

# The Villager

Village Elementary School

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## November Calendar

November 2 – Picture Retakes  
November 3 – PTO Meeting – 4pm  
November 8 – Board of Education Meeting  
November 19 – Village Victor's Drawing  
November 23 – Book Review Basket Drawing  
November 24 – 26 – Thanksgiving Recess

## School Hours

### Monday-Thursday

8:50-3:50pm

### Friday

8:50 – 2:50

Please note that students are only permitted to enter the building at 8:35 for breakfast. All other students may enter the building at 8:45. We begin supervision at 8:40.

## Is it Bullying?

When our child comes home after a long day at school and says that someone was mean to them, our heart breaks. No one wants to hear that a child was physically or emotionally injured while at school. Usually, we respond by asking a lot of questions and trying to uncover every small detail of the interaction. There are times when we are shocked to find out that this may have happened before. This begs the question, is my child being bullied? I think that discussing a potentially unsettling issue with our children is one of the most difficult things that we must do as a parent. That said, the language that we use with our children dictates the way in which they view and perceive what happened to them. In all my years working in education, I honestly believe our responses to potentially hurtful events impact the way in which our children view those events over and above what happened to them.

This phenomenon led me to this month's question...Is it bullying? The news, articles, the internet and any other place where you can read and digest the stories of the world are wrought with tales of bullying. Students seem to "understand" the word bullying before they have any idea what the United States Constitution is. When I am confronted with any situation involving two or more students, I sit back and ask myself...Is this bullying? Is someone not being nice? Or is a student being mean? I believe, and I hope you do as well, that there are decided differences between these ideas, starting with the definitions.

Bullying is when someone says or does something intentionally hurtful, repeatedly, over a period, even when you tell them to stop or you show that you are upset. This can include verbal or relational aggression. When someone is mean they are saying or doing something intentionally hurtful in the moment. Some examples of this would be saying "I hate you" or "You are so fat/ugly/stupid." Finally, if I am not being nice or being rude it is because I have unintentionally done something to hurt you. This could look like burping in someone's face, cutting in line, or throwing a pile of leaves at someone. These definitions come from *Psychology Today* as noted in the November 2012 issue.

We want to make sure that students understand both their behaviors and the behaviors of others. Village students need to be able to share their thoughts regarding situations that occur throughout the days and weeks at school. Thank you for your willingness to partner with us as we work to utilize appropriate language with students as they navigate social situations. Remember we have the power to change the way our students view peer-to-peer interaction and defining them appropriately is the most important first step.

Be Well – Principal, Mrs. Angelina Kreger

## Lost & Found This Year Will be Lost & BYO - Water Bottle

Our building usually has a very robust Lost and Found, and unfortunately, we must cut back this year. Please make sure that you label **ALL** student items so that they can be returned. Refillable water stations are all over the school and we encourage students to bring fillable water bottles.

## 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 [kaloolahfelver@hartlandschools.us](mailto:kaloolahfelver@hartlandschools.us) and [gayleroberts@hartlandschools.us](mailto:gayleroberts@hartlandschools.us) or call 810-626-2850.

## Trunk-or-Treat Success

We would like to say a very special thank you to our Village PTO, Cromaïne Library, Hartland Fire Department, and all the families that came out to setup trunks and attend our First Annual Village Trunk-or-Treat and Glo Dance. It was a smashing success. We had so much fun, learned many things, and are already planning for more excitement next year.



## 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 hold it virtually.

## It's Getting Cold Outside

Please make sure that you send your Villager to school with warm clothes. Students will go out to recess each day multiple times. We want to make sure that they are protected from the elements.

## Setting Boundaries in Uncertain Times

It is difficult for everyone to set boundaries, when it involves something, we are passionate about. You will stay up late to binge an amazing new series or work tirelessly on a project that you just want to get done. Teachers are the same. I am encouraging the teachers here at Village to make sure that they are setting boundaries. They must take time for themselves, their families, and their health. Teachers have 24 hours to respond to an email and I am encouraging them not to check email in the evenings or on weekends. The teachers here at Village, or anyone for that matter, cannot pour from an empty cup. I thank you for your patience, support, and kindness this year. We must take care of each other so we can best take care of our students.

## Yearbook Cover Contest

We are inviting all Villagers to use their artistic skills to help design our 2021 – 2022 Yearbook covers (front & back). Please encourage your students to create a design for us!

A few callouts –

- Due to publishing criteria with our vendor the guidelines must be followed for a design to be considered.
- Our staff will choose the designs that will be on our front/back cover. (all design entries remain anonymous for this)
- There will be at least 5 cover designs chosen for our yearbook! One will be our front cover and 4 others the back.
- All design entries will be given back to students before the last week of school.

If after reviewing the attachment you have any questions please contact the office, or email [hartlandvillage.yearbook@gmail.com](mailto:hartlandvillage.yearbook@gmail.com).



# Classroom Snapshot - Second Grade

The second-grade students at Village are working feverishly on learning new words, writing spooky stories, and becoming amazing mathematicians. This year, our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers jumped in to math workshop teaching. This style of teaching provides students the opportunity to work with their teacher through a variety of different centers where they are provided differentiated instruction to meet their specific needs. Students have stated that they are enjoying math a lot because “it’s hands-on.” We are thrilled with their progress as readers, writers, and mathematicians this year. Keep up the good work 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.



## What is the plan when we have a case of Covid-19 at school?

While I am optimistic that our quarantine issues will not continue, I am also a realist. I am sure we will eventually cross a bridge where a school or bus quarantine occurs again. When this occurs, we will need your assistance to ensure that safety precautions are adhered to and protocols are followed. Additionally, as you heard from Mr. Hughes, new Livingston County Health Department Guidelines were released to help keep our kiddos at school. It is imperative that you watch the following video to understand your choices regarding quarantining your student.

[Parent Presentation - LCHD](#)

### **Here are the high points of the alternative to quarantine process:**

- Your children will be able to stay in school if they are exposed to a student that is positive for Covid-19, if they...
  - ✓ ... wear a mask for the entirety of the quarantine period including stopping in the office to demonstrate that they have an appropriately fitting mask on the first day of return
  - ... take a Covid-19 test daily and report their negative results to the LCHD
  - ... complete a symptom assessment daily prior to attending school
  - ✓ ... agree to sit 6ft or more away from non-exposed students during snack and lunch
- If your student at any point fails to comply with one of these guidelines, the LCHD will switch them to a standard quarantine and they will have to stay home

When your student is exposed, our office will contact you and have you pick up your child. Your student will not be able to come back to school until you have been contacted by Livingston County Health Department, your student has completed their first Covid test, and you have uploaded their negative test results on the LCHD app.

The “alternative to quarantine” process is meant to keep students learning and in the academic environment. We appreciate your support and willingness to help us navigate these difficult times.



# Halloween @ Village

Students had a wonderful time this year celebrating Halloween. Wearing their costumes all day was a blast and teachers were able to incorporate some fun activities into their daily instruction. We hope that everyone had a safe and fun-filled Halloween.



## Be Like Bill Week - A Big Win

Congratulations to our Village Community who proudly raised \$1,862.00 for the Be Like Bill Foundation through our change drive during the month of October. Mrs. Wheeler's class was the big winner of a popsicle party for raising \$472.36. Our school continues to support this foundation year-over-year and are excited to help a senior at Hartland High School earn a scholarship.



## 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

## Parent At-Home Learning

You may have noticed on your student's progress report that we track social-emotional domains for each student. These domains are derived from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) standards. Additionally, a version of these standards was adopted by the Michigan Department of Education as part of their K-12 Social-Emotional Learning Standards. These standards help guide teachers as they instruct students on the elements of SEL.

We would like to provide you a little insight into each one of the CASEL core competencies so that you can better understand the nature of our work here in school and utilize some of the techniques and language at home with your student.

Attached is a presentation around the self-awareness strand of CASEL. Take a few moments and review the attached information and then watch this video from PBS regarding self-awareness: <https://dptv.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/self-awareness-and-self-management-sel-video/self-awareness-and-self-management-sel-video/>

We are excited to continue this journey with social-emotional learning and your student. Thank you for partnering with us.

## What do you mean we don't all have to be friends?

This year, our staff is working hard to teach students that they don't have to be "best friends" with everyone, but they MUST RESPECT everyone. We encourage students to know the difference between an acquaintance: associate, companion, a person with whom one is in contact. An acquaintance is someone recognized by sight or someone known, though not intimately: a casual acquaintance. (dictionary.com) and a friend - a person who you like and enjoy being with (dictionary.com).

In life, we create relationships with individuals that connect with us in some way for a variety of reasons. This is something that is specifically unique to human beings. By choosing who to play with, who to share secrets with, and who to spend time with we are choosing who our friends are. In elementary school, we oftentimes tell our students that they must be friends with everyone. This is not true. We must show everyone kindness. We must respect all opinions, especially those different from our own. We must listen to all voices. We must withhold judgement of others. We don't have to be friends with everyone.

The message that we provide students when we tell them that they must be friends with all others is one that is not feasible. It gives them a false sense that because they are not friends with a classmate or grade mate that that means that there is either something wrong with that individual, or something wrong with them. This is not true. We want students to know and understand deeply the value of friendship. By stating that it is something that should be expected of all devalues the meaning of the word. We want to teach students how to discern if someone is a friend or not. When we promote that you must be friends with everyone, then we are opening them up for potentially painful situations where their "friends" do not meet their expectations time and again.

While we are well-aware that our Villagers are elementary students and now just learning about themselves and peer relationships, we also know that they are forming the basis of who they are as individuals and their own self-concept. We want them to know their worth. This may mean that not everyone can be their friend and that is ok. Acquaintances are just as important to a well-rounded life.



# PTO Book Review Basket Prizes

Village PTO is proud to announce the start of the Monthly Book Review Contests. The contest gets kids excited to READ and share their thoughts and ideas about their books. Here's how it works:

- Has your child completed the Book Review Template – written, video or both?
- Email your completed review to [welovevillage@gmail.com](mailto:welovevillage@gmail.com)
- There is NO LIMIT to the number of entries – monthly or yearly!
- Keep reading for more chances to WIN!

Drawings to WIN a fun book basket occurs at the end of every month. At least 3 baskets per month will be raffled off. All entries carry over throughout the year, so the more you read the more chances you have to win!

October's Book Baskets are fun and spooky so get reading and send in those book reviews! **Whose name will Mrs. Kreger call as the next winners?!**

**Check out the baskets in our showcase to see what you could win this month!**

**Next Drawing – November 30 @ 7pm on Facebook Live**

## 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 in September. 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
November	Kiss your friend's girlfriend at school
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

# STEM SPOT

STEM class welcomed a new teacher this month, Morgan Youngs. She comes to us with a wealth of experience from Belleville Schools. We are excited to have Mrs. Youngs working with our students. Mrs. Arnold is also in the media center assisting Mrs. Youngs and helping our kiddos check out books. This month, our STEM students designed and developed prototypes that will accomplish specific tasks. Our Fourth Graders worked collaboratively to build cars that would support a plastic egg as it rolled down a wooden ramp. In third grade our students designed and developed wind propelled boats. What we have noticed around the building is that students are working together to solve problems in all classrooms. The skills that they are learning in STEM class transfer over to their learning in reading, writing, and mathematics. We are thrilled to offer this opportunity to our Villagers.



# 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.



## Looking for the Latest and Greatest Village Updates

**Join our Facebook group:** We Love Village Elementary

**Add us on Twitter:** @Villageelem

**Interested in knowing what is going on in Art Class?**

Follow Mrs. Tomyon on Instagram @art\_withmrs.t

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

Email [hartlandvillage.yearbook@gmail.com](mailto:hartlandvillage.yearbook@gmail.com)



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

[www.hartlandliving.com](http://www.hartlandliving.com)

[facebook.com/HartlandLiving](https://facebook.com/HartlandLiving)

[twitter.com/HartlandLiving](https://twitter.com/HartlandLiving)

**Attachments:** November Lunch Menu, Yearbook Cover Contest, Archery Tryouts, Three R's Handout & Self-Awareness Information