



Contact Information:

Rosemary FitzSimons, Principal Laura Smith, Administrative Assistant

Main Number - (802) 896-6210

Fax Number - (802) 896-6687

70 School Road, Wardsboro, VT 05355

October 14th, 2011

Volume 3, Issue 5

Wardsboro Update

The Principal's Desk Rosemary FitzSimons

Dates to Remember

Monday, October 17th
Class Pictures

Tuesday, October 18th
**Early Release Day -
Elementary Teacher
Inservice and L&G
Student Conferences**

Wednesday, October 26th
**DATE CHANGE: Flu
Immunization Clinic
for students
age 5 and older**

Wednesday, October 26th
**School Club Meeting,
6pm**

Attachments:

- ⇒ School Club Newsletter
- ⇒ Townshend Pumpkin Festival
- ⇒ Library flier – Halloween Dance & The Magical world of Tasha Tudor

5/6th Grade Theme Song

I'll do my best, yessiree!

On the test, you can count on me!

I'll try to score a four or a three

I'll do my best on the NECAPS!

Our NECAP testing began this week. Our focus over the last two years has been on the celebration of learning growth. This is one opportunity for students to share all they have learned. It was great to meet individually each of the third through sixth grade students to discuss strategies learned that would be useful when taking the NECAP tests (and all school work). Mrs. Shakespeare's class has been singing the above song to build enthusiasm for their task. Their buddies in our 1/2 class prepared goody bags for them. These bags included snacks, gum, pencils, etc. It was fun to see the students proudly presenting the bags to their older peers and to see the enthusiasm on their faces. The scene will be replicated next week when the kindergarten buddies

make and share goody bags with Mrs. Bills' class as they begin their tests.

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee team! They did their best competing in this year's WCSU tournament. They tied for 3rd place. I am always impressed with how well all of the students do during the bee.

We are hopeful that the bridge on Route 100 will be opened next week so we can get back to a more normal schedule. To avoid confusion, the bus on Monday morning will be running on the same schedule it has been since school started – even if the bridge is open. On Monday afternoon parents should be ready for a “normal” run if the bridge has opened but know there may be problems with the bridge opening so ... perhaps the term hurry up and wait may apply. Again, we thank you for your patience!

One thing that has impressed me with WES is parent volunteerism. It takes many volunteers for all the extras that make this school special. The

From the Principal's Desk, cont.

breakfast program that so many of our students participate in is run by volunteers. Several parents who stepped forward over the years are no longer able to put the snack carts together for various reasons. We need your help. It only takes a few minutes each day and could easily be done when dropping children off at school or

while waiting to pick up a pre-schooler (prepare carts for the next day). Please call Laura Smith if you could help out one day a week. Also, it is not too late to sign up to help with Four Winds – our environmental science program.

Have a great weekend!

School and Activity News—Area Events

Update – Flu Immunization Clinic

We have rescheduled the flu immunization clinic. The new date is Wednesday, October 26th in the afternoon.



Breakfast Program – Volunteers needed

We need a few volunteers to help keep our breakfast program going. Do you have 10 minutes that you could spare once a week? This could be anytime during the day when you may already be here dropping off or picking up your child, waiting at soccer practice or at school for any other reason. You do not need to make a special trip to school or schedule an exact time to be here. We can use your help to keep our cereal stocked on the breakfast carts or to set up our little breakfast baskets. Please stop in the office and let us know that you are willing to help and we will show you what you can do.

Band Notes 10/11/11

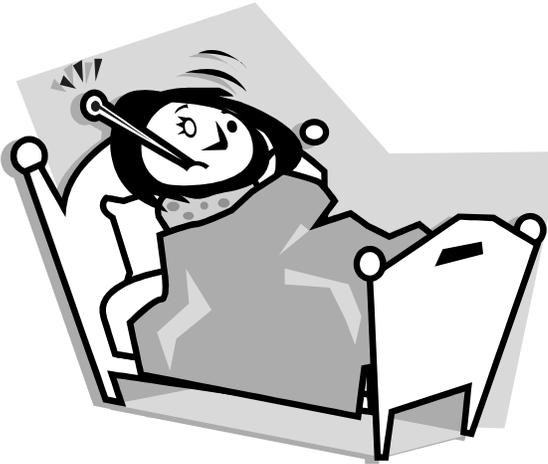
Second year band students will need to purchase a lesson book for their study this year. We are using the Standard of Excellence, Book I, which is \$7.00. Please make checks payable to Ellis Music Co. I will deliver the books upon payment.

Third year band students will need to purchase a lesson book for their study this year. We are using the Standard of Excellence, Book II, which is \$7.00. Please make checks payable to Ellis Music Co. I will deliver the books upon payment.

Percussion books are \$9.00.



Notes from the Health Office



We have at least one case of known chicken pox in the area. I want to alert parents to the signs and symptoms of this once common childhood infection. It is spread through the air by sneezing and coughing or through contact with an infected person's rash.

Chicken Pox is caused by the varicella-zoster virus. The period of incubation time between exposure and symptoms is from 10-21 days. A child is considered contagious from a few days before the onset of symptoms until all crops of skin eruptions have crusted over. The student may not return to school until the last crop of skin blisters (or eruptions) is completely dry. If your child has been around a person who

has the virus and he/she has not had the chicken pox or vaccine, you still may be able to prevent the illness. Get a shot of chickenpox antibodies or the vaccine right away.

Signs and symptoms include moderate fever (can be up to 104) headache, discomfort, loss of appetite, and occasional sore throat. Skin eruptions often begin on the child's trunk and then spread to his/her face, neck and extremities. The pox look like elevated red bumps with a fluid filled clear center. The eruptions begin shortly after the onset of symptoms and last a few days to two weeks.

The rash appears in crops and will open and crust over. They can be extremely itchy. Scratching should be discouraged to prevent secondary infection and scarring. Aspirin should NOT be given to a child with chicken pox, as Reye's Syndrome may result.

It is still possible for a vaccinated child to get the chicken pox, but it is typically a much milder case, often without fever. The vaccine also prevents a person from developing shingles later on. The Vermont Department of Health recommends one dose at 12 months and a second dose at 4-6 years of age. People 13 years and older who do not have evidence of immunity should receive 2 doses, separated by at least 4 weeks.

If you think that your child has the chicken pox, please contact your pediatrician to report your child's symptoms and also call the school to inform us of your child's illness.

Thank you and please contact me if you have any concerns or questions.

Lois Thibault, RN
School Nurse

Fluoride rinses will start next week for Grades 1-6. If you would like to have your child participate, please return the signed permission form if you have not done so already.



Pre-K and Kindergarten News

Dear Pre K and Kindergarten Families,

This week we were able to enjoy some beautiful fall weather, and got some extra outdoor playtime during our morning hours together. We have noticed the changing trees, temperature and even a frost one morning. We have started a nature collection in the classroom of fall items, leaves, acorns, pumpkin seeds, etc. If you have something special to add to our collection, the students would enjoy seeing it.

Our class has been learning about things that are in the sky. We have designed our own planets and built name rocketships at the art center. They look fantastic. During our morning activities time students sorted letters that are in their name and not in their name. This was a review for

kindergarten students but a bit of a challenge for some Pre-K students. From Letterland this week, we met Dippy Duck. We also learned a song about some ducks that went out to play. See if your child is able to sing it to you.

Patterns, patterns everywhere. We have been learning how to copy, predict and extend patterns. We have been doing shape patterns, color patterns, movement patterns, sound patterns. Please use the Family Involvement activities that were sent home to extend learning of this concept at home.

Kindergartners continue to get ready for guided reading groups. We have been spending much of our afternoons learning the routines about reading to ourselves, reading to someone and this week we practiced listening to reading. Students enjoyed

taking turns listening to books on tape, books on the ipad as well as the computer. I hope to start guided reading groups within the next couple of weeks. There will be more information to follow on this. For word work this week we learned about breaking up words into syllables and a new poem about types of food. Look in your child's folder for it.

This week I began assessing student's letter recognition as well as sound symbol relationships. I look forward to sharing this information with you during our parent teacher conferences. Next week Tuesday is a half day of school.

Have a great weekend.



First - Second Grade News

Mrs. Parker Jennings (PJ)

The first and second graders had a great week of learning. Thank you to all the families who are reading the newsletter, and following through with the objects for their Idea Notebooks. If you haven't already, please support your child to pick out and bring in some photos, pictures, notes, or postcards to put into their notebooks for writing ideas.

During writer's workshop we continue exploring the six traits of writing. Still using the story When I Am Old With You by Angela Johnson, students discovered that having a strong idea trait in their writing means using descriptive details. Ms. Johnson does this very well in her story. The students and I then used the story to create lists of descriptive words that could describe sight, sound, taste, smell, touch and feelings. Next, our young authors added and changed their own writing to include some of these sensory words.

Reader's workshop. The first graders word work included hearing and identifying beginning and ending sounds in words. They played sound dominoes where they made a train of pictures that ended and began the same. For example, cat-train-nap-pig-garden. We wrapped up our week blending onsets and rhyme in words while playing go fish. Students made picture matches but had to ask

for the match saying the words beginning part (onset) and the rest of the word (rhyme.) An example of this would be instead of saying cheese, they would say /ch/ then /eese/. Second graders began the week focusing on word meaning, and worked with synonyms (words that mean about the same thing.) The end of the week included working with word structure and making, reading, and writing two syllable words. Second graders found syllable parts and matched them to make a word. For example, one part might be *nap* and another part might be *kin*. They put the two parts together to make *napkin*. During literacy centers the first and second graders have been doing a super job working quietly at journal writing, word work activities, SRA, spelling activities, and enjoying books. During this time I am continuing my reading assessments with some students. These assessments will help me know where each student is at in their reading, what they have mastered, and what I will be working with them on.

Math workshop continues to be all about numbers. We have explored different ways to name numbers. Students have been using digits, place value, manipulative (flats, rods, units,) number words, and expanded notation ($100+40+6$ is 146,) to name numbers.

During our theme, Night-time, we finished up our investiga-

tion on why stars twinkle. The first and second graders science journals will be coming home at the end of the month for families to check out. The students used the "scientific process" to find out why stars twinkle. They came up with a question, a hypothesis (good guess using what you know,) followed an experiment, and came up with a conclusion as to why they *seem* to twinkle. Then, students learned about what a *model* is; a smaller version of something. Later in the week students compared the Earth and Moon to each other using play dough. They discovered that they have similarities and differences. Next I asked if the Sun was bigger, smaller, or about the same size as the Moon. Some students thought much bigger, while most thought about the same size. At least it looks that way in the sky. Ask your first or second grader what size the Sun would be if the moon was the size of a tennis ball. We were all shocked by the answer. Send the answer in for a free homework pass. Finally, keep up with the Moon Journals they are going to be used in class at the end of the month.

Thank you again for supporting your child's learning.

I hope everyone has a super weekend.

Third - Fourth Grade News

Dear Third and Fourth Graders and Families,

I hope you all got a chance to enjoy the beautiful fall during the past week. We are so lucky to have such beautiful foliage to enjoy!

This week has been another busy week at school. In math we have been finishing up our unit on graphs and tables. During literacy time we have been working on the Answer Sandwich written responses, and doing reading and responding to our independent and read aloud books. Students had the opportunity to

present their information about the planets to their classmates and we have all filled out our solar system information pages. In social studies we have finalized our questions for our School Responsibility interviews, so please look for an assignment information sheet in your child's homework folder.

Please remember that third and fourth graders will begin their NECAP tests next week. They will not have written homework during the testing window, but they should continue to read nightly and make sure to get plenty of rest and eat

Fifth - Sixth Grade News

This week we completed three NECAP assessments in the area of reading. Next week we will be taking the math tests on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October 17, 19, and 20. This is a change from our original schedule, due to the half day for students on Tuesday. The fifth and sixth grade students were happy to receive goody bags from the first and second graders who wished them well on their NECAP tests!

On Thursday, at the

Windham Central Supervisory Union Spelling Bee, our 5th and 6th grade spelling team tied for third place with Marlboro Elementary School. We worked hard at practicing and hope that next year we will do even better, since most of our team will be returning as sixth graders with experience! Spelling team members will still have their last Connections spelling day on Tuesday, October 25th. We will be playing Scrabble and Banagrams along with other word games. We will not have Con-

a good breakfast before school to prepare them to do their best work.

Enjoy your weekend!

Grades 3 & 4 NECAP schedule: Testing time is approximately 10:45-12:15

Testing dates: Monday 10/17, Wednesday 10/19 and Thursday 10/20 - Reading tests. Friday 10/21, Monday 10/24, and Tuesday 10/25 - Math tests.

Mrs. Bills

Mrs. Shakespeare

nections next Tuesday (October 18th) due to the half day!

This week we also began reading nonfiction books about our assigned planets. Ask your fifth or sixth grader if they can name the planets in order from the sun!

Have a great weekend! Don't forget that students need to get a good night's sleep Sunday night in preparation for MATH NECAPs on Monday!



The Wardsboro School Club strives to build a strong sense of community within our school and to provide enriching experiences for all students.

THANK YOU!!

The Wardsboro School Club would like to thank everyone who participated in the Columbus Day Weekend Bake Sale. Thank you to everyone who contributed; whether it was by baking, buying, selling or all of the above. Your donation helped make this fundraiser a success!



50/50 Raffle:

Proceeds will be donated to the Wardsboro Relief Fund. Tickets are currently available upon request. Please contact Janine Plimpton at 896-6750. Drawing will be held on November 29th at the WSC Hosted Pampered Chef Party.

Coming Soon: Pampered Chef

Mark your calendars for November 29th. This was a successful show last year and 10% of the profits raised go to provide enrichment for all students. What a great way to get out for an evening and maybe cross a few names off that holiday shopping list! MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Box Tops: Cut them and send them in! These are sent in by the school club for additional proceeds for enrichment. FREE MONEY!! Are you really throwing it away??

We are only as strong as the community that supports us! Your donations, participation, and support contribute to the many services provided to all elementary students throughout the year. We encourage new ideas and faces at our meetings, held on the 4th Wednesday of every month (unless otherwise posted) at 6:00p. Our next meeting will be October 26th 6:00p at the Wardsboro Elementary School.

Parent Representative Officers

Melissa Bush – President
Sarah Thorpe – Treasurer

Janine Plimpton – Vice President
Heather Bedard – Secretary