



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

05/03	3RD GRADE TO ZOO
05/09	LATE START
05/10	4TH GRADE TO CAPITOL/ HISTORICAL MUSEUM
05/10	PTO MEETING
05/11	MUFFINS WITH MOMS (8:15-8:45AM)
05/14	5TH/6TH GRADE BAND CONCERT
05/15	2ND GRADE TO LIVING HISTORY FARMS
05/17	KINDERGARTEN TO ZOO
05/18	PTO END-OF-YEAR BBQ
05/18	BUDDY RUN
05/21	CULTURE DAY
05/22	FIELD DAY
05/22	5TH GRADE TALENT SHOW (9:30AM)
05/25	4TH GRADE STATE PROJECTS
05/28	NO SCHOOL
05/30	STUDENT PBIS PICNIC
05/30	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

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](https://www.facebook.com/VALERIUSELEMENTARY)

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

MESSAGE FROM MRS. MAURO

Valerius Families,

An important component of maintaining a safe and secure learning environment is proactively practicing safety drills to ensure our students and staff understand what to do in the event an emergency situation arises during the school day. In addition to practicing fire drills and storm/tornado drills, our school will also practice lock down drills.

A lock down may be used in response to a potential or confirmed threat situation occurring inside or outside of our building. Although I cannot share specifics of our lock down procedures for security reasons, I can share that during a lock down only law enforcement is allowed to enter the school and procedures are taken to ensure the safety and security of students and staff inside our building.

Our school-wide lock down drill will take place at 2:00 pm on Thursday, May 3rd. Teachers will first explain to students why we're practicing a lock down drill, and then explain the process students and staff will take during the drill. I will then make an announcement to begin the lock down drill, and teachers will guide their class through the lock down drill procedures. Following the drill, teachers will discuss with their class any questions or concerns that students may have had during the drill in order to ensure all students feel informed and safe.

As we look ahead, every school in our district will conduct one lock down drill per semester for a total of two lock down drills every school year. These drills are in addition to the two fire drills and two storm/tornado drills we practice every school year in support of state regulations and sound safety protocols. By practicing safety drills, we can ensure our students and staff understand what to do in the event of an emergency situation. In addition, these drills allow us to continually assess and evaluate our Emergency Operations Plan in order to continually improve our response protocols.

Please know, the safety, security, and well-being of our students and staff are our highest priorities in the Urbandale Community School District. If you have any questions about our upcoming lockdown drill, please be sure to contact me.

Here is a copy of Bosnian and Spanish [Translated Parent Letter](#).

Here is an [Example for Parents](#), with suggested wording for those who wish to talk with their kids before the lockdown drill.



April 2018

MESSAGE FROM MRS. MACGREGOR

Hello Valerius Families,

It's hard to believe we are winding down our year and that it's almost time to say goodbye to our wonderful 5th graders. We wish them all the best at UMS and encourage them to come back and visit us anytime!

In our Guidance classes we will be rounding out the year learning about careers in all grades. We will be emphasizing how having good work habits at school will help students in a job when they grow up. Completing work on time, continuing to try even when things are hard, paying attention, following directions, and staying focused on your work are all skills that are invaluable in the work force. It's not too early to start practicing these skills! Starting with the second graders, we will also be learning how our interests and talents may lead us to one of six career paths: Business, Creative, Nature, Building and Technology, Helping and Health.

I encourage you to talk about careers and skills students will need to pursue them with your children. They are very interested in this topic so it can lead to many very interesting conversations. Here are some specific things you can do at home to help! Thanks and have a great May!

- Tell your child about your job. What work habits are important to your success?
- Discuss your child's interests and connect them with jobs that might utilize those interests.
- How will school work habits connect to work habits at a job?
- Help your child develop strong work habits by developing a homework routine, signing your child's planner each night, and making sure your child has an organized backpack.
- Encourage children to explore different hobbies by signing them up for different activities to develop their talents.
- Encourage your child to keep working even when a task is hard.
- Play "What talents would you need to be a _____?"
- While discussing careers with your child, reinforce the fact that anyone can pursue any job.
- If your child shows interest in a specific career or career field, look for books at your local library or search for information on the internet.

Snack Shack Update:

5th grade classrooms will be opening sales at the Snack Shack soon! 5th graders will have goldfish available for sale before school starts on Fridays. Students can come at their regular school time. They can then purchase a snack-size bag of goldfish for \$.50 outside of Mrs. Choudhury's classroom.

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.

Spring Weather:

Please remember that the weather changes daily. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for all types of weather. 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 send a coat to school everyday as morning recess is still very chilly.

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 SPECIALS TEACHERS

Music: Mr. Leffler

The kindergartners had their turn to perform with their Demonstration Day in April! They moved to Aaron Copland's Rodeo, they sang Purple Light and Wake Up You Lazy Bones, and they played instruments along with the book Goodnight Moon. They did a fantastic job- thanks to everyone who came out! (And sorry again that we ran out of chairs!!!)

May 1st-May 8th all students will have an instrument unit called MALLET MADNESS. Ask your students- what instruments have they played in music class lately?

Finally, information about the optional 5th Grade Talent Show will be coming home soon. The Talent Show will be Tuesday, May 22nd (Field Day) in the morning, time TBD.

If I don't see you again, have fantastic summer! Be sure to turn on the radio! :)

PE: Ms. Jones

Grades 2-5 are starting our end of the year fitness tests, trying our best to reach the goals we created at the beginning of the year. Kindergarten and 1st grade will be working on refining the skills we have learned throughout the year.

We are in need of some more volunteers for our buddy run this year. The Buddy Run is an all-school 5K that runs the path back through the park area. We are looking for 25 volunteers to be stationed along the run to help encourage and cheer on our students. Our run will take place on May 18 after the PTO BBQ.

Please email me if you are interested in helping out with this run. You can also contact Mrs. Mauro or Mrs. Johnson in the office if you're interested in volunteering for Buddy Run 2018.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIALS TEACHERS

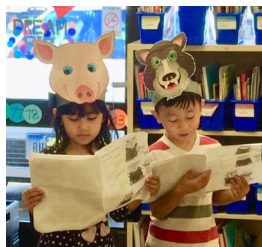
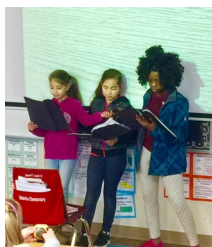
Library: Mrs. Mefford

A great way to get students reading this summer is MackinVia. MackinVia is an ebook and audiobook resource provided by Heartland Area Education Agency. There are over 1300 ebooks for your student(s) to read at a variety of reading levels. Some ebooks have a text to speech feature allowing the book to be read to your student. Students also have access to over 4,000 audiobooks through Tales2Go. Tales2Go audiobooks work on any computer or mobile device. Go to [MackinVIA](#) and log in with the school's online database username/password. Click Databases and then click Tales2Go. MackinVia has a free app for phones and tablets.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to email me anytime at: meffordp@urbandaleschools.com

ELL: Mrs. Vogeler

Educational research points to reading fluency as a predictor of reading proficiency in literacy-based subjects and overall academic success. At Valerius, teachers strive to provide students with best practice instruction and support to help them reach grade level fluency. One of many strategies used to improve reading fluency is Reader's Theater. Our English language learners always look forward to practicing Reader's Theater plays and performing them in front of their classes. In the photos: presenting to their class are 4th graders Itza Contreras, Yaritza Escareno, Joyce Doe reading "Mysterious Mr. G", and 1st grader Renee Cu and 2nd grader Van Nun reading the "The Three Little Pigs".

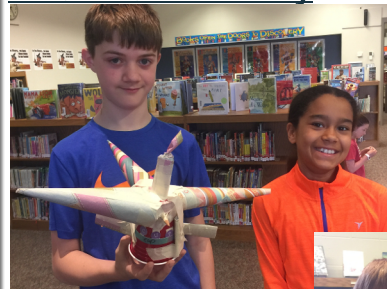


Art: Mrs. Scharper

This month I was honored to pick three students from Valerius Elementary to have their artwork showcased in the annual Des Moines Art Festival in downtown Des Moines. Fifth graders Abby Jacobson and Hopelyn Reeves, and third grader Amina Cavic will have their pieces displayed among hundreds of other Des Moines Metro elementary students. These three girls come to art class with an astounding amount of energy, creativity, and passion for art. I love to watch them work and help them make their art projects the best they can be!

If you have never attended the Des Moines Art Festival, I highly encourage this year to be your first time! You will see hundreds of artists from all over the United States, and even the world. This year, the Des Moines Art Festival kicks off on Friday, June 22nd and goes until Sunday June 24th. Again, I highly recommend taking your kids for an exciting art filled experience.

ELP: Mrs. Choudhury



Clickers Club wrapped up the 17-18 season with "battle of the bots" using Spheros.



PTO President Letter

Thank you Valerius families for allowing me to serve as your PTO President the past two years. It has been a very rewarding experience. This May will be the end of my time on the board, as well as for a few other current board members.

I would like to recognize and say thank you to the current PTO Board and leadership team: Amber King, Kim Francis, Lori Ghosh, Pipina Margaris, Shawna Beron and Mrs. Mauro. All of them have contributed beyond my expectations and made our PTO a success. I'd also like to thank the volunteers who stepped up to lead or participate in one or more events over the same time period...we really appreciate your time and contributions too!

The reality is right now we have several PTO vacancies and this concerns me not only for my kids but for your kids and their teachers too. They deserve a functioning PTO to help support them in their activities, events and needs. New PTO leaders can choose to follow a similar path already traveled or have the freedom to try new ideas. I am hopeful a new group of individuals will feel moved to answer the call to volunteer and help lead our PTO efforts in 2018-2019.

Thanks again! Todd Pawlowski

TEACHER APPRECIATION DONATIONS

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7-11. PTO will be providing teachers lunch on Friday, May 11.

If you would like to contribute to the effort, please send money to the office in an envelope marked "PTO - Teacher Appreciation"

Thanks in advance!

**FINAL PTO Meeting of
2017-2018 School Year:
Thursday, May 10th 7pm
Valerius Media Center
All are welcome!**

PTO Board Openings for 2018-2019

- **President**
- **Vice President
(or Co-President)**
- **Co-Treasurer**
- **Co-Secretary**

**Contact valeriuspto@gmail.com
to learn more about the roles
and how you can contribute!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

5/10 - Last PTO Meeting 7pm

5/11 - Muffins with Moms 8:15-8:45am

**5/18 - PTO End of Year Family BBQ
(grade-level lunch times)**

- **hot dogs, chips and water
provided by HyVee**