

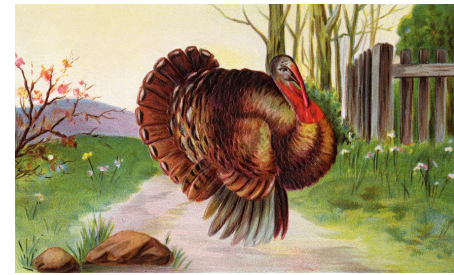


OUR 24TH YEAR

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF

November 25, 2013

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News and Notes

K-6th Parents: Send in Pie Plates

Please send in a glass or plastic pie plate with your child's name on the side, for your child's individual winter garden. Starting next Monday, each K-6th student creates a winter garden in his or her pie plate, beginning with sand and rocks.

The Coffee Order and ReCUPS

Deans ReCups are available in 5 different brews and are compatible with all K-cup brewing systems. Find them on the Village School Coffee order form, which is due Dec. 6.

Annual Fund Calling

If you forgot, please send in your Annual fund donation or pledge – to save Sarah Briggs making phone calls. She will start calling parents after Thanksgiving. Thank you very much.

1st-6th grade Cross Country Skiing in January

1st-6th graders go cross country skiing on Royalston common every Friday afternoon from January 10th until February vacation, weather permitting. Children need skis, poles and boots that easily click into bindings. See if your child's skis fit from last year. Ask Rise about extra skis that may be available.

Thanksgiving Thoughts

It is fitting this week to look at the Thanksgiving Address used by the Six Nations or Haudenosaunee (also known as the *Iroquois*). It is "based on the belief that the world cannot be taken for granted, that the communication of thankfulness and acknowledgment of all living beings must be given to align the minds and hearts of the people with Nature" (*John Stokes*). In its various forms, it is over 1000 years old. The address begins by giving thanks for the different elements of the earth, and slowly moves from the earth to the stars, to the sun and beyond. Here is a segment of it:

“The Earth Mother We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our Mother, we send greetings and thanks. Now our minds are one.

The People Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People. Now our minds are one.”


From all of the staff at the school: we wish everyone a heartwarming Thanksgiving. May our minds be one.

Preschool

Last week the children rubbed crayons over texture plates to decorate their thanksgiving baskets and then used water color paint for a resist effect over the crayon. They also washed cranberries and measured and mixed in the sugar. Some of the children's faces scrunched up when they tasted a raw cranberry! The class enjoyed the media table filled with 'goop,' a slippery mix of corn starch and water. On Friday the class helped clean out the table and washed all the dishes to get ready for "cloud dough" this week. Cloud dough is made by mixing eight cups of flour with one cup of oil. It has a very soft texture and can be used

for an extended period of time. This week the class will finish their baskets and spoon the cranberry sauce into jars. We will read two Native American stories, *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush* retold by Tomie dePaola and *Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message* by Chief Jake Swamp. We will also talk about Thanksgiving and ask the children what they are thankful for. Here is a poem the class is learning: "A turkey is a funny bird - it's head goes wobble, wobble. And all it says is just one word: gobble, gobble, gobble!"

November - December 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25 K-6th Parents: Send in Pie Plates →	26 8:45 Reading Buddies	27 NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK		29 NO SCHOOL
2 8:45 All School Sing Winter Gardens begin: rocks and minerals	3 8:45 Reading Buddies	4 8:45 a.m. Parent Group meeting	5 8:45 Reading Buddies 1:00 2nd-3rd to Camp Caravan	6 COFFEE ORDER DUE soccer yoga

Kindergarten—1st Grade

We begin our new theme of Olden Times. We'll ask the class what they know about Olden Times and what they would like to find out. On our visit to the library we'll be reading and checking out a selection of books about Thanksgiving.

Next Monday we begin making our Winter Gardens. Please make sure your child brings in a labeled pie plate for his or her garden. The gardens will be built over three weeks. Next week we're looking at the mineral world and will be collecting sand and special rocks to make the base of our garden.

Last week in art, the class made paper collages based on the book *Color Zoo* by Lois Ehlert. The Thanksgiving cards that the class recently made are going home this week. There were some beautiful messages written on them including "I am thankful for trees because I like to play with them, climb in them, and collect their leaves" and "I am thankful for love because if we didn't have love we would just be separate."

In science last week the children were out in the garden planting bulbs to complete our Growing theme. We hope to see them popping up next spring.

In phonics this week we are looking at the letter 'n' and kindergarten will be practicing reading words made with letter sounds they know.

Last week the kindergarten math group played *What's Missing?* in which nine small items are placed on a mat divided into nine sections. The children play in pairs and they take turns removing three items and their partner must figure out what is missing. This is a good challenge and is a game that can easily be played at home. First graders are continuing the unit *Solving Story Problems*. Last week we were thinking up and solving addition and subtraction story problems. This week we'll be discussing addition and subtraction strategies and counting numbers up to 100.

2nd - 3rd Grade

Last week, the children began practicing music for the holiday concert. They were sent home with song lyrics so they can practice the songs at home. The children also performed songs on recorder for the K-1 class to dance to. They did an excellent job playing recorder and enjoyed watching the younger children dance as they played.

In science, the children learned about reptiles. Then they made scientific drawings of a local reptile. Look for the display of some of the reptiles that live around here. In Spanish, the children learned about Mexican music, including kinds of music and some music traditions. They heard examples of some music too.

We have our annual thankful and grateful turkey (whom the children named Albuquerque), hanging on the wall. Here are some of the things that the children are thankful and grateful for: Earth, family, school, pets, friends, pickles, Christmas and food. Each child made an individual turkey as well, which will be sent home tomorrow.

In theme, we had an amazing weaving session with Becky Szal, Village School alum. She taught the children how to do some basic kinds of weaves and then when asked, showed some children how to make a shape such as a diamond within the weaving. The children wove for almost two hours that day! We were both really impressed by how long they kept at it. They are now working on their next weaving project and look forward to read aloud so that they can have time to weave. Thank you, Becky, for coming in and teaching us.

Please send in a pie plate with your child's name on the side, tomorrow, so we can start the winter gardens when we return from Thanksgiving break on Monday. We will fill them with a layer of sand that morning. We'll be keeping our eyes out for special rocks too.

4th - 6th Grade

Our successful reading workshop with parents last Thursday was one of a series being held in every class to give parents information on how they can support their children's reading at home. In the 4th-6th grade class, the emphasis was on staying engaged with your child's reading by reading the same books – at least sometimes – and discussing them together, as well as continuing to read aloud, etc.

We also hoped that the parents would experience how the classroom feels during our reading sessions, when the children are all silently absorbed in the books they are reading. Each of the children gave their parents a book they liked and the whole student-parent group spent fifteen minutes quietly reading, before each parent-child pair discussed their book together. Most of the parents borrowed their assigned book to finish it – which is a sign of success!

Our memoir project is coming to a conclusion. A few children have already finished their pieces and the rest should get close to completion before the Thanksgiving break. It's very gratifying to see how the whole class has learned from the published memoirs we read together, how attentive everyone has been to putting the incident they chose into a wider personal perspective.

We ended last week with a class trip to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, where we saw the truly extraordinary exhibition of watercolors by John Singer Sargent. The children enjoyed seeing the originals of paintings they have seen in books and posters, and it was a pleasure to hear their perceptive comments on what they were seeing. As a class we highly recommend that you see the exhibition for yourselves! By popular demand we ended our visit by spending some time in the M.F.A.'s replica Buddhist temple where, once again, it was moving to see the children's silent and respectful response to the room and the statues within it.

Don't forget to send in a pie plate tomorrow for the winter gardens we start creating next Monday.