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Wardsboro Update

The Principal's Desk Rosemary FitzSimons

Dates to Remember

Saturday, September 24th
Community Potluck
Supper 5:30 pm
at the Wardsboro
Town Hall

Wednesday, October 5th
Open House
6:00-8:00pm

Monday, October 17th
Class Pictures

Wednesday, September 28
is a

Regular School Day

See special notice
about changes to
bus routes and
times for this day

Attachments:

⇒ Porter Thayer event
on Sept. 29th

Our school year is off to a great start! My compliments to families for your patience and flexibility with busing. We are hopeful that Route 100 from Route 30 will be opening in the next couple of weeks so we can resume our normal schedule. I've been impressed with the communities and individuals from around the state and country who have been generous in their offers to help us after the flooding. We did receive a box of school supplies that is on hand for the older children as the need arises. Recently I got an email from a woman in Arizona who wanted to help us out. I just heard back from her this morning. She is sending us 25-30 knit hats and scarves along with many backpacks. We will distribute as needed when they arrive. This is a good opportunity for our students to be on the receiving end as we have done several fundraisers over the last few years to support other children around the world. Please contact Laura Smith or me if you have a particular need that we could help with.

Next week we have several alterations to our schedule. On Monday all teachers, paras and principal will participate in a math workshop in the library at WES. This is one of three days planned with a math expert to help us with our continuous improvement process in math. We are pleased with the increased learning that has taken place over the last few years but know that we can continue to improve our skills reaching all learners. Mahesh Sharma has served as a consultant in many schools in Vermont and comes highly recommended. Substitutes will be in all classrooms on Monday. During the day, we will be checking in with substitutes to ensure learning is continuing for students. On Wednesday Cris Parker-Jennings will be representing our school at the regional professional development day. She will bring back an overview of the day to share with staff. **Reminder – Wednesday is a makeup day for us. We will be having a regular school day.** Also, Becky Graber, our

From the Principal's Desk, cont.

wonderful music teacher needed to take several weeks off but she will be back.

Have a great weekend! I am sorry I won't be able to attend the community potluck

scheduled for Saturday. One of my jobs in my family is that of wedding cake maker. I will be using my math skills over the weekend as I begin the creation of a cake for 200 people!

School and Activity News—Area Events

Box Tops for Education

We are again ready to submit our collection of Box Tops for Education. Please send in any that you have by October 21 so we may include them for redemption. We will continue to collect them throughout the year so please continue to clip and save them for us.

Soccer Cleats Available

Does your child need cleats for soccer? We have several pair of children's cleats size 3 up to size 5 available in the school office. Please stop by and pick some up. We also have some sneakers available sizes 13 – 3.

Four Winds an Endangered Species

Four Winds nature and science class needs volunteers to continue ... this year's theme is the Earth. We will be learning about all kinds of weather and the effects it has on us. A monthly commitment of only 3-4 hours benefits all students in K-6. For more info or to become involved contact Jenn Finaldi at 896-6812. This is a great opportunity to volunteer in the school.

Cub Scouts

All boys in grades 1-5 interested in joining Cub Scouts and all returning scouts – first den meeting to be scheduled in October. For more information call Jeremy Schrauf at 896-6216 or Jenn Finaldi at 896-6812.

Little League

Attention all Little League Baseball players!! Baseball? That's right, the season is over and we need your uniforms returned. Please bring them to the school office.

More Help Available

Deerfield River Valley Human Web is a fund managed under the umbrella of Twice Blessed a 501(c)(3) organization. They are collecting and distributing funds to be used to help affected families along the Deerfield River path. People are able to apply for grants from this fund to help displaced renters, people who have lost work and jobs because of the flooding, lost furniture, etc. in the towns of Wardsboro, Dover, Wilmington, Halifax, Whitingham, Searsburg, Marlboro, and Readsboro. For more information on donating or applying for funds please contact Julie Lineberger (802) 464-2428.

Pre-K and Kindergarten News

Dear Pre K and Kindergarten Families,

Welcome back. At school this week, our class continued to practice and establish routines of the classroom. The importance of learning these routines will allow the rest of the school year to go smoothly and maximize learning time. We have also been focusing much of our time learning the letters in our names and practicing how to write our names. We have learned poems, sung songs and explored magnetic letters using our own names and the names of our classmates. We also began our trips to Letterland, and met our first Letterland character, Annie Apple. Students enjoyed listening to her story and taking turns pretending to be her.

On Wednesday, preschoolers met our school guid-

ance counselor, Michael Italia. He will visit our classroom every Wednesday morning and work with us on many different social skills.

In the afternoons, kindergarten students have been spending our literacy block learning about how to become better readers and writers. So far we have practiced reading to ourselves as well as working on writing in our journals. Next week, we will begin learning about reading to someone else. Once our routines have been established, I will start working with groups of students on more specific reading strategies. We also began our first math unit, sorting and classifying. This week we continued to work with vocabulary to introduce the unit. So far we have reviewed over, under, in, out, through, between and beside. Students enjoyed the songs that went with these lessons which included Head,

Mrs. Bates

Shoulders, Knees and Toes, The Hokey Pokey and Bluebird. On Friday kindergartners took the MAP assessment. MAP stands for Measures of Academic Progress. It is a computerized assessment that tests student's early literacy and math skills. This year our district has decided to administer the test for all kindergarten students in the fall and then again in the spring. I will share the results with you during our fall parent teacher conferences. We will continue testing into next week.

On Monday Mrs. Mehner and I will be attending a math workshop. There will be two substitutes in our place. Hope all goes well!

Enjoy the weekend.



First - Second Grade News

Mrs. Parker Jennings (PJ)

The first and second graders had a wonderful week! We have continued becoming familiar with routines, and practicing expectations. The first graders are becoming more independent, and the second graders are being good role models.

Homework began this week. All students must read nightly or at afterschool Connections, for 15 minutes. The way we become better readers is by reading. Second graders have begun spelling homework. Please encourage your child to work neatly and accurately. Occasionally math homework will be coming home. Reminding your child to check his/her math work would be helpful.

Our morning is focused around literacy. After our morning meeting on the rug we jump into our writer's workshop. This week we have been exploring what authors do. The students and I made a poster to help remind us what authors do. After our specials class and snack we jump into our reader's workshop. First, we break into grade level groups for word work. This week first graders have been reading and writing words that rhyme. Ask your first grader about some words that rhyme. Write down two words that rhyme that your child tells you, on a note to me, and your child will get a No Homework pass because you read this newsletter. Also, students practiced stretching words out to write the sounds

they hear. Second graders did a lot of making, reading, and writing compound words. Ask your second grader what a compound word is or tell you a compound word. Write it on a note for me, and they will get a No Homework pass too.

In the afternoon we have our math workshop. We began our first math unit on number sense. First graders will be working on understanding numbers to 100, and second graders will be working on understanding numbers to 199. Our first theme study will begin next week.

I hope everyone has a super weekend.



Third - Fourth Grade News

Dear Third and Fourth Graders and Families,

I want to say a huge thank you to all the students for being so cooperative during the MAPS testing at the beginning of the week! We have finally completed them all and I am happy to say that we are back onto a somewhat regular schedule.

In literacy we have continued to learn and practice the routines of Reading Workshop, and next week we will begin writing about our reading. They students had a chance to try "Buzzing" about their reading in small groups the other

day, and it was very successful first try! I look forward to hearing about all their good thinking about their reading. We have also begun a read aloud of one of my favorite books, My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George. I hope that they enjoy this story as much as I did when I was their age.

In math third graders have been working on some algebra working with missing addends, and fact families. The fourth grade has been working on practicing place value to the hundred thousands and writing numbers in standard, expanded and word form.

Fifth - Sixth Grade News

This week students each completed a personal coat-of-arms. Designs included four areas: Talents and Skills, People Special to Me, Positive Beliefs, and Favorites. On Friday each student told us about their personally designed coat-of-arms, and what each area contained.

Sixth graders completed news article summaries and demonstrated oral presentation skills for the fifth grade. Sixth grade students also helped fifth graders to improve their writ-

ten news article summaries with strong supporting details. On Friday, fifth grade students completed their first oral presentations using a provided rubric.

We have identified the main conflict of the novel, A Wrinkle In Time. Students have begun listing the events that move the story forward as we get closer to the highpoint or climax. We have also spent some time discussing the traits of the main character, Meg, and her younger brother, Charles Wallace.

This week students took this

Mrs. Bills

In science we have begun our journey into the solar system. We have learned about the moon, and have begun to study the sun. Next week students will work in small groups to become experts about a planet and then will teach their classmates. To wrap this up we will create a model of the solar system to hang in our classroom.

I have continued to really enjoy working with your children! I am looking forward to a great year of learning and growing!

Mrs. Shakespeare

school year's first vocabulary quiz and completed their first spelling test!

In math we continued to work on word problems involving subtraction with regrouping. We also explored the problem solving strategy of guess and check and making a table.

Students read about Hurricane Irene in our current events magazine, *Time for Kids!*

Have a great weekend!