



Village Elementary School | 100 Main Blvd., Skillman, NJ 08558 | (609) 466-7606

**\*Winter Break: December 23-January 1 | School reopens January 2\***

## Greetings Families

Dear VES Families,

As 2023 comes to a close, the VES Family would like to send our very best wishes to all Village School families for a safe, joyous, and healthy holiday season and a Happy New Year!

We closed the year with a very successful Young Scholars Institute drive, the PTA-sponsored Penguin Patch Gift Shop, class lessons with MHS Peer Leaders, winter parties courtesy of our wonderful class parents, and lessons on holidays Villagers celebrate this time of year including Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Music was also in the air during the first performances of bands 1 and 2 under the direction of Ms. Houston, a special visit from the MHS carolers, and our annual VES sing along!

We look forward to our return in 2024 and honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with lessons on fairness, service to others, and making the world a better place. We also look forward to choral concerts, Jared Campbell's motivational assemblies, the Lunar New Year, celebrating Black History leaders and change makers, spreading kindness during our Caring and Sharing Valentine's Day parties, and Presidents' Day!

Stay up to date with visits to the [VES](#), [MES PTA](#), and [MSEPTA](#) websites and visit our [Instagram feed](#) for pictures of the latest activities at school!

Enjoy the winter recess! We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year!

*Ms. Susan Lacy | Principal*

# Important Dates + January School Spirit Days

[MTSD District Calendar](#) | [VES Calendar](#)

**Tuesday, January 2:** School reopens from winter recess

**Tuesday, January 2:** SPIRIT DAY – Exercise Gear! **Wear athletic clothes or exercise gear** to kick off your healthy New Year resolution!

**Friday, January 5:** SPIRIT DAY – National Bird Day! **Wear V.E.S. gear or blue** to celebrate Blazer the Bluebird!

**Friday, January 12:** SPIRIT DAY – Our Future is Bright! "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that." – *Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* **Wear bright colors!**

**Monday, January 15:** School Closed

**Tuesday, January 16:** School reopens

**Friday, January 19:** SPIRIT DAY – "Tie"-rd of Winter! **Wear your favorite necktie or bowtie.**

**Wednesday, January 24:** VES 4th Grade Winter Chorus Concert (7:00 PM – 8:00 PM)

**Thursday, January 25:** SPIRIT DAY – National Opposite Day! **Dress like your teacher, and your teacher will dress up like you!** Don't forget your ID badge!

**Friday, January 26:** SPIRIT DAY – Pajama Day! **Wear pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal**, it's pajama day and Day of Play at VES!

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## Young Scholars Institute Service Project: Thank you for your support!

Our 29th annual YSI holiday project was a success thanks to the support and generosity of our entire community! VES Peer Partners filled a box truck and took a trip to deliver holiday gifts to the Young Scholars Institute. YSI families came for pick up the following weekend and extend their thanks and appreciation to you, our staff, and all of our students! Jerri Morrison, the Executive Director of the Young Scholars Institute, is grateful for the difference we have made for many families.



Many thanks to Ms. Hum, Mrs. Pignataro, and Mrs. Vanatta, our master organizers, for growing this project each year and helping to orchestrate this amazing effort.

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## Read to Succeed

Reminder: *Read to Succeed* is a free program sponsored by iPlay America in Freehold. Every student who reads five (5) books through January 4, 2024 and submits their reading log will be eligible for a free unlimited ride band!

Only students currently in 3rd Grade or 4th Grade are eligible to participate. The Reading Log must be signed by a parent/guardian and then handed in to their teacher for final sign off by January 5, 2024. Late entries WILL NOT be accepted. At the end of the program, the PTA will distribute a voucher to redeem your FREE Unlimited Ride Band at iPlay America. The voucher will be valid from January 24 – March 6, 2024.



The program flier and the reading log are available through the [MES PTA](#) website. Please email [mespta@mtsd.us](mailto:mespta@mtsd.us) with any questions you may have. Happy reading!

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## Cold Weather and Recess

We will be holding outdoor recess whenever the weather allows. Please ensure that your child is dressed accordingly. Hats, gloves, scarves, heavy jackets, and appropriate footwear are MUST HAVES!



**Be sure to label your child's belongings so we can easily return lost items. Check the Lost and Found during your visits as unclaimed items will be donated late in the year.**

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## A Message from the Health Office

Dear Families,

It's cold and flu season! Please review [CDC Information](#) and [Prevent the Spread of Colds & Flu](#) to help your family stay healthy. Remember to thoroughly wash your hands to wash away germs!



Nosebleed prevention – If your child suffers from winter nosebleeds it may be from the dry air. Try using a cold air humidifier in your child's room at night. Saline nose drops or petroleum jelly may help too. If severe, contact your pediatrician.

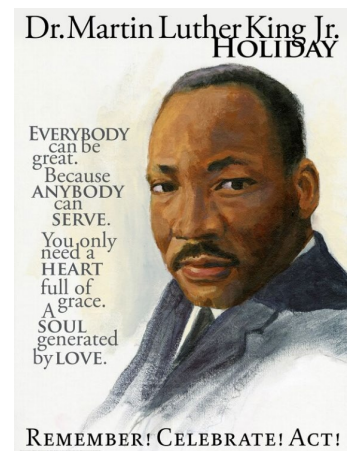
Wishing you healthy days ahead!

–Mrs. Cizin, School Nurse

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## Celebrating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and a Day of Service

Shortly after the 1968 assassination of the great civil-rights activist, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., individuals in both the Senate and the House of Representatives began proposing legislation to honor him with a federal holiday. However, it took almost 15 years before the first Martin Luther King Day would be celebrated in 1986. As we approach the anniversary of this commemoration, let us remember the words of Coretta Scott King (Washington Post, 1983):



"The holiday must be substantive as well as symbolic. It must be more than a day of celebration ... Let this holiday be a day of reflection, a day of teaching nonviolent philosophy and strategy, a day of getting involved in nonviolent action for social and economic progress."

Today, it has become traditional to celebrate the legacy of Dr. King through acts of service. We look forward to honoring Rev. Dr. King!

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## Lunar New Year

Celebrated around the world, the Lunar New Year falls on Saturday, February 10, kicking off the year of the dragon which symbolizes power, honor, luck, and success. This 15-day festival, which follows the phases of the moon, welcomes a new year of luck and prosperity.



Student experts will share the legends and history, family traditions, and other highlights of this festive celebration/

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## Report Cards

Mid-year report cards will be available beginning Friday, February 2 after 4:00 PM. They will be available to view, print, and save.



To log in:

1. Visit <https://parents.mtsd.k12.nj.us>
2. Enter your username (your email address), and your password. If you forgot your password, use the "Forgot My Password" link just below the Login button. Your password will be sent by email in a few minutes.

If you are unable to login or do not have an account, please contact support at [genesissupport@mtsd.us](mailto:genesissupport@mtsd.us).

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## Reminders for Reporting Your Child's Absence

Please note, to report a student's [absence/tardy/early dismissal](#), you may follow either of the two steps below. We ask that your report the absence **before 10:00 AM**. If an absence, tardy, or early dismissal is due to a medical reason and you have a doctor's note, please drop it at the front office or email it to [mnarula@mtsd.us](mailto:mnarula@mtsd.us).

To report a student absence online using Genesis, please follow these steps:

1. Open a web browser on the Genesis logon screen at the address <https://parents.mtsd.k12.nj.us>

- The Genesis logon screen may also be reached from any webpage on our district or school websites by clicking the global icon labeled "Genesis" at the top right of the page.
- If accessing our mobile website through a device, from any webpage click the "Menu" button and select the option "Popular Links". From the popular links screen select "Genesis".

2. Log into Genesis and [follow the instructions behind this link to record a student absence](#).

3. To report your child has tested positive for COVID-19, please log into Genesis and [follow the instructions behind this link](#).

**\*The Genesis application also supports recording a student's absence and early dismissals.**

To report a student absence via telephone, please follow these steps:

1. Call the Absence Hotline at **609-466-7610** and follow the prompts. Please include the following information in your voicemail:

- Date of the absence
- Student name (first and last)
- Student grade & teacher
- Reason for the absence

#### **District Policies**

- [Board of Education attendance policy](#)
- [Board of Education homework policy](#)