

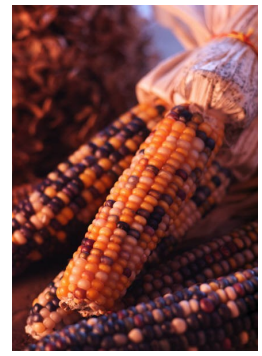


OUR 24<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF

# September 23, 2013

PO Box 122 Royalston, MA 978 249-3505  
[www.villageschoolma.org](http://www.villageschoolma.org)



## News and Notes

### This Tuesday Morning is Harvest Morning

Children will harvest the garden with their reading buddies, and enjoy fresh cooked corn for snack. All children should wear boots, pants and be dressed for getting dirty!

### Come to Curriculum Night This Wednesday

**Don't miss** your child's teacher's presentation on the curriculum, events and practices for the year. Also, if you are **a parent of a younger child at the school**, you may want to attend any or all of the presentations to learn about the unique challenging curriculum. If you can't get a babysitter, sign up in the hallway for babysitting at the school. Here are the times:

5:45: K-1<sup>st</sup> 6:30: 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> 7:15: 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

### Don't Miss the Garlic and Arts Festival! Oct. 5th & 6th

Parent volunteers are needed for the Village School tent. We offer a woodworking project for children. It's a lot of fun. Bring your kids. The sign up sheet will be posted in the hallway this week.

**The next Parent Group meeting** is Wednesday October 2nd at Zandy McBeth's house., in Phillipston, off of Royalston Rd on the way up to the school. If you are dropping off at Red Apple Farm, you are very close. Come by for coffee and good company, and relax before the noon pick up.

### OOPS - The Annual Parent Work Day is Sunday Oct. 20!

We had posted the wrong date in last week's news. The projects will get listed on a sheet in the hallway this week.

### When you are late picking up....

If you find you are running late for the 3:15 pickup and need to communicate with Lynn Anair, either send an email to [afterschool@villageschoolma.org](mailto:afterschool@villageschoolma.org) or text her cell phone, and she will let your child know.

### School Photos

If your child was absent, Kirsten will be back on Friday October 4th. We'll do class pictures then too.

## Preschool

Our story of the week is *The Turnip*. An old man grows such an enormous turnip that he can't pull it out. Many friends come to help him and they all say "Fe fi fo fout, this turnip won't come out." Ask your child which animal made the difference for pulling the turnip out. Tuesday is Harvest Day and the class will go into the garden with their Reading Buddies and harvest potatoes, carrots and a very large turnip! Children should wear boots and long pants. On Thursday we will eat roast potatoes, which we dug from the garden, for snack. This Friday is our trip to Red Apple Farm. We will meet at the farm at 9:00 a.m. Please send

in your permission slip with \$6.50, if you haven't already. Thank you to all the parents who have been sending in food for snack. Also thank you to Angela (Sophia's mom) for sending in snack on Wednesdays to celebrate Latin month. This past Wednesday Angela brought in guava paste and queso fresco (fresh cheese) on wheat crackers for the class to try. Delicious!

This Wednesday is Curriculum Night - if you are interested in your child continuing at the Village School beyond preschool, you'll find it worth your while to attend.

## September - October 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>23</b> 8:45 All School Sing Spanish	<b>24</b> 8:45 Reading Buddies <b>Harvest Morning</b> Children should dress for getting dirty!	<b>25 K-1 at Maggie's Farm</b> <b>CURRICULUM NIGHT</b> 5:45 K-1st 6:30 2nd-3rd 7:15 4th-6th	<b>26</b> 8:45 Reading Buddies Art classes <b>All School Roast Potato Snack</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Preschool at Red Apple Farm</b> Yoga K-6th Hiking
<b>30</b> 8:45 All School Sing Spanish p.m. 2nd-3rd at Lawrence Brook	<b>1</b> 8:45 Reading Buddies Music Classes p.m. 4th-6th at Harvard Forest	<b>2 8:45 a.m. Parent Group meeting at Zandy's</b> <b>K-1 at Red Apple Farm</b> <b>2nd-3rd at Sweetwater</b>	<b>3</b> 8:45 Reading Buddies Art classes	<b>4</b> Coffee order due Yoga K-6th Hiking <b>GARLIC FEST</b> <b>Sat &amp; Sun →</b>

## Kindergarten—1st Grade

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We continue our *Growing* theme this week with the picture book *Oliver's Vegetables* by Vivian French. When Oliver comes to stay with his grandparents for the week, they discover he is a picky eater, and he likes French fries. His grandfather tells him that if he wants French fries he'll have to find the potatoes in the garden. . . . ask your child where the story goes from there.

We've had great selection of items brought in for theme-share including a homegrown watermelon (which we ate), an avocado pit and two homegrown avocado trees, a leaf collage, a snake skin, and puppy and dog photos (of the same dog).

This Tuesday is all school harvest morning and the class will go out with their reading buddies to harvest the garden. We're hoping to find potatoes, carrots, pumpkins, some corn, and the remaining pole beans. The children have been grazing daily on the plentiful pole beans at recess.

It was wonderful weather at Sweetwater Farm last week. Activities on the farm included feeding the goats and the rams, clearing the corn and squash patch, and hiking to the orchard.

This Wednesday we'll visit the Farm School and Maggie's Farm to see the animals and see what's growing. Please drop off at the Farm School parking lot at 9:00, and pick up at Maggie's Farm at 11:30.

In phonics we're looking at two letters and their sounds each week. So far we have looked at c, a, o, and d. This week's letters are g and m. The letter sequence is designed so children begin to read and spell simple words easily.

In art last week the class drew self-portraits with pen and paint. See them on display in the hallway. This week in art we'll make vegetable prints.

The kindergarten math class is examining buttons and noticing their attributes: color, shape, size and the number of holes. First graders are solving addition story problems, ordering numbers, and playing *Roll and Record* and *Five in a Row*.

We hope to see all of you at Curriculum Night this Wednesday. The K-1 presentation starts promptly at 5:45 p.m.

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## 2nd - 3rd Grade

Last week, the children did a wonderful job reciting their poems. The poems they chose represented a good range of poems. They began writing symbolic poems in which they thought about a symbol that represented themselves and went on to describe it. We are working on thinking strategies in reading and using our thinking to interact with our books and our partners.

The children had a lot of fun creating their talking sticks. Each one is unique and holds personal symbols. We are practicing the idea of harnessing its power of silence. We also began our monthly full moon project. The children learn about the importance of the moon for Native Americans and the different names for the moon. We started with September, the Harvest or Corn Moon. The children used collage to create their September moon. We will also work on the August moon this month.

In math 3rd graders will bring home addition cards. The children should test themselves to see which combinations they 'just know' (which means they should know it as well as they know 2+2). Then, the combinations that they need to work on should be written down on their homework paper and brought in to school. This is due Friday. They should continue to practice the combinations they are working on.

In music, the children have been working on a challenge where two groups are singing two different songs simultaneously. They are able to stay in tune for their own songs and sing the right words. In art the children worked on the first of many mandalas that they will create this year. They represented themselves in the center and then, in four quadrants, which represent the four directions, they drew pictures of things they love. They also made patterns.

This week is Harvest Week. We will harvest the garden and reap the benefits of our garden work last spring. It's always a sweet day with buddies working together to dig potatoes and hunt around the garden for other crops.

This Wednesday is Curriculum Night, with 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade starting promptly at 6:30. Don't miss this chance to learn what your child will be doing in class this year.

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## 4th - 6th Grade

Last week saw the beginning of this year's poetry project. On Monday the children worked together to list various ways in which they could read poetry well - speaking slowly, looking up at the audience, varying their tone of voice, etc. Everyone then chose a book from the class's wide collection of poetry titles, and for homework selected a poem and practiced reading it.

The following day everyone read his or her poem aloud, while the rest of the class monitored the reader and checked whether he or she was following the criteria we'd agreed for good poetry reading. One of these was 'enthusiasm', and there was plenty of that. It was a pleasure to see how invested all the children were in the project in general, and their own choices in particular.

By popular demand we repeated the poetry practice homework twice more during the week. The assignment also involved writing reasons for choosing a poem, and examples of what each reader liked about it. Including contributions from the teachers, the class has heard nearly seventy poems in the past week, which is a fine foundation for their own poetry writing.

In last Tuesday's science lesson we went outside to collect leaves from eight different kinds of tree, which are now being pressed. This week the children will mount their leaves on cards, making a collection that will help them identify trees in the future. On Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup> we will visit the Harvard Forest Museum in Petersham to learn about changing land use in this area, with the help of the museum's marvelous dioramas. We will then take a guided walk through the forest. Please return the attached permission slip.

On Friday afternoons for the next few weeks, the class is learning a wide variety of cooperative games with Lindsey Limoges, the K-1 classroom assistant teacher, who also works with children and teenagers at the Farm School. These are highly popular sessions, and the aim is for the children to acquire a repertoire of new games to play together at recess.

We hope to see you at Curriculum Night this Wednesday for the 4th-6th presentation starting promptly at 7:15.