



OUR 24TH YEAR

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF

October 14, 2013

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News and Notes

Come to the Parent Work Day Next Sunday 9-4

Come and pitch in for an hour or two, meet other parents - it's great for morale, when new and old parents pitch in together. And it's fun! *'Many hands make work light.'* The hallway list has plenty of projects to sign up for. See Rise if you can take on a project and organize it in advance, a huge help that makes the day more efficient. Children are welcome- they will have a lot of fun. Child care is provided in the playground.

Allergies and Bringing in Snack

If you are bringing in snack for your child's classroom, always let the classroom teacher know about the ingredients, such as dairy, wheat or peanuts. A K-1 teacher has a peanut allergy, a 2nd-3rd student has a gluten allergy, and a few students avoid dairy. The teachers always appreciate prepared snack for the preschool and K-1 classrooms. Thank you.

School Photos

Kirsten took the remaining photos last Friday. If you want to order photos, send in the attached photo order form with a check. The password has been emailed to parents for viewing the photos online.

The Jacobs Hill Hike

We had spectacular weather for the hike last Friday. We enjoyed the striking view across Long Pond to Tully Mountain and Mt. Grace and the hills of Orange. Spirit Falls was gushing, thanks to heavy rainfall earlier in the week. The children could barely contain themselves and were confident hikers. See the hike photos on the website.

Fire Department Visit

The Royalston Fire Department visited last week, ran a fire drill (the children were out of the building in under 2 minutes!) and spoke to the children about fire safety. A firefighter donned the full suit with oxygen unit, so the children could see what a firefighter might look like if their house was on fire and he was looking to find them in their house. Fire chief Newton spoke about the importance of families establishing an escape route from their homes. Fire safety information is attached.

You are the distribution system for publicity!

New Village School bookmarks with Open House dates are in the hallway. Please take some and leave them at libraries, bookstores, restaurants, and other places where people can take them.

Preschool

Last week we had a wonderful visit to Sweetwater Farm. The class watched goats being milked, collected eggs from the chicken coop, visited the sheep and llama and picked apples. Playing on the swing set at the end of the visit was another highlight for the preschoolers. Last Friday the class made banana bread. Everyone helped with mashing bananas, cracking eggs and mixing the ingredients together. We went outside, acted out the story of *The Little Red Hen* and then came back in and enjoyed the warm banana bread. This week we are telling the story of *Chicken Little* who is convinced the sky is falling. Her friends are Goosey Loosey, Turkey Lurkey

and Henny Penny. They all go together to tell the king about the upcoming calamity.

Ask your children for the answer to this riddle: Whose house is round and red, has no windows or doors, but has a chimney and a star inside?

We will go on an acorn hunt this week as we walk along the trail in the woods. On Thursday we'll have art with Renee. We will be making lanterns for the November 8th Lantern Walk soon. Each preschooler should bring in a clear 2-liter bottle for their lantern by October 28th.

October 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14 NO SCHOOL COLUMBUS DAY	15 NO SCHOOL Parent - Teacher Conferences	16 K-1 at Sweetwater Farm Afternoon: Parent - Teacher Conferences	17 8:45 Reading Buddies Art classes	18 Yoga Soccer Parent Work Day Sunday →
21 8:45 All School Sing Spanish Preschool Library	22	23 8:30 a.m. K-1 Reading Hour with Parents 2 nd -3 rd at Sweetwater Farm	24 8:45 Reading Buddies Art classes 8:30 a.m. 4 th -6 th Poetry Publishing Party	25 Yoga soccer Contradance practice

Kindergarten—1st Grade

Last week the class enjoyed the picture book *Corn* by Gail Gibbons. The children husked Indian corn that we harvested from the garden and discovered colorful corn kernels inside. They then drew pictures of the corn ears in their journals and labeled the parts - the cob, the husk, the kernel, and the corn silks.

We had two lessons counting potatoes. The 1st graders divided some of the potato harvest into groups of ten, which totaled 220. Next the whole class divided up the harvest between K-1 and Pre-school and then divided up our share so each child had 7 potatoes to take home. It was a fun and practical counting experience!

Last week in art, the class painted large cut out leaves in fall colors. The pictures will be on display at the Town Hall for the Lantern Walk. In art, we'll be making lanterns for the Lantern Walk.

Last week's science class was on butterflies. Trina brought in Painted Lady caterpillars. Two of them have turned into chrysalises and we'll be keeping an eye on them, waiting for them to transform. The class painted their own butterfly cut outs.

We had a special class about growing last Tuesday. Brooke and

Jocelyn displayed how embryos grow from the size of a sesame seed, getting bigger and bigger each month until birth. We had real life examples, with pregnant Clare Caldwell and Loren's six-month old Maya visiting.

This Wednesday we are at Sweetwater Farm in Petersham. Our visit includes feeding the animals, gardening, and working in the orchard. Drop off at the Farm is at 9:00 and pick up is at 11:30.

The kindergarten math students are playing a game called *Roll and Record* in which they roll a dot cube, count the dots and record the number, from 1 to 6, on a recording sheet. They love this game and don't want to stop at the end of class. First graders are starting a new *Investigations* unit *Making Shapes and Designing Quilts*. See the 1st grade math news for more details.

K-1 parents are invited to attend a special Reading Workshop on Wednesday Oct. 23rd at 8:30 a.m. While the children are outside, parents will be given instruction on how to help the children with reading. Then the children will come in, and sit and read with their parents.

2nd - 3rd Grade

Last Wednesday, as the children made apple cider with Rise, Shannon had the pleasure of working with parents to help them support their children with reading at home. Parents got about a semester's worth of information in one-half hour. We discussed decoding strategies, thinking strategies and how to provide an inviting reading time and place for children. Then the parents immediately practiced what they learned. The children eagerly came inside and got cozy with their parents. The room was abuzz with the kids' voices, reading to their parents. It was such a warm and delightful scene to see children on laps, huddled in corners and enjoying reading to their parents. When we talked afterwards, the children mentioned how parents covered up parts of words, or had children look for small words within the word. All the children reported that they loved having the time to read with their parents. Thank you to everyone for making our inaugural literacy morning such a successful event.

In science, each student chose their 'special place.' This is a place in the woods that each child will visit and observe changes that happen throughout the year. The children took note of the weather and drew pictures of what their special places look like. They can't wait to make the next visit to their special places.

This week we will wrap up our poetry unit. The children have enjoyed writing poems and have done well with working on the structure of their poems. Each child will choose a favorite poem that will go into a class anthology. Next week, we begin a new writing project, writing memoirs.

The children are enjoying learning about the ball chairs. They have learned how to sit on them properly and have experimented a little with sitting at the tables with them. By next week, we will try to fully integrate them into the classroom. The children are giving positive feedback and are doing well following the protocol for using the ball chairs.

We finished last week with the spectacular hike to Jacobs Hill. The views were amazing and the children loved playing alongside Spirit Falls.

4th - 6th Grade

Last week the children had an unusual homework assignment over the weekend – to dig a hole 2 ft. deep. Everyone completed the task, but not everyone managed to get 2 feet down, and that just helped prove the point that it's hard to dig (or plow) in Massachusetts.

On Wednesday the children reported on their experiences, and nearly all of them had encountered rocks and roots aplenty. They had been obliged to either to remove rocks or, where this was impossible, to relocate their holes. The children were then asked to imagine themselves as farmers back in 1800-1810, and most of them thought they would like to try farming in the more promising territories of Ohio and beyond.

Elsewhere in our theme study, everyone imagined themselves applying to join the Lewis & Clark expedition, and wrote questions they would put to the expedition leaders before they were hired. We thus compiled a list of research questions, such as 'What kind of food will I have?', 'What will I be paid?' and 'When will I get home?' and the children researched the answers from a variety of classroom books.

This week we will begin studying the general story of migration westward, from the perspective of both the settlers and the indigenous inhabitants. We will also begin reading and discussing *The Little House on the Prairie*, which sees the Ingalls family heading west themselves.

We'll finish writing poetry this week, and gather the children's many completed poems into albums, ready for our Publishing Party next week, on Thursday October 24th at 8:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you have a child in the class. Our next writing project will be memoirs, and this week we'll be reading various examples of the genre before the children start planning and writing their own memoirs.

In art the children made line drawings of various fall leaves, which they then painted, using a variety of watercolor techniques. This week the children will complete the backgrounds for their leaf paintings, and the results will be displayed in the classroom and at the Town Hall for the Lantern Walk.