



OUR 24TH YEAR

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF

October 28, 2013

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News and Notes

About the Lantern Walk on Friday November 8

All students are making lanterns for this quintessential Village School event. The Lantern Walk celebrates the change in season, from summer's bright warmth to fall's darkening days. It begins at 5 p.m. with a procession of children holding lanterns, then gathering at the fire pit in the playground. After singing and a story around the fire, we walk with our lanterns to the Town Hall, where we'll enjoy an Italian pot luck dinner followed by family contradance. All children participate and it's great family fun. A sign up for the pot luck will be posted this Friday. **Save Your Carved Pumpkins**, that are in good shape, for the Lantern Walk, they'll be used for luminaires for the procession. Drop them off at the school after Halloween.

Come to Parent Group Meeting Wednesday Nov. 6 8:45 a.m. We'll take care of the last minute details for the Lantern Walk potluck, look at the Book Fair and more.

The Fall Open House is Saturday Nov. 16th from 10 a.m. to noon. Parents are hosts for this event. Everyone can help post the flyers, which are coming out soon.

Annual Book Fair

The Parent Group will be hosting the Annual Book Fair fundraiser from November 18th through the 22nd. Bruce's Brower generously donates a portion of every book sold to the Parent Group. If you have suggestions for books you or your children have especially enjoyed, or books you want to purchase, please e-mail your ideas to Katrina Walton at thewaltons@gardnerale.com or Zandy McBeth at zmcbeth3@gmail.com by this Thursday.

Spanish Resources for Parents

If you're looking for additional resources for helping your child to learn Spanish, go to the Village School website at: <http://www.villageschoolma.org/spanish.htm>

At the bottom of the page you will find handouts about numbers, common phrases and a pronunciation guide. The pronunciation guide even has a link to websites where you can hear what a word sounds like. If you're interested in exploring Spanish at home, please take advantage of these resources, or ask Jocelyn for more information.


Preschool

Today we began the Lantern Workshops for children and parents (or grandparents), making lanterns during the first fifteen minutes of the morning. All the supplies will be out and available on Tuesday and Wednesday also. Kim and Leanne are available to help children, so don't worry if your schedule doesn't work for you to come in. All the children will have lanterns for the Lantern Walk. This week the children are learning the song *Five Little Pumpkins*. On Thursday, Halloween, the preschoolers can get their faces painted and they can put on dress-up clothes (no costumes from home please) and go on a parade and sing *Five little Pumpkins* for the older classes. The class will help Leanne carve a jack-o-lantern. We will roast the scooped-out

pumpkin seeds and have them for snack this week. We are reading some of our favorite Halloween related stories this week. They are: *Popcorn* by Frank Asch, *The Old Woman Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything* by Linda Williams, *Mousekin's Golden House* by Edna Miller and *Room on a Broom* by Julia Donaldson. The children are learning songs for the Lantern Walk and they are looking forward to the Lantern Walk on November 8th with singing by the fire in the school yard, walking to the Royalston Town Hall for dinner and contra dancing upstairs.

Congratulations to Clare and Josh on the birth of their new baby girl, a sister for McMillan.

October - November 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28 8:45 All School Sing	29 8:45 Reading Buddies	30 4th-6th at Sweetwater Farm	31 8:45 Reading Buddies Halloween 	1 Coffee order due Yoga Soccer Contra dance practice
4 7:45 a.m. <u>2nd-3rd go to Plimoth Plantation</u> 8:45 All School Sing	5 8:45 Reading Buddies	6 8:45 a.m. Parent Group Meeting	7 8:45 Reading Buddies	8 Lantern Walk 5:00 gather at fire 6:00 Potluck Town Hall 6:30 Contradance

Kindergarten—1st Grade

We continue our Growing theme this week with the book *Pumpkins* by Ken Robbins, which describes the growing cycle of pumpkins from seed, to sprout, to flower, to fruit, and back again. The words are accompanied by beautiful color photographs. We'll carve some of the pumpkins in the classroom into Jack O' Lanterns, and roast some of the seeds to make a tasty snack.

We welcome a new student to the classroom, Richard Amistadi from Phillipston. He has had a great start and has been warmly received by the rest of the class.

Last week in science we investigated tree growth. We began the lesson outside, with Trina demonstrating how to tell the age of white pine trees. The children were able to calculate the ages of some of the pine saplings that are behind the garden by counting the number of levels of branch outcrops. They calculated the trees to be around seven years old. We then went inside to look at tree cross sections, count the rings, and make leaf rubbings. This week we'll be investigating seeds and sunflowers, looking at

sprouted seeds, and sprouting our own.

Last week the class began working on their lanterns. They began by using sharpies to draw a design on opaque special paper, then painted over the top. We'll finish the lanterns this week.

The kindergarten math group is working on taking "inventories" of items such as keys and forks. In partners, the children count the items found in each bag and record their findings with pictures and numerals. First graders are continuing their 2D geometry unit. Last week we made shapes posters and worked on making 2-D designs. This week we'll be describing, comparing, and making shapes.

Last Friday the class enjoyed soccer practice with Matthew. Afterwards we went to the Town Hall to practice contra-dancing for the Lantern Walk. The class had a great time dancing with their Reading Buddies to music played by Dick Hyland on guitar and Jocelyn on recorder. This Friday we'll do the same.

2nd - 3rd Grade

Last week, the children visited their special places in Science. They sat quietly in their special places and drew maps to show how to get there from the school. Then they added unique touches to their special places such as fairy houses, 'doorways' and collections of acorns. The next time we visit special places, we hope there will be snow on the ground.

In music, the children learned a new song, *Pumpkin Town*, that instantly became a class favorite. They started learning other songs too. They are so enthusiastic about the songs they are singing, that they asked Jocelyn for the words so they could bring them home. Lyrics were sent home last week. In Spanish, the children learned about some of the history of Mexico. They were very curious and had a lot of questions.

On Thursday afternoon, we visited the 4th -6th Publishing Party. The children heard many different poems as they went around and sat with different poets. It was great for them to see some of the ideas, in other children's poems, that we had talked about in class. Thank you 4th -6th graders for sharing your poems with us.

The 3rd graders finished the data unit last week. We begin a new number sense unit. The children will revisit story problems and work with a 1,000 chart. Children should continue to work on their addition and subtraction facts. In art, the children created beautiful fall landscapes using a printing technique. The colors pop off the page and it's great to see how they created texture using the sponges and cardboard.

On Thursday, we will make our annual visit to the graveyard. The children will draw a picture in their journal and Rise will tell a story. It's a great Halloween tradition that the children look forward to.

Next Monday, we will visit Plimoth Plantation. We will leave the school at 7:45 a.m. and return by 5 p.m. Because it is a long day, please pack extra snacks and water for your child. Children should be dressed to be outdoors most of the day. The Mayflower and Plimoth Plantation are along the ocean, and the ocean breeze can make it feel much colder than the air temperature.

4th - 6th Grade

Our month-long poetry project ended with a highly successful Publishing Party, attended by a roomful of parents. Each child sat with his or her bound collection of poems, and showed them to each of the parents who visited them. In most cases the children read their own poems aloud, and parents were very impressed by the confidence of their delivery. Publishing Parties are an important feature of our writing program, because they give the children an audience for which to write. Even though the children have shared their own poetry in class, it makes a big difference to have a wider audience. The children clearly enjoyed the event, and one commented that it was interesting to meet new adults!

We invite you back for a special Reading Hour for parents on Wednesday Nov. 13th at 8:30 a.m.

This week the children will begin planning and writing their memoirs, having heard and discussed a variety of short examples. These included an account of the first four-minute mile, by Roger Bannister who ran it, a comic incident from a surveyor in the Australian outback in the 1950s, and a memoir about a visit to Fenway Park (how's that for topicality?) by Village School alumnus Grady MacPhee (now in his first year of college). We will continue to analyze what makes a good memoir, drawing on authors including James Thurber, whose comic accounts of his youth continue to delight the class.

In our theme we will continue reading *The Little House on the Prairie*, and the 'Split History' account of westward expansion. We decided as a class to begin by studying this from the Native American perspective, and the children quickly formed a very jaundiced view of Andrew Jackson and the Indian Removal Act of 1830, with all its dire consequences, particularly for the so-called 'Five Civilized Tribes'.

On Friday the children from K-1 to 6th grade enjoyed a very productive first contradance practice, in preparation for the Lantern Walk. Our second practice will be this Friday.

We are at Sweetwater Farm this Wednesday for our last visit this fall. Dress in layers for the weather. Drop off at 8:45 a.m. and pick up at 11:30 a.m.