

Dear Parents,

We know it is a busy time of year for everyone, and we are just as busy here at VES. As we close out 2015, the Village School team would like to let you know about some of the events at VES, as well as give you a few updates and reminders. We wish you all the best over winter break as you have a chance to relax and enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

Sincerely,

The VES Team

### **Leadership and Community Service Experiences:**

We have a strong community here at VES! Our students have been working hard to serve others. One way that they have been doing this is through supporting the Young Scholars Institute of Trenton. Our students earned money through chores or gave some of their allowance money to help others. Peer partners will load the gifts tomorrow and Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Grover will deliver the gifts and meals on Saturday - Mr. Hadinger and Ms. McMullen will come out of retirement to help. VES is sponsoring 47 children with holiday gifts and giving 30 families holiday dinner and breakfast. Thank you to Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. Pignataro, Ms. Hum and Mrs. Bonnet who have been instrumental in organizing everything.

About 30 fourth graders are participating in VES' new Safety Patrol Program.

They are taking their job of helping to keep our hallways safe very seriously!

[Click here](#) to read more about it and to see pictures of our swearing in ceremony.

### **Other VES Events:**

Fourth graders had the opportunity to view a live performance of Perseus, which was performed by McCarter Theater. As always, it was an exciting experience!

[Click here](#) to view pictures from the performance.

In support of our goal toward cultural awareness, our third graders had the great experience of learning about Sikhism, customs and culture and the Sikh people through an assembly provided by the Sikh Coalition. Fourth graders will have the

same experience early in 2016. [Click here](#) to view pictures of our third graders' experience.

VES will hold its annual sing along on Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the students will enter the school to find VES teachers caroling. This will be followed by individual classroom winter parties.

### **Report Cards and MAP Testing:**

Report cards will be accessible at 4:00p.m. on Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. You can access your child's information by [clicking here](#), and entering your username and password. Results from our October MAP testing will also be accessible at that time. If you have questions regarding MAP, please refer to this [Parent Toolkit](#).

### **Reminders and Other Information:**

#### *Safety:*

We are concerned about the safety of our students! Morning parent drop off is located in the back of the school. When dropping your child off, there are two options:

1. Stop along the curb closest to the school and allow your child to get out of the car and walk into school.
2. If you are not able to stop along the curb, walk your child to the sidewalk. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO WALK ACROSS ANY ROADWAYS ALONE.

#### *New Information:*

Please check the VES website regularly. We are always adding new information.

Please see the guidance page for articles about:

[Generosity](#)

[Goals and Resolutions](#)

Considering the time of year, you may find this article, written by Mrs. Cizin and Mrs. Woodard (school nurses), helpful:

## When your child doesn't feel well...



Many parents struggle with the decision of whether or not to send their possibly sick child to school. Juggling the demands of work and the demands of their students school work may make the decision even more difficult. It's tempting to give a dose of Tylenol or Motrin and hope for the best. However, school age children are especially good at spreading germs and children cannot learn as effectively if they are sick. How do you know if it's just a cold or if your child is really too sick to go to school? Here are some strategies to guide you through these murky waters:

### **FEVER:**

First and foremost, purchase a thermometer and use it to check your child for fever before deciding to send them to school.

Do not send a child to school with a fever of 100 or more. They will feel increasing miserable throughout the day and are most infectious when they are febrile. Doses of Tylenol or Motrin will not decrease their contagiousness.

Montgomery Township School District policy states a student must be fever free without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours before they can return to school. If your child is sent home from school with a fever, they must stay at home the following day even if they are fever free.

### **VOMITING/DIARRHEA:**

Do not send your child to school if they are vomiting or have diarrhea. If your child begins to vomit or experience diarrhea they must stay at home. Do not assume because your child feels better after vomiting that they are better.

Students must be free of vomiting and/or diarrhea for 24 hours and able to tolerate a normal diet before they can return to school.

### **POSITIVE CULTURES AT MD:**

Strep throat is a highly contagious condition caused by bacteria. If your child complains of a sore throat, fever, and often a headache and stomach ache, they should see a doctor for a diagnosis and treatment. If the strep culture is positive, your child should remain out of school until he/she is fever free and has been on antibiotics for 24 hours.

Pink Eye (conjunctivitis) can be caused by an allergy, a virus or bacteria and is highly contagious. The eye will be reddened and a yellow discharge is usually present. Eyelashes may be stuck together when your child wakes up. Consult with your child's doctor to see if antibiotic eye drops are indicated. Your child should stay home until symptoms subside and he/she has been on antibiotic drops for at least 24 hours.

Rashes can be tricky to interpret. Consult your child's doctor prior to sending them to school to discuss treatment options and length of time your child should be out of school.

Please notify the VES health office if your child is diagnosed with any of the above.

### **COUGHS AND COLDS:**

Check your child's temperature before deciding to send them to school. If your child is not coughing, does not complain of trouble breathing and does not have a fever it's generally okay to send them to school. The health office does not stock nasal or chest decongestants, cough suppressants, throat lozenges, or allergy medications so make sure you address that prior to putting them on the bus.

Check with your child's physician as to the best way to manage your child's cold or cough.

Please do not give Tylenol or Motrin to cover chills or body aches and then send them to school. If your child is feeling badly enough to require this level of intervention, a day of rest at home is in order.

Persistent coughing can indicate a worsening cold, asthma or secondary infection such as pneumonia. Please consult your child's physician for advice. Children with persistent cough should be kept at home.

All of these illnesses can spread easily and rapidly in school and at home. Hand washing is the single most important thing you can do and teach your child to do to help prevent the spread of infection. If you are in doubt as to whether to send your child to school, please call your child's doctor before doing so.

**Remember, the best way to protect your child this winter is to make sure that your whole family gets flu shots.**

#### **Cleaning out closets??**

The health office at VES supplies many students with a change of clothes throughout the year for various reasons such as a slip in the mud at recess or spilled milk in the cafeteria. We don't always get back what we loan out and our supplies are getting low. We would gladly take any clothing that you are able to donate. We are in need of gently used sweatpants or jeans (sizes 8-10) or new, unopened socks and underwear (no boxers please).