

WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

School and Community Working Together



Volume 25, No. 8

May 2020

Great Work and Learning Still Continues at WVCS



stay & safe

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

I would like to thank all of you for patience, flexibility and positive attitude as we were thrust into a new way of doing the business of education. I am impressed and honored to be part of the West Valley school family, who took this challenge head-on and came up with effective solutions to providing education to our students. Thank you goes out to families who are participating in the process and supporting your children and our teachers in this endeavor. Thanks to our cafeteria staff and cleaners for providing meals to the children of our community. Thanks to our transportation staff for delivering food and materials to our students. Thanks to our maintenance staff for keeping the physical plant up and running so we will be ready when the time comes to return. Thanks to Bryan Hansen and the BOCES techs for getting and keeping the technology going for our students. Thanks to Dan, Ann, Shawna, Matt and Bob for their leadership in keeping our programs running for our students. Thanks to the office staff for keeping all of the working parts of running a school going so that we can meet the needs of staff, school and community. Together we are making a difference.

The governor made the decision to not allow on-site education for the remainder of the school year. This does not mean that school is over. Our teachers and staff have been working to provide the best possible education via distance learning that they can. We thank every student, parent and family member who is helping in this process. Please continue to work hard on learning so that we are ready for our return next year.

If you look at our district web page or Facebook page, you will see the many ways that our staff has been reaching out with positive messages to our students and families. My message to all of you is that this shall pass. It will not be tomorrow, but we will get through this and will be better for it. Already we have embraced new learning with technology, zoom board meetings, working from home and social distancing. I really miss the noisy lunchroom and hallways, the visits from staff, students and parents, bus duty. Yes! I said it! I miss bus duty and saying hello and goodbye to the students each day. Please be safe, practice social distancing, wear masks, stay home as much as possible and I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Eric Lawton

Eric Lawton, Superintendent



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Hello West Valley community. Usually in this newsletter I would be sharing information with you about our school's annual Community Day, our PARP Carnival, our first Health and Wellness day, and many other activities that we normally have planned in the month of May. While it is unfortunate that we are not all here in the school building together, we are fortunate to be able to stay connected outside of our school's walls.

This is not possible without all the support of the families, the perseverance of our students, and the dedication of our teachers. We are truly blessed to have a school community that our students and families can rely on in these challenging times. I could not imagine where our students and families would be without their school.

The ability to connect and have relationships with all our students and families is what is helping us get through this period of transition. Whether it is a technology issue, instructional concerns, meals, etc. we have, for the most part, been able to work through many different types of adversity to continue to provide our students with an education.

As I write this article, we do not have a definitive end date to the "Stay at Home" orders and no timeline as to when or if we will return this school year. Most likely, when you receive your newsletter there will have been more information communicated.

I can tell you that my hope and the hope of our teachers is that if all we had was one day for students to return, we would want that. Through my conversations with teachers I cannot tell you how many times they have expressed the desire and need to return to their classroom with their students.

With no definite return to school date, we will continue providing instruction through a digital platform. We are all aware that this is different from being in the classroom, but it is an opportunity for our students to continue their learning and the opportunity to connect with others outside of the home.

Again, I cannot say enough how impressed and proud I am of our students, families, and teachers for making the best out of the current situation. As they say, "this too shall pass." We are looking forward to the day when our halls can be filled with our students once again. In the meantime, if there is anything that we can help you with, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school, as we will be there for you!

Dan Amodeo

Dan Amodeo, Principal



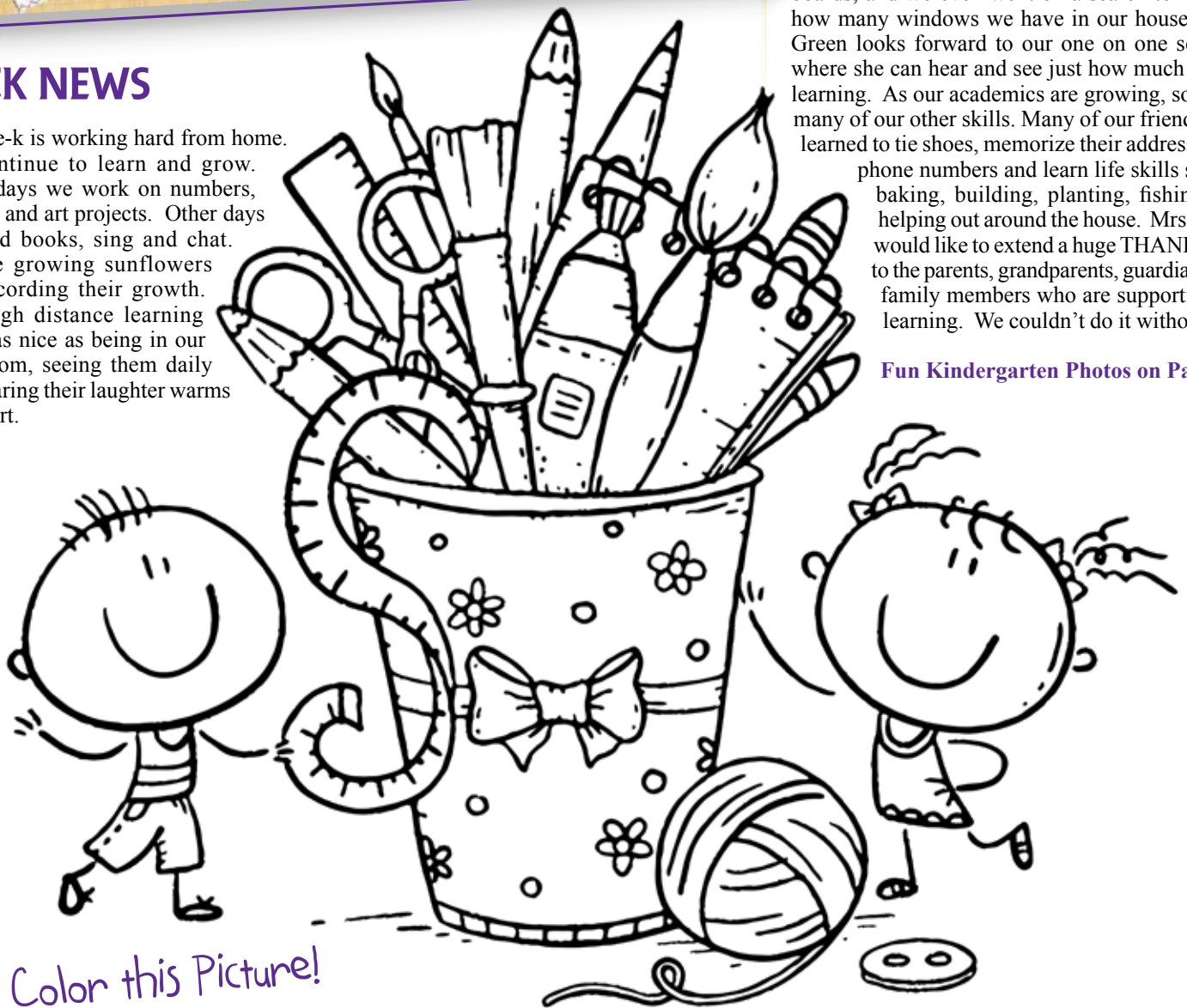
KINDERGARTEN NEWS

The Kindergarten Kiddos have been very busy. We have accepted the challenge that has been presented to us and we are “rocking it”! Not only have we been working on paper and pencil tasks, but we have learned how to use every day items and the internet to help us learn and travel via virtual field trips. We have been busy working on our Ipads in Reading Eggs, Math Seeds, IXL, Unite for Literacy, and Brain Pop Jr. Each of these programs have provided us with the ability to continue to practice our skills and even learn some new skills with the help of Zoom meetings. During our zoom meetings we have had the opportunity to show and tell, draw, learn about shapes, play games, and we have even had some guests. Thank you to Mrs. Thiel for continuing to lead us through some STEAM activities. We look forward to seeing what our new experience will be each week. In addition, our daily learning tasks have been challenging us to create, read, and write. We have had weekly scavenger hunts, Lego building challenges, choice boards, and we even went on a search to find out how many windows we have in our house. Mrs. Green looks forward to our one on one sessions where she can hear and see just how much we are learning. As our academics are growing, so are so many of our other skills. Many of our friends have learned to tie shoes, memorize their addresses and phone numbers and learn life skills such as baking, building, planting, fishing, and helping out around the house. Mrs. Green would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the parents, grandparents, guardians, and family members who are supporting our learning. We couldn't do it without you.

Fun Kindergarten Photos on Page 4!

PREK NEWS

Pre-k is working hard from home. We continue to learn and grow. Some days we work on numbers, writing and art projects. Other days we read books, sing and chat. We are growing sunflowers and recording their growth. Although distance learning is not as nice as being in our classroom, seeing them daily and hearing their laughter warms my heart.



Color this Picture!

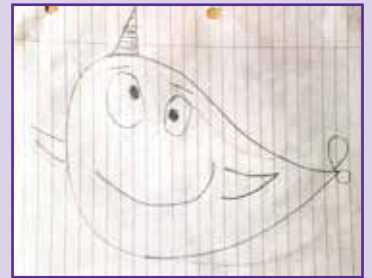
KINDERGARTEN NEWS (CONT'D)



COME READ & DRAW WITH US

BY MS. CASEY & MRS. BUTCHER

During this COVID-19 quarantine, we have been trying to keep some sense of routine and continuity with our students. My students love to listen to stories and draw. Every weekday, either Mrs. Butcher or I read a story to post on Classroom Dojo for our students. One to two times a week, Mrs. Butcher will show the students how to draw a picture. The students have drawn a narwhal out of the letter C, a cat out of the word cat, a cow and many more. Our students then post their picture to Classroom Dojo portfolio for us to see. What excellent artists they are becoming!



1ST GRADE NEWS

First graders have been doing a variety of learning through the COVID-19 shutdown. Each first grader is expected to work online in a program called IXL two times a day...once for reading and once for math. In addition, first graders work in another program called Reading Eggs and Math Seeds twice a week. Both of these programs help the students to build their math and ELA skills and progress the children based on their ability. In addition, first graders meet with Mrs. Clouse twice a week to read together and do math lessons. On top of all of that, students are given weekly challenges like the Lego Challenge or STEAM challenges. In addition, some of the first graders also meet and work with Mrs. Vacanti on reading and Mrs. Noto on math once a week. First graders are also given links to a daily read aloud done by Mrs. Clouse, physical challenges, YouTube 'How to Draw' videos and other optional activities that they can do throughout the week. To end the week, first graders have an optional Zoom get together on Friday afternoon at 2:30 for the children to share anything that is going on in their lives and to visit with each other and the teachers. Although it has been a difficult transition, our first graders have really risen to the challenges of this new learning format and are moving forward with their education! Mrs. Clouse is very proud of all of the work they are doing!



WVCS CARDS FOR HEROES

Having been a nurse for a while, I must admit sitting on the sidelines during this pandemic has been difficult. I have been watching my peers in their PPE day in and day out, working hard to care for those with the virus. They are tired, but never complaining. Heroes to say the least.

I came up with the idea to make a video and get it out to the WVCS family and ask for help. I wanted to let our local healthcare heroes at Bertrand Chaffee Hospital know that we see them, we support them, and we thank them. The long-term care residents of Jennie B. Richmond Nursing home were on my mind too. Unable to have visitors, lonely and some likely confused, I wanted to reach out to them also.

I asked everyone from teachers, staff, parents and students to help me by making a card with a positive message for a health care hero and/or a long term Resident, and send it to me so I could gather them all and send them over to the Hospital.

Today is April 28th, and I have received some beautiful cards, and more are on the way. I am excited to share them with Bertrand Chaffee and Jennie B. next week and let them know that West Valley Central School cares!

If you missed out on this project, but want to make a health care hero smile, please mail a card to:

Bertrand Chaffee Hospital, 224 East Main St., Springville NY 14141

Madison Lawrence and her family made a bunch of beautiful cards seen here. Thank You Madison!



Nurse Lindsey
Thanks you for
your help!

NURSE LINDSEY'S HEALTH CORNER

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

It is up to us to take steps to protect children and others from getting sick. Help stop the spread of COVID-19 by doing the same things everyone should do to stay healthy. Teach your children to do the same. Here are some simple steps taken directly from the CDC website!

- **Clean hands often** using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Avoid people who are sick** (coughing and sneezing).
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces daily in household common areas (like tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, remotes, handles, desks, toilets, and sinks).
- **Wear a mask** Children 2 years and older should wear a cloth face covering their nose and mouth when in the community setting. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms.

- **Launder items** including washable plush toys. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting!
- **Limit time with other children** (practice social distancing) The key to slowing the spread of COVID-19 is to limit contact as much as possible. While school is out, children should not have in-person playdates with children from other households. If children are playing outside their own homes, it is essential that they remain 6 feet from anyone who is not in their own household.
- **Stay Active** - Help your child stay active, it's great for physical and mental health!
- **Stay Socially Connected** - Reach out to friends and family via phone or video chats. Write cards or letters to those who may not be able to visit.

Stay Healthy

POSITIVE HOMESCHOOLING MOMENTS

MRS. BAREN AND MRS. KAZ

During these unusual times, Mrs. Baren's class along with Mrs. Kaz would like to share some positive moments that we have experienced. Homeschooling has consisted of daily Zoom meetings to keep up on our school work, as well as a weekly class Zoom meeting so we can feel like a class together! Mrs. Kaz has also been handwriting pen pal letters to our class and is thrilled every time she gets a handwritten response back! We have also still been using ROARS tickets and keeping a tally so there will be lots of prizes and celebrating when we return to school!

Through all of this, we were still greatly missing our students! Last week, was Kara Troutman's and Mrs. Baren's birthday. In order to celebrate, we decided to do something extra special. We had all of our student's give adjectives describing Kara and made her a gift with her picture and a frame. On Thursday, April 23rd, Mrs. Baren, Mrs. Kaz and Ms. Hannah McMahon (speech teacher) went on an adventure and drove to each of our student's homes dropping off Kara's birthday present and giving each of our student's goodie bags and waving from our cars! It was so wonderful to be able to see everyone and it makes us very anxious to get back to school!

We hope that everyone stays healthy, safe and positive! Together we will get through all of this and we will be stronger, together in the future!



CARDS GIVE SMILES

A big thank you goes out to Nurse Lindsey for rallying the WVCS family to make cards for our Healthcare Workers at Bertrand Chaffee Hospital and Jennie B Nursing Home.

Pictured is George Kazmierczak, a long time member of West Valley who is doing his part of giving back to the hospital staff that has taken care of him for so many years!



How to Protect Yourself and Others

Know how it spreads



- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - » Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - » Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
 - » These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
 - » Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Everyone should

Clean your hands often



- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact



- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Stay at home as much as possible.**
- **Put distance between yourself and other people.**
 - » Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - » This is especially important for **people who are at higher risk of getting very sick**. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others



- **You could spread COVID-19 to others** even if you do not feel sick.
- **Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public**, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
 - » Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- **The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people** in case you are infected.
- Do **NOT** use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- Continue to **keep about 6 feet between yourself and others**. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes



- **If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect



- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces** daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them:** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

30 DAYS TO SLOW THE SPREAD

THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

Listen to and follow directions of your **STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**.

IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, stay home and away from other people.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.



For more information, please visit
CORONAVIRUS.GOV

THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible.

IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts — **USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.**

AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, shopping trips, and social visits.

DO NOT VISIT nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

CORONAVIRUS.GOV

School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.



Cyber Safety Tip

An Unprecedented Time

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has people fearful and on high alert. Many of us are turning to the internet for information about how the virus is spreading or what new orders regarding closures have been passed by our government. We may be checking the Centers for Disease Control website or our state government website for updates. Unfortunately, this sense of urgency will play right into a malicious actor's hands.

Malware

A malicious website "corona-virus-map[dot]com" (DO NOT GO TO THIS WEBSITE) appearing to be a Coronavirus COVID-19 global tracker has been circulating widely. It is designed to model an actual tracker developed by Johns Hopkins University. When users download the map, a Trojan virus is unleashed. The Trojan can grab sensitive information stored in your browser such as usernames and passwords and credit card information. This site is circulating via email attachment, malicious online advertisements, and social engineering.

This is the most popular COVID-19/Coronavirus scam right now, but expect other variations and stay on alert. Today it's a map, tomorrow it may take another form (e.g. free testing, apply for assistance). Check sender email addresses and hover over links to find website addresses before clicking or opening attachments.

Where to Turn

When you need to verify information surrounding COVID-19, please check the state or county health department website. These websites should be a reliable source for accurate and up-to-date information.

Disinformation

Outside the U.S., we've seen news reports about nationwide lockdowns and stories on rapidly rising spread of disease. Some states around the country have been closing schools and implementing bans on large gatherings. Policies vary from state to state and even county to county. You may hear rumors about what is coming to your state. If you hear or read something extreme, ask yourself:

Could this be disinformation?

If you find alarming information online, consider these questions before sharing or panicking:

- Is this a reputable news organization?
- Is this article sharing fact, opinion, or falsehoods?
- What is the intent of the article?



You may discover the authors are selling a product that claims to protect you from the virus. If that's the case, they have a vested interest in your panic.

In all honesty, this is uncharted territory for most of us and we can't be sure what's coming. But, we can evaluate our news carefully and avoid spreading panic and disinformation.

Protect yourself online by verifying all COVID-19 information before clicking, downloading, or sharing.



LUNCH HELPERS

A special thanks to Colleen Fuller, Theresa Nowak, and Donna Gerlach being on the front lines in handing out lunches to the families. Thank you for your dedication to the West Valley Community!



ADOPT A SENIOR

Let us all shower our 2020 graduating seniors with some extra love. Adopt a senior or two or more.

This year has been exceptionally difficult for the seniors. Their worlds have been turned upside down and they are missing out on many of the traditional senior experiences. We are hoping to rally community members to uplift the seniors' spirits and spread some love to them. We are asking community members to adopt a senior and support them by sending them a gift. The value of the gift should be between \$10-\$25. Any kind words would be appreciated as well. A searchable facebook group has been started, so feel free to search "Adopt a Senior from West Valley Class of 2020" in Facebook. Through this group you will be able to connect with a senior and spread some joy. You will have to request permission to be a part of the group and should receive approval quickly. Thanks for your continued support! Mr. Lembke & Mrs. George (Senior Class Advisors)



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/529872864559866/>



BRING YOUR PET TO SCHOOL DAY

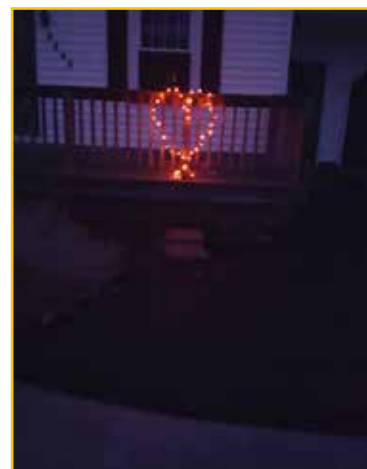
MRS. MYCHAJLUK

This week students in Mrs. Mychajluk's classes did some theme Teams meetings. Middle School students had a "Bring Your Pet to School Day." We had dogs, cats, kittens, a bearded dragon, chicks, ducklings, and a rabbit! High School and Middle School students also competed in a General Trivia Challenge on Kahoot and Quizizz. Bella Draine-Soto won for 11th grade, Ronni DuFrane won in the 8th Grade competition, and Maddie Winsor won for the 7th graders. Keep up the participation and online attendance.



TEACHERS AND STAFF SHOW OFF THEIR BIG HEARTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

If you have driven around town you may have seen hearts that are lit up in support of our community during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. A teacher's lunch group organized the project that followed Jen Seltzers lead and made hearts and hung them on the side of their house around the town. If you have seen one around, it may have put a smile on your face!



WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

MR. HANSEN

Do you remember the last time you walked on a beach? As you walked along you left footprints in the sand and as the water washed over those footprints they slowly disappeared. The beach is constantly changing just like life. Every time you walk along the beach it is slightly different than the last!

Over the last seven weeks we have been through a monumental change in life. The day-to-day grind that we once knew came to a complete halt due to the world pandemic that we are living in. This pandemic forced us to change our lives dramatically in a brief period of time.

This rapid change forced families, teachers, and administrators to quickly implement a new learning plan for the students of West Valley.

Advancing technology has always been a priority at WVCS, and it helped as everyone one was up to the task and sprang into action. During this time, there has been great collaboration between teachers and parents and students that has allowed for learning to continue and for students to grow through the use of technology.

Through all of this change we have all wondered if this was going to be the “new normal” or if we will ever be “returning to normal.” We do not fully know the answer to those questions yet, but I do know that as a community we are stronger and have grown more together in these last seven weeks. We as a district appreciate all the families and support people that have gone above and beyond to help the students be safe and have the ability to continue to learn.

Change is normal and it is also normal to question and wonder how the world will change as well. Through this time and moving forward through any other uncertain time that we might have, we have to continue to ask ourselves how

we can grow from this change. The world is ever changing and we must always remember that whatever change comes, how can we thrive in that change? We do not want to think of it as “returning to normal” or as a “new normal.” Rather we want to think of it as returning as someone who has changed for the better and ready to thrive in an ever-changing world.

I am so proud to have grown up in West Valley and to still be a part of this wonderful community and exceptional school district. We have faced many waves of change over the years, but none may have been as big as the change we are in right now. Even though we have been apart during this time, the benefits of technology has helped keep us together. I am so proud of all the families, teachers, and community members that have stepped up to support each other during this time.

Thank you to all for your tireless work to help the students of West Valley continue to grow and learn.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

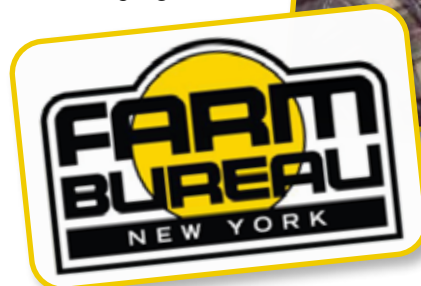
Students in Ms. George’s Living Environment class competed in a class competition known as “Hidden in Plain Sight” for their unit on Evolution. The task was to cut out a butterfly shape from any materials they had at home and decorate them to hide the butterfly in plain sight. Ben Fisher’s butterfly was see-through! Whereas Kayleann Kowalski’s butterfly on the “Farmer’s Market” painting at her house stumped dozens of people and really had them thinking they were crazy! For her efforts, Kayleann received a book, Darwin and Evolution for Kids, and a butterfly coloring book. **Can you spot the butterfly in the pictures?**



NYS FARM BUREAU 2020 SCHOLARSHIP



Justin Seltzer was chosen as the Cattaraugus winner for the NYS Farm Bureau 2020 Scholarship. Justin completed the application along with writing an essay discussing an issue agriculture faces in their county. In addition to the scholarship, he was asked to speak about his essay at a local meeting, when they resume normal sessions. Justin will be attending Alfred State in the fall for heavy equipment/diesel technician program.



3RD GRADE NEWS

On March 17th, the world of education changed like we have never experienced before. Suddenly, we found ourselves in a situation where being together to learn had to change. Looking back at the last several weeks, I am amazed and seriously impressed with my colleagues, parents and students. Even though remote learning in no way replaces the classroom experience, I have witnessed kids and parents rising to meet the challenge we faced. Has it been perfect, no. Have we learned a lot, yes. It is with great honor that I share a peek at the third grade as they continue to rise to meet the challenges I set and how we continue to connect in a very different way.



This is a picture of our daily class meeting. We check in with each other and share how we are doing. Sometimes I do a little lesson. Then we end with a read aloud. As you can see, more than just 3rd graders join us. Often pets, siblings, parents or stuffed friends are there to join the fun.



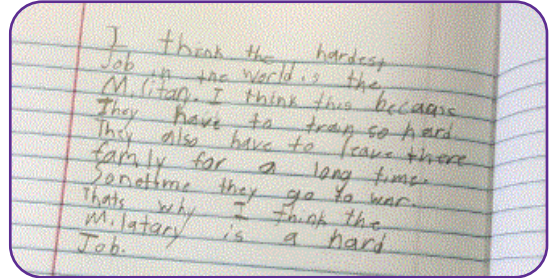
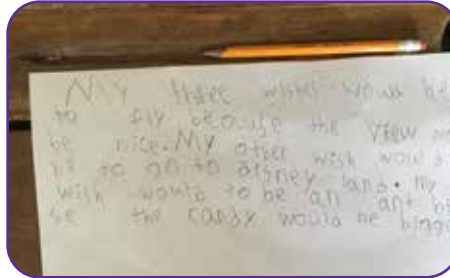
of reading Dogman today!

I did 30 minutes

Ryan Bartz reads to his dog Baylee.

Lawrence, Madison 1:51 PM Edited

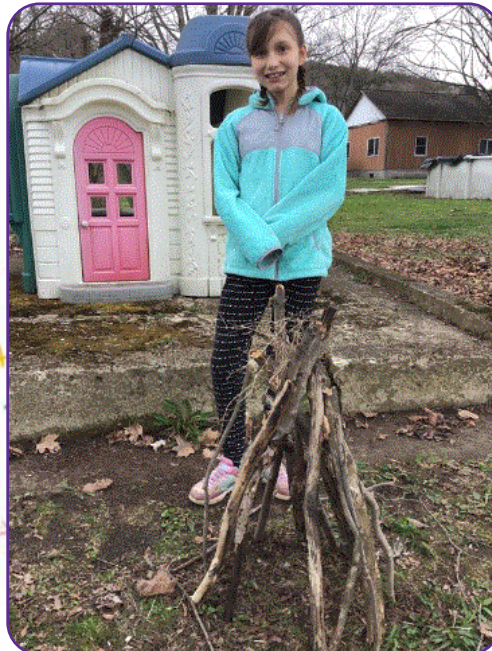
If I could decorate my room any way I want I would have a big slide out my window because it would be lots of fun to go outside when ever I want. I would also have a lot of slime jars on my wall because I like to play with slime. I also would have a big panting and a big money safe because I would hide my money in it. I would also all my walls would be splashed in paint because it would look so pretty. I would also have a TV in my room because I would want to watch movies on it



Madison Lawrence shares a description of her ideal room.

Ryley Foster shares his opinion of the hardest job in the world and why.

Archer Clarkson shares his three wishes.



Students get creative as they meet the STEAM challenges that Mrs. Thiel posts weekly.



4TH GRADE NEWS

MRS. DIX

I want to begin by saying thank you to my 4th grade parents. Your continued support and communication has really made this transition to remote learning easier.

With that said, 4th graders have been absolute ROCKSTARS these past several weeks. Not only have these kiddos learned how to navigate new learning websites, they've also learned how to successfully navigate Teams! They've expanded their Math and English Language Arts skills through IXL.com and KidsA-Z.com, where I am able to monitor their progress and adjust assignments to better meet their needs.

The 4th graders have also been using Brainpop.com to explore topics in Social Studies and Science. In addition, they've had the opportunity to participate in weekly STEAM challenges-which they really seem to enjoy! They've been trying out Flipgrid.com to record reflections on these challenges, as well as explore other Science topics.

Students have the option to video chat with me through Teams at anytime during the school day. Aside from that, we have daily Zoom meetings as a class, where we chat about our day, share exciting news, and learn new things! We recently had a 4th grade Show and Tell, where kiddos were able to share things from their home. The kids had a great time with it, and so did I!

This transition has been far from perfect, however as we learn to navigate this 'new normal' together, I couldn't be more proud of my students. They impress me every single day, and it's so enjoyable to see a side of them that I wouldn't typically see in the classroom setting. I believe that living during this historical pandemic will make them stronger individuals. We will get through this. Together.



MISS GALVIN CONTINUES WITH VIRUAL FUN

Over the last month and a half, my class has made huge strides with virtual learning. My students have been slowly getting used to the daily schedule and continue to show progress as the weeks go on. One key factor in making virtual instruction possible is the support of our parents. I would like to personally thank you for encouraging and motivating your children to join us online.

We have started to incorporate our Fun Friday's virtually. The class took part in a virtual BINGO game and the winners were rewarded in prizes which were sent to their homes in the mail. It was honestly the most fun I've had in a long time since we've been quarantined. There were times during the game when the kids had me laughing so hard! It truly made me miss them and those types of moments we shared in the classroom at school. I want to continue to have these opportunities for my students, so they can enjoy this type of interaction with their classmates regularly.

Thank you to all our West Valley frontline workers out there! This is history in the making and I am so proud of WVCS and its ability to adapt so well to this pandemic. Stay Healthy



MUSIC

MR. COLE

West Valley Music has gone mobile. From the classroom to the Cloud, a lot of changes have been happening. First, Mr. Cole's home studio has become his new classroom. He has been slowly transitioning the studio workspace from a music recording room to a lesson recording room. From the classroom to the internet, Mr. Cole and students have gone from a spacious room in the school building to bedrooms, kitchen tables, living room couches and an 8x11 studio including a green screen to create some depth and interesting backdrops.

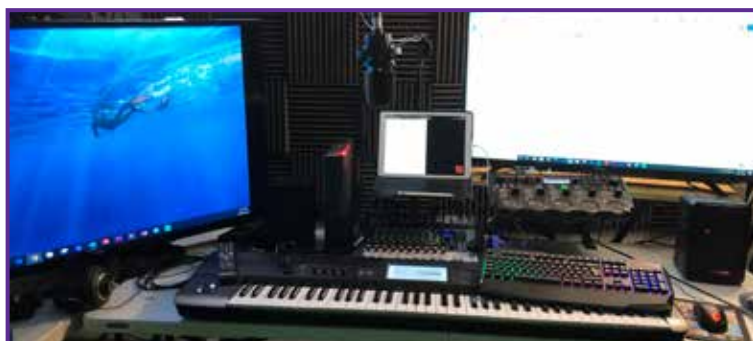
Teaching real time face to face in class has turned into an asynchronous classroom environment where students can virtually create their own schedules and access lessons at their own pace and convenience while completing assignments through Smart Music online with multiple opportunities to practice and test on content. The flipped classroom is a model that's been around for a while, and is the model

Mr. Cole is using to give students the most content, flexibility and support. He has started posting recorded classes in Microsoft Teams for students to view. This gives them the ability to pause, rewind, practice and perfect the material they need in order to complete assignments. Once they have finished watching their videos, they have direct access to Mr. Cole through Teams in order to ask questions, get clarification and help. They have the ability through Smart Music to practice and test multiple times until they get the grade they want.

Class content and lesson videos across each level include rounds, sing along songs, solo repertoire, sight reading, music theory and terminology. It's not ideal but every day Mr. Cole is focused on improving the content, delivery, and accessibility for every student. At this point the video lessons combined with the Smart Music lessons have the most accessibility for students participating in the music program. Congratulations to all of the students who have taken the initiative to learn, put in the effort to participate in Microsoft Team meetings, created Smart Music accounts, sought out help and direction from Mr. Cole and other teachers

and have taken responsibility for partnering with teachers to further their own educational development through this challenging time.

In addition to regular classroom content, Mr. Cole has created a daily sing along online called "Mr. Cole's Music in the Cloud". Originally, Mr. Cole intended for this to be a substitute for Pre-K through 4th Grade students as they have lost their weekly music classes as a result of the school shutdown. After just a few short weeks, the page has 179 followers with regular viewers in New York State including the cities of Olean, West Valley, Springville, Allegany, Portville, Hamburg, Machias, Ashford Hollow and Buffalo. There have also been viewers from PA, TX, OH, FL, TN, and even one from Thailand. Altogether, in the month of April there has been over 10,000 minutes of content viewed on the site. Mr. Cole has had a lot of fun singing along with and interacting with students, parents, teachers and administrators from multiple schools, towns, cities, states and countries. Check it out at 11:30 AM on weekdays for some simple, fun, kids songs to sing along with.



NUESTRA AVENTURA DE APRENDIZAJE DE DISTANCIA

OUR REMOTE LEARNING ADVENTURE

What does a day in Spanish look like during this season of remote learning? Most of the Spanish classes meet every day with a 20-30 minute live video meeting in Teams. When it's time for Spanish, students log into their Spanish class where they are greeted with a roll call announcement with a "Would you rather" question as a silly check-in.

Here's a few we've done:

- Would you rather eat your favorite food for every meal for the rest of your life or never be able to eat your favorite meal again?
- Would you rather invent a new gadget or discover a new species?
- Would you rather have to dress all in bright orange or all in lime green for the rest of your life?
- Would you rather have a pet tiger or a pet sloth?
- Would you rather be a tadpole or a caterpillar?

Next we join the live link and say "Buenos días." During lesson time students can see each other – and me, their teacher. We can interact through the Team posting in the chat stream, and we can use the digital tools and games we enjoyed before we started learning from home.

Nearpod lets me project slides and activities directly on to students' screens and give them immediate feedback one question or drawing at a time. With matching cards as the first activity, students can review the vocabulary from yesterday as others get signed on. During the lesson, they will write or type directly on question screens or all post on the same collaboration board while I can see their responses and give them feedback in real time. But no week is complete without at least one round of Time to Climb.

Two other game sites we use to practice vocabulary and have fun during our meetings are Quizlet Live and JoinMyQuiz. Sometimes we play as teams and sometimes its individual competition with these gamified multiple-choice practice quizzes. Ask your Spanish student about the "Power ups" and Spanish memes in JoinMyQuiz.

For independent work, students are continuing to use Teams assignments with a variety of practices that often use the PowerPoint platform as the template for their work, even though they're not giving presentations. These assignments let them personalize their learning, adding text and pictures.

A new kind of assignment we've been using is Flipgrid. Students record 30-90 second videos in Spanish.

Flipgrid

- Meet some Spanish 2 students
<https://flipgrid.com/+lewis8515>
- Spanish 7 student weather reporters
<https://flipgrid.com/+lewis7356>



*Flipgrid - QR Code
Meet Spanish 2 Students*



*Flipgrid - QR Code
Spanish 7 Weather Reports*

I'm really proud of our students who are working hard and "coming" to class. Spanish 7 students start every morning with me, right at 8:00. We meet just about every day and our attendance record is 75% or higher. That's great commitment.

Here's what we're working on right now:

- Spanish 6 – Animals of all sorts – on the farm, in the woods, in the ocean, from the jungle, in the air and in our homes
- Spanish 7 – Seasons – the months, the weather and activities we do in them
- Spanish 8 – Emotions – from happy all the way to frustrated and everything in between
- Spanish 2 (9th grade) – Giving and following directions in town
- Spanish 3 (10th grade) – Camping and cooking outside

All of our Spanish classes are moving right along and building new Spanish vocabulary. It can't be the same as if we were together in school, but they are doing a fantastic job of continuing to learn!



WEEKLY STEAM CHALLENGES

Students have been busy completing STEAM Challenges every week. The challenges are sent out every Thursday and students have the week to complete and share their creations. It has been awesome seeing their hard work. They have made creative and beautiful flowers from all kinds of materials. They designed treehouses and forts from branches and blankets. Students learned about the effect of vinegar on an egg, and enjoyed making their eggs bounce. Rainbows were everywhere one week as students discovered how capillary action works. Students also made umbrellas to protect us from all the rain that has been falling. To celebrate Earth Week, students were engineers that used recycled materials to design airplanes, planters, binoculars, and so many other amazing ideas. The students have done an awesome job, and they are learning while they are having fun!



ART CORNER

The art department has been working hard during our home school instruction. We have been meeting a few times a week using Teams. Students are excited to see each other. This allows them to interact with their teacher during this difficult time. Students have been creating projects and displaying them. We have been using our West Valley Parent Facebook page to post projects for parents and children to try at home. This is a way for parents to interact with their child during this most difficult time. Make sure you're checking this page for new and exciting projects to try at home.

Art and the act of making art continues to be beneficial for West Valley students. Many people have found extra time on their hands over the past month and have picked up or returned to creative hobbies. It's great that so many are experiencing the benefits of creating. Aside from it being a healthy and constructive use of time, there is a reason for making art specific to our current needs. According to professor and art therapy researcher, Girija Kaimal, art can help you be hopeful about the future (*Journal of the American Art Therapy Association*). Students in 6th through 12th grade have been creating at home with a variety of materials. Most of the projects shown were assigned and include recycled sculptures, earth works inspired by Andy Goldsworthy, photography, creative drawing exercises, and paintings. Even without the art room's supplies or in-person teacher support, West Valley students continue to inspire us with their creativity and resourcefulness.



Artist's Choice - Alex Fisher



Bird House - Wyatt Jackson



Coffee Painting - Caitlyn Cizdziel



Computer Art - Maddie Winsor



Character with a Found Object - Presley Soderlund



Work in Progress - Luke Defoe



Future - Bella Draine-Soto



Earth Art - Kayleann Kowalski



Found Object Color Wheel - Brendon Ghani



Photography - Liz Buzcek



Photography - Kayleann Kowalski



Drawing - Khari Fish



Photography - Morgan Drake



Untitled - Sandra Hebdon



Recycled Robot - Walker Herbert



Recycled Castle - Tyler Trimm



Stick Person and Sticks - Payton Ehnes

"THE MIRACLE MORNING" AND WVCS JUNIORS

In light of National Poetry Month and our current new normal, Ms. Koutsandreas' 11th grade English classes read, analyzed, and discussed "The Miracle of Morning," a poem responding to the COVID-19 pandemic written by U.S. Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman. These students were given the task of capturing the essence of this poem using visual media. Their finished products are the visual deconstruction you see here. Ms. Koutsandreas and her students hope that the messages of human resilience and the strength of a global community that lie in these images will resonate with you and provide some light in these uncertain times. The original poem as well as a select number of student deconstructions are included below:

The Miracle of Morning

By Amanda Gorman, Youth Poet Laureate

I thought I'd awaken to a world in mourning.
Heavy clouds crowding, a society storming.
But there's something different on this golden morning.
Something magical in the sunlight, wide and warming.
I see a dad with a stroller taking a jog.
Across the street, a bright-eyed girl chases her dog.
A grandma on a porch fingers her rosaries.
She grins as her young neighbor brings her groceries.
While we might feel small, separate, and all alone,
Our people have never been more closely tethered.
The question isn't if we will weather this unknown,
But how we will weather this unknown together.
So on this meaningful morn, we mourn and we mend.
Like light, we can't be broken, even when we bend.
As one, we will defeat both despair and disease.
We stand with healthcare heroes and all employees;
With families, libraries, schools, waiters, artists;
Businesses, restaurants, and hospitals hit hardest.
We ignite not in the light, but in lack thereof,
For it is in loss that we truly learn to love.
In this chaos, we will discover clarity.
In suffering, we must find solidarity.
For it's our grief that gives us our gratitude,
Shows us how to find hope, if we ever lose it.
So ensure that this ache wasn't endured in vain:
Do not ignore the pain. Give it purpose. Use it.
Read children's books, dance alone to DJ music.
Know that this distance will make our hearts grow fonder.
From a wave of woes our world will emerge stronger.
We'll observe how the burdens braved by humankind
Are also the moments that make us humans kind;
Let every dawn find us courageous, brought closer;
Heeding the light before the fight is over.
When this ends, we'll smile sweetly, finally seeing
In testing times, we became the best of beings.

when it gets too hard , always remember, there is light at the end of the tunnel from a wave of woes our world will emerge stronger. We will return to normal, and life will come back. it will just take some time.



Deconstruction
Alexander Fisher



Deconstruction
Kaley McCracken



Deconstruction
Chloe Chai



Deconstruction
Isabella Draine-Soto



Deconstruction
Leah Seltzer





Create your own at Storyboard That

*Deconstruction
Aaron Ignatowski*

MINI BIKE PROJECT

Although we are in a new virtual world of teaching right now, the small engine class was able to share the experience of one of our minibike builds through a series of videos in our online classroom. Before school was closed in March, the class had begun the process of building a small motorcycle in the shop. We went through the process of preparing the frame and front forks for paint. Students had the opportunity to experience how to properly fine sand and clean the metal before applying multiple coats of enamel paint. As a Tech teacher, almost all learning in a "regular" setting is through hands-on projects. After brainstorming about how to complete this part of the class, the only option that became clear was to complete the build at home in my garage and document it through instructional videos for the students to watch, review, and report on. A nice Honda 5.5 horsepower motor with the right sized shaft was removed from an old air compressor to power the bike. After some basic tuning and maintenance on the motor and the installation of the required centrifugal clutch, the project came alive. Overall, it was a neat experience making instructional videos and the students seem to enjoy the project. It may not be the same as working in the shop, but hopefully learning took place and gave them some added confidence if they ever build a project similar to this one.



*Deconstruction
Julianna Belz*



*Deconstruction
Alyssa Smith*



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

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West Valley, NY 14171
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Kim Cizdziel, Vice-President
Michael Harmony
Darla Kent
Stephen Kowalski
Gary Niesyty
Dawn Samborski

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Eric Lawton, Superintendent
Mr. Daniel Amodeo, Pre-K-12 Principal and
District Curriculum Coordinator

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PTO SAYS THANK YOU

A big "Thank You" to our community, school, neighbors, friends, family, staff and all who participated in the PTO spring plant sale fundraiser. A great big Thank You to Chuck and Phyllis Couture of Fox Valley Greenhouse for all their help in making this happen. They are staunch supporters of our school. Thank you to all students who sold plants to friends and family. Thank you to the community members who sold at their places of work and those who ordered from the newsletter! We had a great sale considering the pandemic and its restrictions on us. The WVCS PTO raises money to supplement programs at WVCS that would not otherwise be in the regular school budget. The funds are distributed across all age levels through many different avenues. We offer support to programs for our students without looking for recognition. We try to support activities and opportunities that will expand our school and our students. Our goal is to provide our students with opportunities to grow and reach their potential through a variety of experiences.



Congratulations to our top sellers. Without all of you we would not be nearly so successful.

1. Dominic Fuller
2. Nick Peters/Madison Lawrence & Brody Lawrence
3. Raymond Tharnish
4. Janay/Brendon Ghani
5. Lorelai Fish
6. Jacob and Henry Frank
7. Karson Heitman

Remember that flower pick up is at the Fox Valley Greenhouse on May 18th and May 20th with pick up time being 9AM-7PM.