



VALLEY COTTAGE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

Valley Cottage School
26 Lake Road
Valley Cottage, NY 10989
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School Hrs: 8:50-3:20
Office Hrs: 8:00-4:00

Dear VCE Families,

Happy New Year! As many of us begin a New Year with resolutions and goals, our daily messages to our students remain the same. Each morning, we urge our students to "Work hard and get smarter!" We believe that true learning, as opposed to temporary memorization occurs when we interact with new ideas and people in a variety of ways. We understand that initial failures are often first attempts in learning. We encourage our students to take on challenges and persevere, especially when it is not easy.

The second message that we send our students every day is a simple but important one; "Be kind." We try to stress that students always have the ability to choose kindness, and that making the choice to be kind can make someone's day.

As partners in education, we hope that you will share and reinforce these messages at home. We are also asking your help in monitoring online screen time, social media apps such as Instagram, Snapchat and Musical.ly, as well as online conversations attached to games such as Fortnite, or just texting in general. Unfortunately, children often believe that they have greater anonymity online, and these venues become platforms for bullying with situations that spill over into the school day.

On another note, I would like to remind you of a number of VCE events this month:

- On January 11th, our PTA will be sponsoring Family Game Night at 7:00 pm in our cafeteria
- Our Spirit Day for the month of January will be held on Friday January 18th. It's "Backwards Day." Students are encouraged to wear everything backwards!
- Our winter concert for students in grades 3-5 will be held on Thursday, January 24th at 7:00 pm at Nyack High School

On behalf of the entire VCE staff, thank you for sharing your children with us each day!

Warmest wishes,
Gina Cappiello
Mrs. Gina Cappiello, Principal

JANUARY

- 2 Wednesday, SCHOOLS REOPEN = "B" day
- 8 STARS ELA Program begins for those eligible. Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:35-8:35am
Ends March 28th
- 9 STARS Math Program begins for those Eligible. Wednesdays, 7:35-8:35am,
Ends March 27th
 - PTA Mtg 7:30pm Café
- 11 PTA Family BINGO Game Night 7pm Café
- 15 School Bd Mtg 7:30pm H
- 18 PTA Spirit Day "Backwards Day"
- 21 Schools Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 24 Rehearsal for concert Gr.3-5, 1:30pm
 - Gr.3-5 Winter Concert 7pm at HS

(Kindergarten students will perform for the first time in February for Valentine's Day's concert.)

Last month, fifth grade students successfully completed their Challenger Voyage to Mars. They blasted off from the Challenger Learning Center in Airmont, NY and participated in a simulated space mission. On their mission, students applied their STEM skills along with critical thinking and reading. Challenger staff was thoroughly impressed with VCE students' ability to listen, following directions and work together as a team. After students were "cleared for launch" on their mission, students were "cleared for lunch" at Applebee's next door.

*From 5th Grade Science Teachers,
Mrs. Bosley & Mr. Beirlein*

Mrs. Niero's Kindergarten class was busy in December learning about different winter holiday traditions. They enjoyed the tradition of making gingerbread houses after reading Gingerbread Baby and Gingerbread Friends by Jan Brett. The class was very thankful to have numerous parent guest visits that shared stories and holidays traditions from their families, as well as parent volunteers that helped make the gingerbread houses.



When Nyack District Schools have a 2-hour delay, Valley Cottage Elementary School begins at 10:50AM.

Students should be in the school by 10:45AM. Our doors open at 10AM and not before. Please do not drop your children off before 10AM and make sure when you arrive, there is someone there to receive them.

School buses follow a 2-hour delay schedule. Please be at bus stops a few minutes early!

NO BREAKFAST IS SERVED BY THE CAFETERIA WHEN THERE IS A 2-HOUR DELAY.

Outdoor Recess

Students will have outdoor recess if the temperature is 25 degrees and above (if wind chill is not a factor and playground conditions are safe). Remember hats, gloves, and scarves too!

Notes from the School Nurse

We are quickly approaching cold and flu season. Please encourage your children to continue good hand washing habits.

Reminders / Over the Counter Medications

- New York State Law requires that a medication form be completed by the physician and signed by the parent. Please do not ask me to administer any form of medication without your doctor's signature. This includes Advil or Tylenol for minor discomforts and headaches. Try to anticipate your child's needs ahead of time and have everything in place. You will need to supply the medications. They will be kept in my office and labeled with your child's name.
- If your child is home or was sent home with a fever, they must have a normal temperature (98⁶) for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Please make sure all parent/guardian contact phone numbers are up to date.**
- Remember to notify the nurse/voicemail (353-7290) before the start of the school day if your child is absent due to illness. An absence note upon return is required to the office. Voicemail is on 24/7.

Patricia Kozar, RN, Professional School Nurse