



Contact Information:

Rosemary FitzSimons, Principal Laura Smith, Administrative Assistant
Main Number - (802) 896-6210 Fax Number - (802) 896-6687
70 School Street, Wardsboro, VT 05355
www.wardsboroschool.com

September 30th 2011

Volume 3, Issue 3

Wardsboro Update

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, October 5th
Open House

Monday, October 17th
Class Pictures

Tuesday, October 18th
**Flu Immunization
Clinic for students
age 5 and older**

The Principal's Desk Rosemary FitzSimons

Please join us
Open House Schedule for Wednesday, October 5th

Each teacher will present an overview of the year in two sessions – choose the session that works best for you. Child care available for those need it.

6:00pm - 6:20pm

All Family Meeting in the multi-purpose room
– Connections News and ROARS update

Session One: 6:25pm - 6:55pm

Mrs. Bates ----- PreK and Kindergarten
Mrs. Parker-Jennings (PJ) ----- 1st and 2nd Grade
Mrs. Bills ----- 3rd and 4th Grade
Mrs. Shakespeare ----- 5th and 6th Grade

Session Two, 7:00pm - 7:30pm

Mrs. Bates ----- PreK and Kindergarten
Mrs. Parker-Jennings (PJ) ----- 1st and 2nd Grade
Mrs. Bills ----- 3rd and 4th Grade
Mrs. Shakespeare ----- 5th and 6th Grade

Open House Guess the Pumpkin's Weight Contest – Families, take a few minutes to estimate the weight of our pumpkin. The winning family (closest estimate) wins a prize!

FAMILY READING - Below are 10 Tips for Reading Aloud to Children by Jim Trelease, a well known presenter and reader of children's books. Hopefully you find these tips useful. Remember: The art of listening is acquired.

Attachments:

- ⇒ School Picture Order Form
- ⇒ Flu Immunization Clinic Information & Form

From the Principal's Desk, cont.

- 1) The first time you read a book, discuss the cover illustration.
- 2) Read slowly enough for the child to build mental pictures.
- 3) Use plenty of expression, change your tone of voice, and adjust your pace to fit the story.
- 4) Encourage involvement; invite your child to turn the pages for you – or share the reading.
- 5) Ask “What do you think is going to happen next?”
- 6) During repeat readings of a predictable book, stop at key phrases and allow the child to provide the words.
- 7) If you can't finish a chapter, find a suspenseful spot at which to stop.
- 8) Paper, crayons and pencils allow active children to keep their hands busy while listening.
- 9) Reading aloud comes naturally to few people. To do it with ease takes practice. It's worth it!

LET'S NOT FORGET MATH – WES teachers, paras and I participated in a math workshop on Monday. I believe all in attendance found great value in this. Our presenter made us all aware of the importance of integrating reading and MATH into all we do. I often talk with families and students about reading at home but I never ask what kind of math is happening at home. Families, this week point out math whenever and where ever you see it. Your family will soon discover that **MATH IS EVERYWHERE!**

School and Activity News—Area Events

Cub Scouts

All boys in grades 1-5 interested in joining Cub Scouts and all returning scouts the first den meeting will be Wednesday, October 12th at 6:00pm at the Wardsboro Town Hall. Bring your completed books!!

Reformer Christmas Stocking

Applications are available in the school office for this program which provides warm outer winter clothing for children ages 0-15. The completed applications must be sent in through the school. The deadline for applications is early October so please pick up and return applications as soon as possible. They **will not** accept late applications.



Pre-K and Kindergarten News

Mrs. Bates

Fall is in the air! We had another successful five day week of school. Thank you to Jennifer Finaldi and Trina Augello for subbing for Mrs. Mehner and I on Monday. We learned a ton about teaching math to Pre K and Kindergarten students. We hope to be integrating it into our math curriculum.

This week we began our first theme of the year, which is "In the Sky". This year our science focus will be on Earth Science. We will be learning simple concepts such as the Sun, Earth, moon and other planets are in the sky, and their relationship with one another. We will also be noticing

weather patterns. At the art center we painted suns to brighten up the classroom. We will add some planets and maybe the moon next week. See if your child is able to sing the new song that we learned.

Last Friday I sent home a Scholastic Book order form. If you would like to order, they are due back to school by October 7th. This week I have sent home October reading calendars. Kindergartners are required to read at least 10 minutes each evening and Pre K students are also encouraged to participate. When you turn in your September calendar your child will receive a prize from our treasure bin.

Kindergartners are finish-

ing up our first unit on Sorting and Classifying. Our next unit on Patterns will begin this next week. This week kindergartners also finished up taking the MAP assessment. MAP stands for Measures of Academic Progress. It is a computerized assessment that tests students' 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. Everyone worked really hard and did a great job!

Hope to see you all at the Open House next week!

What is DIBELS?

In the primary grades, DIBELS is an assessment that measures students' fluency with the following things:

- ⇒ naming letters
- ⇒ identifying the beginning sounds of words
- ⇒ breaking words into their component sounds
- ⇒ putting sounds together to read words
- ⇒ using words in meaningful phrases or sentences

In grades one through six, DIBELS measures oral reading fluency and fluency in telling about what has been read. Our school administers this assessment to all students in kindergarten through grade six. All students are assessed with DIBELS near the beginning and end of the school year. Some students are also assessed mid-year during the school year, so we may more closely monitor their progress. The actual whole name of the assessment is **D**ynamic **I**ndicators of **B**asic **L**iteracy **S**kills, thus DIBELS. We use the results of this assessment to help us decide upon interventions to use to help students improve their pre-reading/reading skills.

First - Second Grade News

Mrs. Parker Jennings (PJ)

Although it was a little rainy towards the end, the first and second graders had a super week. On Monday I, along with the other teachers, were not in the classrooms. Instead we were at “teacher school” in the library. We worked on gaining more skills and strategies for teaching math. It was a great day full of excellent ideas that I have already begun implementing. The report from the substitute was that the whole group was perfect panthers, modeling ROARS!

During writer's workshop we began exploring the six traits of writing. This will be a yearlong endeavor. We began by first understanding what a trait is, (a quality that something MUST have.) One example we looked at first is the traits of a car. What a car must have. The students helped me generate a list of “must haves.” For example, tires, steering wheel, seatbelts, etc. are traits. After generating a list of “must haves” for a teacher, I explained that writing had traits too. We will be practicing using these traits throughout the year. Next we began looking at our first trait, Ideas Trait. I explained that sometimes writers get their ideas from other writers. I read

the story When I Am Old With You by Angela Johnson. Next, students identified the story's main idea or topic; a boy spending time with his grandfather doing enjoyable things. This is the first quality of the Ideas Trait; finding the right topic. Then students shared a similar idea using the story to help them think of a time they did something enjoyable with someone they love. This was the jump off for their journal writing.

After our specials class and snack we jump into our reader's workshop. The first graders' word work included listening for and identifying syllables in words. Ask your first grader to tell you how many parts (syllables) “Halloween, moon, and spider” have. Write it down, and send it in their home/school folder for a homework pass. Also, first graders have been using what they know about letters and sounds to help them read words. Second graders' word work has been focused on vowels, and identifying the different sounds they make in words. Ask your second grader for a word that has each different vowel sound in it. Write down a few, and stick it in their home/school folder for a homework pass. Also, second graders have explored patterns in words.

Many words have the same ending like back, pack, stack. Also, during the literacy center time of reader's workshop I have begun some reading assessments. I am impressed at what good readers I have in class.

Math workshop has been all about numbers. The first and second graders have been discovering that numbers are made up of digits. However, each digit means something different depending on which place value it has. This week we also wrapped up the MAPS testing. I will be sharing results at conferences in November.

During the little bit of extra time we had in the afternoon, we began our first theme unit Nighttime. Our goals for this theme will be discovering nocturnal animals, comparing the Earth and Moon, and observing the nighttime sky. It should be a lot of fun, and a perfect theme to bring us through Halloween.

I hope everyone has a super weekend.

Classroom needs: old decks of playing cards. They do not have to be complete.

Third - Fourth Grade News

Dear Third and Fourth Graders and Families,

Thank you again for another great week! Students have been working hard learning the routines of the classroom, and I'm happy it finally seems that we are getting into a routine.

All students this week completed a letter responding to their reading during independent reading time, and have received a response. During this time of the day students select and read a book of their

choice, while I am able to check in with individual students to conference with them about their reading strategies and their comprehension. Starting next week students will be completing a letter once a week on their assigned days. These letters allow me to really learn about what they comprehend and it also allows me to guide and direct their comprehension through written discussion and questions.

This week in math fourth graders have continued to practice with place value up to the

hundred thousand place and third graders have been working on addition with regrouping. During the end of this week students have worked on creating and using tables and graphs.

We have also been practicing restating questions and answering questions completely. Students have also begun their research for their project about a planet in our solar system.

Fifth - Sixth Grade News

This week students each completed a first draft of a writing essay about their personal coat-of-arms. We are hoping to have final copies finished by next Tuesday, so that parents can read them at next week's open house on Wednesday.

This week students also learned how to take apart (decompose) a news article and rewrite it, (recompose) in their

own words. These written news summaries were presented orally to the rest of the class on Friday.

In math we worked on reviewing our understanding of place value and also on the commutative property of addition and the commutative property of multiplication. Students also completed the fall math assessment inventory.

Our spelling team is practicing every Tuesday afternoon

and first thing in the morning every day at school. We have 6 team members and an assistant coach. The spelling bee is coming up on October 13th! If you have a speller on the team, please make sure they are studying over the weekend!

Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Bills

Mrs. Shakespeare

