

The Wardsboro Update

Calendar

Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25 Thanksgiving Break
(Reminder –Wednesday Nov. 23 is a make-up day)

Attachments:

School Club Information
Thanksgiving Craft at Wardsboro Public Library
Wardsboro Fire Dept – Hunter's Supper

From the Principal's Desk

Rosemary FitzSimons

THANK YOU to all parents who have been able to take the time to conference with teachers. This is such an important educational tool. You are critical to the success of your children. We appreciate your support. Hopefully, you were able to take time to discuss conference results. It is worthwhile to begin the discussion with asking your child about their thoughts on specific areas of the conference report.

On Wednesday, TIGERS, once again, came to Wardsboro. This year's program was entitled, *Bullies and Bystanders Be Aware*". Unfortunately I was at a workshop so missed them this year. Thursday at All School Meeting the students were able to tell me about what was learned. This year there was more of a focus on the role of the bystander in bullying situations and online bullying. When there are student conflicts, I always use TIGER to guide the conversation with T – Tell an adult!, I say NO! (to bullying in person and online), Get help – (don't be a bystander), Exit when necessary (don't participate in any bullying), Respect yourself and others! (use your personal power for good). We have made progress in this with ROARS but more learning is needed. This was a topic in several of the speeches of those students "running for office" as student council members. We'll continue to seek out strategies to support the individual and collective good of our school community members.

Student Council news – Congratulations to the 15 students in 3rd - 6th grade who ran for one of our 4 spots on our student council. Each of these students wrote speeches of why they wanted to run and how he/she could support their peers. I was impressed with the efforts of these students. We ended up with a tie at 5th grade so we have five new members – Conall H, Siyanda J, Riley A, Kaie Q, and Isabelle B. I look forward to working with this group to support school-wide initiatives. The student council already decided that they could call on those who ran to support bigger projects.

Thank you to all families who filled out information for our Veterans Wall of Wonder. Stop and check out the information. We had a short flag raising ceremony in honor of our veterans. Thanks also to the cub scouts and boy scouts who participated in raising the flag and to Alan Bills for playing taps.

Last week's newsletter included information about "Bright Lights" encouraging all from Wardsboro to Jacksonville to brighten up buildings and surroundings with colorful holiday light displays. We have a plan to light up our front porch. We would welcome any parent/s who wants to volunteer to do anything more to support the valley project.

Have a great weekend!

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Dear Pre K and Kindergarten Families,

We had another great week. During our “word work” and “phonics” time kindergartners and preschoolers paired up to play an ABC matching game. From Letterland, this week we met the famous Harry Hatman. See if your child remembers why you have to be quiet around him and what color his hairy hat is. Next week we will meet Impy Ink.

We started a new unit this week. We will be comparing life “long ago” to now. This week we began by taking a closer look at families. Each student drew a picture of their family and shared it with the class. We discovered that each family is unique. Next week we will take a look at family life long ago. We will then compare school life long ago to now. If you have something that lends itself to this theme for example, a family photograph, an old quill pen or a story about when their parents or grandparents went to school, please feel free to send it in and we will give your child an opportunity to share it.

Kindergartners have been doing a fabulous job during guided reading. We have been working on the strategy “get your mouth ready” when encountering words we are unable to read. Please make sure that your child rereads the book to a family member and returns their reading bag to school the next day. Everyone has been very responsible so far.

We finished up our math unit on numbers 0 – 5 this week. Students have been building representations of numbers using many different math manipulatives including buttons, two sided counters, counting bears and unifix cubes as well as practicing writing proper number formation.

Finally, thank you to all of you for meeting with me for parent teacher conferences. I hope they were informative. Please remember that if you have any concerns throughout the school year, I am happy to set up a meeting at any point.

Sincerely,

Tammy Bates

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First and Second Grade

Mrs. Parker-Jennings (PJ)

This week was a short one for me. On Monday and Tuesday I spent in Providence, RI at a literacy conference. During the conference I worked with teachers and administrators around balanced literacy. I focused MY learning around six traits of writing, and have brought back some great new ideas and books to use when instructing our writer's workshop. Also, I learned more about reading instruction, and how to support students during our guided reading lessons. Overall, it was very informative, and I have brought back a lot of useful ideas. On Wednesday the whole school got to be a part of a special assembly about bullying. The TIGERS group once again put on a wonderful performance to demonstrate the effects that bullying has on others. After the program our class discussed times when we may have bullied, witnessed bullying, or were bullied.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.

Yours Truly,
Cris PJ

Fifth & Sixth Grade

Thank you to all parents who attended parent conferences! I have enjoyed meeting with you all, and I look forward to meeting with more parents next week. If I haven't met with you yet, and you are scheduled for a conference next week, please remember that those conferences are on Wednesday, November 16th, unless we have made other arrangements.

This week students continued to learn new geometry concepts. Ask your fifth or sixth grader to explain to you the difference between supplementary and complementary angles. Also ask them to tell you the trick they use to remember the difference! A transversal is another new geometry term we learned about this week. Ask your child to draw an example for you!

We had a great visit from the TIGER group on Wednesday. Students learned about the role of the bystander when bullying happens. A new part of the program addressed cyber-bullying. Students wrote about one thing they will do to stop bullying. Your child should be able to explain to you what each letter stands for in T-I-G-E-R.

Also this week, we continued work on our visual presentations of planets. Students each wrote an informational piece about a planet. Working with one or two others, (who gathered information about the same planet) students are creating visual presentations to share with the third and fourth graders.

Thank you to all parents who helped students add to the school's Veteran Wall of Wonder. Fifth and sixth graders had quite a few stories to share with the group! On Friday, we learned about Veterans Day and how it was established as a federal holiday.

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www.harcourtschool.com

Families can still access math activities online at the Harcourt website; just type the URL above into your web browser. Once there, save the site in your favorites folder on your computer. When you are at the website, you may be asked to sign-in. Follow these steps:

Use “Wardsboro” for the school.

Use “Bennett” for the password.

Be sure to click that you are using the website at home.

When you get the “The Learning Site” home page, click on the math button.

The next page is math. Highlight the words “Harcourt Math” and scroll over to the math books shown on the right at the top and click.

This is a contents page. From here, you can select the grade appropriate for your child.

At the grade level page, you can scroll down to select interactive activities. Under the heading of that page you can click on “Glossary” to see a glossary of math vocabulary. Also under the heading is a button that says “That's a fact!”. Go there to practice basic math facts.

Please check it out and show your child how to navigate the site. There's lots of interactive math activities there. You may find the glossary and demonstration pages helpful. And don't forget to have your child use “That's a fact!” pages so he/she can practice the basic math facts to increase fluency with the basic facts. If you don't have a computer at home, there are computers available to use at our town library.

Cadet Band

Cadet Band will begin on November 16th, from 3-4pm, at Townshend Elementary School. The rehearsal is held upstairs in the gym. First year band students should attend; please bring your instrument and lesson book.

Parents are encouraged to carpool and pick their children up promptly at 4 pm.

The concert will be held on Wednesday, December 14th, at 7 pm in the Leland and Gray High School Gym.

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Area Events

Jamaica/Wardsboro Community Food Pantry Thanksgiving

The Thanksgiving distribution for the Community Food Pantry will take place on Monday, November 21st at 6:30 PM at the Vestry of the Wardsboro Yoked Parish at 135 Main Street in Wardsboro. Anyone interested in receiving food assistance for the Thanksgiving holiday is asked to sign up by Saturday, November 19th. The special Thanksgiving distribution will include everything necessary for a festive holiday meal.

The Community Food Pantry provides assistance to anyone who asks – no requirements, no questions asked. Our service is confidential, supportive and non-judgmental.

For additional information or to sign up, please call Elaine Beckwith at 874-7234.

Leland and Gray Players

The Leland and Gray Players (lgplayers.webs.com) kick off their 16th season with *The Drowsy Chaperone* November 10-13 in the Dutton Gymnasium on the Leland and Gray campus, Route 30, Townshend. Wardsboro Public Library

Open House at the Library on Sunday, November 20, 2011 from 3:00-5:00 pm. Come and see what the future holds for the Wardsboro Public Library.