



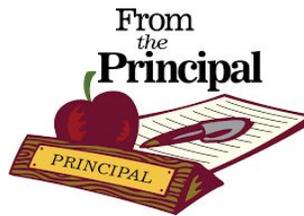
**VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL NEWS**  
**January/February 2019**

**January Dates:**

- 18 PRIDE Day
- 21 School Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 23 Indoor Pretzel Sale
- 24 Paint Night Grades K & 1
- 25 Candy Bar Bingo
- 28 Great Kindness Week Begins

**February Dates:**

- 1 Reading Logs Due
- 5 8:15 am Student Council Meeting in Learning Center
  - 2:55 Play Practice
- 7 2:55 Play Practice
- 12 2:55 Play Practice
  - 6:30 Paint Night Grades 2 & 3
- 13 PRIDE Day
- 14 100th Day of school
  - 2:55 Play Practice
- 15 12:40 Dismissal for Students
- 18 School Closed - Presidents Day
- 19 2:55 Play Practice
- 20 Pretzel Sale Indoors
  - 6:30 Reading Cafe
- 21 2:55 Play Practice
- 22 Colonial Job Fair
  - Kindergarten Registration
- 25 7:00 pm PTA Meeting
- 26 2:55 Play Practice
- 28 7:00pm Science Fair
  - 2:55 Play Practice



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We hope everyone had a good holiday week. And the staff and I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe New Year!



**Valley Road Crossing:** Please help keep all of our children safe by only crossing by the crossing guards. Crossing in the middle of Valley Road School is not only dangerous to our students, it is also dangerous to the drivers.

**Morning Drop Off:** Please remember to have your child exit the car in a quick and orderly fashion. We would appreciate if the first 6 cars would exit at the same time to keep the flow of traffic moving.

### **Teacher of the Year and Support Services of the Year Person:**

We congratulate Bryan Lowe as our VRS selection for Teacher of the Year. We congratulate Nicole Arpino as our Professional Support Services Professional of the Year. Mr. Lowe is a grade 5 teacher and Ms. Arpino is our school psychologist.

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! 2019 promises to be filled with many wonderful events and activities for the Valley Road School students and families.

On February 28, we will be having our Elementary School Science Fair for students in grades 3 - 5. The event will be held in the cafeteria at ALJ from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. All students and families are invited to attend. Please make sure children have adult supervision. Registration for the event technically closed on Friday, January 11, but any student interested in participating may use the following link to sign up: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzOZ4lxEer2Jt0J1iFR30b0VC341JH13DeSyACGh4i1O\\_OcQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzOZ4lxEer2Jt0J1iFR30b0VC341JH13DeSyACGh4i1O_OcQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Please note, the display boards have already been ordered, so any student who signs up now, will have to purchase their own.

When you get a chance, please take a moment to review the information about our district's attendance procedures located in the parent handbook on the Valley Road website. The instructional day begins at 8:40 a.m. **As long as your child is healthy, it is so important that you get your children to school, and that you get them here on time!** If we may be of any assistance in making this happen, please let us know. If your child stays home sick, please make sure you take steps to secure medical documentation from a physician so that we may count the absence as excused.

Always remember we are a team. Keep us updated on anything happening at home that may affect your child, and we promise to keep you in the loop about what's going on at Valley Road School. Together we can make your child's educational experience a positive one.

## School News

### VRS News for December

**VRS Holiday Shoppe:** The PTA held its Student Holiday Shoppe. The PTA provided inexpensive shopping so that the students can shop for their parents and family members and surprise them by buying gifts. This is a fun way for getting the students in the holiday mood by learning how to give.

**Holidays:** Students learned about the various holidays in December. The cultural side of holidays is reviewed. This allows students to learn about others and to celebrate diversity.

**The VRS band and grade 5 chorus** performed and did a great job. The director was Patricia Sauer.

**Science Activities:** Students were seen doing various hands on science activities throughout the month. One can see such things as students racing battery operated cars down the hall as they calculate speed. The science program is full of hands on programs that make students "Do" Science, not just read about science.

### January 2019 Events for Valley Road School

**Green House:** The green house is full of plants as some of our kindergarten students are taking care of plants throughout the cold months. Mrs. Spence runs this activity.

**The Reading Incentive Program** continues to encourage students to meet their reading goals each month. Future events will be held to celebrate reading. Mrs. Pietz leads the committee.

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:** Students will learn about the goals of Dr. King in their classes this month.

**Paint Night Grades K & 1:** The PTA will hold a paint night for grades K and 1 and their parents on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Parents and their children will be able to paint a picture while being guided by one of the district's art teachers.

**Candy Bar Bingo** will be held as a fundraiser for grade 5 on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Kindness Week** will be celebrated the last week of the month.

## Reminders Virtual Backpacks



Please be sure to visit our Virtual Backpack on the Valley Road School website. Each week important information will be uploaded to our Valley Road School Virtual backpack or our PTA Virtual backpack. Everything you need to know will be available there. We hope you find this to be a valuable tool in locating information for Valley Road School. You will also be able to locate district information and Flyers from the Community on the Clark Board of Education website under “more”. Click on “more” and you will see the District’s Virtual Backpack

### **Reminder: When Visiting the School:**

***\*\*\*ALL VISITORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT a form of identification.\*\*\****



## Fourth Grade News

Fourth grade is exploring the Lenni Lenape tribe. The students have become experts in the culture of the Lenape Indians. Students made posters, artifacts, and murals to present to the class.

## Grade 5 News

The fifth grade classes at Valley Road have been studying life science. In the life science unit, the students have been investigating how energy flows from one organism to the next. For example, the students participated in a lab experiment to determine how the lack of water and sunlight may affect leaves and plants. The students also have been learning about food webs and food chains. The students have created their own food chains and webs for certain ecosystems in order to demonstrate the passage of energy. The fifth graders will continue to analyze life science in the upcoming weeks.

## **Art News**

In kindergarten art class, students are learning about sculpture and texture by making pinch pots with air dry clay. First graders are learning about still life and the artist Paul Cezanne while completing paintings of apples. Second-grade students are using chalk pastels to create drawings of pandas based on the story *Chengdu Could Not, Would Not, Fall Asleep*. Third-grade students are beginning to learn about tessellation and the artist M.C. Esher while students in fourth-grade are completing their projects based on the pyramids from Ancient Egypt. Fifth-grade students are working on their Vincent Van Gogh paintings of sunflowers. Students in the fourth and fifth-grade art clubs have completed part of the Kelsey Montague inspired *#WhatLiftsYou* mural that hangs near our gym. Fourth-grade art club students are currently working on three-dimensional snowflakes and fifth-grade art club members are creating dream catchers.

**Thank you for all your continued support!**

## **Music News**

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, fourth and fifth grade students performed in the Valley Road School Winter Concert. Congratulations to the Valley Road School Band, the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir and Small Choir on a wonderful first concert! Thank you to everyone that came out to support our students.

In the new year we will be busy preparing for two more performances. The first will be Band Bonanza on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at ALJ. This concert involves performances by the bands from all four schools with a finale played by all the schools. Our final performance involves the band, small choir and the entire 5<sup>th</sup> grade for our spring concert on May 29<sup>th</sup> at ALJ. Hope to see you there!

**Ms. Sauer**

**Valley Road School Music Specialist**

## The New Year: A time for Making New Goals

I know this probably sounds cliché, but this time of year is a great time to talk to your kids about goals that they may want to set for 2019. Maybe there is a goal that you could help you child set for the remainder of the school year, such as better homework, improved behavior, or reaching out to make new friends. Why not set a family goal, too! For example, every weekend we will spend one hour with no cell phone or video games but instead talk or play a board game.

I hear from many parents that their child often will just say school is “good” and doesn’t elaborate. At times, we as parents need to change our course in conversing with our kids. Here are some questions that may open more than one word responses.

- What games did you play at recess?
- What was the funniest thing that happened today?
- Did anyone do anything super nice to you?
- Who made you smile today?
- What new fact did you learn today?
- Whose snack looked the yummiest? What was it?
- If school were a ride at the fair/boardwalk, which ride would it be? Why?
- What challenged you today?
- If one of your classmates could be the teacher for the day who would you want it to be? Why?
- When did you feel most proud today?
- How would you rate today from a 1-10? Why?
- What rule was the hardest for you to follow today?
- Tell me something that made you laugh today.
- Highlight of the day.
- What subject did you enjoy the most today? Why?
- If I spoke to your teacher tonight, what would they tell me about you?

*Goldstein, Sara. (2015, September 19). 30 Questions to Ask Your Kid Instead of “How Was Your Day?” Retrieved from: <http://parent.co/>*

Lastly, in regards to the upper grade levels, please review appropriate social media usage. There are several sites that children are on and they do not meet the age restrictions. Also remind them that what they post (pictures and comments) can hurt other students, so they should be mindful of their interactions online.

As we start the new year, let us all try to open the flood gates to better communication.

*Have a great February!*

*Mrs. Badillo*

**Request:**

Please do not allow students to jump, run, slide or play on the VRS rock garden or the VRS electronic sign located on the front lawn by Valley Road. Our girl/boy scouts worked very hard to beautify our school and we do not want it be damaged as well as we want to keep our students safe. The electronic sign was generously donated by the VRS PTA and we do not want parents to be held responsible for repairs due to the children touching the screen. We also do not want children to fall off the enclosing wall around the Electric Sign.



**Valley Road School PTA Executive Board 2018 – 2019**

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