



NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF  
**May 22, 2017**

PO Box 122 Royalston, MA (978) 249-3505  
 villageschoolma.org

News and Notes



**Congratulations on an Outstanding Play**

Last Friday, the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade class gave two wonderful performances of the play, *In Pursuit of the Loot*, which they'd written and rehearsed over the previous six weeks. See the synopsis on page 2. The children did a fine job, and they looked amazing, thanks to the huge amount of work put in by Nan Wolverton - helped in the later stages by Kelly Henshaw - in devising costumes for 33 different characters (including the extras from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade class). The sets, too, looked beautifully convincing, thanks to the work of our art teacher Elizabeth Buck, with help from the children in our traditional Wednesday set painting session.

Music director Kyra Kristof beautifully arranged a piece called Money (devised by Jamie Paquet) for several voices, and led the pit band with volunteers Dick Hyland and Isaac Richardson.

We're also grateful to Matthew Hamer for running the lighting yet again and for editing the video. Thanks, too, to Grace McCurn for videoing both performances. A big thank-you to Nathan Flint for setting up a great sound system, and we're grateful to Lindsey Limoges and Julie Gambill - both former Village School actors - for helping out behind the scenes as stage managers.

And last but not least, thank you to the large number of parents, friends and former students who helped take down the sets so efficiently at the end of Friday evening.

**Groundbreaking Wednesday May 31st 8:30 a.m.**

We'll gather together at Camp Caravan, parents and children, for a short ceremony for breaking ground for our new home. Parents, please bring the children up to school right after. We'll start promptly at 8:30. At 9:00 parents bring children up to the school. Also at 9:00 you can take a tour of the developing Camp Caravan campus.

**Auction Update**


- \* Let's get the word out! Invite friends and relatives. Post flyers.
- \* Sell Red Sox raffle tickets at work, and to friends
- \* Send your donation forms in.
- \* Needs for the Auction: pop up tents and folding tables
- \* Go to the website to see the new list and photos of auction items
- \* Sign up for Pancake Breakfast/Auction jobs in the hallway: for example, we'll need fruit salad makers for the breakfast.
- \* Save good clean items for the Tag Sale. No clothes or electronics, please. You can drop items at the Town Hall on Friday June 2nd.
- \* Save clean children's clothes for the rummage sale

**The After School Program closes on Wednesday May 31st at 3:00**

**Preschool**

Inspired by our story *Seven Blind Mice*, the class had fun last week taking turns being blindfolded. It was endearing to watch as each child trusted a friend to carefully lead them down the hallway. It took a lot of thought, planning and care by the child leading to navigate the many obstacles. Also last week Jane (Kylie's grandma) helped the children candle the eggs for a second time. The children then drew in their egg books again. It looks like we might have a dozen chicks hatching this week! Our story this week is *The Fisherman and His Wife*. A fisherman catches a magic fish and throws him back into the ocean. The wife demands a wish of the magic fish

and the wish is granted. Dissatisfied, the wife continues to ask for more and more until she loses it all and has to go back to her simple life. On Wednesday we will celebrate Roman's birthday. Thursday is Jackson Pollack Day, which means the class will be splattering paint onto paper outside and children should come to school in old clothes and footwear. The last day of school is Thursday, June 8th. Preschool parents are invited to our classroom at 11:00 to join us for some songs and to participate in a yoga class led by Loren. Afterwards we'll join All School Sing and a pot luck lunch.

May—June 2017				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
22 8:45 a.m. All School Sing  2nd-3rd on Whale Watch	23 8:45 Reading Buddies	24 4th-6th at Sweetwater Farm 8:45-11:45	25 8:45 Reading Buddies <b>Jackson Pollack Day</b> Dress for paint everywhere! Wear disposable socks!	26 gardening soccer LAST COFFEE ORDER DUE 
29 <b>NO SCHOOL MEMORIAL DAY</b>	30 8:45 Reading Buddies 8:30 a.m. 2nd-3rd Theme Share Bring in raffle ticket proceeds & unsold tickets	31 8:30 a.m. Ground-breaking at Camp Caravan, then bring children up to school after.	1 8:30 a.m. K-1 Theme Share Bring in Auction items	2 Auction & Breakfast prep at Town Hall Bring in Yard Sale items 4th-6th at Clark Museum

**SATURDAY June 3rd →  
 PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND AUCTION**

## Kindergarten—1st Grade

This week, we'll enjoy the picture book *The Story of Kites* by Ying Chang Compestine, about three boys Ting, Pan, and Kuai, who have the job of chasing birds away from the rice paddies, inventing and building kites. This week we'll finish our *Air and Wind* and *Bio-Diversity Day* books. We'll use our peer assessment activity *Two Stars and a Wish*, where children work with a partner to look at each other's work. They find two things they like about it and one thing they'd like to see improved, then the children get the chance to follow up on their partner's comments.

In music we are singing songs about the spring and wind including *We've Ploughed Our Land*, *Country Life*, and *John the Rabbit*.

Come to Theme Share on Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 8:30.

We had a wonderful warm day at Sweetwater Farm last Wednesday. Lilac bushes and apple and peach trees were in bloom. We visited the garden to see the beans we planted last visit, collected eggs, and visited the baby lambs and calves. We finished the morning flying kites on the meadow.

Last Friday the class were mesmerized by the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> play *In Pursuit of the Loot*, at the Town Hall. They enjoyed following the plot and seeing their older friends perform on stage.

In phonics Kindergarten is practicing writing high frequency words. First graders are working with silent 'e.'

The kindergarten math class is focusing on teen numbers this week. First graders are beginning a new Investigations unit *Blocks and Boxes* on 3D geometry. This week we'll match 3D shapes to their footprints, and make our own 3D shapes from paper. Last Friday afternoon we planted potatoes in the garden. We'll plant this week too.

## 2nd - 3rd Grade

We had a wonderful trip to Halibut Point. It was exhilarating to feel the sun and breathe in the ocean air after such a long spell of dreary, cool weather. The children were thrilled to just be there and found excitement around every turn and in each tide pool. We found many, many snails, anemone, shrimp, barnacles and mussels. The children were impressed by the size of the waves and the sound they made when they crashed on the rocks. They were amazed by how deep the quarry was and impressed by the massive pile of rocks atop the hill. They finished by adding their own rock sculptures to the rock sculpture park there.

The children did a great job in the play. They loved learning about the process. They looked adorable dressed as townspeople and railroad workers. They enjoyed the storyline and were amused by the comedic moments. They got a good taste of what's to come.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade fraction unit, they loved coming up with as many combinations as possible, using trapezoids, triangles and rhombuses to make a hexagon. They found all the combinations and learned which fractions of halves, thirds and sixths can be combined to make a whole.

In theme, the children are creating whale habitat dioramas. Last week they painted Clementine boxes to look like the ocean and this week they'll add details. They can bring anything from home to add to it. This week, Brooke will teach a health class. She'll talk about whale reproduction and first aid - the children love getting a chance to act out hazards on the whale ship as they learn about first aid.

Thursday, weather permitting, is our Jackson Pollock day. Children should wear clothes that can get covered in paint. This is always a highlight of the year and the children have a blast creating the large splatter paintings. We have been gardening and playing soccer on Fridays. It's best for the children to wear sneakers. They are working on getting the beds ready for planting.

## 4th - 6th Grade Play Synopsis

The children put on two wonderful performances of *In Pursuit of the Loot*, the play they wrote based on this year's theme study of The American West. Set in a new and struggling western town in 1866, it begins with the town storekeeper, Mary (Sage Buddington) discussing the hardships of frontier life with recently widowed homesteader Beth Johnson (Samantha West). With Mary's daughter Grace (Ella Sutton) they talk about the new railroad, and how the townspeople are contributing money towards its construction.

Two railroad workers, Tom (Milo Troisi) and Henry (Jamie Paquet) then emerge from the saloon to tell them the railroad is in danger of not being completed, since the railroad boss, Mr. Durant (William Hood) isn't paying them, and they are all likely to quit. At this point, two emigrants arrive, having walked from South Carolina, where they'd lost their family in the recent Civil War. The emigrants, Hazel (Violet Malley) and Willa (Aria Malia) are looking for work and lodgings and, in a later scene, Beth agrees to take them in to help her on her newly claimed homestead in return for bed and board.

Three Confederate war veterans are struggling to mine silver. The Colonel (Richard Amistadi), his former subordinates Abe (Lucas Gadway) and The Kid (Michael Casavant), joined by Abe's sister Jenna (Jaiden Killion), find that their mine is played out. The Kid, supported by Jenna, suggests robbing the bank, but the Colonel at first refuses to consider it.

Equally strapped for cash are the railroad workers Tom and Henry, and their colleague Zeke (Sam Connors), all of whom quit because Durant isn't paying them. Durant and his assistant Mrs. Davis (Vivienne Henshaw) are accosted by town banker Mr. Grant (Fraser McBeth) who is appalled to find that work on the railroad had stopped. Equally upset is the fiery school teacher, Miss Bernice Anders (Gabriella Henshaw), who berates Durant for short-changing his workers.

Mr. Grant and Bernice try to persuade sheriff Frank Sheldon (Charlie Savage) that Durant is committing a crime. When Frank declines to investigate, his daughter Nell (Rhea Sawicki) and her friend, Mexican immigrant Lola (Safia Pincheira), decide to investigate for themselves.

When it turns out that Durant is planning to withdraw all his money from the bank, and build the railroad to another town, four separate groups decide to steal the money first. The second act of the play sees all of them plotting to steal the railroad funds. Lola, Nell and Grace aim to use the money to pay the railroad workers what they are owed; the workers themselves plan to take it for themselves; the miners plan their own robbery, while Beth, Will and Hazel want to get back the money Beth had put into the town's railroad fund – plus a little extra.

In four successive scenes, the four groups come up with the same plot: to hide one gang member in the bank overnight, and let their accomplices in at dawn. The three girls succeed in making away with two full sacks, but the other groups all surprise each other in the bank, and discover that the money is gone, leaving only a few bags of rocks – samples for the railroad surveyors.

It looked as if Durant himself has made off with the money – having been fired by his company, and replaced by Mrs. Davis - until Grace, Nell and Lola appear among the disappointed townspeople and show them the loot, which they had taken successfully and planned to use for the benefit of the whole town. In the final scene Durant discovers that he, too, has sacks of rocks and not the gold he coveted. Not only that, but he is then arrested by sheriff Frank – and Abe who'd been deputized – for the crime, not of stealing, but of insulting the authorities, by treading on Frank's foot.

**4th-6th is at Sweetwater Farm this Wednesday 8:45-11:45.**

**K- 6th Graders Bring Water Bottles:** Please send your child in with a filled water bottle from home **with your child's name on it.** Or children can drink the water that comes out of the tap, which is approved official drinking water and is chlorinated.