

The Villager

Village Elementary School

10632 Hibner, Hartland, MI 48353 ■ Phone: 810-626-2850 ■ Fax: 810-626-2851 ■ <http://village.hartlandschools.us>

December Calendar

December 1 - 3 ■ Santa's BOGO Book Fair

December 7-9 ■ Santa Shop

December 13 ■ BOE Meeting – 6pm

December 16 ■ Holiday Festivus Spirit Day

December 17 ■ Record's Day – No School

December 20 – January 2 ■ Winter Recess

January 3 ■ School Resumes

School Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:50-3:50pm

Fridays

8:50-2:50pm

Please note that students are only permitted to enter the building at

8:40 for breakfast. All other students may enter the building

Reflecting

How do you move forward on the day after a tragedy? December is supposed to be filled with the magic of the holidays, where nature covers our landscape in its beautiful snowy blanket. Unfortunately, for the students and families of Oxford Schools this time will forever be marred by the tragic events of November 30.

What then do you I say to our Village community who entrusts us with their most precious possessions each day? First and foremost, thank you for allowing us to love your students as we love our own children. We feel blessed to be a part of the life story of your student. Secondly, this is a time for us to reflect. Our staff and students must reflect on our practices to ensure that we are maintaining a safe environment, assessing credible threats, and making sure that we are supporting our student's emotional well-being in order to, hopefully, imbue them with coping skills. Finally, it is a time to snuggle our children and tell them how special they are. I speak as both a mother and the principal when I say, that making sure that your child feels loved and supported is the greatest gift, we can ever give them.

If you are currently celebrating Hanukah or are awaiting your Christmas celebration, remember to focus on what is important. It is never about the price or number of gifts under the tree, but it is about the blessing of togetherness. I cannot begin to fathom what the parents, staff, and students of Oxford High School and the greater Oxford community are feeling, but I do know that I will hug my little one a bit tighter each night and work with my staff each day to create a safe learning environment for your children.

The staff of Village Elementary wishes you a safe and blessed holiday season.

Be Well – Principal, Angelina Kreger

Winter is Coming – LABEL YOUR STUDENT'S CLOTHES

Our building usually has a very robust Lost and Found, and unfortunately, we cannot house that this year. Please make sure that you label **ALL** your students' items so that they can be returned. This is especially important as the winter months set in. Also, our refillable water stations are **UP AND RUNNING!** Send your refillable water bottles in with your kiddos and make sure they are labeled.

Village BOGO Book Fair

On December 1st – 3rd, students will get a chance to purchase books at the Scholastic BOGO Book Fair. **Each purchase is Buy One Get One Free!** This is a great opportunity for kiddos to stock up on “just right” and engaging texts. Additionally, you can sign up for the Scholastic E-Wallet using the directions provided by the PTO.

On the day of the book fair, individual classes will be called down to purchase books. **Cash or Check will be accepted. Checks should be made out to "VES PTO."** We do not want student's spending over their approved limit, including potential donations.

You may also donate a small denomination to your student's classroom, if you so choose. In the envelope with the cash/check, please indicate the amount that you would like to donate. We are excited to offer this opportunity to our students this year.

Once the book fair is over, teachers will be able to purchase books from the book fair using the donated funds from parents. Thank you for supporting our classroom libraries and thank you for providing your student's with exciting texts to read at home.

Adopt-A-Family

Village Elementary has decided to adopt-a-family this holiday season. Please sign-up to bring items listed on the SignUp Genius. We would love to give this family an amazing holiday. Just bring your items to the main office before December 10th and we will happily wrap the presents and make sure they are delivered prior to the holiday. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a49a5af23a6f94-village>

A Holiday Reset is in Order

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. I was shocked to find that prior to Halloween the local stores were selling holiday wares. With the coming of the Christmas season, it is also a time for families to relax, rest, and rejuvenate. My hope is that you have at least a few days off to enjoy your family, and I encourage you to use that time to recharge your batteries.

I know that the uncertainty of today's world is leading to anxiety for many, our Village staff included. The angst that you are feeling regarding the global pandemic and other nightly news is also impacting our teachers and support staff. Just like you, our Village staff come to work every day and devote 100% of their love and attention to your children. They make the conscious choice, like you, to leave the stress and worry in the parking lot and show up as their full selves to support each young learner. Quite honestly, the students demand nothing less.

As the holiday season settles in, I am encouraging my staff to leave school behind beginning on December 17th at 4pm and pick it up on Monday, January 3rd at 8am. I am hopeful that they will not check their emails or Seesaw/Google Classroom. I am beseeching them to rest, relax, and recharge. When we return in January, we will have 18 more weeks of school this year where we will need to give our all. We need their cups to be full. We also need your cups to be full as well so that we can continue our successful partnerships in support of each learner.

While I say this about our Village staff, I encourage you to do the same. Spend your days reading with your children. Have a pajama party and watch holiday movies as a family. Put your phone or computer to the side and play a card game. Ask questions of one another. Draw, paint, run, and laugh. I wish for you what I wish for the staff of Village Elementary, unending peace, joy, and happiness. A lightening in your heart over the holiday that allows you to return in the New Year fully present and regenerated.

Absences & Dismissal Changes? – Let the Office Know

Have a last-minute dismissal change or planning to be absent? Email or call the main office and let us know your plans. For dismissal changes, we cannot ensure changes will be honored if you do not contact the school **prior to 3pm**. We need to make sure that teachers have enough time to check their messages. Email your dismissal changes or student absence information to kalolahfelver@hartlandschools.us and gayleroberts@hartlandschools.us or call 810-626-2850.

Santa's Workshop

This year, Village will once again host a Santa's Workshop. Our Santa's Workshop will operate from December 7th-9th. Our setup will be similar to the book fair. **All items will be \$2** and an order form will come home to students this week. If you need another order form, please reach out to your student's teacher. Please send cash/checks and order forms in a sealed envelope made out to "VES PTO." Indicate the spending limit for your student if you are sending a check. Student's items will be individually bagged and will be immediately placed in their lockers. We look forward to helping our Villagers celebrate the holidays.

No Outside Visitors or Parents Allowed in the Building

To keep our building as clean as possible, NO outside visitors will be allowed in. This means that parents that need to drop things off will need to ring the buzzer and leave the items outside by the door. No parents will walk their children to class or come into the building to pick them up. They will need to ring the buzzer and your student will be brought to you outside. We will have no parent volunteers in the classrooms, and if you are asked to attend a meeting, we may ask that it be held virtually.

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Starting at \$18.37 per hour and up to \$21.22. \$2,000 sign on bonus!

Please contact transportation at 810-626-2175 with questions and the attached flyer for more details.



TikTok Challenges – We Need Your Help

I was recently made aware of a slew of TikTok challenges that are particularly geared toward schools. We already experienced the “challenge” that was promoted on the platform this month. I am sharing this information with you to ask that you monitor your student and speak with them about these challenges if they use TikTok. Additionally, please know that each one of these challenges violates our Student Code of Conduct. Students need to know prior to engaging in any behavior that they see online being marketed as “cool” or “funny,” that there will be consequences if they participate at school. Thank you for your support and assistance.

Month	Challenge
December	“Deck the halls and show your b****” in school
January	Jab a breast
February	Mess up school signs
March	Make a mess in the courtyard or cafeteria
April	Grab some “eggs” (theft challenge)
May	Ditch Day
June	Flip off the front office

Reading at Home to Your Villager

One gift that you can give your student this holiday season is the gift of books that will transform their imagination. The practice of reading is so important to the development of life-long readers. We know that parents play an integral part in a student’s read at home plan, and we wanted to provide you some direction as you look to purchase texts for your student. Our resident reading expert, Lindsay Haar (Reading Recovery Teacher) recorded our next parent learning opportunity for you to learn about what texts are currently “hot reads.” Check it out and look for future parent learning opportunities from Mrs. Haar around this topic throughout the year.

Parent Learning Opportunities

[High Interest Books](#)

Questions about our district Read-At-Home Plan? Reach out to Lindsay Haar lindsayhaar@hartlandschools.us our Reading Recovery teacher

It's Cold Outside – Dress Warm

Students will be outside until the windchill factor is above 15 degrees. When the wind chill drops below 15 degrees, we adjust the length of time for recess to last no more than 15 minutes. If the wind chill drops below zero, our students will remain indoors. We encourage you to send your student with boots, snow pants, hats and gloves each day. These items may remain in their locker but are useful all winter season long.

STEM Spot

Collaboration and problem-solving are the names of the games in STEM class. Students are responsible for designing, problem-solving, and constructing projects that serve a purpose. Do you know how to make a prototype of a wind powered vehicle? How can you create a car using a limited variety of tools and supplies that will protect a hard-boiled egg from breaking? STEM students are thoroughly enjoying the challenges that they are presented with both tactilely and through online explorations into coding and programming.



Snack Pantry Donations

As you can imagine our snack pantry is a BIG hit. Students often forget to bring snacks to school, are not full after eating their snack, or just need a little energy boost to make it through learning. In response, our snack pantry is a bit bare. If you have extra snack donations, we would love them. Please make sure that they are peanut-free. Some of our student favorites are listed below:

- Goldfish
- Cheeze-Its
- Fruit Snacks
- Applesauce
- Fruit and Grain Bars
- Cheese and Crackers
- Raisins
- Fruit Cups

Looking for the Latest and Greatest Village Updates

Join our Facebook group: We Love Village Elementary

Interested in knowing what is going on in Art Class?

Follow Mrs. Tomy on Instagram @art_withmrs.t

Want to send us pictures to include in our Village Yearbook?

Email hartlandvillage.yearbook@gmail.com

Have a tip that the school should be made aware of?

OK2Say <https://www.michigan.gov/ok2say>



Discover the wonderful things happening in the community of Hartland by visiting the Hartland Living resources:

www.hartlandliving.com

facebook.com/HartlandLiving

twitter.com/HartlandLiving