



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

12/06 LATE START
 12/08 BOX TOP CONTEST ENDS
 12/15 4TH GRADE TO SCIENCE CENTER
 12/18 CHORUS PERFORMANCE (5PM, MERLE HAY MALL)
 12/20 LATE START
 12/22 CLASSROOM WINTER PARTIES (2:45PM)
 12/25- NO SCHOOL
 01/01

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

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

UCSD Bond Referendum at a Glance:

Who:

- Urbandale Community School District Citizens/Voters

What:

- \$59M Bond to build 2 new 4-section elementary schools on the current Olmsted & Valerius sites.

When:

- **Vote:** February 6, 2018
- Olmsted Site #1—Summer 2019 Construction Begins; Fall 2021 School Opens
- Valerius Site #2—Summer 2023 Construction Begins; Fall 2025 School Opens
- UHS Fitness Centers—Spring 2019 Construction Begins; Fall 2020 Fitness Center Opens

Where (to get more info):

Forums: Two Community Forums: 12/04/17 & 1/23/18 @ 6:30pm UHS Media Center

Visit: UrbandaleSchools.com/vote

Why:

- Maximizing Operations: Inefficiencies of operating and maintaining 6 elementary buildings impact students at all levels (K-12) by limiting resources and programming opportunities at the elementary, middle, and high schools.
- Cost Efficiency: Ultimately, it would cost more over the long term to maintain 6 elementary schools than to build 2 new schools and operate a total of 4 elementary schools.



November 2017

MESSAGE FROM MRS. MACGREGOR

Happy Holiday Food Drive (sponsored by J-leaders)
Dates: December 11-21

For: The Urbandale Food Pantry

What: Food for Holiday Meals

What: Each grade will be collecting different food items to help complete a holiday meal for an Urbandale Family.

Where: Students will add their donations to a box in their classrooms or to a box in the office. *In addition: We will not be collecting money with this Food Drive, but if you would like to donate a gift card to HyVee or Fareway, those will be used to purchase perishable items for the Food Baskets.*

Items to donate:

Kindergarten: Boxes of mashed potatoes, bags of apples or canned applesauce

1st grade: Canned sweet potatoes or green beans

2nd grade: boxes of stuffing, canned peaches, or canned pears

3rd grade: jars of gravy or cream of mushroom soup

4th grade: Peanut butter or canned cranberries

5th grade: Canned corn or a can of French fried onions

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.

Cold Weather: Please remember that the weather is changing and all children should come to school with a warm coat, hat, gloves, and warm shoes or boots. 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 help us keep your children healthy!

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.

Namaste from 2nd Grade!

Yoga and mindfulness are an important part of the day for Valerius Second Graders! Research shows that yoga provides students healthy ways to express their emotions, eases anxiety and tension, enhances focus and listening, and creates a calm and harmonious classroom community.

In our classrooms we have established a morning yoga routine that promotes self regulation and focus.

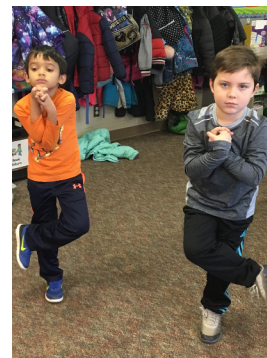
Throughout the day students are encouraged to use yoga practices to help with everyday activities and challenges.

Kenson says, "Yoga calms our bodies down and gets us ready for school."

Rowan says, "It helps us calm down, listen, focus and breathe."

Ian says, "It helps me let go of the things that happened earlier in the day and helps me focus on school."

Catie says, "It helps me focus on what I'm doing."



MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIALS TEACHERS

Music: Mr. Leffler

Hello Valerius Families!

4th and 5th Grade Chorus has begun! We had our first rehearsal on Wednesday the 29th, and the kids had a great time! (rehearsals will continue on F day mornings) We are getting ready for our performance with Jensen Chorus at Merle Hay Mall on Monday, December 18th at 5:00pm by the food court. Hope to see you there!

Other grades are going to have a busy December as well- we will be beginning some winter activities including using music from The Nutcracker. Be asking your students- what ballet music have they heard/moved to this month?

Have a good day, and as always please let me know if you have any questions or comments!

-Mr. Leffler

PE: Ms. Jones

No updates at this time, but please check back next month for some new information!

Art: Mrs. Scharper

This month, Valerius artists have been working very hard. 5th graders are in the process of drawing from observation. They are in the first few stages of drawing their shoe as realistically as possible. 4th graders are in the middle of a fun unit about Optical Illusion. Each week we explore a different kind of Op Art and at the end of our Unit, they will pick their favorites and combine them into a matted and framed master piece. 3rd graders just finished up their self portraits and are about to begin a painting unit regarding Van Gogh's Starry Night. 2nd graders are learning about tints and shades while creating colorful monochromatic ice cream cones. 1st graders are learning about how to mix the primary colors to create secondary colors. They have successfully mixed their first color wheels in art! Kindergarten just finished a painting project on abstract art and will begin letter mosaics before Christmas Break.

It is always a pleasure to work with each and every one of your students and I look forward to continuing to create with them as the year goes on.

ELP: Mrs. Choudhury

Poor William Archibald Spooner! That British clergyman and educator, who lived from 1844 to 1930, often had to speak in public, but he was a nervous man and his tongue frequently got tangled up. He would say things like "a blushing crow" when he meant "a crushing blow."

4th graders are writing their own Spoonerism. You might have read these in Shel Silverstein's book Runny Babbit. Here is my favorite poem:

RUNNY'S JIG BUMP

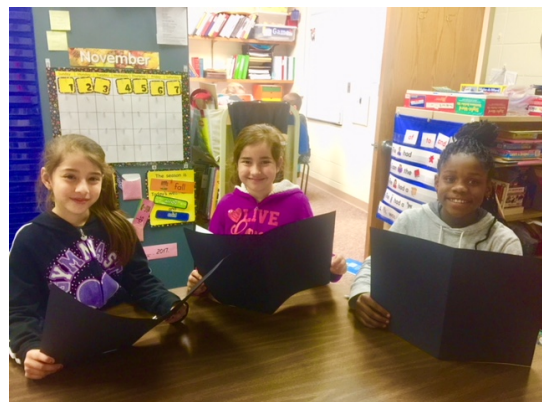
Runny be quimble, Runny be nick,
Runny cump over the jandlestick.
But now—what smells like furning bluff?
Guess he didn't jump high enough.

Library: Mrs. Mefford

In November, 4th and 5th grade students started learning about the characteristics of various fiction genres. We started with historical fiction discussing the characteristics followed by book talks of some of my favorite historical fiction books. This week, students will learn the characteristics of mystery fiction by exploring a "crime scene" in the library. Someone tore up some library books and left a mess in the library. Students will use the clues they see and read the alibis from the culprits in order to determine if Horton, the Grinch, Yertle the Turtle, or The Cat in the Hat was the culprit. Look for photos of this activity in the January Valerius J-Hawk Journal. 3rd grade students have been learning about the criteria used to select Caldecott award winning books and have been exploring previous winners. Kindergarten through 2nd grade students have enjoyed hearing the Goldfinch Award books being read to them over the past several weeks. They will vote for their favorite in February. You can view the full list here: <http://bit.ly/2ihUsAk>

ELL: Mrs. Vogeler

One of the biggest barriers to reading comprehension is lack of fluency. Reaching fluency benchmarks for each grade level has been the focus for many English language learners at Valerius. Reader's Theater is one of the strategies for increasing reading fluency and is greatly enjoyed by students. In the photo: 4th graders Itza Contreras, Yaritza Escareno and Joyce Doe working on their Reader's Theater script.



Bond Referendum Information

In addition to attending school meetings and events November through early February, Urbandale CSD will be hosting two **Community Forums** for our district and community members to learn more about the 2018 Bond Referendum and ensure all questions are answered.

Please plan on attending the following two Community Forums:

- *Monday, **December 4, 2017*** at 6:30 p.m. UHS Media Center (enter through Media Center doors)
- *Tuesday, **January 23, 2018*** at 6:30 p.m. UHS Media Center (enter through Media Center doors)

Our next **Boxtops and Campbell's Labels** deadline is next **Friday, December 8**. The class with the most wins a popcorn and movie party! Keep clipping those boxtops and labels and send them in...they really do make a difference!

Read-A-Thon Recap...thanks to all who participated in this year's read-a-thon! It was another successful fundraiser with gross profits coming in at over \$4,600. This money will go far in ensuring each grade level enjoys multiple field trips, CultureAll Day and access to Reflex Math. Thank you for your support!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Bingo Night

January 19 6-8pm

Family Fun Night

February 17 5-8pm

Next PTO Meeting:

January 11 at 7pm

Superintendent Steve Bass will be speaking about the upcoming bond referendum. Come and learn what our district's future looks like!

WINTER PARTIES are coming up on **Friday, December 22** at 2:45pm. We still need help from parents to make these successful! If you can't get away from work, then please consider a donation. Several items are still needed in K, 2nd and 3rd grades. [Sign up here](#) to donate. [Homeroom Parents are listed here.](#)