



Village Elementary School | (609) 466-7606 |
100 Main Blvd., Skillman, NJ 08558



VES January/February 2025 Bluebird

Dear VES Families,

We hope that the New Year is off to a great start.

We closed 2024 with a very successful Young Scholars Institute drive, the PTA sponsored Penguin Patch Gift Shop, class lessons with MHS Peer Leaders, winter parties-courtesy of our wonderful class parents and lessons on holidays including Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. Music was also in the air during the first performances of bands 1 and 2 under the direction of Ms. Houston, a special visit from the MHS carolers and our annual VES sing along!

We have been celebrating and honoring the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with lessons on fairness, service to others and making the world a better place. We are also celebrating Muslim American Heritage Month through classroom lessons and read alouds. and look forward to choral concerts, the Lunar New Year, celebrating Black History leaders and change makers, spreading kindness during our Caring and Sharing Valentines Day parties, Presidents' Day and Kindness Week!

Stay up to date with visits to the [VES](#), [MES PTA](#) and [MSEPTA](#) websites for program and school news. Reminders for reporting your child's absence and other information can be found [here](#).

Ms. Susan Lacy, Principal



January, February, and Kindness Spirit Days



Thursday, 1/2: Exercise Gear!

Wear athletic clothes or exercise gear to kick off your healthy New Year resolution!

Friday, 1/3: School Spirit!

Wear V.E.S. or Monty gear.

Friday, 1/10: "I Woke Up Like This" Friday!

Come dressed in your favorite pajamas!

Wednesday, 1/15: Wellness Wednesday!

Wear what makes you feel calm and mindful.

Friday, 1/17: Our Future is Bright!

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that"
- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Wear bright colors!

Friday, 1/24: School Spirit!

Wear V.E.S. or Monty gear.

Friday, 1/31: Backwards Day!

Wear your favorite shirt or sweatshirt backwards.



Monday, 2/3: School Counselor Appreciation!

Wear what makes you HAPPY to celebrate Mrs. Fornal and Mrs. Schantz!

Wednesday, 2/5: Wellness Wednesday!

Wear what makes you feel calm and mindful.

Friday, 2/7: Superbowl Spirit!

Wear a jersey or tshirt to represent your favorite sports team!

Friday, 2/14: Share the Love Day!

Wear red or pink to show how much we care and share the love at V.E.S.!

Friday, 2/21: Dreaming of Kindness!

Wear your pajamas to school!

Friday, 2/28: School Spirit!

Wear V.E.S. or Monty gear to show school spirit!



Tuesday, 2/18: Hats Off to Kindness!

Wear your craziest hat to school today!

Wednesday, 2/19: Ride the Kindness Wave!

Wear your beach shirts, sweatshirts, hats, etc!

Thursday, 2/20: Work Out Problems With Kindness!

Wear your work out clothes.

Friday, 2/21: Dreaming of Kindness!

Wear your pajamas to school!

Welcome to Registered Nurse, Ms. Yuen Tang

Please join us in welcoming RN, Ms. Yuen Tang to the Village School Family. Mrs. Tang joined School Nurse, Ms. Cizin in our Health Office on Friday, January 17th. As you know, Ms. Woodard retired in December after several years of exceptional service. Ms. Tang recently served as an RN at Crossroads Middle School in South Brunswick and has more than 30 years of nursing experience in hospital and school settings. She is certain to be a great addition to our team. The Village School Family is excited she is here and she looks forward to working with our staff, students and families for years to come.

Principal Roundtable Discussion

As we kick off the 2025 New Year, we're excited to invite families to our first of two Principal Roundtable Discussions. This is an opportunity for us to come together, share information about various school initiatives and procedures, and to explore how we can use shared language and understanding to strengthen our partnership in support of our students.

Please join the Village School principals in person on Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Village School Media Center. We will divide the 60 minute session into a 45 minute presentation followed by a 15 minute question and answer session. Ms. Lacy and Mrs. Camuto will discuss how administrators and staff use Village School's Code of Conduct and Blazer's Beliefs to cultivate a positive community with shared values and consistent expectations that empower students to make thoughtful and appropriate decisions.

If you are interested in joining us for our first Principal Roundtable Discussion, please RSVP using the [Google Form linked here](#). The form will remain open for responses until all 30 seats are filled or until Wednesday, January 22, whichever comes first. We are delighted to welcome as many participants as possible. Seats will be confirmed for the first 30 registrants. The second Principal Roundtable will take place later in the school year.

We look forward to meeting with you.



Young Scholars Institute Project – Thank you!

Our 30th annual YSI holiday project was a success thanks to the support and generosity of our entire community! VES Peer Partners filled a box truck and took a trip to deliver holiday gifts to the Young Scholars Institute. YSI families extend their thanks and appreciation to you, our staff and all of our students! Jerri Morrison, the Executive Director of the Young Scholars Institute is grateful for the difference we have made for many families. Many thanks to Ms. Hum, Mrs. Pignataro and Mrs. Vanatta, our master organizers, for growing this project each year and helping to orchestrate this amazing effort.

Cold Weather and Recess

We will be holding recess whenever the weather allows. Please ensure that your child is dressed accordingly. Hats, gloves, scarves, heavy jackets and appropriate footwear are **MUST HAVES!**

Be sure to label your child's belongings so we can easily return lost items. Check the Lost and Found during your visits as unclaimed items will be donated.



A Message from the Health Office

Dear Families,

It's cold and flu season! Please review [CDC information](#) and [Prevent the Spread of Colds & Flu](#) to help your family stay healthy. Remember to thoroughly wash your hands to wash away germs!

Nosebleed Prevention - If your child suffers from winter nosebleeds it may be from the dry air. Try using a cold air humidifier in your child's room at night. Saline nose drops or petroleum jelly may help too. If severe, consult your pediatrician.

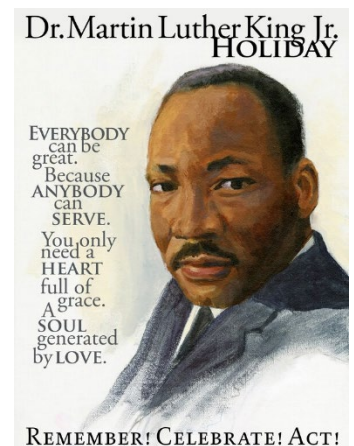
Wishing you healthy days ahead!

Mrs. Cizin, School Nurse

Celebrating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and a Day of Service

Shortly after the 1968 assassination of the great civil-rights activist, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., individuals in both the Senate and the House of Representatives began proposing legislation to honor him with a federal holiday. However, it took almost 15 years before the 1st Martin Luther King Day would be celebrated in 1986. As we approach the anniversary of this commemoration, let us remember the words of Coretta Scott King (Washington Post, 1983): "The holiday must be substantive as well as symbolic. It must be more than a day of celebration . . . Let this holiday be a day of reflection, a day of teaching nonviolent philosophy and strategy, a day of getting involved in nonviolent action for social and economic progress."

Today, it has become traditional to celebrate the legacy of Dr. King through acts of service. We look forward to honoring Rev. Dr. King!





Lunar New Year

Celebrated around the world, the Lunar New Year falls on January 29th kicking off the year of the snake, which symbolizes power, honor, luck and success. This 15 day festival, which follows the phases of the moon, welcomes a new year of luck and prosperity. Student experts will share the legends and history, family traditions and other highlights of this festive celebration.

Report Cards

Mid-year report cards will be available online starting Friday, February 7th after 4 PM. They will be available to view, print, and save.

To log in:

1. Visit <https://parents.mtsd.k12.nj.us>
2. Enter your username (your email address), and your password. If you forgot your password, use the "Forgot My Password" link just below the Login button. Your password will be sent by email in a few minutes.

If you are unable to log in or do not have an account, please contact support at genesissupport@mtsd.us.



Important Dates

MTSD District Calendar 2024-2025

January 20: Schools Closed, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 29: Schools Closed, Staff In-Service

January 30: Principal's Roundtable - See Google Form above for registration details

January 31: 3rd Grade Author Visit, Mr. Rashad Davis

February 3-7: National School Counseling Week in celebration of Mrs. Fornal and Mrs. Schantz

February 7: Report Cards Available

February 17: Schools Closed, Presidents' Day

February 18-21: Kindness Week

February 25: PTA Sponsored Scholastic Book Fair Starts

March 5: 4th Grade Author Visit, Mrs. Gita Varadarajan