Principal's Corner

Dear East Coldenham Families,

As I write this letter, I am looking outside and I still see many piles of snow on the ground. The good news is that most of the snow has melted and our students are beginning to play outside again. Soon, our playground will also be available for students. April is a challenging month, as students in grades 3-5 need to be prepared to do their best on the NYS English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments. Assessment results are important to help teachers understand the strengths and needs of individual students to guide instruction. Each day, it is important that students are in attendance and arrive to school on time.

March was another great month at East Coldenham. Thanks to our PTA and PARP Committee, our students enjoyed a fantastic Author’s Day with Rachelle Burke. The High School theater group also performed pieces of “Mary Poppins” for all of our children. Our second grade students enjoyed their trip to the Fox Hill School and learned how maple syrup is made. Thanks to Fox Hill and our PTA, this was a free experience!

Please review some important dates for April:

- **Monday, April 6** – School Resumes
- **Friday, April 10** – End of 3rd Quarter
- **April 14-16** – Grades 3-8 NYS ELA Assessments
- **April 22 – April 24** – Grades 3-8 NYS Math Assessment
- **Thursday, April 23** – Report Cards Distributed
- **Tuesday, April 28** – Kindergarten Registration
- **Wednesday, April 29** – PTA Brain Show Assemblies
- **Thursday, April 30** – Grade 5 Visit to Middle School
- **Thursday, April 30** – State of the District

**REMINDERS:** Our District continues to plan for next year’s school budget. Information can be found on the District home page or by calling Central Office. Please mark your calendars to VOTE on **Tuesday, May 19th at the High School Gymnasium.** Please support our students by communicating this date with our school community.

Student attendance is crucial for their success. Thank you for ensuring that your children arrive to school on time each day. It is going to be a great spring, with so many activities and events to look forward to. Thanks for all your support and please continue to read with your children and review math facts every night!

Respectfully,

*Gregory Heidemann*
Principal
East Coldenham Elementary School Mission Statement

BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, SUCCEED

The Mission of the East Coldenham Elementary School Community, where children are treasured, is to foster a love of learning in an innovative, collaborative environment which empowers all students to be competent, productive, caring and responsible citizens. At East Coldenham, we strive to believe, achieve and succeed in all that we do.

We can be reached by phone, fax or e-mail. Our office contact information is:

Main Office: 845-457-2400 X12501
Attendance: 845-457-2400 X12507
School Nurse: 845-457-2400 X12700
Principal’s Secretary: 845-457-2400 X12511
Fax Number: 845-564-1554

Please check our website for important information: http://www.vcsd.k12.ny.us
E-ALERTS AVAILABLE ON SCHOOLWIRIES

You can receive an email when:

- Mr. Heidemann or your child’s teacher updates his/her site.
  - The daily homework is posted.
  - New pictures are added to the Events page.
  - The E.C. Times is uploaded.

Signing up for E-Alerts is easy!

1. First, you need to be registered for schoolwires. If you’re not yet registered, click the “register” button at the top right of the homepage.
2. Choose your own username and password.
3. Be sure to give the email address to which you would like to receive E-Alerts.
4. Once you are registered, log in to schoolwires.
5. Click “Access My Info” at the top right of the homepage.
6. At the bottom of your profile, click ”on” to turn on E-Alerts.
7. Then click Edit Subscriptions.
8. Choose the pages to which you’d like to subscribe.

We recommend choosing:

- Mr. Heidemann’s page
- Your child/ren’s teachers’ page
- The Parent Resources page
- The events page
- Today’s homework
9. Click Subscribe when you’re done and you’re all set!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Parent Teacher Conferences are being held October 24th from 6:00 - 8:30 and October 25th.

PARENT PORTAL INFORMATION

GOAL:

To become a one-stop community where parents can stay updated on every facet of their child's education and communicate with teachers more effectively.

What Can I Find on the Parent Portal?

Below is some information that you might expect to see on the Parent Portal.

*Student Demographics
*Immunization Records Progress Reports
* ERC—Elementary Report Card
* Bus Routes

We encourage parents of elementary school students who do not currently have an account to apply for one by visiting: https://esd-parentportal.mhric.org/Login.aspx or by visiting our District website at http://www.vcsd.k12.ny.us and clicking on the Parent Portal link.

LOST AND FOUND

Parents please be sure and label your children's items. When a labeled item becomes “lost”, we can return the item right away. There is a box in the main office for all “lost and found” items.
A Message from the Registrar...

Dear Parents,

Please be reminded that any time you change your address, the District must be notified! If you have recently moved or will be moving to a new address within the District, please contact me at (845) 457-2400, ext. 18130 to complete a change of address form and provide new proof of residency.

If you will be moving over the summer and your child will not be returning to the Valley Central School District in September, please notify the building principal or your child's guidance counselor as soon as possible.

Please note: New student registration will be conducted from July 13th through August 14th by appointment. Registration packets must be completed prior to the appointment and can be picked up at any of our school buildings. They can also be downloaded from the District Web Site at www.vcsd.k12.ny.us.

Summer hours for the Office of Registration are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

Thank you and enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Janine Maridou

Registrar
Budget Calendar Topics and Public Meetings for the 2015-2016 School Year

Survey?
January 2015

January 12
Board of Education Meeting (BOE) with Budget in Reports
Preliminary Multi-Year Projected Budgets and Facilities

January 26
BOE with Budget in Reports
BOCES, Athletics, Transportation, and Requested Items

February 2
Budget Workshop – Berea 6:30 p.m.
Governor’s Budget (Revenue), Requested Items, Special Education, and Teaching & Administration

February 9
BOE with Budget in Reports
Follow Up from February 2, Debt Service (Capital Projects), and Benefits

February 23
BOE with Budget in Reports
Staffing/Programs

March 2
Board Budget Work Session to Review the Budget Presentation and Offer Feedback

March 9
BOE with Budget in Reports – Final Look at Budget Presentation

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ALL PRESENTATIONS ARE THE SAME
Please choose the date, time, and location most convenient for you.

March 10* East Coldenham Elementary School Presentation 7:30-8:30 p.m.
March 11* Montgomery Elementary School Presentation 6:30-7:30 p.m.
March 12* Berea Elementary School Presentation 4:30-5:30 p.m.
March 14* Saturday Presentation at High School (N. Cafeteria) 9:30-10:30 a.m.
March 16 Alternative Learning Center at Maybrook Presentation 6:30-7:30 p.m.
March 17* Walden Elementary School Presentation 6:30-7:30 p.m.

March 19* Public Forum at the Middle School Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m.
March 23 BOE with Budget in Reports
March 24* Board Budget Work Session at the Middle School Cafeteria at 6:45 p.m.

April 13 BOE with Budget in Reports – Adoption

*Indicates a meeting day other than Monday
2015-2016

Budget Information

General Information:

April 28, 2015  Communication Teams Meeting  6:00 p.m.  Berea Elementary School
April 30, 2015  The State of the District  7:00 p.m.  Administrative Building
May 7, 2015  Candidates’ Night  7:00 p.m.  Berea Elementary School
May 11, 2015  Annual Budget Hearing  6:00 p.m.  Administration Building
May 12, 2015  Voter Registration Day  1:00 - 8:00 p.m.  Administration Building
May 19, 2015  Annual Budget Vote & School Board Election  6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. at  Valley Central High School

October 20, 2014  BOE adopts Budget Calendar
February 23, 2015  BOE adopts Establishment of 2015 Annual Meeting Procedures
April 13, 2015  BOE adopts Budget
April 20, 2015  BOE petitions due to District Clerk by 5:00 p.m.
May 4, 2015  Budget available to public
May 11, 2015  Budget brochures mailed to district residents

II. See reverse side for budget schedule.

The Valley Central School District announces its anticipated half-day & full-day Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Program for 2015-2016.

Eligible children include those who reside in the district and who will be 4 years old on or before December 1, 2015.
If you have an eligible child or know someone who has an eligible child, please share this information with them. The application process is February 26, 2015 through April 30, 2015. Please visit the UPK website to download an application and for additional information at:  www.vcsd.k12.ny.us, click on the Universal Prekindergarten link found on the left side menu.
Star Student of The Month

Caitlynn Yeaple
Sophia Stevens
Makenzie Blackwell
Alexander Bencomo-Zavala
Citizen of the Month

Amethyst Maldonado
Elijah Lucas
Gisella Terralavoro
Madison Connelly
Aubrey Telleria
Tylor Carson
Angeline Brickley
Sebastian Mock
Shalesse Joyner-Garner
Emma Slaughter
Lucian Reyes
Caitlin Duffy
Willow Cushman-Phillips
Blake Arquitte
Alexandra Garcia
Connor Schofield
A Note from the Cafeteria...

Effective September 1, 2014
Breakfast and Lunch Prices

Elementary Paid Breakfast $1.55
Elementary Paid Lunch $2.55
Elementary Reduced $ . 25

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Whenever a student is absent, parents are requested to call the Health/ Attendance Office 457-2400 x 12507 with a brief explanation of the absence.

New York State Law mandates that a written excuse, signed by the Parents, be sent to school explaining the nature of each absence IN ADDITION to calling the Health Office.

Students are late after 9:15 am, and must be signed in to school by an adult at the front desk. A written excuse is also requested when a student is late getting to school.

National research shows that chronically absent kindergarteners demonstrate lower academic performance than their peers once they move into higher grades.

“One in 10 kindergarten and 1st grade students miss at least a month of school every year national research shows.” Unexcused absences at all grade levels become a bigger problem in secondary school. It is the bad attendance habits in the beginning years that lead to skipping school at the secondary level.
Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4
| | | | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8
| | | | | 9 | 10 | 11 | End of 3rd Quarter
| | | | | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15
| | | | | 16 | 17 | 18 | NYS Gr 3-8 ELA
| | | | | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22
| | | | | 23 | 24 | 25 | Earth Day
NYS Gr 3-8 ELA
NYS Gr 3-8 ELA
NYS Gr 3-8 MATH
NYS Gr 3-8 ELA
| | | | | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29
| | | | | 30 | State of the District
NYS Gr 3-8 MATH Makeups
Kindergarten Registration
Grade 5 Middle School Visit
Arbor Day
Report Cards Distributed
NYS Gr 3-8 ELA