

Valerius Eagle News

October 2016

Dates to Remember in October

- 10/04 5th Grade field trip to Jester Park
- 10/06 Kindergarten field trip to Iowa Orchard
- 10/06 Literacy Night! (5:15-7:00pm)
- 10/07 Box Top Contest Ends
- 10/07 Valerius Spirit Day
- 10/07 Read-a-Thon Fundraiser Assembly (3:00pm)
- 10/10 Gift Card Reward Program Orders due
- 10/07-21 Read-a-Thon
- 10/12 Late Start (Valerius begins at 10am)
- 10/14 School Picture Retakes
- 10/25 PTO Skate Party at Incrediroll
- 10/26 Late Start (Valerius begins at 10am)
- 10/27 Get on the Right Track! 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grade Music Program

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.

Message from Mrs. Mauro

Valerius Families,

We're excited to present our Valerius Strategic Plan (right) for the 2016-17 school year! This document provides an overview of our strategic goals, the actions we are taking to meet our goals, and the principles and practices that guide our work.

All Urbandale schools have a plan that looks similar to this (but with details and data that pertain to each individual school). If you have questions pertaining to the Valerius goals or would like more information about our action plan, please feel free to contact me. I'd love to share more information with you about what we're doing to ensure your child receives the best education possible.

Copies of this document will be available in the main office for those of you who are interested in having a copy.



VALERIUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OUR MISSION
All Valerius learners will SOAR to success.
S: Safe places to learn & grow
O: Ongoing Improvement
A: Achieving our goals
R: Respect and responsibility

DISTRICT MISSION: Teaching All—Reaching All DISTRICT VISION: To bring learning to life for everyone.

2016–2017 GOALS

- 86.1% of 3rd-5th grade students will be proficient/advanced in reading as measured by the 2017 Iowa Assessment Reading test.
- 91.1% of 3rd-5th grade students will be proficient/advanced in math as measured by the 2017 Iowa Assessment Mathematics test.
- 95.6% of 3rd-5th grade students will be proficient/advanced in science as measured by the 2017 Iowa Assessment.
- 60.0% of students will identify themselves as "Hopeful" and 61.6% of students will identify themselves as "Engaged" as measured by the Gallup Student Poll data administered in fall 2016.
- Employees will be engaged with a grand mean percentile rank of 50% as measured by the 2017 Gallup Q12 Employee Engagement Survey. 100% of classrooms will utilize Baldrige Framework for Performance Excellence to facilitate classroom learning systems via Continuous Classroom Improvement (CCI) steps 1-8 as measured by a score of proficient or advanced on Classroom Systems Check III.
- 90% of parent/family respondents will indicate that school and home are able to collaboratively support student success as measured by the 2017 Power of Partnerships PTA survey.

STRATEGIES

- Professional Development: Gradual Release of Responsibilities Instructional framework, emphasis on Facilitation of high quality Guided Instruction; Targeted and Intensive Instructional Delivery
- Continued Development of Classroom Learning Systems (Continuous Improvement)
- Utilization of PBIS framework and student leadership group (Eagle Leaders)
- Implementation of Employee Rounding
- Family Engagement Activities and School to Home Communication Plan

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES

- Data Driven Decision Making
- School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS)
- Growth Mindset
- Instructional Best-Practice
- Innovation/Differentiated Instruction
- Continuous Improvement

URBANDALE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
UrbandaleSchools.com

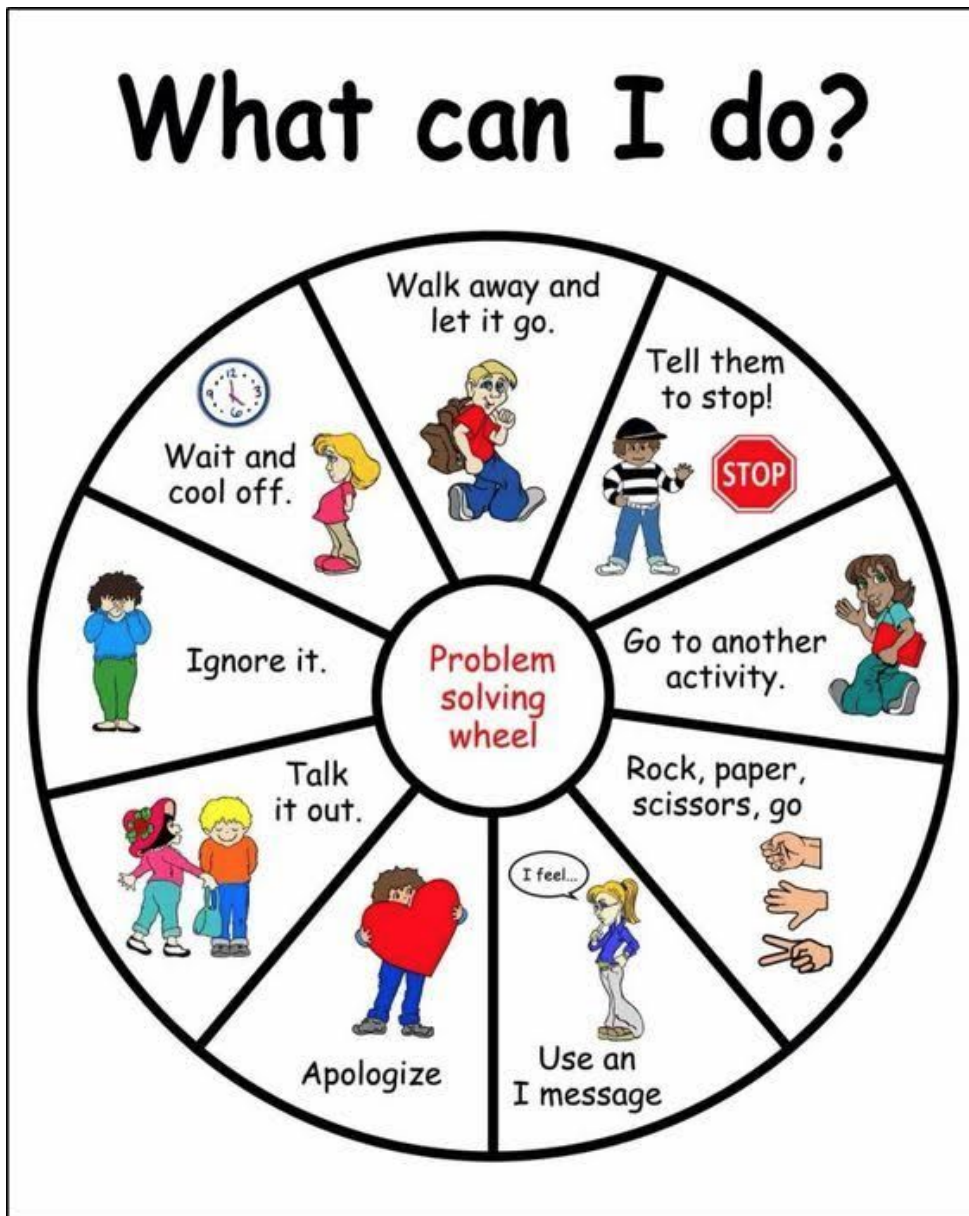
Counselor's Corner

Hello Valerius Families,

During guidance classes this month we have been working on problem solving. Our goal at Valerius is for each student to know a variety of options that can be independently used to solve a problem and then (here's the tricky part) trying two options to solve a problem with a friend before going to a teacher for help. This will really increase independence and build self-esteem as students learn that they can solve their own problems! This is a skill that definitely needs practice and the more they work to try and solve problems the better they get!

Please encourage your students to use their problem solving skills at home. Disagreements with a sibling are the perfect time to practice and when your kids use these skills it will make your home a more peaceful and happy place! Try this: when your child comes to you

to tattle about something a brother, sister or neighbor friend has done, say something like, "Tell me what things you have tried to solve the problem on your own." If they look stumped, ask "What strategy could you try to solve this problem?" They will be amazed that we are communicating! You will also be amazed to see how well students, even little ones, can solve problems on their own! Here is a copy of our problem solving wheel. Feel free to print it out and refer to it as needed. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!

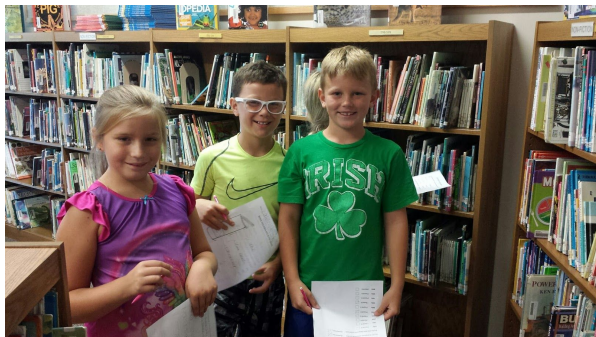


Grade Level Spotlight: Specials Team

LIBRARY:

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

The kindergarten-2nd-graders are finishing up their work on learning about how to use the library and the rules of book care. Ask your child to tell you some of the ways we keep books in good shape so others can enjoy them! **The 3rd-5th-graders** are becoming library experts, learning how to independently find the books they want in any library in the world using a computer catalog and their knowledge of how libraries are organized. In addition, the older students have been introduced to our library's Symbaloo, which houses many of the resources we will use during the year. If you'd like to bookmark for home use, you can find it by using the shortened url: goo.gl/Knqe69. I will continue to add resources as the year goes on.



Students enjoyed getting up and moving during a scavenger hunt to locate all the sections we have in the Valerius library.



The 2nd-graders spent a day as "medical residents," diagnosing "sick" books and deciding whether they could be fixed or needed to be replaced.

TOP CHECKOUTS

The most popular titles checked out from the Valerius library in September were:

1. Ultimate Weird but True **2;** Smile by Raina Telgemeier; **3.** The Book with No Pictures by BJ Novak; **4.** The Cat, the Dog, Little Red, the Exploding Eggs, the Wolf and Grandma by Diane Fox; **5.** The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt; **6.** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever by Jeff Kinney; **7.** Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney; **8.** Lion vs. Rabbit by Alex Latimer; **9.** Sisters by Raina Telgemeier; **10.** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days by Jeff Kinney

If you have any questions about the library, or what we're learning, feel free to contact me at christensend@urbandaleschools.com. If you're a twitter user, you can follow me and the students at MrsCsLibrary, where I'll post pictures and student work throughout the year.

MUSIC: Things are getting into full swing in the music room! 4th and 5th grade will be starting RECORDERS in the beginning of October! A recorder is a woodwind instrument, great for expanding learning on reading music, increasing fine motor skills, and creating music!

Also, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders are gearing up for their fall music program, "Get on the Right Track!" It will feature songs about trains and railroads, and will be clickity-clackity coming your way Thursday, October 27th at 7:00pm in the Urbandale High School Performing Arts Center. More details to come!

And Kindergarten? They are having a rockin' good time learning the difference between their singing voice and their speaking voice. They are also moving to classical music and playing some fun games along the way!

If you ever have any questions about performances, what we do in music, or anything else, just send an email and I'll get back to ya! lefflerd@urbandaleschools.com Have a musical day!

P.E.: During P.E. class, our 2nd-5th grade classes have been participating in our very own Valerius Olympics. During our Olympics, we have done gymnastics, track and field, and we are just beginning soccer. All of our fall fitness testing is complete, and we will test again in the spring to see what improvements we have made during the year.

Kindergarten and 1st grade have also done their own variations of Gymnastics and Track. Kindergarten classes are going to continue to work on locomotor skills and body awareness. First grade is just starting soccer, and we are going to continue to work on developing gross motor skills and hand eye coordination.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions about what we are doing in P.E. class, jonesa@urbandaleschools.com.

News from the Health Office

Just a reminder: FLU VACCINE CLINIC & QUAD VACCINE

High Dose Vaccine for 65 years and older. There will be NO Flumist this year.

Urbandale High School Commons

4:00-8:00 PM

Wednesday

October 5 and 19

Students, Staff, Parents, Siblings, and Community

Most major insurance plans accepted

Please bring your insurance card

No insurance cost is \$20 or what you can pay

Parent/guardian must be present and sign consent

Clinic offered by Polk County Health Department

Do your part to stop the flu!

WASH your hands

COVER your cough

STAY home if you're sick

GET vaccinated



PTO Corner

READ-A-THON KICK-OFF ASSEMBLY

It's time for another annual Valerius Read-A-Thon! This is one of our two biggest FUNdraisers of the year for field trips and classroom needs. The kick-off assembly will be Friday, October 7th and will feature Coach Sloth, football player turned author, from Belmond, Iowa. Coach Sloth played cornerback for Iowa State and then went on to coach the Barnstormers. He has appeared in several football movies (We Are Marshall,

Leatherheads and Touchback) as well as making appearances in The Amazing Spiderman and The Dark Knight Rises. He has written children's books about Sammy Sloth and now lives in Ames with his family. Please visit his website www.coachsloth.com for more information! The Read-A-Thon will take place October 10-21 where kids gather pledges from family and friends and then read for prizes and pledge money! It's super easy and the kids have fun while raising money for their school. Watch for packets to come home by the end of this week!

BOX TOPS

Just a reminder - our first Box Top collection contest ends Friday, October 7. Each Box Top we collect is worth 10¢ for our school. Last school year, we made \$1,158.00 from Box Tops, which helped to pay for things like field trips and balls for the kids to use on the playground. The class that turns in the most Box Tops and Campbell's Labels for Education for this contest will win the first popcorn and movie party for the year! So keep those Box Tops coming!

Coins for a Cause is back this year! At the end of October, the kids at Valerius will have a wonderful opportunity to help some other kids in the Des Moines area through a Scholastic Book Fair activity called Coins for a Cause (through Scholastic's All for Books program). A letter fully explaining this opportunity will be coming towards the end of October. Thanks in advance for helping our kids help others!

MARATHON PARTY HOST NEEDED

The kids have worked hard running an entire marathon! Let's help them celebrate! We need 1 person who can come to the school on Friday, October 28 at 2:45pm, gather the popsicles from the lounge freezer, and meet the kids under the gazebo to hand out prizes, popsicles and monitor recess time until 3:30, then send the kids back to class for dismissal. It's super easy! We'll have the list of award winners and prizes all ready to hand out. All we need is you! Please email valeriuspto@gmail.com or jonesa@urbandaleschools.com if you can help. Thanks in advance!