be in touch with my office if we can answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Erin Peacock
Director, Assessment (K-12)
1-606-466-7600 ext. 7020
epeacock@mtsd.us

**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, 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

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.

***FRIENDSHIP & Honesty
are the Pillars of
Character for March and
April***

**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!**

NEWS FROM SOAR

We are looking forward to another enriching and exciting summer in our S.O.A.R. program! (Student opportunities for academics and recreation) We have many more offerings this summer for academics PreK-12, HS Summer School credit and preview courses and our interest based classes as well!

Registration is NOW open. You can access the registration pages by clicking on the links on the district website as well as additional information regarding this program. If you have any questions please contact us at SOAR@mtsd.us

Monica Clewell-Supervisor

Kathy Sinclair-Assistant Supervisor

Keith Glock- Coordinator



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.