



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

11/02 PTO MEETING
(7PM, VAL. LIBRARY)
11/07 CONFERENCES
(4-8PM)
11/07 BOOK FAIR
(4-8PM)
11/08 LATE START
11/09 CONFERENCES
(4-8PM)
11/09 BOOK FAIR
(4-8PM)
11/10 LUNCH WITH A
LOVED ONE
(11:45AM-1:00PM)
11/21 1ST GRADE TO
SCIENCE CENTER
11/22- NO SCHOOL
11/24

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>

MESSAGE FROM MRS. MAURO

Please join Mrs. Mauro for an opportunity to chat
and catch up on all things Valerius!

Who: Parents of Valerius students

What: Coffee and Conversation with Mrs. Mauro

When:

Grades K-1-2: Monday, November 13th 8-9:15 am

Grades 3-4-5: Thursday, November 16th 8-9:15 am

(If you have students in both grade bands, feel free to choose the
most convenient day)

RSVP by clicking the link: (<https://goo.gl/forms/I5mc3reBL5xfieED3>)

Please be sure to RSVP each individual who will attend. No need to send
regrets.

Stop in for a few minutes or the entire time! Since childcare won't be
provided, please plan accordingly with your normal drop-off plans. We
hope to see you there!

MESSAGE FROM MRS. MACGREGOR

Happy Fall, Valerius Families! During Guidance the past few weeks we have been
working on Skills for Learning. These are all the skills that will help us be good learners
at school. We are discussing organization, following directions, goal-setting, paying
attention and staying focused.

The younger students will be working on using self-talk to help them stay focused on
the task at hand. We'll be playing a game called "My turn, Your Turn" where I touch and
say 2-5 body parts (Eye, chin, toe) and then I wait. After a few seconds I say "your turn"
and then the students repeat the actions. We will work on increasing our stamina at
staying focused by increasing the amount of time they must wait. While waiting we can
silently repeat the directions in our heads to help us remember. This is an activity that
can easily be practiced at home, too!

The older students will be working on setting goals to help them accomplish tasks. Ask
your 4th and 5th graders about the parts of a SMART goal!

A huge THANK YOU to all the families that donated to our Duct Tape for Disasters. We
raised over \$500 to donate. The students were very excited to learn that Mr. Freund
will be duct taped to the lunchroom wall on November 17th!



November 2017

GRADE LEVEL SPOTLIGHT: KINDERGARTEN

October has been a great month for our littlest friends at Valerius!

Kindergarten had their first field trip to the Apple Orchard after learning all about apples. Students got to test-taste red, green, and yellow apples, apple pie, applesauce, apple juice, and apple cider. We even made our own applesauce at school!

They also participated in Fire Safety Week and capped the week off with a special visit from our own Urbandale Firefighters! Our favorite thing we learned was if we ever catch on fire we "Stop, Drop, and Roll"!

In November, we will be celebrating 'Book Week' by doing lots of fun reading activities and having fun dress-up days!



Mrs. Meier's class with the fire truck!



Mrs. Springer's Class at the Apple Orchard!

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.

Art: Mrs. Scharper

This month, the 4th graders had the opportunity to visit the Des Moines Art Center and Pappajohn's Sculpture Park. Our field trip was a complete success and I know the kids enjoyed their time learning about the prestigious collection the Art Center has to offer. The 4th graders are also learning about Picasso in their current art projects so it was a total highlight when they were able to view the real Picasso painting at the Art Center. Another highlight of our trip was seeing an Iowa Art Artist Showcase. The current Iowa Artist on display happens to be my college art professor, Yun Shin. The kids were so excited to know that the artist they were learning about was MY art teacher in college. I was so glad I got to share that memory with them!

I highly recommend taking a day trip to the Art Center with your child. Right now, there is an amazing exhibit called "Drawing in Space" and there is an opportunity for your children to not only touch the art, but also crawl inside of it! Admission is always free to the Art Center, and I know your son and daughter would love another chance to look at these awesome exhibits!



MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIALS TEACHERS

Music: Mr. Leffler

Hello Valerius families! The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade music program, "Sing Me A Story," was a huge success! Thanks again to students for all the hard work- it showed in an excellent program! Ask your student- what was their favorite song/activity?

4th and 5th grade have been hard at work too- with recorders! 5th grade has been reviewing their work from last year, and 4th grade has been learning the basics. Ask your student- what songs do they know how to play on the recorder?

Kindergarten has been very friendly lately. They have befriended a few friendly ghosts that sometimes haunt the music room. Ask your student- what have they sang with the ghosts?

I will be at conferences on Thursday the 9th. Feel free to stop on by and say hello!

PE: Ms. Jones

3rd-5th grades have finished up our football unit concentrating on throwing, catching and offensive and defensive concepts that we will build on as the year goes on. In November, we will be focusing on soccer skills.

Kindergarten-2nd grade have finished up our first throwing and catching unit. We will continue to use and build on these skills as the year progresses. In November we will begin to introduce soccer and our kicking skills.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIALS TEACHERS

ELP: Mrs. Choudhury

Did you know we teach a second language in elementary school at Valerius? Coding! Clickers Club has been resuscitated and Mrs. Choudhury is meeting before school with 4th and 5th graders twice a month to learn basic coding through Scratch. This was developed by students at MIT as a tool to teach basic coding to beginners.

My club includes 10 minutes of cyber-safety using the web tool [interland](#). We talk about password protection, phishing, and internet etiquette.

Our mantra is "Be a Producer!" You can check out this article from [Wired](#) magazine to learn more about why being a technology consumer just isn't enough.

Library: Mrs. Mefford

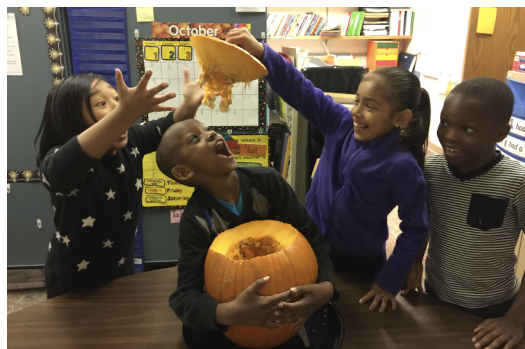
Students in 4th and 5th grades have been learning to use MackinVia. MackinVia is a wonderful database provided free of charge from Heartland AEA and allows students to read or listen to thousands of ebooks and audiobooks. Be sure to ask your student which ones they have read or listened to so far.

ELL: Mrs. Vogeler

On October 13, the ESL department held the 19th annual ESL Clothing Drive. This year there were 333 boxes of clothes collected through generous donations of the community and almost 300 boxes of clean clothing were distributed to EL families in Urbandale, including Valerius families! Many of our students and their parents attended the event. Big thank you to teachers, associates and community members who helped along the way!

On October 20, Valerius and Olmsted EL students and their families attended our first joint Spanish Movie Night. This was our way of saying to them – we appreciate and value your culture and language and thank you for contributing to our Urbandale community. Several families that attended had a great time watching "How to Train Your Dragon" in Spanish, enjoying movie theater popcorn and fruit. Kids wearing cute pajamas brought along their pillows and blankets. The atmosphere was really cozy and everyone had a lot of fun!

Last week some Valerius students learning English had their first experience carving a pumpkin. Many were really curious – what's inside and how does it feel? There was a lot of excitement and laughter and it turned out to be a great topic for story writing!



Our Fall Book Fair is Here! Set up is this Thursday night 5-7pm ahead of the PTO meeting. It will be a fun, informal time to chat as we get our library ready for another fun book fair! All proceeds benefit OUR LIBRARY, but we can't do it without your help!

Our Book Fair won't happen next week without your volunteer support!!!

Currently we have only 6 volunteer slots filled and 15 openings! (THANK YOU to those who have already answered the call!!!), but there are many more needed to make this a success! Please consider a gift of your time...it's fun and easy to do!

Sign up here to help! Questions? Email Kelli Dever at kellijo83@msn.com for more information.

Book Fair Fun Facts:

- The Book Fair is more than just a place to get some great books - it is also a fundraiser for our library!
- At least 50% of what you spend on books at the fair, our library gets as a profit to buy more books for our kids and teachers to use.
- The Book Fair is run entirely by volunteers.

WINTER SPIRIT WEAR

Orders accepted Nov 3-17

Delivered week of Dec 11

Order **Online starting Friday!**

(Gift orders can be picked up in the office from Mrs. Johnson)

PTO Meeting at 7pm

Thursday, November 2nd

Valerius Library

Attend the meeting this week to learn more about your PTO and the ways you can give an hour to make a difference!

Thank you to all who signed up to bring items for **Teacher Appreciation Conference Meals!** November 7th is covered and November 9th just needs rolls and 3 more crock pots of soup.

SET UP AND CLEAN UP HELP NEEDED!

Our biggest need yet to fill is set up (3pm) and clean up (7:30pm) on both nights. Please consider this gift of time to show our teachers how much we appreciate all they do for our kiddos!

Sign up here to help on November 7th

Sign up here to help on November 9th

BOXTOPS/LABELS UPDATE: Congratulations to Miss Levy's 1st Grade class on winning the first popcorn and movie party for the Box Tops and Labels contest. Our 2nd contest will run from now until **December 8th**. Check your cupboards for soup labels because the Campbell's Labels program is ending at the end of 2017. The classroom that brings in the most Box Tops and Labels by December 8th will win a popcorn and movie party.