



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

Greetings Families

Dear Families,

We are so excited about all that the spring season brings including much awaited warmer weather! Time has gone by quickly and we have been very busy at VES! Since our last edition, we celebrated the retirement of our exceptional Head Custodian, Mr. Ken Vaccaro after more than 20 successful years at VES and 23 years in Montgomery. Villagers showed their appreciation with cards and banners during a celebratory school-wide clap off! Mr. Vaccaro will be deeply missed by our VES Family. We look forward to naming a new head custodian very soon.

Special thanks to the MTEA, all of our guest readers and visiting authors, Rashad Malik Davis (3rd) and Gita Varadarajan (4th), for making Read Across America week (March 4-8) a wonderful reading and writing celebration! The fourth grade orchestra and bands were recognized for impressive Music in Our Schools Month concerts for peers and parents and for St. Patrick's Day, we enjoyed a fantastic performance by the Lynn Academy of Irish Dance featuring our very own Villagers and MTSD students.

Throughout March, we are also honoring Women's History Month and women's contributions to our global community. Special guest co-founders and authors, Beverly Mills and Elaine Buck from the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum ([SSAAM](#)) in Skillman, will be sharing a Proud Heritage: The African American Presence and Contributions in the Sourland Mountain Region and Surrounding Area during assemblies this week.

Villagers are also learning about holiday traditions and customs their peers enjoy this time of year, including Ramadan, St. Patrick's Day, Nowruz, Purim, Holi, Easter, Hindu New Year, Eid al Fitr and Passover.

In April, we are planning for our school wide recognition of Arab American Heritage Month and Deaf History, Autism Acceptance Week, fourth grade class trips to the State House as part of their social studies/civics unit, and Mr. Fallon's incredible Seeing Eye Dog Assembly on April 15-16 which will include a school-wide fundraiser. Read below for more information about our plans for the Solar Eclipse, 3rd Grade Arbor Day, 3rd and 5th grade orientations and upcoming calendar and PTA events.

Stay up to date with visits to the [VES](#), [MES PTA](#), and [MSEPTA](#) websites, follow our [Instagram feed](#) for pictures of the latest activities at school, and check out dates and other happenings in this issue!

Susan Lacy, Principal and The VES Family

Important Dates + April School Spirit Days

[Updated District Calendar](#) | [VES Calendar](#) | [April Spirit Days](#) | [Autism Acceptance Week](#)

Thursday, March 28: Schools Open

Friday, March 29 – Wednesday, April 3: Schools Closed – Spring Break

Thursday, April 4 – Friday, April 5: Schools Open – Early/1:35 PM Dismissal Days

Thursday, April 4: **SPIRIT DAY** – Where Would You Rather Be? Wear your favorite destination attire!

Friday, April 5: **SPIRIT DAY** – Pajama Day! Wear your pajamas to school!

Monday, April 8: Solar Eclipse

Wednesday, April 10: Schools Closed – Staff In-Service

Thursday, April 11: PTA Virtual Meeting – 7:00 PM

Friday, April 12: **SPIRIT DAY** – Autism Acceptance Friday! Wear your most comfy clothes to acknowledge sensory sensitivities!

Friday, April 12: 3rd Grade Arbor Day

Friday, April 19: **SPIRIT DAY** – National Refresh Your Goals Day! Wear athletic clothes or exercise gear to refresh your New Year resolution!

Tuesday, April 23: Schools Closed – Passover

Wednesday, April 24: 5th Grade Orientation for Students (Parents Date and Time TBD)

Thursday, April 25: Take Your Child to Work Day

Friday, April 26: **SPRIT DAY** – National Arbor Day! Wear green, blue, or brown to resemble the Earth and get outside to play!

Friday, April 26: MES PTA International Night @ OHES – 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Wednesday, May 1: 3rd Grade Orientation for 2nd Graders (School Day Visit) and Evening Visit for 2nd Grade Parents

Monday, May 6 – Friday, May 10: 3rd Grade NJSLA + Staff Appreciation Week

Monday, May 13 – Friday, May 17: 4th Grade NJSLA

Monday, May 20 – Friday, May 24: NJSLA Makeups

Read Across America Cereal Box Donation - Thank you!

Villagers shared their generosity by collecting, decorating and donating 615 cereal boxes to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. The Food Bank expressed their appreciation for the generous donation and the increased need for support of families facing food insecurity. We are grateful to our families for your support!

Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8th

A message from Mrs. Glover, K-4 Mathematics/Science Supervisor:

We are in full preparation mode for the Total Eclipse, of which we will get to see 92%! We will have solar eclipse glasses available for all students and staff in Kindergarten through 4th grade who would like to participate. We are currently finalizing procedures, and a separate communication about this event will be sent out soon.



Arbor Day

The Montgomery Township Shade Tree Committee and community volunteers will be visiting third grade classes on **Friday, April 12th** to teach students about trees and our environment. Each third grader will receive an Overcup Oak Tree seedling to plant at home.



Fifth Grade Orientation at Lower Middle School

Student Orientation: Fourth graders will take a class trip to LMS for Fifth Grade Orientation on **Wednesday, April 24th**.

Parent/Guardian Orientation: Parents/Guardians will be invited to an evening presentation to meet the school leaders, learn about the fifth grade program, your child's elective choices and more. Stay tuned for the date and time of this event

Take Your Child to Work Day

Thursday, April 25th is Take Your Child to Work Day. Please notify the school if your child will be absent due to his or her participation. Thank you!

PTA Happenings

VES Yearbook: It's that time! Here is your chance to purchase the VES Yearbook filled with memories made through the 2023–2024 school year. Online sales will remain open until April 14th. **VES Yearbooks: [ORDER HERE](#)**

MES PTA International Night: Join us on Friday, April 26 at OHES from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM as we celebrate the diversity of our students and community with country displays, multicultural performances, games/activities, a raffle with great prizes from local businesses, food for purchase from multicultural food trucks, and more! Tickets are required for entry. Please visit the [International Night Link](#) to view the event flyer and for ticket, volunteer and sponsorship opportunities.



Third Grade Orientation at VES

Student Orientation: Second graders will take a class trip to VES for Third Grade Orientation on **Wednesday, May 1st**. They will spend time with Ms. Lacy and Mrs. Camuto, visit classrooms to learn from third grade experts and tour the building.

Parent/Guardian Orientation: Parents/Guardians of second graders will be invited to an evening school visit and orientation program on **Wednesday, May 1st** from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

NJSLA (New Jersey Student Learning Assessment) Testing in May

NJSLA Schedule

- 3rd Grade: May 6–10
- 4th Grade: May 13–17
- Make Up Tests: May 20–24

No academic preparation is necessary. A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast are always recommended for a productive day of learning and testing. Each student needs a set of 3.5 mm earbuds or headphones. If your child does not have headphones in school, please send them in. They should be sent in a zipper bag with your child's name written on it.

Attendance Reporting Reminders

Please remember that you must report your child's absence to the attendance office by 10:00 AM in one of two ways, as detailed in the [Parent Handbook](#) and [website](#):

- 1 – Genesis (preferred method)
- 2 – Attendance Hotline

Emailing the teacher is an additional good practice and courtesy. Thank you!

Health Office Notes - Seasonal Allergies

IT IS TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT SPRING ALLERGIES...APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS ALONG WITH SNEEZES, A RUNNY NOSE AND ITCHY, RED EYES.



Unfortunately, there is no real cure for seasonal allergies; however, it is possible to relieve your child's symptoms. Reducing or eliminating exposure to allergens is the first step. During the months your child suffers from seasonal allergies keep windows closed, use air conditioning if possible, and stay indoors when pollen counts are high. Children should wash their hands and face if possible or shower after playing outside. At times reducing exposure is not possible or is ineffective; there are medications which will ease their symptoms.

During the next several months we will see an influx of students suffering from seasonal allergies. The classic triggers of seasonal allergies this time of year are trees (early spring) and grasses (late spring and early summer). The classic allergy symptoms and signs associated with allergic rhinitis can include:

- Runny nose with clear discharge
- Stuffy nose (congestion)
- Sneezing
- Itchy nose
- Red eyes with tearing and itchy
- Dark circles under the eyes (allergic shiners)
- A crease near the bottom of the nose (allergic crease)
- Frequent nose rubbing (allergic salute)

The trend in the Health Office this time of year is numerous students with swollen, red, itchy eyes! When we see a child for this we have them wash their hands with soap and water, then rinse their face with cool water. We gently wash the eyelids and lashes with a "no more tears baby bath". This washing helps remove the pollen from the lashes and eye area. They rest with a cool compress to their eyes for several minutes.

If you know or suspect that your child suffers from seasonal allergies please be proactive and contact the doctor to begin a regime to minimize their discomfort before the season is in full bloom. You may bring in an allergy relief eye drop to be kept in the Health Office; this must be accompanied with your written permission for the medication to be administered in school. A Medication Administration form can be found on the web site. If the medication is an over the counter product it must be new and in the original packaging.