



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

As we embark on a new year, we are looking forward to many exciting school activities planned for students in 2018! Here is a glimpse at some of the events and activities in the second half of our school year to promote a sense of community at Valerius.

PTO-sponsored Bingo Night: Fun, food, Bingo and Books! A great night to avoid the cold and have some fun with friends and families. Join us on January 19th from 6 to 8 pm in the cafeteria.

Donuts with Dads: On Friday February 9th, Dads (or uncles, grandfathers, etc...) are welcomed to Valerius to enjoy a PTO sponsored breakfast of donuts, coffee, and juice/milk. Come to the cafeteria from 8:15 to 8:45 with your children if you'd like to join our celebration of Valerius dads!

Valerius Fun Night: Loads of games, prizes, food, fun, and auction items are available. Join us for this Valerius tradition on Saturday, February 17th 5-8 pm.

National Read Across America Day Festivities: On Friday, March 2nd, staff and students will be celebrating love of learning and reading on Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Muffins with Moms: On Friday, May 11th, moms (or aunts, grandmas, etc...) are welcomed to Valerius to enjoy PTO sponsored breakfast of donuts, coffee, and juice/milk. Come to the cafeteria from 8:15 to 8:45 with your children if you'd like to join our celebration of our Valerius moms!

PBIS Celebrations: January Jams, Buddy Classroom fun, and school-wide games are how we plan to celebrate our SAFE, RESPECTFUL, and RESPONSIBLE students.

Culture Day: Each year, we have cultural ambassadors visit to share hands on learning experiences about different cultures around the world.

We are excited for the second half of our learning journey!

IMPORTANT DATES

01/09 PUMP IT UP PARTY
(6-8PM)
01/10 LATE START
01/11 PTO MEETING
(7PM AT VALERIUS,
CHILDCARE PROVIDED)
01/12 KINDERGARTEN/1ST
GRADE TO CIVIC CENTER
01/18 5TH GRADE BAND CONCERT
01/19 FAMILY BINGO NIGHT 6-8PM
01/24 LATE START

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>



January 2018

MESSAGE FROM MRS. MACGREGOR

Hello Valerius Families,

We are working on our problem solving unit in every grade for the next few weeks. We have been talking about how we use a stoplight as a model for how to solve a problem. It is a visual that can remind students the steps of Stop, Think, and Choose.

On the Red light, the students are taught to stop and calm down. Using deep breathing, counting to 10 or taking a break to calm down before trying to solve the problem makes the process a lot more successful. It is very hard to solve a problem when you are mad! Next we try to think about our feelings and name them. "I feel _____ because _____." Then, take time to listen to your friend's feelings, too.

On the Yellow light we think about options we could use to solve the problem. Some options may be better than others. This is also a great time to think about the consequences of the choices. Think about what might happen next if you choose each choice.

Finally, the Green light reminds us to make a kind and respectful choice. If that doesn't work, we can talk to a grown up we trust who can help us solve the problem.

Problem solving is a skill that gets better with practice. Help your children learn this very important skill by practicing at home.

Happy Problem Solving and Happy New Year!

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 outside for recess when temperatures feel like 10 degrees or above. Please help us keep your children healthy!

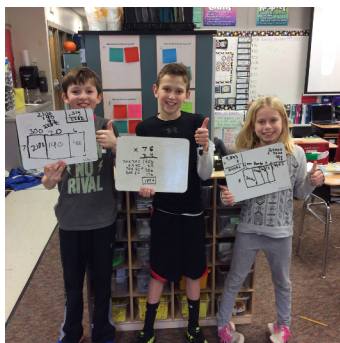
Borrowed Clothes From the Health Office: Please remember when your student comes home with any clothing or items from the health office we ask you to please wash them and return them back to the health office so we are able to provide these items to other students that are in need of them in the future.

GRADE LEVEL SPOTLIGHT:

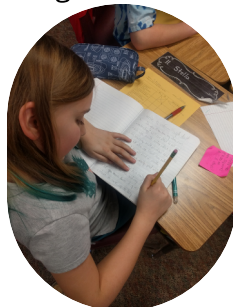
December was an exciting month in 4th grade! Below are a few highlights of our learning.



Students enjoyed exploring and learning at the Science Center of Iowa!



We learned new strategies to multiply multi-digit numbers in math.



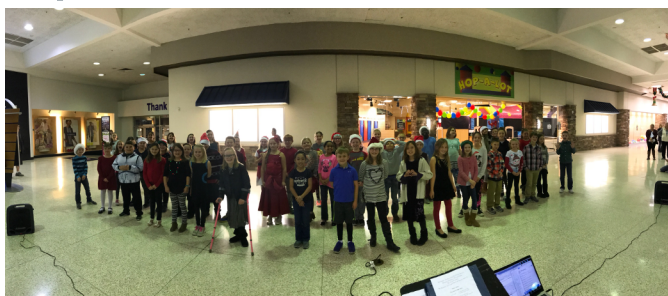
Students were busy gathering research to support explanatory essays on how technology supports student learning in the classroom. Students use their Chromebooks daily in our classrooms for learning on Reflex Math, Prodigy, Google Classroom, and Front Row.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIALS TEACHERS

Music: Mr. Leffler

It was a busy month in the music room! All grades did seasonal songs and activities from the Tchaikovsky's

Nutcracker. Tchaikovsky was the December Mystery Composer!



The Valerius Chorus also performed with Jensen Chorus at Merle Hay Mall! Much more to come!

PE: Ms. Jones

This month we are beginning our basketball unit! We will be learning and practicing dribbling, shooting, and passing skills.

Next month we will be starting Jump Rope for Heart. Please be on the look out for information being sent home with students in grade 2-5.

As always, please make sure your student has appropriate shoes on P.E. days.

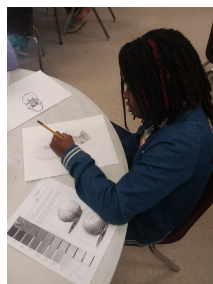
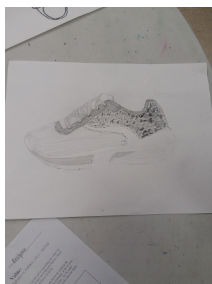


MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIALS TEACHERS

Art: Mrs. Scharper

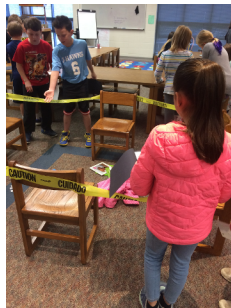
This month has been a whirlwind of creating. All Kindergarten through 5th grade artists have been busy working away to finish up their last projects before winter break. A specific project I would like to highlight for this month is the 5th graders' shoe drawings. Each student began by drawing a "before" picture of what they thought their shoe looked like from memory. Then, students took their shoe off and drew their shoe from observation while paying close attention to each and every detail and also shading their shoes using highlights and shadows. Below you will find pictures of our very talented artists.

I am very excited for what is in store for the New Year with your students. I look forward to creating with them each and every week!



Library: Mrs. Mefford

In December, students in 4th and 5th grade enjoyed using their detective skills to examine a "crime scene" in the library and learn more about mystery fiction characteristics.



ELL: Mrs. Vogeler

Research shows that it can take non-speakers up to 7-10 years to reach full academic proficiency in a new language. Some of our kindergarteners started the school year speaking no English. Not only have their English listening comprehension and speaking skills improved, but they are also starting to recognize and make simple English words themselves and read easy books. In the photo: Irakiza Zarizo, Steven Soriano and Sofia de Leon Vega are making simple sight words from the the book they read.



ELP: Mrs. Choudhury

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

Calling all B-I-N-G-O Players!



It's back and it's BIGGER and BETTER than ever!!! Friday Family Fun for under \$20!!!

Bring the kids for this fun-filled evening! We've moved up the time so even our littles can get in on the fun! Also new this year...PIZZA! Just \$2/slice and you can feed the entire family! Each child in attendance will win a free book and we have lots of other fun prizes (and money) to give away too. BINGO cards are just \$1 each.

Where: Valerius Elementary Gym

When: Friday, January 19 from 6-8pm

What: BINGO, books, posters, monetary prizes, dinner and more!

PUMPiTUP

When: Tues, Jan 9 from 6-8pm

Cost: \$7/person

Proceeds benefit the Valerius PTO

Save Time! Register Online @

pumpitupparty.com/urbandale-ia/

Next PTO Meeting:

January 11 at 7pm

Superintendent Steve Bass will be speaking about the upcoming bond referendum and what it means for our district's future! Make sure to be there so you are informed!

(Free childcare will be provided)

Family Fun Night

Friday, February 17 from 5-8pm

This fundraiser allows the PTO to purchase classroom supplies and support classroom field trips (2 per grade level). Let's face it, it's getting harder and harder to find volunteers. It's getting harder and harder to get people 'on board' with fundraisers and school activities.

Ways you can help? **MAKE** a 'themed' gift basket (camping, sports, spa, movie night, arts/crafts, etc.) that we can raffle. **DONATE** items from your company/business (hotel night stays, sports packages or jerseys, signed memorabilia, Pampered Chef items, Thirty-One items, etc.), which will be added to the silent auction table.

Feel like you don't have an item to donate? No worries! We still need you! You could generously offer to **SPONSOR** any one of the paid activities (dunk tank, balloon art or face painters).

Any businesses that donate or sponsor items will be acknowledged within the event, in hopes of advertising for you and your company.

email valeriuspto@gmail.com