



# VALLEY COTTAGE NEWSLETTER

**Valley Cottage Elementary**

26 Lake Road  
 Valley Cottage, NY 10989  
 Tel: 845-353-7280  
 Fax: 845-353-7287

Nurse: 845-353-7290  
 School Hrs: 8:50-3:20

Dear Families,

As we make our way into spring after what felt like a very long and cold winter, there are many events coming up at VCE.

- New York State Testing begins on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with students in grades 3-5 taking the ELA assessment. The Math assessments will be administered on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. In addition, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the grade 4 science assessment which has both a performance and a written test and will be administered in late May and early June.
- The opening of the VCE art exhibit will take place on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Administration Building. We hope you will come by to support our student artists and the wonderful work they have been doing with their teacher, Mr. Milillo.
- Many grades are scheduling field trips in April and May, so please expect those field trip permission forms to be coming home for signatures.
- Our April spirit day will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup>. It's crazy hat and hair day!
- The PTA will be sponsoring their annual Touch-A-Truck event from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm on April 13<sup>th</sup> here at VCE. It's a great opportunity for children of all ages to climb on board and explore many trucks and vehicles including fire trucks, ambulances, and larger construction vehicles.
- Our spring Parent-Teacher conferences will take place as follows. Teachers will be in touch with families to set up appointments. To make sure that you have the time you need for your conference, we ask that you arrive on time. If you are unable to keep your appointment, please give us a call so that we may make the necessary adjustments.
  - Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>- Early dismissal for students at 11:45 am. Conferences will be held in the afternoons. If your child's regular dismissal plans will change, please be sure to send in a note indicating the change.
  - Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>- Evening Conferences- regular school hours apply
- Spring Recess begins on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, and school reopens on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

We thank you for attending our many school events and for being a part of our VCE family. Your participation adds to what makes our school so special! Thank you for sharing your children with us every day.

Sincerely,  
*Mrs. Gina Cappiello*  
 Principal

## April 2019 Events (revised)

- 2 "A" day (testing- please be in school on time)
  - Gr.3-5 NYS ELA testing
  - VCE Art Exhibit/Hilltop Gallery opening, Admin. 5:30pm
  - Bd Mtg, 7:30 H
- 3 Gr.3-5 NYS ELA testing.
- 4 NYS ELA test makeup
- 8 NYSESLAT testing
- 10 PTA Mtg, 7:30pm
- 11 Gr.4 Heroes and Cool Kids, 9-9:45am
- 12 Spirit Day, Crazy Hair and Hat day
  - Gr.3 Day in Clay
- 13 PTA Touch-a-Truck, 11am-2pm
- 16 **11:45am Early Dismissal,** Parent/Teacher Conferences/ Report Cards
  - Bd Mtg H 7:30pm
- 17 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences/ Report Cards
  - District Physicals, 9:30am
- 18 **11:45 Early Dismissal,** Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 19 **Schools Closed, Spring Recess**
- 22-26 **Schools Closed, Spring Recess**
- May
  - 1-3 NYS Math Assessments, Gr.3-5 (Please be in school on time)

Mrs. O'Sullivan recently kicked off "IXL March-May Math Madness." The entire school is involved in using the web-based program, IXL, as one resource to develop math skills through fun games. On five dates from March-May, reports are run to determine skills mastery, per class. Classes advance in brackets, until one class remains. The entire school kicked off the fun with an IXL day. Students made math posters and brought them to our morning program. Later, the posters were hung in classrooms. In addition, Mr. Beirlein challenged the school to answer 2,000,000 questions on IXL and after one month we are already just shy of 1,000,000! VCE loves math!

*Michelle O'Sullivan, Math Coach, Director, Nyack Teacher Center*



### **Notes from the Library Media Center**

The results are in! Valley Cottage Elementary came in **2<sup>nd</sup> place** in the Rockland Read-In which took place in February. We read over 100,000 minutes. I am so proud of our accomplishment. Thanks to all the teachers and staff who truly made this a day of reading pleasure for our students. Bravo!

National Library Week is April 7-13. We celebrate our libraries and the role they play in our life.

Just like the basketball madness, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders playing along with the brackets filled with books. We voted on the *Final Four* and the last two books completing will be announced on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Check the display case to see all the books and how they fared. Kindergarten students will begin an author study on Eric Carle this week as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* celebrates 50 years! First graders are talking about fairy tales and the big bad wolf. Second graders are on a Calda-cottage committee to review the best illustrated book from past Caldecott winners. Third graders are learning about Non-Fiction genres and 4<sup>th</sup> graders are researching our data bases from our library webpage, as they navigate the libraries' digital footprint. Fifth graders are creating a research paper from start to finish.

Next week, they will be viewing well-crafted and some fake websites, to learn about digital citizenship.

**Spring into Reading!**

*Carolyn Travers, School Library Media Specialist*



### **Notes from the Nurse**

Remember to notify voicemail at 353-7290 before the start of the school day if your child will be absent due to sickness. Voicemail is on 24/7.

Medical Doctor signature is required for all medications to be administered during the school day. This includes over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, Advil, etc.

- The district physician will conduct physicals for those who are not in compliance in May.
- Keep in mind we are entering ALLERGY SEASON. Symptoms of allergies are often itchy ears and nose, sneezing, runny nose. Ask your pediatrician for the best treatment plan. There are several over-the-counter medications available.
- All medication must be supplied to the school nurse in its original labeled pharmacy container accompanied by a note from the doctor.
- Students are prohibited from carrying any medication into school.

*Patti Kozar, RN, Professional School Nurse*

Si ou bezwen enfòmasyon tradui an kreyòl, rele Jocelyne Abraham nan 353-7044.

Si le hace falta información traducida en español, llame a Yesenia Polanco 353-7042.