



VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL NEWS
Early Spring Newsletter 2018

April Dates:

Health/Wellness Awareness Month

2-5 School Closed - Spring Break

6 School Re-opens

9 Spring Spirit Wear Fundraiser begins

10 Band Bonanza at ALJ in the evening

13 1:30 pm Kumpf Band Visit

7:00 pm 5th Grade Fun Night

17 6:30 VRS Variety Show

18 VRS Art Show (3:00-4:00 & 6:00-7:00)

20 VRS Earth Day

Kindergarten Class Trip

Pretzel Sale

23 Spring Spirit Wear Fundraiser ends

25 VRS Kindergarten Orientation

26 Take Your Child To Work Day

6:30 pm Mystery Night

27 Arbor Day

Candy Bar Bingo

8:10 K-Kids Meeting

28 Spring Clothing Drive

May Dates:

Fairness/Cooperation Month

1 VRS Recorder Concert

7:00 pm Special Presentation “Hidden in Plain Sight”

3 VRS Plant Sale

4 PTA Teacher Luncheon

14 7:00 pm VRS PTA Meeting

18 8:10 am K-Kids Meeting

3:00 pm 5th Grade Pretzel Sale

7:00 pm VRS PTA Family Fun Night

23 & 24 Grade 2 Inview Testing

23 G&T Field Trip

24 Memorial Day Observance

25 School Closed for Students

28 School Closed - Memorial Day

30 7:00 pm VRS Spring Concert

PARCC DATES: See below

NJSLA DATES: Grade 5 see below

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Spring and Holiday Wishes:

We wish everyone a happy start of spring. To those family celebrating holidays we wish you a happy, safe and peaceful holiday. We hope everyone enjoys the spring vacation week and can spend time with family and friends.

School Schedule:

School will be closed for Spring Recess starting this Friday March 30th and reopen on

Friday April 6th. April 6th is a make up day for the last snow day. So the Elementary School day schedule will be a Schedule B Day. This day will also be a 12:40 dismissal day. There will be no lunches served on this day

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air! Report cards were emailed on Monday, March 19, which means the third (and final) marking period is underway.

Students in grades 3-5 are just a few short weeks away from 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 PARCC test are encouraged to visit: <https://prc.parcconline.org/assessments/parcc-released-items> and <http://achievethecore.org/> to view released items from last year’s assessment or to learn about scoring. As always, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: mapplebaum@clarkschools.org

Wishing all of the VRS students and families a wonderful spring vacation week!

Principal News:

Safety and Security Reminder:

Please remember the following procedures will be in effect after we return from the school break on April 9th:

- No visitor entry access, including to parents, will be granted within a fifteen-minute window of time on both ends of student arrival and dismissal. In other words, no visitors will be granted building access between the following times at each school.
8:25-8:55am
2:40 - 3:10pm
- Any visitor entry access outside of those time windows must be accompanied by a previously arranged appointment.
- No visitor entry access will be granted in order for items to be dropped off for students, e.g., lunch, physical education clothes, or homework/projects. A drop-off box will be at the front door of each school for these items to be left in. Any items must be clearly labeled with the student's name and grade level. In addition, lunch money may not be dropped off. If lunch money is forgotten, the student will be provided with a lunch and then his or her parent will subsequently be charged. When leaving the item in the box, please ring the door buzzer in order to notify the school office of the drop-off so that the item can be brought to the student upon the availability of the office staff.

These procedures will be implemented to make the school a safer place for all the children. We also ask **people to be prepared to show a form of identification when visiting the school with an appointment.**

- Visitors may only go to the classroom of the visit. When the visit is complete they need to exit the building and sign out at the office.
- Late students should enter at the office door and be signed in by an office staff member. The parent does not enter with late students.
- Appointments must be made at least 15 minutes before the appointment, but 24 hours or more notice will help us to better set up our schedules for the next day..
- Visitors should not hold doors open for other visitors. Each visitor must be announced to the office before entering.

When Visiting the School:

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

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.

Safety at Dismissal

1. Please do not park in the no parking area on and near the corner of Blake Drive. We need to keep this open for the left passing lane and for emergency vehicles if ever needed.
2. Please leave the dismissal handicapped spots available for those that need them.
3. There have been several near misses of people crossing Valley Road, so we encourage everyone to use the crosswalk. Also remember if you cross in the middle of Valley Road you may be being observed by a youngster and thus you would be modeling "breaking the law" by J walking to our youngsters.

Arrival

1. Please know that if people at morning drop off get out of their car they should be quick and then quickly return to their car in less than 30 seconds. If people take longer than 30 seconds we ask them to be faster or to park and walk their children to the door. We have found that this procedure when done within 30 seconds does not slow down traffic and actually helps, because some youngsters at times have trouble getting out of the vehicle.

Health and cleanliness of classrooms

Classrooms are cleaned with sanitizers/disinfectants each night to keep the room clear and with less germs. Our custodial service has been very responsive to any requests that we make.

PARCC

Testing Schedule 2018

State standardized testing will take place in the Valley Road School from May 7th to May 24th for Grades 3, 4 and 5. Make up tests will take place during the same days.

5/7 - 4/14 Testing for 5th Grade Math and ELA (Makeups 5/7-5/24)

5/10 - 5/17 Testing for 3rd Grade Math and ELA (Makeups 5/10-5/24)

5/15-5/22 Testing for 4th Grade Math and ELA (Makeups 5/15-5/24)

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 March 29, 30 and 31** 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 May 23rd and 24th for grade 2 students. More information will be sent to grade 2 parents in a separate flyer.

Earth Day:

VRS Earth Day activities will take place on Friday April 20th since Earth Day is on Sunday April 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 20th. 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.

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 26th please send in the permission slip by April 24th or sooner. Permission slips will be emailed home in the near future. If the permission slip is filled in and submitted by April 24th your child will be considered excused.

Arbor Day:

Classes will be celebrating Arbor Day on April 27th.

Elementary School News: Great news!

Emily Miekina received an honorable mention in the NJ Gifted Art Contest!!!!

The judges had a difficult task selecting winners but finally we have the results! An awards ceremony where winners received their certificates and prizes was held at the REACH (Regional Enrichment Activities for Children with High Abilities) event in March.

January Summary of Events

- Tolerance/Diversity Month was held in January
- Reading Logs were collected in January
- Grade 5 G/T students took a G/T trip
- An VRS Olweus Day was held
- The PTA held a K-1 Paint Night where parent and children came to learn how to paint by the art teachers from Kump and Valley Road School. The art teachers were Tom Peitz and Michelle Matesic.
- The PTA held a Candy Bar Bingo Night. Students were able to win bags of candy. The students had a blast at this activity. they could be heard cheering and laughing throughout the night.
- The K-Kids held a meeting.

- The VRS International Day took place on January 30th. This was a wonderful night with many exhibits and several performances. It was good for the students to celebrate diversity. Mrs. Badillo and her committee did a wonderful job setting up this exciting event.

February Summary of Events

Trustworthy/Teamwork/Kindness Month was the theme for last month

- Grade 4 G and T class had a Class Trip
- The teacher's PTA Souper Luncheon was a fun time for the staff.
- VRS held a PTA meeting
- VRS Paint Night for grades 2-3 was a big hit. We thank Thomas Peitz for leading the night.
- Our K-Kids group had its meeting
- Kindergarten Registration had a good turn out.

March Summary of Events:

Caring/Citizenship Month

- Reading Logs were submitted.
- Read Across America was held and we had an author visit and speak to our students in the morning. In the afternoon we had the Cat in the Hat and Thing One and Thing Two visit the classrooms.
- The PTA VRS Tricky Tray was a huge success. People enjoyed the evening and we thank the PTA and the PTA Tricky Tray Committee members for all their hard work in making the evening a success.
- The Spring Book Fair was held. It was successful even though there was a snow day issues that week.
- The VRS Olweus lessons were held.
- The VRS school play was a huge success with great dancing, singing, acting and humor. We congratulate the students on their performances, the stage and lighting crew for its work and the four directors Jackie Grigoli, Michelle Matesic, Briana Kane and Bryan Lowe. they did a great job preparing the children.
- Kindergarten International Market was a new event that the Kindergarten teachers introduced to teach their students about world culture. thanks to Mrs. Belverio, Ms. Grigoli and Mrs. Spence for their hard and creative work. Congratulations to all the students for participating.
- The Reading Cafe was held which has the grade 5 students dress as wait staff and serve books and snacks to K-4 students and their parents for an enjoyable family evening with books and good company. Grade 7 to visit Kindergarten classes to read
- A School Wide Bus Drill is planned for the end of the month. This will get students familiar with bus safety and emergency evacuations.
- A 5th Grade Pretzel sale will be held.

Grade 2

Students in the second grade are traveling around the globe visiting the seven continents in social studies. The teachers are wrapping up each continent with a related STEAM activity. The culmination of South America was for each student to create a zip line to carry a passenger through the Amazon Rainforest. Pictured from Mrs. Petela's class are Sophie Blizniak awaiting her zipline arrival as Ava Solenske, Morgan Chesney and Cooper Perroto look on.



Grade 3 Andy Warhol Inspires Third Graders at VRS

At Valley Road School in Clark, Ms. Krick's third graders focus on a famous Spotlight Artist each month as part of an interdisciplinary unit. The artist's work and facts about the artist are incorporated across the curriculum in subject areas such as grammar, math, and language arts. For example, Picasso's cubist work helped students understand 3 dimensional shapes in math, and Norman Rockwell's "Rosie the Riveter" and paintings of soldiers were a perfect fit for Veteran's Day in November.

Recently the class learned about Andy Warhol and his contributions to Pop Art. As a culminating activity, they enlisted the help of the other third grade classes to create an Andy Warhol display in the foyer at Valley Road School.

Inspired by Warhol's "Campbell's Soup Cans," each third grader created a version of a Campbell's soup label, with varieties ranging from "Gingerbread Soup" to "Watermelon Soup." The labels were assembled in a mural entitled "VRS is a Souper School." An array of real cans of Campbell's soup, donated by third grade families, completed the display. The soup will be donated to a local food bank, and donations are still being accepted.

Third grader Danny Gandarez recently asked Ms. Krick, "Are we doing grammar today?" When Ms. Krick asked why, he replied, "Because I really like looking at the paintings."

In addition to Picasso and Rockwell, students have learned about Keith Haring, Rene Magritte, and Frida Kahlo. Future artists will include Henri Matisse, Georgia O'Keefe, and Edward Hopper.



Get Ready for Our Annual VRS “Hats On” for the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad

Our annual fundraiser is planned for Wednesday, April 18, 2018. As in past years, students are encouraged to wear hats to school, and they have the opportunity to donate \$1 to the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad. A donation is not required to wear a hat, but it is greatly appreciated by the Squad. Some families choose to send in a check for a donation, and any checks should be made payable directly to the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad. We will collect all donations and forward them to the Squad, along with a letter of appreciation from the VRS students and staff. Each year our generous VRS community has allowed the Squad to update equipment, and last year they planned on expanding their pediatric equipment. We hope to see lots of students wearing hats on Wednesday, April 18, and look forward to making a donation from VRS. Showing our appreciation to these brave, selfless volunteers is our way of saying “Thanks” for your service to our community!

A Saturday of Community Service and Fun

Members of the Valley Road School K-Kids Club and Student Council blended community service, global studies, social skills development and FUN when they met with child refugees from Liberia, West Africa, on Saturday, December 9th.

A holiday celebration is held each December at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Newark for members of the African Immigrant Ministry (AIM). Children young and old come to the church center for a morning of reflection on the season, crafts, pizza and gift giving.

Valley Road School K-Kids and Student Council members and Valley Road School parents assisted with craft-making, helped to serve the food for a shared meal and learned what children have in common – the ability to enjoy one another and to have fun regardless of differences in personal backgrounds.

The former pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Clark, Rev. Andrew J. Dzurovcik, initiated this program many years ago to assist families who had escaped a civil war in their homeland for opportunities in America. The new pastor, Pastor Grewes, has continued this work. Valley Road School has also participated in this endeavor through the PTA for many years. The PTA and school collects money, then teachers purchase gifts for the children of the African Ministry. For five of the last six years, Valley Road Student Council members have personally assisted with this event. The last few times the K-Kids, our Community Service Group, also attended the trip. Our students actually help in handing out the gifts that our PTA had purchased. This year we added a new wrinkle by having our students wrap the gifts donated by our school's parents.

The members of the Valley Road Student Council and K-Kids made us proud for their willingness to help others, their ability to be accepting of diversity, and the maturity and kindness they showed as they donated their time to a valuable community service project.

Staff members who attended the trip were Sue Dzurovcik and Linda Koepfler, two of the K-Kids advisors; Bryan Lowe, Mallory Applebaum, the schools assistant principal; and Joe Beltramba the school's principal. Jen Guenther and Nicole Reagan of the VRS Student Council, and Paula Spence and Kim Belverio, also of K Kids, as well as those listed above helped organized the trip. Many PTA parents also attended the trip.

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.

Donation of games:

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.

**PTA News~
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS :**

President, Sonya Lee Solenske 732.619.4869 sonyasolenske@gmail.com

1 st Vice President, Krista Raguseo 908.346.2424 kristarags@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President, Jessica MacDougall 908.447.1369

Jessicaamacdougall@gmail.com Recording Secretary,

Janine Pereira 732.522.1280 msjpereira22@gmail.com Corresponding Secretary,

Amanda Wall 908.456.0658 Knosky4@comcast.net Treasurer,

Michelle Chesney 908.403.8885 michellechesney1@gmail.com

Throughout the school year, please feel free to call or email any of our PTA members.