

The Village Bluebird

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

MARCH/APRIL 2012



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- March 5: McCarter Theater Sunjata Assemblies
- March 7: 3rd Grade BRAVO Assemblies, Summer Enrichment Info Mtg, 7pm MHS
- March 9: McCarter Theater Sunjata Assemblies, 3rd Grade Bingo
- March 12: McCarter Theater Sunjata Assemblies
- March 13: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- March 14: Band 2 & Chorus Concert, MHS, 7pm
- March 15: Band 1 & Orchestra Concert, MHS 7pm
- March 16: Wear Green for St. Patrick's Day (Sat.)
- March 20: PTA Founders' Day, MHS 4:30pm
- March 21: PTA Mtg OHES 10
- March 22: 4th Grade Art Show, VES, 6-8
- March 23: Kevin Two Steps Native American Assembly
- March 27, BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- **March 27-30: Staff Development, Optional P/T Conferences, Early Dismissal**
- March 30: Montgomery's Got Talent, MHS 6:30-8
- **April 2--6: Spring Recess, Schools Closed**
- **April 9: Staff Development, Schools Closed**
- April 10: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- April 13: Arbor Day Activities, 3rd Grade
- April 17: School Election/Budget Vote
- April 20: Green Planet Assemblies
- April 21: Parents' Night Out, CVCC
- April 24: BOE Mtg, UMS 7:30
- April 25: Administrative Professionals Day
- April 27: Mom's Night Out
- April 28th: MTEA Music From the Heart—Bye Bye Birdie, MHS
- May 7-11: NJASK Testing, Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 9: School Nurses Day
- May 14-18: NJASK Makeups
- May 21 & 23: 3rd Grade Musical & Art Show, VES, 7pm
- **May 28: Memorial Day - Schools Closed**
- June 1-12: MAP Testing
- June 4-5: 4th Grade Music Concerts, MHS, 7
- June 13-14: Fun Days
- **June 20: Last Day of School,**

FRIENDSHIP & HONESTY are the Pillars of Character for March & April!

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 explored traditional festivities of the Chinese New Year. 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!

Our PTA also sponsored our Wendy Mass and Seymour Simon authors' visits which encouraged our students' love of reading and writing. In addition, our young scientists shared their innovations at this year's Invention Convention!

February also brought student news reports about notable African Americans in celebration of African-American History Month, Valentine's Day Character and Caring parties, Presidents' Day remembrances and *Jump Rope for Heart*.

In March, guest readers joined 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 West African story of Sunjata Kamalenya, 13th Century Ruler of the Mali Empire and the Princeton Symphony Orchestra will present BRAVO string assemblies to our 3rd graders. Dr. Bell, Ms. Houston, Mrs. 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, Kevin Two Steps Native American Assembly for 3rd graders, PTA Founders' Day, Parent-Teacher conferences, Montgomery's Got Talent Shows, and the arrival of spring.

April begins with spring recess followed by Autism Awareness events, Arbor and Earth Day activities and preparations for our PTA Parents Night Out, an evening not to be missed!

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 27th at the close of school until April 30th.**
- **March 27th—30th** 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 27th. Optional parent-teacher conferences will be held on the 28th-30th. 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 9th—** Staff Development for faculty. Schools Closed



Jump Rope for Heart Raises More Than \$15,000 at VES

Thank You for Your Support! Villagers raised a grand total of \$15,391.79 for Jump Rope in support of the American Heart Association.

Orchard Hill has raised more than \$9,000. Combined, both schools have far surpassed their \$10,000 goal.

Thank you again, families for supporting this endeavor!

Mr. Bassford, Mr. Belfiore and Ms. Messick
The VES Health and PE Team

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Caring & Friendship By VES Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Fornal

Caring and Friendship are the pillars of the month for February and March respectively. We focused on spreading the joy of appreciation, gratitude and love. To help your child better understand these pillars, I recommend reading The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. Below are some questions that can help you start a conversation with your child regarding giving, appreciation, thankfulness and love. After you have read this book together, ask your child to think about the book and the relationship between the boy and the tree. For example:

- What was the relationship like between the boy and the tree?
- How did the boy treat the tree?
- Was it a true friendship?
- What did the tree do to show he cared about the boy?
- What did the boy do to show he cared?
- Besides giving objects and material things, how do we show others that we care about them?
- Who do you know that is like the tree?
- How is this person like the tree?
- What do you do or say to let them know they are important to you?
- How do you feel when someone tells or shows you that you are important to them?



After you have talked with your child about the book, remind him/her that Caring is not only for the month of February. It is something we should express each and every day.

YOUNG SCHOLARS' INSTITUTE UPDATES:

Young Scholars' Institute
 349 West State Street Trenton, New Jersey 08618
www.youngscholarsoftrenton.org

January 24, 2012

Dear Ms. Lacy,

On behalf of Young Scholars' Institute (YSI), and the Trenton-area families that participated in our 2011 Holiday Gift Giving Project, I thank you and the students at Village Elementary School for making the holiday season special for so many YSI children and their families. For almost twenty years, YSI and Village have partnered in this annual gift-giving endeavor. This project has become a proud tradition for YSI. Each year, the priceless rewards of giving become more evident to all involved.

Under your leadership, this project provides both your students and YSI staff and community members with a service learning opportunity that will help set the stage for young people who will grow into adults that continue to give back to their communities and the world around them. Teaching the importance of giving is truly a lesson that goes far beyond the classroom and helps to transcend the world.

YSI is honored that our families are the recipients of Village Elementary School's kindness. I thank you for your commitment to Young Scholars' Institute. Most importantly, I thank the Village Family for your commitment to our children and families. I truly commend your students for their selflessness and desire to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Additionally, I applaud them for their desire to truly get to know our students.

If your schedule permits, we would like to visit on January 31st to decorate a bulletin board, as we have done the last few years. Please let me know if that day will work for you.

Thank you again for all that you do for YSI.

Sincerely,

Jerri Morrison
 Executive Director

Please visit the bulletin board of YSI thank you cards and letters, just across from the cafeteria!

Fourth Grade Orchestra, Band and Chorus Concerts

Wednesday, March 14th, 7 P.M., MHS – Band #2 and Chorus Concert

Thursday, March 15th, 7 P.M., MHS- Band #1 and Orchestra Concert

BAND~MS. HOUSTEN

Students in both 4th 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, and general musicality. We have begun working with more complex rhythms and have increased our range from five notes to more than an octave.



For the March concerts, band students are beginning to learn how to play more independently. We 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, it’s also much more rewarding to play and to listen to because of the interaction between the many parts.

ORCHESTRA~DR. GOLDMAN

The VES Orchestra and String Ensemble are getting ready for the first spring concert. The beginners have been focusing on learning the basics of playing their instruments and reading music. Since September, they gained many important instrumental skills that enabled them to learn pieces in first position and begin playing in a large group. The concert program is going to feature several orchestra arrangements of folk songs and a few original compositions for orchestra and string ensemble.

CHORUS~DR. BELL

The 4th Grade Winter Chorus will be performing at the Montgomery High School Performing Arts Center on March 14th at 7 pm. They are singing Folk Songs from around the world, including Korea, Holland and Jamaica. It should be a fun concert and we look forward to seeing you there. The 3rd 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.

Fourth Grade Art Show

Thursday, March 22nd, 6:00-8:00

ART~MRS. O’CONNOR

During the school year fourth grade students have been busy learning about the elements and principles of design.

Many artists and cultures were studied while students created beautiful and individual masterpieces.

On Thursday, March 22, from 6-8, please come visit VES to see all the wonderful 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 band teacher, Ms. Houston. Please come out and see what fabulous creations your students have made! All are welcome and encouraged to attend!



News from the VES Health Office

The Health Office would like to pass along a friendly reminder to all parents. Please continue to be proactive in checking your child's hair for any signs of lice. As we all know this is an ongoing process especially during the elementary school years. If you do find evidence of lice in your child's hair please let the Health Office know as soon as possible so that we can monitor the situation. Parents are still our first line of defense and have proven to be the best method for curtailing the problem.

If a positive case is found at school the student or students are sent home for treatment and will be permitted to return to school only after being cleared by the nurse. Treatment instructions and other information are shared with parents of infected children and a letter reporting the case is sent to parents of children in the affected class. The letter will also include helpful facts and prevention information.

Please remember to refer to the VES Health Office web page which includes the CDC guidelines regarding the diagnosis and treatment of pediculosis. Also please do not hesitate to call the VES Health Office with any concerns you may have. Thank you for your cooperation throughout the school year.

The VES Nurses

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



COMING SOON:

BINGO! Join us for another great game of BINGO. 3rd Grade is March 9th. Please email Robin (3rd) at robin@roeper.com to volunteer.



Montgomery's Got Talent is coming to the MPAC stage for one night only! March 30th 6:30-9:00pm. Contact Lauri Loaiza at montymom2029@comcast.net for information or to help contact Kym Gebbles at gerbill@mac.com or visit us at www.vespta.org.

HOLD THE DATE: Saturday, April 21st for the 3rd Annual VES PTA's Parents' Night Out at Cherry Valley Country Club.



Wine and Beer Tasting, Great Food, Wine Arbor and Silent Auction

Please consider volunteering to help us make this event a success! We are also looking for Silent Auction donations.

If interested in volunteering or donating please contact Adrienne Jakubowski: adriennemarchitto@yahoo.com, 908-528-4276!



Mom's Night Out – Save the Date April 27th!

A night of fun with the special “she” in your child’s life. If interested in volunteering please contact June at june_cucchi@yahoo.com

This spring, we will be participating in Market Day's Connect2Win Contest which starts January 29, 2012 through April 28th, 2012. Our organization can earn up to \$1,000 cash by receiving the highest number of e-mail entries while you have the opportunity to win great prizes!

- 1 Grand Prize: Apple® iPad 2™ Mobile Digital Device
- 1 First Prize: Apple iTouch
- 1 Second Prize: Apple iPhone
- 20 Third Prizes: \$25 Market Day Gift Certificate
- Instant Wins: \$2-\$10 off Market Day order. This will be provided as a unique-one time use promo code.



All you have to do is go to www.marketday.com, log in to your account or create an account if you are a new customer, click on the “Win An Ipad” link and follow the instructions. Remember, by signing up for e-mails at marketday.com, you will also receive exclusive offers, money saving coupons and important order reminders.

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.k12.nj.us

Alfred Hadinger, Vice Principal

Email: ahadinger@mtsd.k12.nj.us

Phone: 609-466-7606

Fax: 609-333-0280

WWW.MTSD.K12.NJ.US

**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!**

**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, AlertNow 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 14 (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 at the end of the school year. Please refer to the District calendar for details and visit the VES website for the 6-day rotation schedule.

Environmental Education Center's ECO-RALLY! April 1 – April 15, 2012

Start to make a difference! Earth is counting on you! Receive a daily log and record the simple tasks you complete to minimize your carbon footprint! Tasks may include, but are not limited to:

- Turn the lights off when you leave a room
- Ride your bike or walk instead of driving
- Use reusable bags when shopping
- Plant a native garden or tree
- Use reusable containers

Then create a display of posters, pictures, etc. showing your contribution to the environment! Displays will be on exhibit from April 24 through May 6 at the Environmental Education Center. Prizes will be awarded to stand out teams during the Eco-Rally Ceremony at 2:00pm on Sunday, May 6, 2012!

To request an application or for further information regarding the Eco-Rally please contact Carrie Springer, Naturalist at: Somerset County Park Commission, Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920, 908-766-2489 x.326, cspringer@scparcs.org.



"YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN"

A Montgomery Upper Middle School musical the entire family can enjoy!

Friday, March 9 at 7:00pm and Saturday, March 10 at 1:00pm. Tickets are available by emailing umsboxoffice@mtsd.us and are \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors and students. All seats are reserved and orders are processed as they are received. Tickets will be held at the box office for you. Checks should be made out to "Montgomery Upper Middle School." Thank you!
Robert Violette, Producer/Director

Asian Cooking Event in March at Montgomery High School

Indian, Chinese, Thai, and Korean cooking classes will be offered on five Fridays in March by the Montgomery Township High School Chinese Program in partnership with the Montgomery PTA's Multicultural Outreach Committee.



For more information and to register online visit <http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/Page/8059>

Food Drive to Support the Somerset County Food Bank

Amanda, a junior at MHS is working on her Girl Scout gold award and running a food drive at VES from March 5- March 30. The following items can be donated: canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, canned spaghetti, cereal (hot/cold), jelly, juice, Macaroni & cheese, Parmalat milk, peanut butter, soup, spaghetti sauce, and tuna. Donation boxes will be located by the main office as well as in the cafeteria. All donations will be much appreciated!



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.