



# VALERIUS ELEMENTARY J-HAWK JOURNAL

*Valerius Mission: ALL Valerius Students will SOAR to success!*

*(S)Strive for Success (O)Ongoing Improvement (A)Achieve Goals (R) Show Respect and Responsibility*

## MESSAGE FROM MRS. MAURO

### IMPORTANT DATES

04/03	PUMP IT UP PARTY (6-8PM)
04/05	RUNNING CLUB BEGINS
04/11	LATE START
04/25	LATE START
04/30	INCOMING 6TH GRADE PARENT MEETING (6:00PM, UMS GYM)

### SCHOOL INFO:

Regular School Hours:  
8:55-3:35

Late Start Hours:  
10:00-3:35

Breakfast Time:  
8:40-8:55

### CONNECT WITH VALERIUS

OFFICE #: 515-457-6500

FACEBOOK:  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
VALERIUSELEMENTARY](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VALERIUSELEMENTARY)

GOOGLE CALENDAR:  
<https://goo.gl/qM1JB9>

Parents,

It is a priority for staff at Valerius to provide a safe learning environment for our students. Here are some of the things we do to ensure our emergency-preparedness plans are reliably in place so we are ready to spring into action when needed:

1. Collaboration with Urbandale Police Department: Starting after spring break, law enforcement has been stopping by each Urbandale school on a daily basis. An officer might stop by the office to see how things are going or they may take a quick walk around the school. It shouldn't take long for our students, staff and families to get used to this practice. The kids love to see our UPD officers!
2. Drill Practice: We complete 100% of the state-required drills for fire and tornado. Last week, we practiced our tornado safety plan during the state-wide tornado drill. We have a process to ensure that every single student in our school is accounted for in less than two minutes after we move to drill locations throughout the building/grounds.
3. Staff Emergency training: Each year, we take time as a staff to review our plan for responding to emergencies. Our emergency response plan has been reviewed by the Urbandale Police Department and by our Director of Building and Grounds. It is also submitted to and reviewed by the superintendent's office each year.

Although the definition of emergency is defined as an unforeseen combination of circumstances that calls for immediate action, we prioritize having effective safety processes in place to manage these unexpected circumstances. We will always put safety of our students at the top of our list of priorities. If you have questions, please stop in, give me a call or shoot me an email!



## April 2018

## MESSAGE FROM MRS. MACGREGOR

Hi Valerius Families,

Happy Spring! All grades have been working on our Ethical Behavior unit this past month in guidance. We have been talking about how to tell the difference between mean behavior and bullying. There are four characteristics that we are looking for when we are identifying bullying:

1. Behavior that is done on purpose
2. Behavior that is hurtful in some way (hurts you physically, hurts your feelings, or damages your property)
3. Often the behavior is repeated
4. There is a power imbalance (the bully has power over you in some way: you might be scared to come to school or ride the bus, you might try to avoid recess or get stomachaches)

This is a tricky process for kids to understand because every case is different and the definition can waiver, too. (For example, threatening someone with a knife is never okay. It does not need to be repeated to be considered bullying.) Often when someone is being mean to a student they automatically jump to "She's bullying me!" We try to have students think about the four characteristics and usually they discover that it's not actually bullying, but rather a mean moment.

We also emphasize how you can use strategies to deflect a bully like avoid or ignore the bully, stay with friends, stand up for yourself in a confident way or tell an adult right away.

Please let us know if you feel your student is involved in a bullying situation. We want to help all Valerius students feel safe at school.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

### Attendance Phone Number (515) 457-6503

#### **When to Stay Home:**

**Fever-** Student must be fever free for 24 hours (less than 101 degrees) without a fever reducer medication.

**Vomit-** Student must have not vomited for 24 hours before returning to school.

**Diarrhea-** Student must be free from diarrhea for 24 hours.

**Pink Eye-** Student can return to school after 1st dose of medication or as directed by your physician.

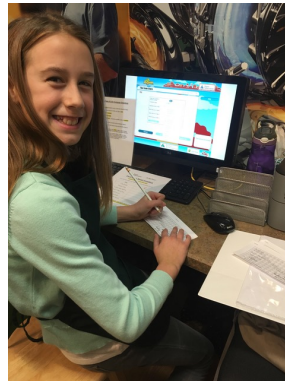
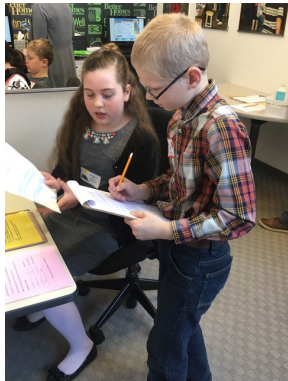
**Lice-** Student is not sent home the day of discovery. Allowed to return after initial treatment.

**Spring Weather:** Please remember that the weather changes daily. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for all types of weather. We have a very limited amount of extra coats, hats, and gloves in the Health office. Kids will still go out doors for recess when temperatures feel like 10 degrees or above. Please send a coat to school everyday as morning recess is still very chilly.

**Borrowed Clothes From the Health Office:** Please remember when your student comes home with any clothing or items from the health office we ask you to please wash them and return them back to the health office so we are able to provide these items to other students that are in need of them in the future.

## GRADE LEVEL SPOTLIGHT: 5TH GRADE

On March 2nd, fifth graders went on their field trip to Junior Achievement-Biztown. This is an intense and incredible experience! Students are required to prepare for their visit, every day, for months. In preparation, students learn a variety of 21st Century skills. They learn all about being citizens of a community. They register to vote, learn about taxes, and public goods and services. Students build their financial literacy by learning how to deposit paychecks, write checks, use debit cards, and understand a variety of payment methods. Students also learn a variety of work readiness skills. They apply and interview for the job that they will have while they are at Biztown. They then work in business teams to generate a variety of advertisements to encourage citizens to use the goods and services provided by their business. On the day of their visit, students work for an entire day, operating their businesses independently. They also have breaks where they are required to go to the bank, manage their finances, and shop at neighboring businesses. Biztown is an incredibly rewarding experience and one of students' most cherished 5th grade memories!



## MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIALS TEACHERS

### Music: Mr. Leffler

Kindergarten will be having their Music Demo Day on Friday, April 20th at 3:00pm in the gym. See you there, parents!

4th and 5th grade's music program, Rock Around the 50's, was a huge success! Thanks to everyone who came and thanks to all who helped the students get ready.



### PE: Ms. Jones

Running club is gearing up to start again for the spring and we are still looking for volunteers. We are in need of volunteers ASAP so that we can have students out running. If you have not signed up please go to the following link:

<http://valeriuselementarypto.bringit.bz/public/fb1c5e>

Running club does not happen without volunteers and we are unable to start until we get enough people to run it.

Before spring break, our kindergarten classes got a visit from Josh the Baby Otter to learn about water safety. If you are looking at getting swim lessons but need a scholarship, email me and I will help point you in the right direction, [jonesa@urbandaleschools.com](mailto:jonesa@urbandaleschools.com)

## MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIALS TEACHERS

### **Library: Mrs. Mefford**

Students in 4th and 5th grades recently voted for their favorite Iowa Children's Choice Award book. They were also able to recommend good books that they read for a future Iowa Children's Choice Award list. I tallied their votes and sent them, along with their recommendations, to the Iowa Children's Choice Award committee. The state winner will be announced in the next couple of weeks. Students in K-3rd grades completed the same process with the Iowa Goldfinch Award books. If your students would like to start reading books from the 2018-2019 school year list, the links are listed below.

### **2018-2019 Iowa Children's Choice Award list:**

<https://thebookhouseiowa.com/books/iowa-childrens-choice.html>

### **2018-2019 Iowa Goldfinch Award list:**

<https://tinyurl.com/yck7z4gm>

### **ELL: Mrs. Vogeler**

One of the goals of Urbandale English as a Second Language program is to integrate our English language learners and their families into the community and school life. Teachers look for ways to incorporate cultural traditions of their ELL families in their classrooms as well as introduce ELL students to the culture and traditions of this country. This creates a welcoming, respectful and joyful school environment — conducive to learning, improved communication with Valerius families and their engagement in school life.

It has been a tradition at Valerius for many years to hold an annual ESL Egg Hunt, and last week our English language learners had a lot of fun dying eggs and hunting for them in the garden by the school. For many it was their first experience of this kind. In the photo: 2nd graders and kindergartners after their egg hunt



### **Art: Mrs. Scharper**

This month students have been very busy in the art room.

1st and 2nd grade have both been working on their drawing skills by inventing and creating their very own robots and dinosaurs.

3rd graders have been creating a beautiful multimedia painting inspired by modern pop artist, Romero Britto.

4th graders just finished up their unit on "The Great Wave" painting, and just recently began their unit on Hot Air Balloon Zen tangles.

5th graders are creating and designing a landscape that is looking through a keyhole using sharpie and colored pencils.

I look forward to what the rest of the year has in store with our amazing artists!

### **ELP: Mrs. Choudhury**

**Snack Shack** is a result of collaboration between 5th grade classrooms and the 5th grade ELP classes. Next week we will be finalizing our plans for opening a Snack Shack at Valerius Elementary. You can watch the video by clicking the blue words above to see the student-centered work involved in this project. Using the online resource, [definedstem.com](http://definedstem.com), Mrs. Mertens, Mrs. Bruggeman and Mrs. Choudhury were able to guide our students in this authentic experience. More on that later!

March Mammal Madness: All 3rd, 4th, and 5th groups were given a chance to try their hand at making brackets for this event, which is the brain child of Dr. Katie Hinde at Arizona State University. Professors from Arizona State collaborate with Harvard, Columbia, U of Notre Dame and others to determine outcomes of animal brackets much like the basketball brackets we are all familiar with. Tattoo artists and science illustrators bring it to life over twitter. Librarians at Arizona State have put together kid-safe search sites. You know you are going in the right direction when you hear kids debating the fighting chance of a tardigrade!

### PTO LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Simply put...our kids and teachers need your help. We still have 4 out of 6 PTO executive roles to fill for next school year. These roles are critical for continuing PTO operations. Open positions:

- **President**
- **Vice President (or Co-President)**
- **Co-Secretary**
- **Co-Treasurer**

By having shared positions, it provides each with a partner to help balance the time commitment and provide better flexibility based on your schedule.

Please reach out today and let us know what position interests you and/or any questions you may have for about the PTO roles. [valeriuspto@gmail.com](mailto:valeriuspto@gmail.com)

**If there are no Valerius parents who will help fill these roles then the PTO services will be significantly reduced or may not even exist next year.**

### It's time to Pump It Up!!!

Bring your kids for a fun-filled evening.  
**Tuesday, April 3rd 6pm - 8pm**

Cost is \$7/child - proceeds benefit the Valerius PTO.

Register online now or at the door.

<https://www.pumpitupparty.com/urbandale-ia/calendar/>

**Next PTO Meeting:  
Thursday, May 10th 7pm  
Valerius Media Center  
(free childcare provided)**



### LAST BOX TOPS CONTEST ENDS APRIL 13th

Make sure to continue clipping and gathering all the Box Tops that you can find....our last contest of the year ends April 13th. Please bring them to your teacher or into the office prior to the deadline.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**4/3 - PumpItUp Party 6-8pm**

**4/13 - Box Tops Contest Deadline**

**5/10 - PTO Meeting 7pm**

**5/11 - Muffins with Mom's**

**5/18 - PTO End of Year Family BBQ**