



OUR 24TH YEAR

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF

September 30, 2013

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News and Notes

The Garlic Fest is this Saturday and Sunday

Don't forget to sign up in the hallway. This is our once a year big community outreach. When you are volunteering at the Village School tent, not only are you helping children with projects, but you are talking to visitors and telling them about the Village School. Our aim is to make the tent inclusive, and for all new parents and children to feel welcome. If you are volunteering only, admission is free. Take time to get there- it takes a while to find parking and then walk up to the fest. Bring your kids!

Come to Parent Group Meeting this Wednesday 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. Even Sweetwater Farm isn't too far away. Come by for coffee and good company, and relax until pick up.

To all of you who donated to the 'Wish List' for school needs at the Auction: Thank you so much! Here is what has been purchased so far: soccer goals for younger children, soccer balls, the K-1 book rack, chairs for 4th-6th (ordered), new 4th-6th table, (thank you Lester Scafidi) and ball chairs ! for the 2nd-3rd classroom. It's great to have new sturdy equipment for the children.

Harvest Day Review

Last Tuesday was a marvelous morning, with perfect weather. 61 children, older buddies paired with younger buddies, were digging potatoes, pulling carrots, picking green beans and enjoying the treasure hunt of finding ripe vegetables in the garden. Everyone took green beans home, and the whole school enjoyed the fresh dug potatoes roasted for snack later that week. It was a full cycle: preparing, planting, caring, harvesting and eating. We'll post a short article and photos online.

More School Photos This Friday

If your child was absent, Kirsten is back this Friday. The Pre-school and 4th-6th class photos will be taken also.

Sign up for Parent Conferences on October 15 & 16th

See the back of the attached letter to select your preferred time.

The Coffee order is due this Friday. Note the new prices.

Curriculum Night

If you didn't make it to Curriculum Night, you can find the classroom curriculum for the year posted on the website.

Preschool

The class drew their impressions of the Red Apple Farm trip today. Picking apples and pumpkins, and going on the hayride were some of their favorite memories. We walked to the Royalston Library today and Paula read to the class and then they chose a book to take back to school. Last Thursday while acting out the story, *The Turnip*, the class worked hard to pull out four large turnips growing in the garden. Last week a monarch butterfly emerged from the chrysalis in the classroom. We brought it outside and the children were spellbound as they watched the butterfly flapping its wings while sitting on a flower and then suddenly take off on its first flight.

Thank you to Angela for bringing in star fruit, mango and a rice milk drink with cinnamon and cocoa last Wednesday. The children are trying new foods and liking them. Our media table has sunflowers and beans from Harvest Day. The children will shell the beans and pick the seeds out of the sunflowers.

This week our story is *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. We will take a walk in the woods and eat porridge for snack on Friday. Our next field trip is to Sweetwater Farm in Petersham on Wednesday, October 9th. If you are accompanying your child you don't need a permission slip. We will meet at the farm at 9:00 a.m.

September - October 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 8:45 All School Sing Spanish p.m. 2nd-3rd at Lawrence Brook	1 8:45 Reading Buddies p.m. 4th-6th at Harvard Forest	2 8:45 a.m. Parent Group meeting at Zandy's K-1 at Red Apple Farm 2nd-3rd at Sweetwater Farm	3 8:45 Reading Buddies Art classes	4 Coffee order due Yoga K-6th Hiking GARLIC FEST Sat & Sun →
7 8:45 All School Sing Spanish	8 8:45 Reading Buddies Music Classes	9 Preschool at Sweetwater Farm 9 a.m. to 11:15 8:45 a.m. 2nd-3rd Reading Hour for Parents	10 8:45 Reading Buddies Art classes	11 Yoga K-6th Jacobs Hill Hike leave school at 1:00. Parents welcome.

Kindergarten—1st Grade

On our trip to the Farm School last Wednesday, we visited the goats, sheep, and cows, hiked the property, harvested carrots, ate fresh apples and raspberries, and met up with the Chicken Coop School 7th and 8th grade students.

We continue our *Growing* theme this week with the picture book *Apples* by Gail Gibbons. It tells some of the history of apples in America and about apples today, along with some fun lists of the many different apple varieties. We'll be writing our own apple facts and learning more about apples. This Wednesday we'll visit Red Apple Farm in Phillipston. We'll pick apples and pumpkins, take a hay ride, and walk around the orchard. Drop off at the farm is at 9:00 and pick up is at 11:30. Parents are welcome to join us for the morning.

In art last week the class used carved potato shapes dipped in paint to print on placemats that we'll be using for snack this year. They then printed more patterns on paper that we'll use to decorate journal covers. This week in art we'll glaze our clay cups and other clay objects for firing in the kiln.

This week in phonics we're looking at the letters l and h. Ask your children how many words they can think of that begin with these letters.

In math, kindergarten children are recording what they find in the counting jar in their new Counting Jar Books. First graders are continuing work on the *Investigations* unit *How Many of Each?* This week we'll be solving story problems, finding number combinations, and playing the addition games *Heads and Tails* and *How Many Am I Hiding?*

This Friday afternoon is our last hike down to Lawrence Brook this fall. We'll leave the school at 1:45 and parents are welcome to join us. The following week we'll join the annual hike to Jacobs Hill, and we'll need a few parents to ferry us to the trail head, about a mile from the school. Parents will be very welcome to join us. More details to follow next week.

Our next trip to Sweetwater Farm is October 16th.

2nd - 3rd Grade

On our weekly hikes down to the river, the children have enjoyed seeing the changes in the river and the foliage. In our weekly yoga sessions, the children are working hard to try to learn the poses and to enjoy the quiet while practicing yoga.

In science, the children observed and made detailed drawings of mole crickets. They also wrote down 3 observations. In art, the children created another mandala, using liquid water color and potato stamps. They used symmetry and patterns. In Spanish, the children have been learning about Mexico. They have been watching a slide show and learning key words as they look at pictures of different places in Mexico that Jocelyn visited.

The children are really taking off with poetry writing. They are thinking very carefully about how to place their words on the page and how to use line breaks. They are eagerly writing extra poems and are producing some thoughtful and detailed poems. We continue working on thinking strategies in reading. While working on thinking strategies, we are building our book talk skills with partners and are working on other needs as well. By next week, we will begin doing some work in small groups.

This week, the children have handwriting and a word study sheet about "magic e" in their homework packets. All homework in the homework packets is due on Friday. 3rd graders should also continue to practice the addition combinations that they need to work on. 2nd graders are finishing up the *Counting, Coins and Combinations* unit by working on doubling numbers. Ask your child about the magic pot and what it does.

On Wednesday, we visit Sweetwater Farm. Drop-off is at 8:45 and pick-up is at 11:30, all at the farm. Children should wear boots and be dressed to be outside all day. They should also bring snack and water bottles.

On Wednesday, October 9, 2nd & 3rd parents are invited to a Reading Workshop in our classroom at 8:45 a.m. Come in and learn strategies to help your child with reading at home. After learning some strategies, you can then spend some time reading with your child in the classroom. If you have ever had questions about how to help your child's reading, you don't want to miss this.

4th - 6th Grade

Last week the children began writing their own poems. On Monday, in perfect fall weather, everyone went outside, armed with paper and clipboards, and found an object to write about; the only stipulation was that it had to be something they could touch and feel. Everyone spent half an hour observing and making notes about their chosen objects, which included an ants' nest, a wildflower, a piece of bark and the monkey bars.

The next day, the children used their notes to help them write a poem about their object. For homework the children repeated the observation exercise with an object (usually a pet!) at home, and then wrote a poem from home. Everyone then found ways to edit and fine-tune their original drafts. We discussed the use of titles in poetry, using published examples, and saw how the title can be the key to understanding what lies behind the text itself. The poem 'Happiness' by Mary Oliver is an excellent example.

One resource we use as examples are the poems written by previous classes, which we have in our class library. They're good! This week we will continue to write poetry, using a variety of cues. We are planning to have a Poetry Publishing Party for parents and friends on Thursday October 24th, at 8:30 a.m.

In science last week we learned about forest succession, and how forests develop. The children worked in pairs to map one meter-square plots of woodland in various stages of development, and used their observations to infer what was happening to the land at the end of the schoolyard 100 years ago. We are continuing our forest study with a visit to the Harvard Forest Museum in Petersham this Tuesday afternoon.

4th graders are finishing up the *Factors, Multiples, and Arrays* unit by finding all the factors of 100, 200 and 300. The 5th grade math group is looking at various multiplication strategies and finding various ways to represent them. The 6th graders are working with factors and multiples, and have been using the concepts of 'common multiples' to work out when various cyclical events over different intervals coincide. The 5th and 6th grade groups are working harmoniously in different corners of the classroom.