

Valerius Eagle News - March 2016

Valerius Mission: All Valerius Eagles will soar to success!

Dates to Remember in March

3/1 & 3/3 Parent Teacher Conferences

3/1 & 3/3 Book Fair During Conferences

3/3 Kindergarten Music Demonstration 3pm

The kindergartners will be presenting a Music Demonstration Day on Thursday, March 3rd at 3pm in the Valerius gym. Family and friends are invited to come and watch and/or participate. The kindergartners have made big strides this year to being more tuneful, beautiful, and artful students. We hope to see you there!

3/4 Lunch With A Loved One - during regularly scheduled lunchtimes

Kindergarten: 11:40

1st Grade: 11:40

2nd Grade: 11:50

3rd Grade: 12:20

4th Grade: 12:00

5th Grade: 12:10

3/8 PTO Skate Night 6-8pm at Skate North/Incrediroll

3/9 Late Start

3/11-3/18 Spring Break - No School

3/21 School Resumes

3/23 Spring Pictures

3/30 Late Start

Online Calendar

1. Click the web address

https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=urbandaleschools.com_3k6635dg1lvt3b74his743b6n8%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago

2. Once the calendar pops up, go to the bottom right of the screen and you'll see +Google Calendar. Click on the + sign.

3. The calendar will pop up and a message will say, "Do you want to add this calendar?"

4. Click yes.

Facebook Link

<https://www.facebook.com/valerius elementary>

Message from Mrs. Mauro

Take Charge of Education: Wow! Thank you to those of you who are using the Target Store's "Take Charge of Education" program. Due to the support of parents, teachers, families, and community members who have chosen to support Valerius, we have received a check from Target in the amount of \$890! If interested in helping out with this easy school fundraiser, here's how it works. Every time you shop with a Redcard, Target donates 1% of the purchase at target or target.com to our school! That's all there is to it. This check turns into classroom supplies, field trip entry fees and transportation, and other fun for Valerius students. Thank you for thinking of Valerius when you shop at Target!

Literacy Night: We have exciting news to share! Valerius will host our first annual Literacy Night on Tuesday, April 26th from 5 to 7 pm. The theme of the night is "Going Camping." There will be opportunities to learn about our literacy activities at school, play fun literacy games, and have a free dinner. So, get your child excited to come "camp out," read stories, play games, and learn fun ways to engage your child in reading. More details to come, but please mark your calendars.

News from the Nurse:

It is cold and flu season, please remind your students about good hand washing. Washing hands is the best way to prevent the spread of illness! If your child is ill with a fever (temp above 101° F), vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours they will need to stay home from school. Students may return to school once they are symptom free for at least 24 hours.

Also, please keep in mind that the weather is very unpredictable this time of year. Make sure to dress the your student in layers and bring a coat.

Morning recesses can still be very cold.

Counselor's Corner

The following is an excerpt from the fascinating book called Mindsets in the Classroom: Building a Culture of Success and Student Achievement in Schools by Mary Cay Ricci.

The Power of Effective Praise

One way that parents can really help their children is by carefully choosing the words that are used when they praise them. Every word parents say and every action they perform sends a message to their children. These words and actions tell children how to think about themselves. Parents should always praise their child's effort instead of praising accomplishments. The following table includes some examples.

Do Not Say:	Do Say:
You are really athletic!	You really work hard and pay attention when you are on that field!
You are so smart!	You work hard in school and it shows!
Your drawing is wonderful; you are my little artist!	I can see you have been practicing your drawing; what a great improvement!
You are a great athlete. You could be the next Pele'!	Keep practicing and you will see great results!
You always get good grades; that makes me happy.	When you put forth effort, it really shows in your grades. You should be so proud of yourself. We are proud of you!

So the next time you are ready to praise your child, stop and think about how to use that opportunity to praise his or her effort instead of accomplishments. In next month's Counselor Corner, you will find out more information about how the type of praise you give your child can foster either a fixed mindset or a growth mindset. Stay tuned next month to find out more about mindsets and how they affect your child!

PTO Corner

It's Book Fair Time!

Our Spring Book Fair is here! If you can't make it to the fair in person, are looking for a book we don't have in stock, or are interested in ordering an eBook (used with Scholastic's free Storia app) check out our website at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/valerius elementary school2>

Books can be ordered from the website from February 21 to March 6. All books will be shipped for free to the school and will be delivered after spring break.

All books ordered from the site will count towards Valerius' fair profit (which means more books for our library!) Happy reading!

Fun Night Results

A huge thank you and shout out to all who made Fun Night possible! We raised nearly \$4,500 and successfully funded another year of Reflex Math as well as a new laminator for the building. It was fun to see the kids' faces all decked out with face painting by La' James, intricate balloon creations by Professor Von Air and listen to the heckling of the principal and teachers in the dunk tank. Check out [Facebook](#) for photos from the night.

PTO Board Vacancies

It's time for change! As we prepare to say goodbye to families moving on to the middle school, we welcome new families! That means you! Now is the time to get involved in a leadership role...for less time than it takes to coach a weekly sport, lead a scout troop, or plan and teach Sunday school, you can help shape your child's education. Still think being on the PTO takes too much time? Become a Board Member and change that! There are lots of committee chair positions (think Running Club) and Board member spots opening up after this year. Help us find your best fit so our current level of programming can continue! Join the team and help shape the new face of the PTO!

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NEXT PTO MEETING: Thursday, April 7th, 2016 at 7pm in the Valerius Library. Free childcare will be provided in the art room. There is no March meeting due to conferences and spring break.

