



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

IMPORTANT DATES

- 03/01 CONFERENCES (4-8PM)
- 03/01 BOOK FAIR OPEN (4-8PM)
- 03/02 LUNCH WITH A LOVED ONE
- 03/06 PTO MEETING (7-8 PM, FREE CHILDCARE PROVIDED)
- 03/07 LATE START
- 03/09-03/16 NO SCHOOL
- 03/21 SPRING PICTURES
- 03/27 4TH/5TH GRADE MUSIC PROGRAM (7:30PM, UHS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER)
- 03/28 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
- GOOGLE CALENDAR:
<https://goo.gl/qM1JB9>



MESSAGE FROM MRS. MAURO

Valerius Families-

Starting Friday of this week, we will be celebrating Read Across America Week. Here is a list of the festivities:

Friday March 2nd

Cat in the Hat Day - wear a hat

Students will read with their buddy classrooms on Friday

Monday March 5th

Fox In Socks Day - wear your crazy socks

Read in your socks (teachers will choose a time on Monday to let the students read in their socks)

Tuesday March 6th

Thing 1, Thing 2 Day - dress like a twin day (OR dress like your teacher... teachers will give students directions for this)!

Also- guest reader Superintendent Bass will be in the building reading with kids today

Wednesday March 7th

Wacky Wednesday - wear a wacky outfit

Read around the building - students will find a place around the building to read (Time and rules TBD)

Thursday March 8th

WILD about Green Eggs and Ham - wear green or Iowa Wild clothes and Iowa Wild Guest readers will be in the building on Thursday

Door decorating/Decorate a wall - Grade levels or classroom teachers will choose a favorite Dr. Seuss book as a class and design a wall or door decoration to show off their choice.



March 2018

MESSAGE FROM MRS. MACGREGOR

Self-regulation skills are skills that will help your child be successful at school and in life. What are self-regulation skills? These are skills that help your child focus attention, control emotions and manage thinking, behavior and feelings. The ability to use self-control is a very important self-regulation skill. Do you notice your child has a hard time sitting still? Does your child seem to have difficulty following through with simple directions?

Have fun working together to help your child improve his or her self control using these tips:

1. Do activities that require you and your child to follow step-by-step directions. Work together to play a board game or follow a recipe.

2. Help your child practice waiting. If you are busy when your child needs help, it is good practice for your child to learn to wait patiently for you to finish.

3. Work together to finish a task. If your child is having trouble completing a difficult task, offer to help but do not do it for your child (even if that would be quicker!). Encourage your child to have a growth mindset!

4. Encourage your child to remain in control even when frustrated. Teach your child self control skills when something is frustrating like using positive self talk (“I can get this if I keep trying!”) or taking 5 deep breaths to calm down.

5. Work on something that takes a long time to finish. Work on a hard puzzle that takes several days to complete, build a complicated Lego set together or work on an art project that has multiple steps and needs time to dry in between.

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.

GRADE LEVEL SPOTLIGHT: 3RD GRADE

The third graders have been busy learning how to identify the theme in literature. We have read and analyzed many text to learn about perseverance, hard work, caring, kindness, etc..

In math we are applying our knowledge of the 4 basic facts into the order of operations. We will be moving into learning about the metric system and continuing 2 step problem solving.

Science has been focused on simple machines and how they make our life easier, fun, and safe. We have spent time learning about inventors and how inventors can even be young children!

In writing, we are learning how to develop an opinion of our own and back it up with evidence. We then take our opinion and are learning how to turn it into an opinion piece of writing.

We are excited for the next couple of months and all the learning that we have yet to accomplish!

MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIALS TEACHERS

Music: Mr. Leffler

The 4th and 5th grade music program, "Rock Around the 50s!" will be on Tuesday, March 27th at 7:30pm in the Urbandale High School Performing Arts Center. The Valerius Chorus will also be performing. Details and other information are coming via email and letter home. The kids are practicing hard, and are excited to share their musical talents and hard work!

The other grades will be busy too:

Kindergarten will soon begin to get ready for their Performance Day in April, details to come!

1st grade will be learning how to dance like Kings and Queens.

2nd grade will be doing some composing using a Tarzan poem.

3rd grade will dance the Sasha! Ras, Dva,

PE: Ms. Jones

If your child participated in jump rope for heart, please send your envelopes back with them ASAP. I will no longer accept them after spring break.

During the month of March we will be working on diamond style games, baseball, softball and kickball. Please make sure that your child has appropriate shoes and clothing on P.E. days.

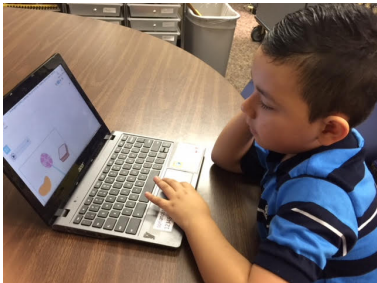
Library: Mrs. Mefford

Students will be voting for their favorite Dr. Seuss book during our Read Across America Week. We are anxious to see which book wins!

Students will choose from the following titles: The Cat in the Hat, One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish, The Lorax, Horton Hears a Who, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Fox in Socks, Oh, the Thinks You Can Think, The Foot Book, There's a Wocket in My Pocket, Bartholomew and the Oobleck, Thidwick the Big-Hearted Moose, and Daisy-Head Mayzie.

ELL: Mrs. Vogeler

All Valerius English language learners are currently taking a yearly state assessment ELPA21 (English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century). The assessment is computer-based, engaging and interactive. It includes questions that reflect classroom and real-world scenarios. The assessment is used to determine students' yearly progress in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking. It provides teachers and parents with information about what areas of English children need to focus on improving. The school provides parents with the full report on their child's performance when ELPA21 results become available.



Kindergartener Steven Soriano is taking the listening assessment of ELPA21

Art: Mrs. Scharper

This month, the Valerius students have been busy creating. 5th grade artists just finished up their beautiful abstract geometric paintings. 4th graders are finishing up their Japanese Unit where they learned about Japanese Artist Katsushika Hokusai and his famous painting, The Great Wave. 3rd grade students just began a mixed media project about modern pop artist, Romero Britto. 2nd grade artists are learning about impressionist artist Vincent Van Gogh and applying texture in their sunflower paintings by layering oil pastel and water color. 1st grade students are just finishing up their pinch pots and are beginning a unit on combining tissue paper and oil pastel to create a colorful peacock.

Kindergarten artists have just begun their unit on self-portraits. They are focusing on their drawing skills and learning about facial proportions and how to express themselves in a self portrait.

As always, it is a pleasure working with each and every one of your children, and I look forward to the last stretch of the school year with them!

ELP: Mrs. Choudhury

Check it out! ELP classes will be exploring podcasts and youtube channels to spark curiosity. Here are a few...

1. [Smithsonian Channel](#)

Your kids can learn about [hammerhead sharks](#), monkeys, World War II, and [9/11](#), all on one channel.

2. [The Brain Scoop](#)

Chicago's Field Museum has created a YouTube channel called The Brain Scoop,.

3. [Houston Zoo](#)

If your child has an affinity for animals, check out the Houston Zoo YouTube channel.

4. [WordWorldPBS](#)

Your child can "watch words come alive" on the WordWorldPBS channel.

5. [TED-Ed](#)

On this channel, kids can be challenged by perplexing riddles, or they can investigate nature or ponder such subjects as "questions no one knows the answers to."

PTO CORNER

PTO LEADERSHIP

It's time for new leadership! We have 4 out of 6 executive roles to fill for next school year. These roles are critical in continuing PTO operations.

President and Co-President (2)

Co-Secretary (1)

Co-Treasurer (1)

It's easy to do, helps you get to know other families and we have all the details outlined for you...No experience is necessary! By having shared positions, it makes the workload that much less, so please reach out today and let us know what position interests you and we can talk more!!!

We need to have these positions filled (hopefully) by our April meeting and no later than May for operations to continue without interruption, so please don't delay! We are ready to have some new faces lead us!

SPRING BOOK FAIR

Thanks to all who are helping with the book fair this year. Mother Nature sure made a mess of set up, but we want to thank those who came and helped last Friday. Proceeds from the Book Fair directly benefit our Valerius Library allowing our staff to keep current material flowing in, so we appreciate everyone who shops the Book Fair! We would also like to thank our Book Fair Chair, Kelli Dever, all the volunteers who helped run the registers during conferences and lunch with a loved one as well as our tear down volunteers. We thank you all so much for your time and efforts!

FEBRUARY BOX TOP POPCORN/MOVIE WINNERS!

K - Springer	1 - Levy
2 - Gotto	3 - Mataloni
4 - O'Connor	5 - Bruggeman

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

FUN NIGHT RECAP:

Thanks to all who came out for Fun Night! From the tireless work of our organizers and PTO Board Members to our fearless staff who braved the dunk tank to our dependable Silver Cord and parent volunteers who manned concessions and game stations to all the generous parents who provided donations to our helpful teachers who spearheaded the teacher auction and classroom art and to everyone who came and played and bid and had FUN...another successful Fun Night is in the books!!!

We made over \$6,000 in gross profits and would like to thank SMART Honda for their \$500 sponsorship of the dunk tank, balloon art and face painting. After expenses, we should have \$4,500 to help us fund future field trips, classroom materials and cultural opportunities.

Check out our [facebook](#) page for pictures from Fun Night!

BOX TOPS UPDATE:

We collected approximately 450 box tops during this contest which will earn us about \$45 for our school. Thanks so much to all who clip and send them in...it truly makes a difference...Keep collecting! Our last contest will end **April 13**.