



THE VILLAGE BLUEBIRD

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

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SUMMER GREETINGS!

Dear Village School Families,

We hope you are enjoying the summer and looking forward to the start of school. Our team of teachers and staff are excited about beginning a rewarding new year of learning and welcoming you back!

The Montgomery Elementary School PTA, led by co-presidents, Mrs. Minkyo Chenette and Mrs. Kristen Shlossberg, has a variety of special events planned and invite you to get involved. See page 5 for details.

On opening day, our staff and PTA volunteers will help guide students

to classrooms in the morning and to buses during dismissal. Color coded maps at each entrance and balloons will help students navigate the building. Please join us for the open house on the 27th for a preview!

Review this issue for important dates and information and keep an eye out for our school handbook which will include additional details, policies, procedures and more!

We look forward to seeing you!

Ms. Susan Lacy, Principal

Mr. Alfred Hadinger, Vice Principal

VES Open House Wednesday, August 27th, 8:30-12

Please come and tour our building. There will be scavenger hunt excursion passports available in the front and rear foyers. Bring a pencil and be sure to follow the directions to complete your passport. We hope to see you on Wednesday!

Class Lists and Teacher Welcome Letters

On Friday, August 22nd at 4 PM online this year, class lists and welcome letters with supply information will be available on Parent Resources.

- 1) Visit <https://parents.mtsd.k12.nj.us>
- 2) Enter your username, which is your email address, and your password. If you forget your password, use the "Forgot My Password" link just below the Login button. Your password will then be sent by email. If you unable to log in or do not have an account, please contact Jaime Velez at jvelez@mtsd.us

Back-to-School Nights

3rd Grade - Monday, September 15th, 7 p.m.

4th Grade - Tuesday, September 23rd, 7 p.m.

Related Arts/Community Fair at 6:30 p.m.

This night is for parents/guardians only. We invite you to learn about VES programs and attend an important presentation by the classroom teacher.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Sept. 4: First Day of School
- Sept. 10-11: Student Picture Days
- Sept. 15: 3rd Grade Back to School Night, 7:00
- Sept. 16: PTA Welcome Meeting, OHES, Cafetorium, 9:30-11:00
- Sept. 19: Outdoor Movie Night, OHES, 6:30-9:00
- September 23: 4th Grade Back to School Night, 7:00
- Sept. 24: PTA Meeting, OHES, 9:45
- Sept. 25: Rosh Hashanah, school closed
- Oct. 1-3: Food Allergy Awareness Days
- Oct. 6-10: Week of Respect
- Oct. 13: Staff Development, schools closed
- Oct. 17: 4th Grade Bingo, 4-5:15
- October 20-24: Fire Safety Week
- October 22: PTA Meeting, VES, 9:45
- Oct. 24: 3rd Grade Bingo, 4-5:15
- Oct. 31: Halloween Readers' Theater & Parties
- Nov. 6-7: NJEA Convention, Schools Closed
- Nov 14: Family Carnival, MHS, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 19: PTA Meeting, OHES, 9:45
- Nov. 20, 21, 24, 25: Parent Teacher Conferences, 1:30 Early Dismissal
- Nov. 26: 1:30 Early Dismissal
- Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving, Schools Closed
- Dec. 4: VES Fall Chorus Concert 7:00

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**Our pillar of character for
September is Responsibility!
In October, it's Respect!**

New Additions To Our Village School Family!

Patricia Cizin, School Nurse

Donna Siani, LDTC

Karen Damato, Classroom Teacher

Anita LaPorte, Speech Teacher

Elizabeth Sternbach, Guidance Counselor

Laura McGill, Classroom Teacher

Sandra Noyelle, Classroom Teacher

Julia Brocker, Classroom Teacher

Carol James, ESL Teacher

Laura Wright, Classroom Teacher

Jessica Clarke, Classroom Teacher

Allison Rubin, Classroom Teacher

Julianna Fragulis, CST Clerk

Heather DeSantis, Teacher Instructional Aide

Danielle Teeple, Teacher Instructional Aide

Joseph Jedju, Teacher Instructional Aide



Meet Mrs. Patricia Cizin, Our New Village School Nurse

Hello. My Name is Mrs. Patricia Cizin and I am the Certified School Nurse at Village Elementary School. For those who know Mrs. Foley from last year, I am taking her place as she will be a nurse at the high school. I will continue to work with Mrs. Woodard in the Health Office. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and am very excited about my new position. I have many years of nursing experience in a variety of areas in Pediatrics, including school nursing and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner positions. Feel free to stop by the Health Office if you have any questions regarding your child's health care needs or give us a call.

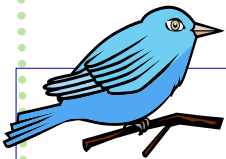
Guidance Offerings from Mrs. Sternbach and Mrs. McCarthy

Lauren Fornal, our full-time school counselor is on maternity leave and in her place, Liz Sternbach rejoins our school counseling staff until November 1, when Mrs. Fornal returns. Mrs. Sternbach joined our staff last April. Heather McCarthy returns for her second year and services students at both VES and OHES.

Our counselors offer individual and small group counseling to students who would benefit from additional support. Parents and teachers may refer students when they feel a child needs a safe place to go to express their thoughts, feelings, and concerns. The first group of the year, the Newcomers Club, will be held during the first few weeks of school to assist new students with their transition to our district. Students will converse with peers, ask questions about the school, and participate in activities.

Other groups offered throughout the year include Social Skills, Controlling Emotions, Self-Esteem, Separation/Divorce, Loss, How Your Engine Runs, Organization, Relaxation, and Siblings of Special Needs. These groups will begin in late September or early October. Parents are encouraged to contact us for more information. Mrs. Sternbach can be reached at esternbach@mtsd.us. Mrs. McCarthy can be reached at hmccarthy@mtsd.us. You may also call 609-466-7606 and press 5 for the guidance office.

As the year progresses, our counselors will provide monthly guidance lessons following the Steps to Respect Anti-Bullying Program emphasizing the pillars of character. The pillars include: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship, Sportsmanship, Friendship, Honesty, and Leadership. They will also work closely with teachers, administrators, and other faculty to monitor the academic, social, and emotional needs of students to determine the appropriate interventions that can help students reach their full potential.



The History of Blazer, Our Bluebird

Bluebirds thrive in areas of open farmlands where insects and old woodpecker holes exist. Montgomery offers this type of habitat, especially in the land around Village School, and can be enhanced with the addition of bluebird houses.

Cousins of the robin, Bluebirds have made a comeback through the efforts of people who provide and maintain nesting boxes along bluebird "trails." Several bluebird boxes were installed on VES grounds a few years ago. As a result, bluebirds have become commonplace around VES and in many parts of Montgomery. Students can learn about and observe these quiet, beautiful birds right here on our school grounds while practicing caring and responsibility for our fellow inhabitants.

In April 2006, Village Students voted to name our mascot Blazer the Bluebird and in 2007 they voted for our school motto: Blazer says, "Be Your Best at VES!"

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DAY PROCEDURES—*PLEASE REVIEW*

ARRIVAL, DISMISSAL, VISITING AND PARKING

- **School Hours:** 9:30 - 3:50.
- **Early Dismissal Hours:** 9:30-1:30 (Parent pick up begins at 1:15)
- **Emergency Delayed Opening:** 11:30-3:50 (Student drop off 11:20-11:30)
- **Transportation:** Buses will drop students off and pick them up at the main entrance to VES. Your child's transportation arrangements are available on *Genesis* accessible from the district home page. Delays during the first days of school are normal.
- **Before School Drop Off:** If you need to drive your child to school, you must travel on Spruce Drive and use the **rear** entrance of the school. **This entrance will be open from 9:20 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Please do not drop your child off early as the doors will be locked until 9:20.** When dropping children off at the rear entrance in the morning, if you stop your vehicle **next** to the school sidewalk, your child may exit by his or her self on that side of your vehicle. However, if your child has to walk across lanes of traffic, you **must** walk him or her to the sidewalk. Please do not drop students off in the front of Village School at any time. After 9:30 a.m., park in our front visitors' lot and **an adult must sign children in at the main office.**
- **After School Pickup:** If you need to pick your child up at the end of the school day, park in the large back lot and enter through the cafeteria doors or park on the right side of the back driveway that is between the school and the traffic island and enter through the main rear entrance doors. **Please do not park on the roadway itself as it creates a traffic hazard.** Students will be dismissed to the cafeteria for parent pick-up at 3:45 p.m. as instruction takes place up until this time. **Parents must sign children out in the cafeteria.** Please send a note to your child's teacher in the morning if you plan on picking up your child in the afternoon or if your child is attending an after school activity. **Without a note, children will be sent to their buses.** Midday and end of day pickup requests can be disruptive to instruction and are difficult to honor as dismissal information is confirmed early in the day.
- **School Day Visits:** All parents/visitors arriving between 9:30 and 3:45 must provide photo identification. After you push the button to buzz in, you must give your name and scheduled appointment destination, enter through the front entrance, report to the main office, show identification, sign in and obtain a visitor nametag. During special events, the Spruce Drive/rear entrance hours may be extended. These times will be communicated in advance. Visitors must sign out in the office before leaving the premises.
- **Late or Midday Drop off/Pickup:** If you need to drop off or pickup your child between the hours of 9:30 and 3:45, please park in our visitors' parking lot in the front of VES and use the main front entrance. Parking is not permitted in the front driveway as it is a bus driveway only. **After 9:30 a.m., children must be signed in by an adult.** You must submit a request in writing in advance if a late arrival or early pick up is planned. (BOE Policy 5230) **Please sign your child in or out at the main office.**
- **School Day Parking:** Parents/visitors may park in our front visitors' lot, our side lot, or our large lot in the back between 9:30 and 3:45. When parking in the back lot, all visitors will need to walk around VES and enter the front main entrance. **Please do not park on or block roadways.** If you absolutely must park on a roadway, use caution and park on the far right side. **Parking is always prohibited in designated fire zones and in the bus driveway.** Please use caution when parking along the side of the road and driveways. **Always park off the road to the right as far as possible and do not block roadways.**
- **Traffic Flow:** From Main Blvd., turn onto Brophy Circle toward the rear of the school. Bear left, traveling **west** on Spruce Drive or **west** into the driveway. Please maintain a one way traffic flow (counterclockwise) around the school at all times. There are one way signs to serve as reminders. To exit, continue west on Spruce Drive, or left on Schley Road, both will lead you back to Main Blvd.





Dear Village School Parents and Guardians

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a great summer. I invite you to review September's lunch menu online at www.mtsd.k12.nj.us. Simply select Village Elementary School from the main page and click on "Lunch Menu" to access the menu each month. To help your child know what is for lunch each day, it would be helpful if you could go over the menu the night before. This will help prevent unnecessary tears when children find they don't care for the day's hot lunch selection.

Please ensure that your child has the necessary funds in his/her account. You can check on this daily/weekly by calling the kitchen in the morning to find out the remaining balance or go to our new online site www.payforit.net. At the point that your child has five lunches remaining, the cashier will give your child a friendly reminder. Mrs. Armstrong, my assistant Director, will contact you by phone or email in order to remind you to make a deposit to your child's account. Lunch deposit forms are available on the school website. Children are permitted to buy only two hot lunches on credit. If by chance the funds do not get replenished at this point we will offer a Peanut Butter and Jelly Lunch Bag, or Fun Bagel Lunch Bag until the account is replenished. Students with peanut allergies will be offered a bagel as health alerts are in the computerized system and appear on the screen during check out. You will still be charged for these lunches. Lunch at the elementary schools will cost \$2.25 and milk will cost \$0.60.

To help ensure that children with peanut allergy's are not in jeopardy of cross contamination only pre-made, pre packaged Uncrustables will be served in the kitchen. Our pizza on Fridays is made with a whole wheat crust, and our chicken nuggets and patties are all white meat. Our goal is to nourish our students. With this in mind, we will be rolling out our new Environments Menu adding more fresh fruits and vegetables.

Your child may choose one item from the main menu, i.e. hamburger, salad, Uncrustable or a premade deli sandwich or the hot alternate that will be featured each week. Children may choose a hot or cold vegetable, fresh or cupped fruit, and 1% white, fat free, strawberry or chocolate milk. A complete lunch comes with five components, meat/meat alternate, bread, vegetable, fruit and milk. Each child must select three of the five components in order for us to ring up a complete lunch and not ala carte items.

We will also be selling baked chips, low fat sherbet and fruit or veggie cups for snacks as time permits during the week. Children may purchase one snack a day. The snacks range in price from \$0.25 to \$1.00. Water is not a part of lunch and is offered as an ala carte item for \$1.00. The State of NJ set this rule stating that water has no nutritional value.

We hope this information will help you and your child have a happy, healthy lunch experience. To learn more about Chartwells, visit our website at www.eatlearnlive.com. We're excited about our long partnership with Montgomery Township Schools and hope to provide a great program while becoming part of the Montgomery community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 609-466-7602 ext. 6510/6511 or the Village kitchen staff ext. 2017.

Patricia Kurczewski
Director of Dining Services
chartwells@mtsd.us

With our computerized debit card system you may choose to pay cash or deposit cash/checks into your child's account! Deposits can be made using our online payment system. Log onto www.payforit.net the screens will guide you through the process to establish your account. Deposits are made available the day the money is received by the staff.

Make checks/money orders payable to Montgomery Board of Education - Cafeteria Account. Please complete the bottom portion of this letter and return with your deposit in an envelope marked "Lunch Program." Though it is preferred that students utilize the debit system, **cash will still be accepted at all registers**. Cashiers will verbally notify children when they have only five prepaid lunches remaining. You will also be contacted by phone or email. Students will be permitted to purchase up to two lunches on credit.

Please detach and return to the cafeteria with your deposit and child's ID # in a sealed envelope marked "LUNCH PROGRAM."

Student's Name: _____ ID# _____ Grade: _____ Teacher's Name: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Method of Payment: (check one) _____ Cash _____ Check _____ Money Order



MES PTA 2014-2015

Dear VES Families,

With another school year upon us, MES PTA has been working closely with Village Elementary School to ensure our students have a great year! We have many exciting programs planned for which we would like to invite you to volunteer in whatever capacity you can.

Thank you for your constant support and volunteer efforts, our school greatly benefits from whatever MES PTA can do to support it. We are looking forward to another wonderful school year and working with you.

Sincerely,

Minky Chenette & Kristen Shlossberg

MES PTA Co-Presidents

Back to School Nights

3rd Grade : 9/15, 7 PM

4th Grade : 9/23, 7 PM

Spirit Wear will be available for purchase!

MES PTA Volunteer Orientation & Welcome Breakfast

If you are volunteering for the PTA, please attend this meeting.

Tuesday, 9/16, 9:30-11:00 AM
in the OHES Cafeteria

VES School Pictures 9/10 & 9/11

If you like to volunteer, please email the chairperson, Lina Zahlan, at: linazahlan@msn.com

Winter Carnival

Carnival games, classroom baskets, teachers auctions, food and entertainment for the whole family.

Save the date!

11/14/14, 6 PM
Montgomery High School

Bingo

3rd Grade: 10/24, 4-5:15 PM

4th Grade : 10/17, 4-5:15 PM

online registration will be available in September.

Please sign up for a PTA membership and register your information in the student directory.

All information available at:

www.vespta.org



http://www.amazon.com/?_encoding=UTF8&tag=mp0803-20

Purchase back to school supplies and support MES PTA at the same time! It's easy! Please use the Amazon link above to shop. MES PTA will earn cash back with every purchase.

STEVE CARELL
DESPICABLE ME 2



Outdoor Movie Night
Friday, 9/19/14, 6:30-9 PM
@ OHES behind the parking lot

online registration available after 8/25

\$15 per family

Village Elementary School
Home of Blazer the Bluebird
100 Main Boulevard
Skillman, NJ 08558



*Blazer says,
"Be Your Best at VES!"*

SUSAN LACY, PRINCIPAL
EMAIL: SLACY@MTSD.K12.NJ.US
ALFRED HADINGER, VICE PRINCIPAL
EMAIL: AHADINGER@MTSD.K12.NJ.US
Phone: 609-466-7606
Fax: 609-466-7196

Get the latest weather updates and information from our VES weather station by clicking on WeatherBug at the VES site!

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission as a forward-thinking community is to ensure that students grow into confident, compassionate, and successful learners in a global society by providing engaging and challenging educational experiences in a student-centered environment.

Six Day Rotational Schedule

September	Day
4	1
5	2
8	3
9	4
10	5
11	6
12	1

VES works on a six-day rotational schedule for related arts classes. Your child's teacher will inform you of the class' related arts schedule within the first few days of school. For the entire VES 2014-2015 six-day rotational calendar please visit the VES website at www.mtsd.k12.nj.us.

Health Office Request

Medications that must be administered to your child during the school day must be brought to the VES Nurse, Mrs. Cizin, The office will be open on August 27th during the Open House. Please contact her to schedule an appointment. 609-466-7606 option 3.

Please visit the district homepage at www.mtsd.k12.nj.us
under Headlines for the 2014-2015 School District Calendar!

Stay tuned for our school handbook which will include additional important information, policies, procedures and more!

HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Montgomery Township School District is working to update our student database system with the most current contact information for parents and guardians.

Please be sure that you have updated your contact information, which is used for emails and phone notifications. It is important that parents and guardians, on a regular basis, follow the instructions provided to update this information so that you receive notifications on a regular basis.

If you do not have a Genesis / Parent Resources account please e-mail Jaime Velez (jvelez@mtsd.us).

Emergency School Closing Information

In the event of inclement weather, hazardous road conditions, or any other emergencies requiring us to close schools for one day, **phone messages** will be used to notify families. You may also check the following:

- **Message Line: 609-466-7610**
- **District Website: www.mtsd.k12.nj.us**
- **NJ 101.5 FM**
- **Channel 27 (Local Access Cable)**

VES Families:

In the event of an emergency school closing, the 6-day rotation cycle will remain unchanged. For example: If we have an emergency closing/snow day on Day 1, the following school day will remain Day 2. Missed days will be made up later in the school year. Please see the district calendar for details.



YMCA After School Program at VES

The YMCA of Princeton provides childcare before and after school for children who attend VES. The YMCA tailors its hours to accommodate working families, and offers children diverse and enriching activities in a safe and nurturing environment. Registration packets will be available in the main office. For more information, you may visit our website at Princetonymca.org or call the YMCA After School Program Office at: 609-497-9622. Please clearly state your name, your child's name, and a phone number where we can return your phone call.

This newsletter is available online at www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/ves.