

Valerius Eagle News - January 2016

Dates to Remember in January

- 1/4 Return to School after Winter Break
- 1/7 PTO Meeting 7pm Valerius Media Center
- 1/8 Kindergarten field trip to the Civic Center
- 1/8 Pride and Spirit Night Basketball Game at the High School
- 1/13 Late Start school starts at 10am
- 1/15 Family Bingo Night 7-9pm
- 1/18 No School - MLK Holiday
- 1/27 Late Start school starts at 10am

Online Calendar

1. Click the web address

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.

News from the Office

Kindergarten Round Up

Mark your calendars! Kindergarten Round Up will be February 18th from 6:30-7:30 here at Valerius. If you or someone you know, has a child that will be starting Kindergarten in the fall of 2016, please come and meet the teacher and tour the school. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Mitchell in the office at 457-6500.

Car Tags

If you have your child go to parent pick up and you do not have a green car tag, please let Mrs. Mitchell in the office know. You can call the school office at 457-6500 or you can send her an email at mitchellj@urbandaleschools.com.

Message from Mrs. Mauro

We have added to our technology inventory and are now 1:1 with chromebooks for all of our 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. Kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms each have 10 chromebooks, 6 ipads, and 4 macbooks as well! Additionally, we have purchase a math technology application called Math Reflex, to provide fun and motivating opportunities for all students to engage in math fact practice. Please ask your student about this program, and feel free to use it at home (ask your child's teacher for log-in information). Above all, please know that our technology philosophy at school is to use tech as a means to providing high quality, fun, and engaging learning opportunities for your children.

(Iowa Core K-12 21st Century Skills and Concepts) As each Iowa student is provided access to essential concepts and meaningful learning experiences in the core academic content areas, it is imperative that we also look to 21st century skills to build capacity in students so they are prepared to lead productive, satisfying lives. According to Ken Kay, president of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, the 21st century skills set “is the ticket to economic upward mobility in the new economy” (Gewertz, 2007). Business and industry is providing a very clear message that students need the skills to “work comfortably with people from other cultures, solve problems creatively, write and speak well, think in a multidisciplinary way, and evaluate information critically. And they need to be punctual, dependable, and industrious.” (Gewertz, 2007).

The Framework for 21st Century Learning stated, “We believe schools must move beyond a focus on basic competency in core subjects to promoting understanding of academic content at much higher levels by weaving 21st century interdisciplinary themes into core subjects” (2007). 21st century skills bridge the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of students from the core academic areas to real life application. At Valerius, we will continue to explore ways to help students develop skills that they will need as

productive and successful members of society, and to prepare our students today for the jobs of the future.

“The primary aim of education is not to enable students to do well in school, but to help them do well in the lives they lead outside of the school.” -Ray McNulty, ICLE Iowa High School Summit, December 10, 2007

News from the Health Office

Hearing screens will be taking place January 11th and rescreening January 28th. All students will be screened, please let the health office know if you do not want your student screened. Referrals will be sent home in February for those students who did not pass the screening.

As a reminder please contact the attendance line 515-457-6503 if your child is going to be absent or tardy. You can leave a message with student's name and reason for the absence.

PTO Corner

Two time-honored Valerius traditions are just around the corner...so SAVE THE DATES!!!

BINGO Night - Friday, January 15 from 7-9pm

FUN Night - Saturday, February 20 from 4-8pm

Bingo Night is a fun-filled evening for the whole family! We have volunteer shifts available for the concession stand, selling bingo cards and exchanging bingo cards throughout the night. All kids attending will win a new book and there are great prizes for game winners. You won't want to miss. Sign up here: <http://valerius elementarypto.bringit.bz/public/78d6ed>

Fun Night is our big second semester fundraiser for PTO. The money raised supports teacher/classroom needs, field trips and technology. Planning is currently underway, headed up by Joscelyn and Mark Smith. If you want to be involved in organizing and putting on this fun-family fundraiser, please email valeriuspto@gmail.com! Sign up here: <http://valerius elementarypto.bringit.bz/public/1584d5>

Our next PTO meeting is Thursday, January 7th at 7pm with special guest speakers, Jill Miller (Instructional Coach) and Kelly Squires (2nd Grade Teacher), on our new Wonders reading curriculum. We hope to see you there!

PTO Board vacancies...We need you! We need your ideas, your passions, your energy...and best of all, our own children benefit! Please consider being involved! We need leaders to be a part of the PTO Board. We only meet 8 months of the year (off in Dec, Mar, June and July). We have a couple of immediate openings and more that will be opening at the end of this school year as terms are up and families move on to the middle school. We need you to help shape the future of your child(ren)'s education and ask that you please consider this opportunity and let us know where your interests lie.