



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

- 02/06 BOND REFERENDUM VOTE
- 02/05-02/09 IOWA ASSESSMENTS
- 02/07 LATE START
- 02/09 DONUTS WITH DADS
(8:15-8:45)
- 02/13 KINDERGARTEN
PRE-REGISTRATION OPEN
HOUSE(6-8PM, UHS
MEDIA CENTER)
- 02/17 FUN NIGHT
(5-8PM)
- 02/19 NO SCHOOL
- 02/27 CONFERENCES
(4-8PM)
- 02/27 BOOK FAIR OPEN
(4-8PM)
- 03/01 CONFERENCES
(4-8PM)
- 03/01 BOOK FAIR OPEN
(4-8PM)

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/
VALERIUSELECTMENTARY](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VALERIUSELECTMENTARY)

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

Dear Parents:

On February 6th, 7th, and 8th, your 3rd-5th grade child(ren) will be taking the Iowa Assessments. The Iowa Assessments give us information about academic achievement at Valerius, and provides detailed information about your child in a variety of important content areas including Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

- The Iowa Assessments help determine how students are performing on the state curriculum as described in the Iowa Core.
- The Iowa Assessments measure student growth and progress from year to year.
- The Iowa Assessments help teachers identify a student's strengths and identify areas that may need additional emphasis. The assessments produce information that enable sound decision making and provide a focus for teachers to evaluate their instruction.
- The Iowa Assessments provide information about your child's performance relative to the school, the state of Iowa, and the nation.

Administering the Iowa Assessment is one of the *many* important ways we get to know your child. Using the results of this assessment, along with other data sources, we can work as a team to identify each child's strengths and opportunities for growth. When results become available, we will be sending them home with students. Please let me know if you have questions!

Thanks,

Mrs. Mauro

Valerius Principal



February 2018

MESSAGE FROM MRS. MACGREGOR

No updates at this time, but please check back next month.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Flu Season

Just a reminder to all students and parents that we are in prime cold and flu season. Here are just a few things to remember.

The flu is a respiratory illness caused by viruses. It comes on suddenly and symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Body Aches
- Chills
- Runny or Stuffy Nose
- Headache
- Fatigue

It is not too late yet to get a flu shot. Contact your health care provider as soon as possible after flu symptoms start. Please remember to keep your children home from school if they have a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea. They must remain out of school a full 24 hours after these symptoms stop.

To prevent illnesses, be sure to do the following:

- Wash your hands
- Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available
- Eat a well-balanced diet
- Get enough sleep (School age children need 9-11 hours of sleep per night)
- Do not touch your eyes, mouth, or nose until after your hands have been washed
- Cough in your elbow and not your hands

Winter Apparel

Please remember to send your child with a winter jacket, snow boots, snow pants, hat, and gloves. If your child does not have these and you are unable to provide them, please contact the office and we will help you with these needs.

Health Grams

Contagious illnesses such as strep throat is always present to some extent throughout the community. In the past, we have sent out health grams to notify families if a case of strep is reported in their child's classroom. This practice has changed as we recognize students are very active and exposed to illnesses in a number of community settings (sports, scouts, church, the mall, etc.) and can acquire or spread the illness in any of these places.

Reporting to us if your child has strep, fifth's disease, or other contagious illness is still helpful, as we will watch for patterns and use judgment about when to notify families of high numbers of illness in certain age groups. However, we will **no longer be sending out health grams for every reported case of illness.**

The Illness Fact Sheets for common childhood illnesses are posted on our website. Please refer to these when you would like more information about an illness and please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions about a particular illness and whether or not your child should attend school. The illness fact sheets can be found at <http://www.urbandaleschools.com/directory/jennifer-villegas/> The health office forms are found on the right sidebar.

SPOTLIGHT: TIFFANY BRAXTON, FACILITATOR OF FAMILY OUTREACH

Hello Everyone,

My name is Tiffany Braxton, the FFO at Valerius Elementary School. When I say this word sometimes, I smile and think of a UFO, but although my title sounds a little "out of this world," it actually stands for Facilitator of Family Outreach. You can think of my role like a social worker (in a good way). Generally speaking, I support students and families' needs in the district to ensure that students stay in school and stay connected.



I have over five years' experience in the Human Services field. I obtained my Bachelors in Psychology at the University of Iowa (Go Hawks!) and later obtained my Masters in Human Services through Liberty University. On a personal note, I really enjoy helping people. I am kept busy at home by a very active 2-year-old who acts like she is a 22-year-old named Hannah. She brings so much joy to my life.

Some services I provide are community referrals such as food, clothing, shelter, childcare, employment services, just to name a few. I also help assist the Shoes that Fit Program, Shop with a Cop, and Moving on UP. I work with families experiencing homelessness and those families with attendance concerns to provide resources and support. Last but not least, I meet individually with certain students, and I also facilitate groups that enhance social and emotional learning.

If you feel like my expertise could be utilized, please feel free to contact me. I am most easily reached via email at braxtont@urbandaleschools.com or call/text my work cell at 515-202-8107. I am very excited to be a part of Valerius Elementary School and work with an amazing group of dedicated and hardworking people. I look forward to hearing from you if the need arises.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIALS TEACHERS

Music: Mr. Leffler

Kindergarten has been doing songs and activities about the ocean- ask your kindergartner if they have been jumping aboard any pirate ships lately.

1st and 2nd grade have been working on rhyming with the song 'O, A Hunting We Will Go.' Ask them- do they remember any rhymes?

3rd grade has been working on rhythmic canons. No, not the boom kind. The music kind. :)

The 4th and 5th grade music program is quickly approaching! "Rock Around the 50's" will be movin' and groovin', singin' and a swingin' over to the high school auditorium on Tuesday, March 27th. The Valerius Chorus will also be performing the music they have been working to get ready for the concert. More information coming home soon!

Hope to see you at conferences!

PE: Ms. Jones

2nd-5th grades in P.E. are starting Jump Rope for Heart. This is a great opportunity for our school to raise money for the American Heart Association. Along with jumping rope students will be learning about the heart muscle and why is it important to live a healthy lifestyle. Packets are being sent home so be sure to ask your student about it. I am asking that packets be brought back to school Friday, February 23.

Kindergarten and first grades will also be working on jumping and jumping rope skills while learning about the heart and why we exercise.

Art: Mrs. Scharper

No updates at this time, but please check back next month.

Library: Mrs. Mefford

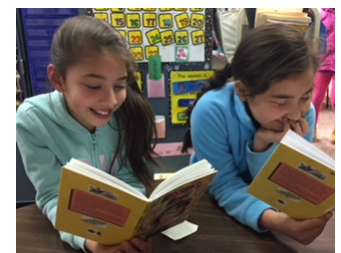
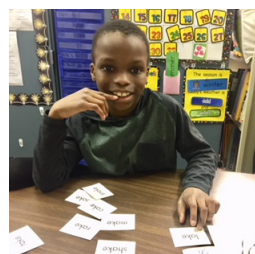
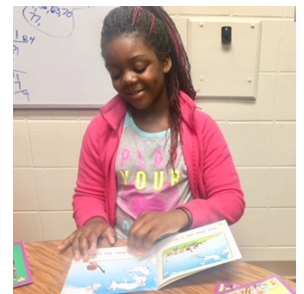
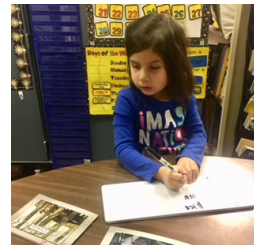
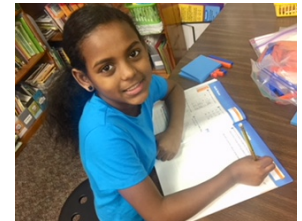
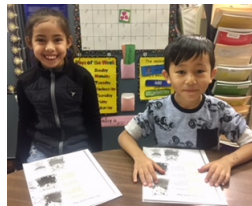
Third grade students are currently learning about the Randolph Caldecott medal. This medal is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

We have studied the criteria that the Caldecott committee uses to choose a winner and we have explored previous medal winners. We are currently looking at books that are candidates to win this year and students are voting for their favorite. It will be fun to see if the book that we choose as the winner is the same one the committee chooses in February.

First grade students are in the middle of our Jan Brett unit. We have been reading her picture books and learning about the borders and side panels that she uses in her illustrations and how they help us comprehend the story and predict what will happen next.

ELL: Mrs. Vogeler

Not many updates this month, but here are some pictures of kids learning!



ELP: Mrs. Choudhury

Summer Camps- you heard it here. It may be below freezing but soon school will be out for the summer and that means... summer programing. I recommend these:

Camp Invention:

<http://bit.ly/2hoDpMA>

Register by Feb 9 and save \$35 with promo code SUMMER FUN

ISEK in Ames: <https://www.isek.iastate.edu/camp/>

Summer Enrichment Adventures

<http://bit.ly/2E3b4sp>

These are in addition so the great local resources in Des Moines such as Living History Farms and The Science Center.

If you have other camps you would recommend, post on my Facebook page.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT is just 2 weeks away and we are busy preparing for an awesome night! Thanks to a family connection with SMART Honda, we were able to get a corporate sponsor for our big 3 items...dunk tank, balloon art and face painting! Thanks SMART Honda!!! We also want to give a huge shout out to the Mensen's who are helping solicit auction items!!! That's a big part of our fundraising ability so thanks for answering the call!!!

You have probably seen teacher emails about raffle baskets...thank you in advance for helping contribute! And our fabulous teachers are helping our students make one-of-a-kind keepsake plates...so bring your wallet and BID HIGH! You won't want to be left out! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and ensures future funding of grade level field trips, cultural opportunities and classroom supplies.

PRESALES: We will have wristband and fun tix presales one week before so watch for the flyers to come home with your kiddos.

[Sign up here](#) for your favorite game shift!

Where: Valerius Elementary

When: Saturday, February 17 from 5-8pm

What: Unlimited games, prizes, pizza, concessions, raffle baskets, silent auction, teacher auction, classroom art, dunk tank, face painting, balloon art and more!

**Next PTO Meeting:
March 6th at 7pm
Valerius Media Center
(free childcare provided)**

2018 BOND REFERENDUM VOTE FEBRUARY 6TH! Polls open 7am - 8pm

www.urbandaleschools.com/vote

We had lots of fun at BINGO Night! Thanks to all who attended! Check out our [Facebook](#) page for more pictures...



BOXTOPS UPDATE

Congratulations to Mrs. Mataloni's class for winning the box tops party. They will receive a movie and popcorn.

We just want to give a shout out to all the families who have trimmed and sent in their labels and box tops. We earned \$267 for our school from the last contest! NOTE: The Campbell's labels program has ended. We are only collecting Box Tops from here on out.

Now on to the next contest. It ends on **FEBRUARY 9TH**. The classroom that brings the most Box Tops in each grade will win a popcorn and movie party.