



# MES PRESS

Montgomery Elementary School  
Valley Central School District



**September 2010**

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear MES Families, Staff, and Friends,

I hope that you all had a wonderful summer and were able to relax and rejuvenate with your family and friends. The summer provides me with the chance to rewind and reflect on the school year and all that we have accomplished, as well as where we need to be heading. The summer is a busy time in the school. I am always amazed when people ask me, "What do you do all summer long?" The list is extensive and I could not accomplish any of it without the support of my amazing office and custodial staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all that they do. In addition, I would like to welcome Jane Malley, who will serve as our new Assistant Principal. Mrs. Malley has been a part of the VCSD family for many years and I am so pleased to be working with her once again. I am very much looking forward to a new school year and all the opportunities that come with it.

Our theme this year is "Journey into the World of Learning". One definition for the word journey is, "the passage or progress from one stage to another." Our theme this year is apropos, as we are constantly striving here at Montgomery Elementary School to continue making progress in all that we do. As Principal, I am very proud of all that our teachers and families do to ensure that our students are meeting with success. During the 2010-2011 school year we will continue our tradition of striving for excellence as we remain on this journey together.

As part of the accountability process, grade level teams and special area teams meet to develop goals and strategies aimed at improving student achievement in all areas. In addition, we have a School Accountability Team which meets monthly to discuss these goals and how to go about making continuous improvement. We are looking for several parents to be a part of this team. If you are interested in contributing to this effort, please call me at school. The only way to meet with real success is when the school and the family are working together as a team to meet the varied needs of all our students.

I look forward to seeing you at Open House on September 16, 2010 from 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to become familiar with your child(ren)'s educational program and to hear about the expectations for the year. Our PTA will hold their first meeting directly afterward in the cafeteria. I encourage you to become as involved as possible in your child(ren)'s education. I hope you are all able to attend.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me. There is a new phone system in place. I can be reached at 457 -2400 ext. 14511 or [mserratore@vczd.oubores.org](mailto:mserratore@vczd.oubores.org).

### Calendar Highlights:

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**Sept. 2nd**—First Day of School

**Sept. 6th**—Labor Day  
**NO SCHOOL**

**Sept. 9th**—Rosh Hashanah  
**NO SCHOOL**

**Sept. 11th**—General Montgomery Day

**Sept. 13th**—BOE Mtg. @ C.O.  
7:00pm.

**Sept. 16th**—Open House 7:00 p.m.  
PTA Mtg. to follow

**Sept. 17th**—Early Dismissal Drill

**Sept. 27th**—BOE Mtg. @ C.O.  
7:00 p.m.

**Sept. 29th**—Dismissal at 12:10  
Professional Development Day

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**Oct. 7th**—Picture Day

**Oct. 11th**—Columbus Day  
**No School**

**Oct. 12th**—BOE Meeting

**Oct. 26th**—BOE Meeting



141 Union Street  
Montgomery, NY 12549  
Phone: 845-457-2400

**Online at:**  
[www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/mo](http://www.vcsd.k12.ny.us/mo)

Respectfully,  
Marianne Serratore

As I prepare to write my first "Monthly Message", I reflect on how fortunate I am. After choosing to stay home for the past two years to be with my children, I have rejoined my extended family; Valley Central. For nearly 20 years, I have had the pleasure of working in all five elementary schools as either a teacher or administrator. During that time, I have come to cherish all of the friendships that have been formed with students, parents and colleagues. While many MES faces are familiar, I look forward to getting to know everyone better as we work together to provide an exceptional education for our children.

In the interest in helping parents, like me, make the most of the limited time we have with our children now that school has started, I will prepare suggestions in my column each month to offer "quality time" together. This is defined by developmental experts as meaningful time parents spend nurturing and teaching their children. According to researchers in a wide range of fields, the time young children spend with their parents is essential for their healthy development. It's what you make of the time you spend with your children that makes it quality time.

• • •  
Make Moments Matter

There are many moments throughout the day that busy parents spend with their kids -- standing in line, waiting for the doctor, driving the kids to school, getting ready for bed -- that can easily be turned into quality time. Use them during daily rituals to strengthen the parent-child relationship and teach skills and values that will benefit kids long into the future. Here is one of my favorites:

**Bath time:** Give your child a toy boat to float in the bath tub and ask him/her to guess how many pennies (or paper clips) it will take to put in the boat to sink it. Then, test the guess. Find more great ideas go to:  
[www.lifelearningtoday.com/2007/05/20/78-parent-child-activities-free-download/](http://www.lifelearningtoday.com/2007/05/20/78-parent-child-activities-free-download/)

• • • **Food For Thought** • • •

Apple recipes and autumn go hand and hand. In September, schools decorate their classrooms with apples, families go to apple orchards and many families bake apple pie.

When you feel your child is ready to start using the microwave, make sure you give your chef these key points in **microwave safety**.

- Use microwave safe dishes. Show them what is safe and isn't safe to use in the microwave (for example: no metal utensils or metal bowls in the microwave!!)
- Instruct them on using pot holders to take bowls out of the microwave.
- Show your chef how to operate your microwave. (many microwaves work differently)

Have fun together preparing the following kids recipe in the microwave:

**Baked Apples**

2 Granny Smith apples  
2 Tablespoons butter  
Cinnamon  
2 Tablespoons brown sugar

Have adult core apples or show child how to core apples with a corer. Child can place apples in microwave safe dish.

In each apple, add 1 Tablespoon of butter, 1 Tablespoon of brown sugar and sprinkle cinnamon.

Add a little water to the bottom of the dish.

Microwave 4-5 minutes. Don't forget to use pot holders to remove dish from the microwave. Let apples sit for a few minutes before eating.

Enjoy!

**Mrs. Malley's**



**Monthly  
Message**

• • • **All About Apples** • • •

For apple information to the core visit [www.allaboutapples.com](http://www.allaboutapples.com)  
You'll find **orchard listings**, apple varieties, recipes, apple facts including apple health and tips for growing apples.

• • • **Show and Tell** • • •

I encourage students to write me a note telling me about their apple adventure and to include a photo if they would like! Intermediate students can write a short paragraph, while primary students can write a few sentences. Parents, please feel free to scribe for our emerging writers. These items will be displayed on my **"BEYOND THE CLASSROOM"** bulletin board. All students who share their experience with me will receive a prize. Have a wonderful school year and have fun making moments matter!

## FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Dear Parents / Guardians,

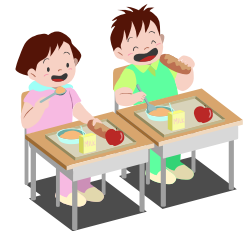
Welcome Back! A reminder your children will need new doctors' orders for all medications to be taken at school. Medications must be brought to the Health Office by a parent, students may not transport medication to and from school. All students entering K, 2nd, and 4th grades are required to have a physical exam as well as all new students entering the district. Please report any changes to the Health Office regarding your child(ren's) health e.g. allergic reactions, food allergies, fractures or hospitalizations.

Thank you,  
Donna Stout, RN



## NEWS FROM THE CAFETERIA

Tickets can be purchased for breakfast and/or lunch. Just send in a check made payable to Valley Central Cafeteria. Please make sure you put the student's and teacher's name on your check. If purchasing breakfast and lunch, please write a separate check for each. The form to fill out is below. Other items available each day are peanut butter and jelly and yogurt. If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, please fill out an application and return it to the office as soon as possible. We have these forms available in the office.



### Breakfast/Lunch Ticket Purchase Form

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets can be purchased in increments of 5, 10, 15, or 20 days. Please check the amount you would like to purchase and make checks payable to **Valley Central Cafeteria Fund**. A separate check must be made for breakfast and lunch.

#### Breakfast Tickets (\$1.00 each)

5 \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.00)      10 \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10.00)      15 \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15.00)      20 \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00)

#### Lunch Tickets (\$2.10 each)

5 \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10.50)      10 \_\_\_\_\_ (\$21.00)      15 \_\_\_\_\_ (\$31.50)      20 \_\_\_\_\_ (\$42.00)

#### Milk Ticket (\$.60 each)

\$12.00 or (20 days)



### REINFORCE THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE WITH YOUR CHILD

At one time or another, your child will probably ask, “Do I have to go to school today?” He or she may be tired. He or she may be afraid of a test. Or he or she may just want to watch TV. Here are ways to make sure your child gets to school every day— on time.



\* **Get your child to bed on time.** A sleepy child can’t get up. He dawdles over breakfast. He misses the bus.

\* **Stay in touch with the school.** If you know there's a science test on Tuesday, help your child study— don't let him stay home.

\* **Let your child see that you value education.** Tell him that when he or she misses a day of school, he's missing the opportunity to learn new things.

\* **Don't make it fun when your child does stay home from school.** Make a rule that there will be no TV or video games.

### FROM THE OFFICE

Our office can be a very busy place at times, so try to be patient if you can't reach us on the telephone. If it is necessary for you to call the office in the morning, please try to call before 9:15 or after 9:30 a.m. That fifteen minute period happens to be a very busy one as the students are just beginning to come in the building and morning announcements may be in progress. If you just wish to report your child absent you can leave a message by calling 457-2400 ext. 14507 any time, day or night.



Don't forget that you must sign your child(ren) in when they are tardy and out if they are leaving early, (at our greeter desk in the front lobby on the blue pages) and that **we must have a note** if students are changing their normal after-school procedure. These notes must also be approved in the office. If your child is a bus student and you wish to transport your child to and from school for the entire year please write a letter. This will be put on file in our transportation folder. **This must be done each year.**

The school day starts at 9:15 a.m. Students will be considered Tardy if they arrive later than 9:15 a.m. and will be considered as an Early Dismissal if they leave ten minutes prior to the end of the school day.

### STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE WEBSITE



Dear Parents,

This notice is to inform you that if you wish to withhold permission for your child's picture to be used on the District's website you need to fill out the appropriate form. You can get the form from the school office or District website. Please fill it out and return it promptly.

## Reflections on Back to School....

Mrs. Melinda Sulzbach, School Social Worker



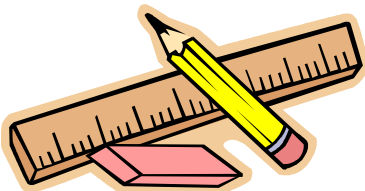
As I reflect on this school year, I feel like I have come full circle. The start of this particular school year is a very bittersweet one for me. I am happy to see all the returning MES students and hear about their summer activities. I will especially enjoy being around the kids as just a few days ago, I bid a farewell, "see you soon" to my only child (he would hate to be called this) as he starts his freshman year of College. I have spent most of my summer college shopping and trying to make each day linger a little longer as if to stop August 27th (his move in day) from occurring. It is absolutely a tough thing for a Mom (don't kid yourself, my husband was a little emotional too) to send her "baby" out into the world. As parents, you are about to embark on a similar experience as you send your "babies" off to school. However difficult it is, I am still very excited, happy, and proud for my son as he embarks on a new milestone in his life. Though he will always be my "baby" - he is a wonderful young man who has so many great opportunities ahead of him. So Parents send your kids off in the morning with a big hug and kiss, wish them a great day, and soak in the wonderful adventures of school that lie ahead.



Now onto some business: Here at MES, we are big supporters of teaching our students about Character Education. For the past few years, your children have been hearing morning announcements about character education traits. Again this year, I will be inviting students (grades 2-5) to write and read morning messages pertaining to our Character Trait or what we refer to as our: "Word of the Month". September's trait is: **Respect**. What better way to start off the school year than by practicing respect for our peers, teachers, school building, and community. Talk with your child about what respect means and how they can show respect for others. It is important as parents that we, too, respect our own children by listening to their ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Teaching and showing our children how to be respectful can go a long way in helping them become better citizens in the future.

Here's to a wonderful 2010 -2011 school year!

## STUDENT COUNCIL/SCHOOL STORE/WEE DELIVER



The MES Student Council elections will be held in September this year. As in the past, students in Grade 5 may run for the office of President or Secretary and Grade 4 students may run for Vice President or Treasurer. Classroom Teachers will discuss the election process with students and classroom elections will follow to determine who will run for office. Following the election for Officers, Classroom Representatives will be chosen for grades 2-5. The Student Council School store will be open from 8:45- 9:10 Monday thru Friday this year. The school store sells pencils, erasers, sharpeners, highlighters, and more! The school store is located in the front hall across from the main office. If you have a fifth grade student who excels in math (and money) please have them drop me a note. Students who work at the school store must have transportation on the day that they work.



Mrs. Barnhart and I will be overseeing the Wee Deliver Post Office again this year. Mail delivery will tentatively be on Tuesday and Friday. Grade 2 & 3 students will be receiving applications in September. To keep things running smoothly we are in need of parent volunteers to help supervise our delivery staff. If you are interested in volunteering (weekly) please drop us a note!

Thank you in advance! ~Mrs. Nozell





An Early Dismissal Drill is scheduled for September 17, 2010. **Students will be dismissed 15 minutes earlier than their normally scheduled time.** All after-school activities will be cancelled except for Y-Scoop.

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## **Mark Your Calendars!**

### **EARLY DISMISSALS**

### **(Dismissal at 12:10 P.M.)**



September 29, 2010

December 8, 2010

February 9, 2011

March 30, 2011

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## **The New Phone System.....**

is up and running. The main number (457-2400) is the same however all extensions have changed. Please listen to the greeting carefully or check our website for correct extensions.

Principal, Marianne Serratore	Ext. 14510
Assistant Principal, Jane Malley	14520
Secretary, Joan Grippo	14511
Attendance, Mary Pettine	14507
Nurse, Donna Stout	14700



# September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>First Day of School for Students</i> 	3	4
5	6 <i>Labor Day NO SCHOOL</i>	7	8	9	10	11 <i>General Montgomery Day</i>
12	13 <i>BOE Meeting 7pm @ CO</i>	14	15	16 <i>Open house@7pm PTA meeting to follow</i>	17 <i>Early Dismissal Drill</i>	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 <i>BOE Meeting 7pm @ CO</i>	28	29 <i>Professional Development Day DISMISSAL@ 12:10</i>	30		