

# Valerius Eagle News - November 2015

## Dates to Remember in November

11/5	PTO meeting in the Media Center 7-8pm
11/9-11/13	Book Fair
11/10	Parent Teacher Conferences 4-8pm
11/11	Late Start
11/12	Parent Teacher Conferences 4-8pm
11/13	Lunch With a Loved One - during regular lunch times Kindergarten: 11:40 - 12:00 1st Grade: 11:40 - 12:00 2nd Grade: 11:50 - 12:10 3rd Grade: 12:20 - 12:40 4th Grade: 12:00 - 12:20 5th Grade: 12:10 - 12:30
11/16	1st - 3rd grade Music Concert 7-8pm at the PAC
11/25-11/27	Thanksgiving Break - No School

## Online Calendar

1. Click the web address

[https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=urbandaleschools.com\\_3k6635dg1lvt3b74his743b6n8%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago](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.

## Lunch Menu

<http://www.urbandaleschools.com/breakfast-lunch-menus/>

## Message from Mrs. Mauro

### **Conferences:**

Conferences will be held on November 10th and 12th and we're excited to welcome families to school! Please be sure to stop by the office if you have questions or if you would like to discuss anything pertaining to your student or your school experience. I would be happy to help in any way and your feedback is always welcome. Also, please let me know if you'd like for me to attend your child's conference time scheduled with teachers.

### **Closings and Delays:**

Thinking ahead to inclement weather and school closings/delays, please be aware of the ways you can get information about weather events. You are able to find out about school closings/delays in the following ways:

- UCSD website
- Local morning news broadcasts
- Urbandale Schools on twitter (@UrbandaleSchool)

### **Professional Development/ late start info:**

So far this school year, Valerius teachers have been busy during late starts with lots of great professional learning. We have focused our efforts toward deepening our understanding of best-practice instructional framework using a text called Better Learning Through Structured Teaching (Fisher and Frey). This framework engages students through the gradual release of responsibilities. Using gradual release, students have the opportunity to receive direct instruction, shared and collaborative learning with teachers and peers, and individual opportunities to demonstrate their learning. Additionally, teachers have used late start learning time to dig into our new Wonders literacy materials and design engaging units of instruction with their colleagues at Valerius and other Urbandale elementary buildings.

### **Birthday books!**

Valerius Elementary recognizes students on their birthdays. Each student's birthday is announced in the morning announcements (for weekend birthdays, we announce the Friday before and for summer birthdays, we recognize half birthdays). Students then get to come to the office to receive a gift certificate to the learning post, pick a birthday book and birthday pencil. Starting school with birthday smiles is a great way to begin each day!

## News from the Health Office

As a reminder please contact the attendance line 515-457-6503 or email [cooperd@urbandaleschools.com](mailto:cooperd@urbandaleschools.com) if your child is going to be absent or tardy. You can leave a message with student's name and reason for the absence.

## Counseling Corner

Hello Valerius Families,

We have had a busy fall in our guidance classes learning about study skills. Study skills are all the work habits we use at school to help us do our best work. Students with effective work habits learn more and are more successful in school.

Kindergarteners met Fuzzy the caterpillar and all of his friends as they learned the importance of paying attention, listening carefully, asking questions when they don't understand something and encouraging themselves while they are working.

Our first graders worked with Amelia Earhart Owl and practiced the skills of listening, paying attention, working quietly, completing work and trying even when things are hard. We spent a lot of time working on positive self-talk: things we can say to ourselves to help us keep working like, "I can do this!", "I'll keep trying!", and "Keep up the great work!".

In second grade Paul Revere Penguin helped us remember to work quietly, listen carefully, always try, stay on task and pay attention. You can help your child practice these skills at home by encouraging them to do simple tasks themselves. When they say they can't do something, remind them to keep trying even when things are hard!

Valerius third graders began the year by focusing on organization of their backpacks and desk. We discussed how backpacks are for transport not for storage. Please help your child empty their backpack and sign their planner each night. We also learned the “10 second rule”. Organized students should be able to find anything they need within ten seconds. Try it at home and see how you do with organization! Third graders also worked on setting priorities and discussed the saying “work before play”. We also began learning about goal setting and each student wrote a basic academic goal.

Fourth grade students worked on organizing their time so they can learn to manage their day. What things do they need to be doing first after school? How much free time do they have left after their “must-do” activities are complete. Fourth graders also learned about setting SMART goals. The acronym SMART stands for specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound. For a little refresher, ask your student the meaning of each part of a SMART goal.

In fifth grade we built upon everything we’ve learned the past few years. We reviewed the parts of a goal that we learned last year and then worked to write an academic SMART goal. We will be checking our goals regularly to monitor our progress.

I will be sending a grade level specific newsletter home with your child’s teacher during each unit. It will give suggestions for ways you can follow up and support your child’s learning at home.

Next up for our guidance lessons will be our interpersonal unit. Students will be learning about friendship skills, problem solving strategies and I-Messages.

I look forward to meeting you at conferences. Enjoy the rest of your fall!

## PTO Corner

### READ-A-THON SUMMARY:

We have had another wonderful read-a-thon and we want to thank you for your support and encouragement of the kids during this time! As of Oct 26, our school read **53,196 minutes** and **raised \$4,935.07**. Thank you for being an instrumental part of those successes!!!

A special shout out to Mrs Springer's Kindergarten as well as Mrs Gillespie's 3rd grade classes who each had more than 50% participation. We hope to see more classes at this level next year!!!

### BOOK FAIR:

The Book Fair is coming the week of November 9th! We still need volunteers to run the Fair on Tuesday, November 10; Thursday, November 12; and Friday, November 13, as well as to tear the fair down on Friday, November 13. Both daytime and evening slots are still available. Please go to <http://valeriuselementarypto.bringit.bz/public/5eef07> to sign up to help.

Thank you!

Christina Roesler and Tammy Sparks