Principal’s Message

Dear Viers Mill Family,

Tis the season for getting great books! Educating our youth is a collaborative process. That goes without saying; however, simply put we cannot do this without you. Thank you to all who attended our conference day(s), supported our Book Fair and volunteered for field trips. Your positive influence is noticed and appreciated. Since being here, I have often spoken of moving parent involvement to parent engagement. It is because of you and the wonderfully, dedicated and innovative teachers that we are seeing gains in student achievement. We are moving forward with a laser-like focus on all children. There is urgency in this moment that requires us to summon the best in our humanity to meet the needs of the Whole Child.

The question that begs an answer is, “Where do we go from here?” The future is about providing access to opportunities. An essential focus is on STEM or STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics) related activities. As we develop this concept at our school it is clear that engaging our scholars in answering questions about the written text materials in all content areas will be a major emphasis. Teaching students how to become active readers is essential to being college and career ready. Students will be provided with ongoing strategies that allow students to make sense of the world through the written text. These strategies assist our students in making connections between their lives and other texts. Reading opens doors that can never be closed and offers a lifetime of enjoyment, intellectual gratification and upward mobility.

Further, having a STEAM focus is about the development of the whole child. The Arts integration is a pivotal component of this process. The means that Art, Physical Education, and Media/Library time will infuse science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In addition, after school clubs will emphasize this same process. These processes will engage students in fun, creative, challenging and engaging lessons each and every day. The gift of instilling a thirst of knowledge is the gift that keeps on giving.

From me to all of you... Happy Holidays! May the season be filled with joy, laughter, incredible food and family.

Yours in Service,
Michael Powell
Michael Powell

Our Mission

To advance the level of achievement of all Viers Mill students’ reading comprehension in all content areas. All students will exceed the state guidelines for adequate yearly progress in reading as measured on the PARCC test. We will achieve our goal through high quality teaching, effective use of resources and empowerment of students, parents and community.

December ~ Save the Dates

December 11th
7:00pm to 8:30pm   Winter Musical

December 16th
6:30pm  PTA Meeting in the

December 23rd through December 31st
No school - Winter Break

January 4th
Return from Winter Break

12/4 - Movie Night - Inside Out, Schools
APR, 6:30-8:30pm

12/16 - PTA Meeting, Schools Media Center, 6:30-8pm
From Mrs. Hildebrant, Assistant Principal

Dear Parents,

We are well into our second marking period and our students are well engaged in their learning. We had a great turnout during our Parent Conferences. It is clear that our Viers Mill families and staff are all working hard to ensure that each student is experiencing success and accomplishment in learning.

As the holidays approach, please make plans for spending time in reading with your children, writing journals, and solving math problems through following recipes over Thanksgiving and the winter holiday breaks. It is amazing how a few minutes a day with these types of activities help students to not forget many of the skills they are working on each day here at school. For example, it would be fun to go to the local library to enjoy a reading activity with the family. We wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday!

Our closest library at Kensington Park is closed for renovations but you can visit the Twinbrook Library! Located at 202 Meadow Hall Drive, Rockville, MD 20851, phone: 240-777-0240

Best regards,
Elba Hildebrant

PTA News

12/4 - Movie Night - Inside Out, Schools APR, 6:30-8:30pm

12/16 - PTA Meeting, Schools Media Center, 6:30-8pm

Keep an eye out for snowflakes for teachers. Flyers coming home soon.

Thank you,

Amber Tedesco
Dear Parents,

It was so nice to see so many of you at our quarter one award’s assembly on Friday, November 13th. For quarter one, students received Principal’s list and Perseverance awards. For quarter two, students will continue to receive the Principal’s list award, and we are adding the RESPECT award. Each staff member will nominate one student that shows Respect at all times: to classmates, to teachers, with materials and the school environment.

-Mrs. Scott

Congratulations to the following quarter one recipients:

**Perseverance Award:**

**Principal’s List:**

Thank you for donating food to our annual Kids Helping Kids food drive.

Due to your generosity, our Viers Mill community was able to donate 653 pounds of food to help fight childhood hunger in the state of Maryland.

Programs like these help to encourage our children to be the next generation of anti-hunger advocates.

- Joanne Tegethoff
Reading Nook News ~ Ms. Melissa Johnson

Reading comprehension is a focus this year with our students. Walking away from a book with a new understanding, idea, or connection to real life is a big goal for your child. Teaching reading comprehension strategies gives your child the skills they need to read to learn and for enjoyment! Teachers at every grade level are teaching a variety of comprehension strategies. Each month, we will highlight one for you to bring into reading with your child at home.

Comprehension Strategy Highlight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>What it means</th>
<th>What you can do at home</th>
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<tr>
<td>Self-monitoring “Stop and Think”</td>
<td>Self-monitoring is the ability to monitor comprehension during reading and adjust reading comprehension strategies to make meaning of the text. Readers need to monitor their comprehension to check whether the text they are reading or listening to makes sense or not. They can identify information that is comprehensible and information that is not. They are able to adjust their reading depending on their purpose.</td>
<td>Questions to ask: Does it look right? Does it sound right? Does it make sense? What tricked you? Say Something- Place sticky notes in a book that you are sharing with your child. These are your stopping points where you both can “Say Something” about the book. It can be a big idea, a new connection, a question, a brief summary or what surprised you.</td>
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Winter Wonderland Book Recommendations

**Picture Books:**
- The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
- Snow by Cynthia Rylant
- Snowballs by Lois Ehlert
- Snowmen at Night by Carolyn Buehner
- No Two Alike by Keith Baker
- The Hat by Jan Brett
- Snow Party by Harriet Ziefert

**Chapter Books:**
- The Long Winter by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink
- Snow Treasure by Marie McSwigan
- Mr. Popper’s Penguins by Richard and Florence Atwater
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis
**Important Reminders**

How Do I find out that the Schools are closed or going to be closing?

**School closing announcements are made on:**
- The MCPS Web site home page:
  - http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org
- Cable channel 34
- The weather line, 301-279-3673 – e-mail news service (Available in Six Languages).
- *QuickNotes* @ www.mcpsQuickNotes.org

Students and parents can also access information on local TV and radio stations. For early morning decisions, road inspection begins at 3:00 AM so that a decision can be forwarded to the media in time for the 5:00 AM broadcasts. The decision will also be available online by 5:00 AM. In case of an early dismissal, all announcements will be made by 11:00 AM.

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**Snowflakes** – If you would like to show your appreciation for a specific teacher or staff member this holiday season, look for a snowflake with the staff’s name on it. The PTA has posted snowflakes in the front entrance of the school that have ideas and requests from staff members. If you would like to get that item for the teacher, simply take the snowflake down and bring in that item any time before the holiday break.

**During the winter months** please make sure your child wears a coat, gloves, and a hat to school. We go outside for recess for 20-30 minutes even on cold days. Please let Mrs. Scott, Ms. Hildebrant or your child’s teacher know if your child could use some donated coats, gloves or hats.