



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



VES Fall 2024 Bluebird

Dear VES Families,

Our school year is off to a positive and productive start! Students are working hard and practicing Blazer's Beliefs each day. Thank you for reinforcing goals and expectations at home.

During September and October we are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Thank you to all of our Hispanic Heritage parent speakers representing various countries for your Spanish class presentations. Our PTA helped Villagers show their respect and appreciation for our hard working custodians on National Custodian Day (October 2nd). We are grateful for all they do to keep VES safe and clean! We are also recognizing Disabilities Awareness through class read alouds and discussions of *All the Way to the Top*, the story of eight year old Jennifer Keelan, who encouraged Congress to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act. What a trailblazer! In November we will shine a light on Indigenous Heritage and Voting Equity in support of our pillar of character, Citizenship and in December we will highlight Giving and Service as we plan for our 30th annual Young Scholars Institute service project.

Please review this issue for additional information and updates. Thank you for your support and active involvement and enjoy the fall season!

Ms. Susan Lacy, Principal

Mrs. Lia Camuto, Vice Principal



October Spirit Days



OCTOBER SPIRIT DAYS

Village Elementary School

Wednesday, 10/2: National Custodian Day!
Our V.E.S. custodians work hard to make our school shine! Celebrate them by wearing your favorite pair of sunglasses to school.

Friday, 10/4: Women's Health Awareness!
October is women's health awareness month. Wear Pink!

Friday, 10/11: Dreaming of Kindness!
Wear your favorite pajamas!

Wednesday, 9/16: Wellness Wednesday!
Wear what makes you feel calm and mindful.

Friday, 10/18: National Necktie Day!
Put on a necktie (or bowtie) and prepare to celebrate this special day in style!

Friday, 10/25: School Spirit!
Show your school spirit and wear VES or Monty gear.

Thursday, 10/31: Happy Halloween!
Bring your costumes for your class party or show your school spirit with VES or Monty gear! Please remember, no masks or weapons.



Week of Respect: Respect Ourselves, Others, and our Community

During the Week of Respect (October 7-11) Villagers will engage in conversations about respect with the specific focus that respect is an action. They will discuss different ways we demonstrate respect to others, to ourselves, and to our community. Each day we will be celebrating a different spirit theme day along with its corresponding classroom connection to enhance our reflection and discussion of these topics. Some highlights from the week will be:

- Disagreeing respectfully
- Regulating our own emotions instead of using insults, making fun of others, or name calling
- We can be welcoming and inclusive. We all belong here.

- Respecting our mind and body

The MHS Peer Leaders will be visiting some of our classrooms to share lessons on respect. In addition, our school counselors will be wrapping up their classroom lessons that focus on making sure we treat each other with respect and kind words so that everyone can feel safe and comfortable in school.

Thank you for furthering these discussions at home as we are always looking for students to show respect and compassion throughout the year for themselves and others, in our school and in our global community.

Village School is very excited to welcome Katie Wood on October 7th to help us kick off our Week of Respect. Katie Wood is a thought leader, entrepreneur, and author of A Simple Seed journal. The school edition of her book is a growth and gratitude journal that is designed to help students feel bright, confident, loved, brave, strong and grateful. We believe the lessons in the journal will enhance our Blazer's Beliefs and positively impact our school community. We look forward to seeing how this will enrich our students' classroom experiences, their interaction with peers and their lives at home. Katie Wood will be speaking with students and staff about the power of the mind, overcoming challenges, and the importance of gratitude. To learn more about Katie Wood and A Simple Seed journal, scan the QR code to check out her appearance on the Today Show.



 **WEEK OF RESPECT!**
Village Elementary School

Monday, 10/07: We're On the Same Team!
Wear your favorite team shirt, jersey or apparel!

Tuesday, 10/08: Respect is No Sweat!
Wear workout or athletic clothes.

Wednesday, 10/09: Shine Bright!
Wear neon/bright colors *AND/OR* dress your best for picture day!

Thursday, 10/10: Give Peace a Chance!
Wear Tie Dye clothing *AND/OR* dress your best for picture day!

Friday, 10/11: Dreaming of Kindness!
Wear your favorite pajamas!

Digital Citizenship Week

October 14-18, Villagers will learn about building healthy habits around technology use through videos presented on the VES Afternoon News. The topics include caring for your device, balancing technology time with other activities, respectful technology use, ways to identify and prevent cyber-bullying and managing distractions. We are looking forward to seeing how students put this learning into practice so they can engage with technology in thoughtful and healthy ways. Parents can learn more about these videos along with some great family tips by checking out this resource from [Common Sense Education](#).



Halloween at VES



As Halloween approaches, we would like to inform you of upcoming activities in which your children are welcomed to participate. On Thursday, October 31st, we will kick off the day with our annual Readers' Theater assemblies. VES students and staff will participate in fun and interactive large group read alouds, then each class will share collaborative themed Haiku poems!

Halloween class parties will be planned, facilitated and attended by room parents and their designees only. Designated parent participants are required to check in at the front door sign-in station upon arrival.

Students are welcome to wear VES/Monty gear or Halloween costumes for their class parties. Costumes should be quick and easy to change into/out of and be free of props/weapons. Your child's teacher(s) and room parents will provide classroom party details.

Alternative activities will be available for students not participating in Halloween activities. Just let your child's teacher know so we can plan accordingly. Thank you for your support and cooperation in making Halloween organized, safe, and fun for everyone!

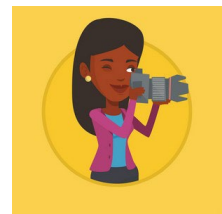
School Picture Days

Individual and class pictures will be taken at VES by Milan Rose Studios. Forms were sent home via backpack mail. Picture makeup dates will be scheduled and communicated at a later date.

Picture Days:

- Wednesday, October 9th
- Thursday, October 10th

Your child's teacher will communicate the exact date your child's pictures will be taken.





Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences will be held on November 21-22, 25-26. During conferences you will meet with your child's teacher(s) to discuss their learning progress thus far. Keep an eye out for a communication on November 1st regarding the Parent Portal sign up directions. The conference sign up window will be between November 4-15.

PTA Happenings

Our Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) have so much to offer to students and families and they are instrumental in supporting our teachers and schools! Special thanks to our Welcome Week, Open House and Back to School Night volunteers! Check out the MES PTA website for upcoming events, fundraisers and ways to get involved! [The Montgomery Elementary School PTA \(MESPTA\)](#)



[Montgomery Special Education PTA \(MSEPTA\)](#)

Learn about MSEPTA's mission and goals and ways you can help by clicking on the link above.



Cold Weather and Recess

Students think with clearer brains when they have a chance to get moving. To help with this, we will be holding recess whenever the weather allows. Please expect that we are planning for outdoor recess and dress your child accordingly. Hats, gloves, scarf, a heavy jacket 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.

Young Scholars Institute Service Project

Our 30th annual school-wide holiday fundraiser and gift project will take place in December to help support children who are part of this program in Trenton. Please expect more information from your child's teacher as December approaches



Important Dates

MTSD District Calendar 2024-2025

October 31: Halloween Readers Theater and Class Parties

November 1: Schools Closed, Staff Development

November 7-8: Schools Closed, New Jersey Teachers Convention

November 21-22, 25-26: Parent Teacher Conferences; Early/1:35 Dismissal for Students (Lunch is served on early dismissal days. Recess is canceled. Parent pickup will begin at 1:20).

November 27: Early/1:35 Dismissal

November 28-29: Schools Closed, Fall/Thanksgiving Recess

December 20: Early/1:35 Dismissal for Students

December 23-31, January 1: Schools Closed, Winter Recess