



BT BOCES' Virtual Learning Academy Newsletter

February 2023

Grade 3-6 Edition

A message from the principal...

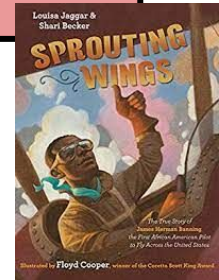
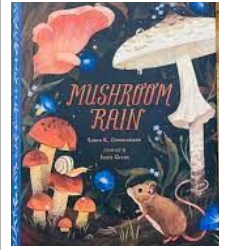
- The end of January brought a lot of weather which resulted in some snow days. Please remember that the VLA follows the BT BOCES calendar which also includes when we close for inclement weather. Your classroom teacher will communicate closings to you, or you can also check out our [BT BOCES website](#).
- In March we will be doing One School One Book, reading together *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. We will also be collaborating with another virtual school in New York, reading and coming together to play games, solve puzzles, and learn from each other! More information coming soon. Have a great February! *Ms. Ainslie*

World Read Aloud Day!

On February 1st we will have guest authors visiting VLA!

9:30 – 9:45 am (Grades 3-5) Visit with Dr. Laura K. Zimmermann, author of *Mushroom Rain*

1:45 – 2:15 pm (Grades 3-8) Visit with Louisa Jaggar, author of *Sprouting Wings*



Climate Action School Update

During the past two months we have been busy learning about climate change and trees that live in our world. After researching trees students chose a Keystone Species tree that they felt was so important if it died off many other plants and animals would be affected. Trees chosen were Pine, Silver Maple, and the Sugar Maple. The final choice was our NYS Tree, the Sugar Maple.

We also took part in a **UN Student Survey!** The global survey results will be presented to the UN and based on these results goals will be set up to help support quality education throughout the world.

And finally we had our first international visit with our Climate Action Partners. We learned from students in India from the Mumbai Public School L.K Waghji (Cambridge). The students shared with us what they have been doing to combat climate change in Mumbai. They also shared about their Keystone Species the Tulsi plant.

We are looking forward to meeting up with our other partner schools from Moldova and the UK.



VLA Music Highlight

Important February Dates to Note:

★ Feb 17 & 20 OFF President's Day

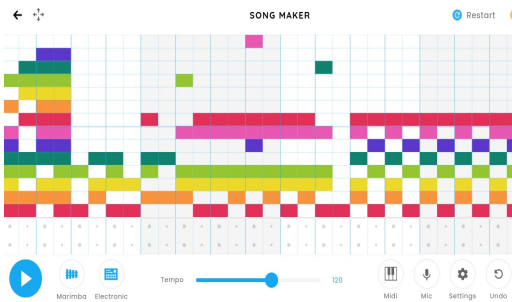
View FULL BOCES 2022-2023 Calendar [HERE](#)

VLA Contact Information

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[Virtual Learning Academy Website](#)

VLA Music Highlight



VLA students get together with Mrs. Czarnecki for music classes each week on Tuesday. The first few minutes of class are spent catching up on news of the week to build a sense of class community.

Then it is on to learning about how music encompasses many subject areas. We began the year with the science of sound and how instruments are made and produce their sound. Instruments are grouped into families just like people are members of a family!

From there we moved on to music history. We studied how composers throughout history used instruments to represent characters in a musical story. We studied *Dance Macabre* and *Peter and the Wolf*. The instruments' sounds paint the picture of an object or personality of a character.

Currently, we are learning music theory. The many signs and symbols that are used to compose music all have an effect on its sound. Many decisions must be made when creating an original piece. With the help of Chrome Music Lab, VLA students are composing their own instrumental pieces. We look forward to sharing our compositions with you in the near future!

Looking at music can be confusing if you don't know how it works!

STAFF- 5 lines & 4 spaces. Where notes are written.	Clef Sign- at the beginning of every staff. Tells you the range of the notes.	Time Signature 2 numbers that look like a fraction. Tells you how the notes are grouped together.	Bar Line- vertical lines on the staff that group notes together	Double Bar Line- the end of the music/song.

