



THE BLACKBIRD BUGLER

JEFFREY P. VIVENZIO PRINCIPAL

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HERE'S TO HOPING THAT FALL WILL FINALLY ARRIVE!!



It was great to see everyone again at each of our Open House events. As you could see we changed the format of our Open House this year. We were trying to give you the opportunity to spend as much time as possible with your teachers. As always, I appreciate the amount of support we have here at VES. We continued to have outstanding overall attendance with 94% of our VES families attending one (or more) of the three open house programs. Fantastic work everyone!!

We are off to another great start here at VES. September flew by as we had four day weeks throughout most of the month.

I wanted to thank everyone at VES and in our community for all of their support with the Ride for Missing Children. This is such an amazing event and raises awareness for so many families that have lost their children and family members. Mrs. Beauregard and I were honored to take the 100 mile journey to help raise awareness. VES was the first stop on this journey and we really got it started the right way. We even had News Channel 10 come out to see our students!! We look forward to them visiting us again next year.

If you didn't have the opportunity to read the Times Union this past week, Voorheesville Central School District was rated as the top district for grades 3-8 testing this year. I just wanted to take the opportunity to recognize all of our families and teaching staff for all of their hard work and efforts to make VES such an awesome place to work.

October continues to be fire safety month and we continue to take a variety of steps to ensure the safety of your children. The more we practice these safety measures, the more comfortable your children become with each routine.

We will continue to have a total of 12 drills throughout the school year, but we will be increasing the number of lockdown drills we practice based on new guidelines.

Fire Drills- over the course of a school year, we are now required to complete 8 fire drills. We use this as an opportunity to remind students of the importance of a quiet, swift exit from the building. We practice these drills at various points in the day so that students are well-prepared should a drill become a reality. We continue to make adjustments to improve our procedures when necessary.

Lock Down Drills- lock down drills (drills in which the building is secured from the outside and students remain quiet and inconspicuous in the classroom) will now be conducted four times a year should there be a threat to our school. We recently completed a drill in September, and will follow up with more practice throughout the year.

Bus Safety- we are fortunate to have very highly skilled, trained, and experienced drivers running our elementary routes. On September 13th, each grade-level experienced 30 minutes of on-bus safety training, in which the rules of the bus were reviewed to ensure students recognize why it is important to remain in seats, listen to driver directions (even if it is a substitute driver), and to ensure they are prepared to act appropriately should there be an emergency. Bus safety and appropriate behavior is something we take extremely serious at VES, in that, unlike a classroom, our vehicles are supervised by individuals behind a wheel who need and should be devoting their entire attention to the road. Eye contact off the road to remedy poor behavior only raises the risk of an accident, hence why we instill the importance of nothing short of perfect behavior for student

transport to and from school. Also, while there are ten official rules to the bus, seating has and always will be at the discretion of the bus driver, just as much as classroom seating is at the discretion of the teacher (i.e.- fifth graders always get to sit in the back of the bus, etc.).

Playground Safety- playing safe on our amazing new playground is reviewed by our lunch aides, and also, our physical education teachers to ensure students can have an enjoyable experience when on our creative structure. We have strong support both in the cafeteria and on the playground to ensure students are behaving appropriately towards themselves and each other.

Please join me as we welcome Danielle Vandever as our School Resource Officer for the 2018-2019 school year.

Even though we are only a few weeks into the school year, our lost and found bins are pretty full. When you stop by for pick-up or when you stop by the book fair, please be sure to check our bins for any lost items. They are located across from the 2nd floor stairwell when you enter the main entrance.

This year, a number of our community members took part in the 2018 Teal Ribbon/Walk in Albany on September 9, 2018 to support our very own Dr. Morgan. Please take a look at this incredible story attached to the bugler. We are very appreciative of all the support that she received from our amazing community. Great work everyone!!

Thanks in advance for all of your continued support!!

Jeffrey P. Vivenzio



Ride for Missing Children at VES



UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

October 2nd-4th- Book Fair in VES Conference Room 3-7 p.m.

October 3rd- PTA Family Fun Night 6:15 p.m. in VES Library

October 4th- Go Home Early Drill. Students dismiss @ 2:55 p.m. and parent pick-up @ 2:45

October 5th- Cheepers K-2

October 5th- Fall Picture Day at VES

October 8th- Columbus Day (No School)

October 15th- BOE Meeting in JHS Library at 7:00 p.m.

October 18th- PTA Meeting in VES Library 7 p.m.

October 20th- Cheepers (3-5)

October 31st- VES Halloween Parade 2:30 p.m. in between the school and the playground.

REMINDERS CONTINUED

Please use the following directory for your convenience:

Voorheesville Elementary School 765-2382

Jeffrey P. Vivenzio Principal

School Nurse:

Colleen Brackett 765-2382 Ext. 506

Attendance Office:

cparker@voorheesville.org or 765-2382 Ext. 514

Kid's Club Program (afterschool) 765-2043

Christine Abelseth, Director

Transportation Department:

Mike Goyer 765-2382 Ext. 508

Priscilla Clark 765-2382 Ext. 521

REMINDERS

A reminder from Ms. Brackett:

Dear Parents/Guardians,

New York State law requirements for health examinations and in-school health screenings have changed. The new regulations require health exams for **all NEW entrants** and students **entering the following grades:**

K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th

The examination must be completed by a New York State licensed physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner. *A copy of the health examination must be provided to the school within 30 days from start of the school year.* If your child has an appointment for an exam during this school year that is after the first 30 days of school, please notify the Health Office with the date.



PARENTS: Please be sure to use the side-walks at the end of the day when you pick your students up and are returning to your vehicle. **It is very dangerous to walk between the buses.**



When sending money in with your student, please be sure it is in an envelope labeled with your child's FULL name, the teachers name and what the money is for (ie, lunch, field trip).

Remember to sign-up for SNN! This will allow immediate email updates about events and procedures at V.E.S. Please visit <http://Voorheesville.org> for further information.

Moving To the Music

A story of an unrelenting spirit that fought and beat cancer, and the making of a village.

There is a saying, "It takes a village." When I became a parent, I finally understood what this meant. In order to be able to accomplish many of life's events your children and you have simultaneously, it takes the support of family and friends.

This saying "ran" through my head as I ran the 2018 Teal Ribbon Run/Walk in Albany, NY on September 9, 2018. What would make me think of this saying as I am huffing and puffing my way through Washington Park, you may ask? Well, grab a few tissues, and pull up a seat.

Her name is Dr. Mary Teresa Morgan. She has been a teacher since 1986. In September of 1992, she began a music teaching career at Voorheesville Elementary School. Dr. Morgan is inspired by music. She loves music, and she adores teaching it. In late July of 2006, Dr. Morgan's life took an unpredicted turn, as life often does. This turn was down a dark and twisty road. She was diagnosed with grade 3 aggressive Ovarian Cancer. "I shouldn't be here," Dr. Morgan told me. She fought, and she fought hard. She had the support of her students, family and friends. She had her faith. Dr. Morgan underwent surgery on August 14, 2007 and then began six rigorous months of chemo therapy. The odds were against her, but she pushed back hard, and won. She *BEAT* Ovarian Cancer. Once the chemo treatments were over, Dr. Morgan had to take time to heal. It took two years after the last chemo treatment for her body to completely recover. After she beat the cancer, she became an advocate for Ovarian Cancer Awareness. She started walking the Teal Ribbon Walk/Run in Albany, NY. She would go with a friend or three, and show her support. Prior to cancer, Dr. Morgan was healthy, and active, she used to run 5ks. Although the cancer and the surgery may have changed up her exercise routine, she is still out in the community, fighting to cure Ovarian Cancer.

Dr. Morgan explained to me that she only had a sizable team for the Teal Ribbon Run/Walk for 3 years following her surgery. The first year, she was home in a wheelchair recovering from surgery, but many Voorheesville community members went to the walk for her and they won the award for the largest team. The members of the Varsity Girls Basketball Team and the VES Teachers were heavily involved in organizing the event. At the 2017 Teal Ribbon Run/Walk a Voorheesville mom and resident Jennifer Grant ran into Dr. Morgan. Jen was unaware Dr. Morgan was a survivor.

Many of the families in Jen and my children's generation in Voorheesville were not aware of Dr. Morgan's story. So, when Jennifer Grant heard Dr. Morgan's survivor's story, she decided to bring the story to light again, and keep the fire burning. At the end of the 2017-2018 school year, every Voorheesville Elementary School student brought home an invitation for the 2018 Teal Ribbon Run/Walk. Jen took time to create and send out the invitation to all the students' families. Included was an invite to join her in

a Couch to 5k running program in Voorheesville to prepare for this run/walk. In the beginning paragraphs of the invitation were a first person account of Dr. Morgan's victorious battle with Ovarian Cancer. The name of the group that runs and walks for Dr. Morgan is MT's Troupe. Shirts were designed in Dr. Morgan's honor. Dr. Morgan stated to me that she thinks Jen "is an angel." Jennifer Grant is most certainly an angel, I think many would agree. I have known Jennifer Grant in passing over the past few years, but this summer and fall I got to know her as I ran with her, and she pushed me, and inspired me. She chatted away as we ran, to take our mind off the fatigue and pain of running. Always with a "you can do it" attitude, Jennifer Grant showed me I can achieve my goals. She has become a friend to me, and becomes a friend to all she meets.

Race day came, and I hate to admit to this, but I had never met Dr. Morgan in person. My oldest son is now a fifth grader! Yet, I now had my chance, and I was so inspired by her story, I waited with extreme excitement. Dr. Morgan is a picture of pure joy. Radiant curly hair that frames a face of beauty and blue eyes that sparkle with life and happiness. She smiles with her eyes. I arrived at the race with a couple other women. Dr. Morgan and one of the women embraced. Dr. Morgan thanked her for coming out to support her and the fight against Ovarian Cancer. My other friend then walked up and hugged Dr. Morgan. As Dr. Morgan came over to *me* to express her gratitude, I watched as her face began to slowly contort to one of surprise, and genuine awe. One by one people waited patiently for their turn to hug the fighter, the survivor, the one and only Dr. Morgan. As Dr. Morgan turned to face the growing line of supporters, she placed her hands on her cheeks. She explained how most other years only a handful of supporters would join her in her successful fight against Ovarian Cancer. This year? 88. This is the number of runners and walkers in the 2018 MT's Troupe. This is only the beginning. The look of awe, surprise and gratefulness on Dr. Morgan's face was one that will always be etched in my memory. The Voorheesville community came together for a great cause. To support a phenomenal woman who fought and won against a horrible beast. It really does take a village to accomplish great things. This time The Village of Voorheesville joined together to support Dr. Morgan in bringing awareness of this silent disease, and to support in the fight for a cure. The Voorheesville Community will continue to march forward, moving to the music of Dr. Morgan's inspiring story of fighting cancer to its end.

Dr. Morgan and her Troupe at the 2017 Teal Ribbon Run/Walk (below)





Dr. Morgan and her Troupe at the 2018 Teal Ribbon Run/Walk (above)