



## VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL NEWS

April/May 2019

### **April Dates:**

2 Student Council Meeting in the Learning Center

3 Band Bonanza

5 Grade 5 Fun Night

8 VRS NJSLA (old PARCC Test) begins

15-19 School Closed Spring Recess

**22 School Reopens***(unless there are no more weather closings then school will reopen on the 23rd)*

**These two events, Earth Day and VRS NJSLA testing resumes will take place on April 22, but if we are closed they will take place on April 23rd.**

25 Take Your Child Work Day

26 Arbor Day

2:55 Pretzel Sale

29 7:00 pm PTA Meeting

### **May Dates:**

3 6:30 Candy Bar Bingo

7 8:15 Student Council Meeting

8 6:30 Mystery Night

9 10:00 VRS Kindergarten Orientation

10 Plant Sale

16 PRIDE Day

17 Kindergarten HERO Project

2:55 Pretzel Sale

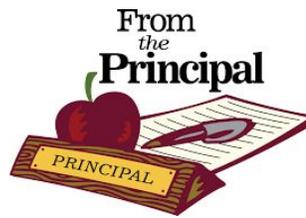
22 Art Show

24 Memorial Day Observance

27 School Closed - Memorial Day

29 7:00 pm Spring Concert at ALJ

31 VRS Field Day



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

# NJSLA (New Jersey State Testing) Testing Schedule 2019

State standardized testing will take place in the Valley Road School from April 8th to May 3rd for Grades 3, 4 and 5. Make up tests will take place during the same days.

VRS NJSLA April 8-12, April 22-May 3  
NJSLA-S June 4-7 Grade 5

Grade 3 April 8-12

Grade 4 April 8-12

Grade 5 April 22-26 No testing on 4-25 (Take Your Child To Work Day) and maybe add 4/29 or 4/30 if students

do not have school on April 22nd.

Make Up Tests for any of the grades could take place any time from 4/9 - 4/12 or 4/22-5/2.

If your child will be testing tell them to just do their best. They will face some questions they may not know because the test is made to see how well all students can do so it has to be difficult to see how high some students can go. All the students have to do is try their best. **We suggest a good night's sleep and a good breakfast during testing to be best able to take the test at each child's best. We also ask that children arrive on time so that they could start on time.**

Since this test will be taken on computers there were special schedules set up in the morning and afternoon. Some classes may need to move rooms or change their schedules for testing. Most of the large group testing will be done in the gym for grades 3, 4 and 5. We also encourage for all to assist in staying quiet during testing so that the test areas are quiet. We appreciate the cooperation of our students, parents and teachers during these testing days.

There will also be make up testing in the mornings and/or afternoon each day of testing if needed.

### Grade 5 Science Testing

Science Test for **Grade 5 will be on June 4th to June 7th.** Science testing will be held for grade 5 only.

## **In –View Test**

**Grade 2** will be taking the In-View test in the near future. This test will give us an idea of the possible potential for future learning. It may also point out subtest areas of strengths and weaknesses. It is a good idea for students to get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast for this test as well. These suggestions will help to keep the students energy level up during the testing sessions. The In-View test will be held on for grade 2 students. More information will be sent to grade 2 parents in a separate flyer.

## **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Spring is in the air! Second marking period report cards were posted on the Genesis Parent Portal on Friday, March 29, which means the third (and final) marking period is underway.

We are pleased to share that we will be expanding our Battle of the Books program. This year, both our third and fourth grade students will participate. As we saw last year, this is a fun, engaging way for our students to get excited about reading. Each team, consisting of 4, 5, or 6 students will be responsible for reading 10 books. Then, at the end of May they will participate in a trivia style competition within their homeroom. Each homeroom will have 1 winning team that will compete in a school wide battle to be held at the Clark Library. The battle officially begins this Friday, April 5!

Students in grades 3-5 are just a few short weeks away from NJSLA (formally known as PARCC) testing. Throughout the school year the teachers have been providing learning experiences that prepare their students for the assessment. Parents interested in learning more about the NJSLA tests are encouraged to visit: <https://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/> and <http://achievethecore.org/> to view practice items or to learn about scoring. As always, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: [mapplebaum@clarkschools.org](mailto:mapplebaum@clarkschools.org)



**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. It is ok if you get out to let the child(ren) out, but please do it quickly to keep the line moving. We request you do so within 30 seconds.

## **Earth Day:**

VRS Earth Day activities will take place on Monday April 22th or the 23rd if the district is closed on the 22nd. Our teachers will give some information about Earth Day to the students that day. In addition to the lessons we will:

**Encourage students to walk to school that day.** A group will meet two blocks down Liberty Street and walk up to the school on April 22th(or the 23rd if school is closed on the 22nd). If any parents, students or staff would like to join the group and walk please do. The group will meet about 8:15am and start to walk up to the school at about 8:20am. The PTA will have a Welcome Table outside the entry door by the steps.

Mrs. Badillo will meet students and parents at the waterfall on Valley Road at 8:15 am to walk to school together at 8:20 am. Join us if interested.

*In support of Earth Day, Mr. Lowe will ride his solar and foot powered bicycle to school from home. (Approximately 25 miles.) He will join us at the waterfall to ride his bicycle to the school with our VRS walking group.*

We will ask Homeroom Teachers to take a survey of how students usually get to school and then how they got to school on Earth Day and the office will collect these survey sheets and make a comparison from Earth Day and a regular day.

## **Take Your Child to Work Day:**

If you plan to participate in Take Your Child to Work Day on April 25th please send in the permission slip by April 23rd or sooner. Permission slips have been emailed home through Genesis.

**For your child's absence to be considered an "excused absence" the office must receive this form no later than April 23, 2019.** Please be advised, even though this is an excused absence, your child is still responsible for any missed assignments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

## **Donation of games/toys:**

If you have any used or new inside games/toys/ or outside games or toys that you will not be using after spring clean up, we would greatly appreciate you donating them for our indoor recess.

## **Arbor Day:**

Classes will be celebrating Arbor Day on April 26<sup>th</sup>.



## **Academic Enrichment Newsletter Article**

**There are many fun and exciting activities happening in Academic Enrichment classes. In Mrs. Haney's classes the students have been busy learning decoding strategies and reading for fluency, as well as playing games to develop their skills. During math classes the children are learning strategies to reinforce skills that have been taught in their homerooms.**

**Mrs. Lombardi's classes have been analyzing text structure by finding the main idea and supporting details, and examining author's point of view. Students have also been writing and examining figurative language. In math classes they have been working on decimals and fractions as well as strategies taught in their homerooms.**

**We are extremely proud of our students and would like to thank the parents for their continued support.**

**Mrs. Lombardi and Mrs. Haney**

## **Full STEAM Ahead**

Students continue using the engineering design process in STEAM. The kindergarteners are learning about forces including push and pull. We are discussing engineering and machines to bring forces into the classroom. Our first graders finished their unit on Rapunzel and are currently working on traps to catch a Leprechaun using various materials based on the story *How to Catch a Leprechaun*. The second graders are nearing the end of the Three Billy Goats unit and are in the process of testing and improving their rafts. The third grade is using their knowledge of simple machines and Rube Goldberg to complete their own Mouse Trap machines. Fourth graders are finishing up their roller coasters and are almost ready to test. The fifth grade students have created, tested, and improved their parachutes and are ready to move onto the next unit!

Miss Jacki Schwankert and Mrs. Cindy Tarello  
K-5 STEAM Specialists

### **First Grade Article**

VRS's first grade students continue to grow as the school year progresses. As 2019 began, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday by learning about his life and many accomplishments. We also welcomed Year of the Pig in celebration of Chinese New Year.

February is always a busy month in first grade. Students celebrated Valentine's Day by sharing cards and treats, and we marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School in our classrooms. The students dressed up as if they were 100 years old. It was an event that brought smiles to everyone's faces. We learned about the extraordinary lives of Presidents Lincoln & Washington, and the many ways they are remembered in our country. We celebrated Black History Month by learning about the contributions and accomplishments of famous African American.

In math, students constantly review concepts like time to the hour and half hour, reading graphs and thermometers, and skip counting. We are also learning new strategies for adding and subtracting including using a number grid. This enables us to work with larger numbers. Students used base ten blocks to explore place value and have learned to count and trade pennies, nickels and dimes. Since the quarter has been introduced, we have been practicing skip counting by 25s. Students are also practicing basic math facts with flash cards and computer games available at the Everyday Math website.

Students' language arts skills are growing as well. Students are developing sight word recognition, reading fluency, and comprehension skills through small group and whole group instruction. Writing skills are also developing as we explore pre-writing strategies and learn to edit and enhance our work.

During March, we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with a visit from a published author. We will concluded our reading program, "Reading is Incredible," with a dance party for all those who had 100% participation. We will also celebrate the lives and accomplishments of many famous women in history. It seems that the leprechaun messed up our classroom again this year!

We are all looking forward to spring!

## March Events

- On Read Across America Day the Cat in the Hat and Thing One and Two visited the classrooms.
- The PTA VRS Tricky Tray was held.
- An Author Visited and presented an assembly.
- The Student Council had a meeting.
- The VRS Reading Dance Party for reaching reading goals was a blast for the children and rewarded them for achieving their reading goals.
- The PTA held its Spring Book Fair.
- Wellness Week was held with special activities for children to learn about Sleep, hydration, yoga, and other topics. We had a Drop Everything and Relax each day at 1:20 pm.
- The VRS Variety Show gave students a chance to show their skills on stage. The directors were Mrs. Schiro, Mrs. Guenther and Mrs. Baglieri
- Paint Nights were held for Grades 2 & 3 and then again for grades 4 and 5. Tom Pietz was our presenter.
- The VRS play was held and the students put on a great performance.

### 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.

## REMINDER

**Please remember with the upcoming Spring Holidays, we do not allow candy/food/or any items unless requested by your child's homeroom teacher for instructional purposes. This includes but is not limited to pencils, stickers, tatoos, erasers, etc.**

# Memorial Day

Valley Road School will be holding its Memorial Day Service to honor our nation's veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice. We will sing patriotic songs and present a wreath. Several veterans will then get a chance to speak to students.

We are seeking local veterans and active military soldiers to share the day with us. If you know of any veterans or active military soldiers who may be interested, please have them fill in the form at the end of this newsletter and return to Mr. Joseph Beltramba or call/email the school's office and give us their contact information.

Contact the office at 732-388-7900 or [jbeltramba@clarkschools.org](mailto:jbeltramba@clarkschools.org). Veterans/Military Soldiers will have the option of speaking or just attending. There will be a service at Valley Road School at 1:30pm and one at Hehnly School at 9:15am. Veterans may arrive a few minutes before the start times.

## Veterans or Active Members of Military Service

We once again would like to invite any military veterans or active military soldiers to visit the Valley Road School and/or the Hehnly School for a brief service in honor of Memorial Day. If you are a veteran and would like to visit or know a veteran or active soldier who might like to visit with our students on May 24th at 9:15am at Hehnly School or 1:30pm at Valley Road School (*Veterans may arrive a few minutes before the assembly start times*), please let us know the following information:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Branch of Service:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Times you would like to visit:** \_\_\_\_\_ **1:30 pm at Valley Road School**

\_\_\_\_\_ **9:15am at Hehnly School**

**Brief description of military service below:**

**If you have any items that you have for us to present in our display case related to Memorial Day please drop it off or contact our office. You could list the items below and return the form to the VRS office.**



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

**President, Sonya Lee Solenske 732.619.4869 ●**

**[sonyasolenske@gmail.com](mailto:sonyasolenske@gmail.com)**

**1 st Vice President, Darlene Alicea 732.762.4314 ●**

**[darlene.alicea78@gmail.com](mailto:darlene.alicea78@gmail.com)**

**2nd Vice President, Lindsey Klimuc 908.577.7709 ●**

**[lbklimuc@gmail.com](mailto:lbklimuc@gmail.com)**

**3rd Vice President, Jessica MacDougall 908.447.1369●**

**[Jessicaamacdougall@gmail.com](mailto:Jessicaamacdougall@gmail.com)**

**Recording Secretary, Janine Pereira 732.522.1280 ●**

**[msjpereira22@gmail.com](mailto:msjpereira22@gmail.com)**

**Corresponding Secretary, Amanda Wall 908.456.0658 ●**

**[Knosky4@comcast.net](mailto:Knosky4@comcast.net)**

**Treasurer, Michelle Chesney 908.403.8885 ●**

**[michellechesney1@gmail.com](mailto:michellechesney1@gmail.com)**