



Contact Information:

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

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Wardsboro Update

The Principal's Desk Rosemary FitzSimons

Dates to Remember

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

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

It has been a BUSY week here at school! I am proud of the efforts of our students who are taking the NECAP assessments. We are almost done - 3rd and 4th graders will have two days of math next week and 5th graders will be taking their writing assessment on Monday and Tuesday. We wanted to do something special for the primary students who put together our goody bags and for the students who worked to do their best on these assessments. TODAY we got that something special offered to us! Ted Lawrence, who lives locally, stopped in to offer us a FREE science show – Kiddie Chem. He travels throughout the northeast doing shows to school groups and educational conferences. He integrates his background as a circus clown, a science teacher and a math teacher into his shows. He decided he wanted to share with us. We are really excited about this opportunity. Any parents who wish to join us are invited to attend the show at 1:00 next Tuesday.

You may remember that last March I went to Montreal to

participate in a professional learning experience with four other Vermont principals and principals from Quebec. I found it very informative. Next week we will follow up on this learning experience. The Quebec administrators will be coming to Vermont to visit our schools. I will be visiting schools in the Burlington area on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday the group will be visiting our school. I am proud to show off the great learning that is taking place here. Our visitors will move as they wish through the school, stopping in rooms to view learning and talk with students and staff. Of course they will meet Wes, our new mascot. They are most interested in a typical day so nothing special is planned. The principal group uses afternoon team time to summarize the highlights of each school visited. On Thursday we will complete our school tours in Saxtons River. The group will then develop a way to share out and summarize our learning with the rest of the group. This takes place on Friday.

Attachments:

None

From the Principal's Desk, cont.

Have a great weekend! Don't forget to spend some family time reading and how about a

little fun with numbers such as investigating math on your cereal boxes over breakfast!

School and Activity News—Area Events

Cub Scouts

Our field trip for scouts and their families, to Gaines Farm for a walk thru the corn maze is going to be Sunday, October 30th-- meet at the Wardsboro Town Hall at 12:45 departing at 1pm
Our next den meeting is Wednesday November 2nd at 6pm at the Wardsboro Town Hall.

School Photos

Make up day will be on Monday, November 28th. All students who ordered photos will get a class picture at no additional charge. The class photos may be delivered at a different time than the student photo packages. We spoke with the photo company as this information was not on their order form.

Pre-K and Kindergarten News

Mrs. Bates

Dear Pre K and Kindergarten Families,

Things are moving along smoothly in the Pre K and Kindergarten classroom. Students looked spiffy and had big smiles for picture day on Monday. In the classroom students have been busy practicing early literacy concepts. We have learned several new fall songs and poems. One is about pumpkins on a gate. See if your child is able to sing it to you. From Letterland this week, we learned Eddy Elephants shape and sound. We learned he is a tricky letter to write but we will continue to practice. Next week we will meet Firefighter Fred and have

a special visit from the Wardsboro Fire Department possibly on Wednesday to talk to us about fire safety.

During our math block we wrapped up our unit on Patterns and will be starting a new unit on number sense. This unit will focus on numbers 0 – 5. We will also be concentrating on new math vocabulary such as equal, more than and less than. Please find the Family Involvement packet in your child's home folder. This includes vocabulary we will be learning as well as some homework activities for you to complete. However, these do not need to be turned in back to school.

Word work lessons this

week included stretching out the sounds we hear in words and writing each sound that we hear. We have also been clapping words to hear the number of word parts or syllables and review letter recognition. I am pleased to say that I have completed all reading assessments with the kindergarten students and hope to start guided reading lessons next week. I will be sending home a separate letter with more details. Expect your child to come home with reading bags and books to re-read at home. This is typically assigned Monday through Thursday but varies from week to week.

Have a great weekend.

Third - Fourth Grade News

Mrs. Bills

Dear Third and Fourth Grade Families,

Thank you to everyone for making sure the kids have come to school ready to do their best work on the NECAPS. Just a few more days next week and we will be finished! Students that have been absent during testing will have makeup tests next week on a day after the rest of the class has finished testing. I'm looking forward to getting back into a more normal schedule at school!

This week in between tests, we have continued our

work on making tables and graphs. This week students have had the opportunity to use computers to make graphs for them. They have been learning how to use Excel, and how to create new folders, organize and save files. We have also done some hand math inquiry activities about potato chips.

Students have also been working to wrap up our study of the Solar system in science. If you are in the building you are welcome to stop by the room and see the student's posters about the planets.

In literacy students have continued practicing working on restating questions, and writing responses following the Answer Sandwich steps. They have also continued to read, and respond to their reading. I have also had the opportunity to conference with individual students about their reading.

I hope you all enjoy your weekend, and please remember to have your children get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast next week for NECAPS on Monday and Tuesday.

Fifth - Sixth Grade News

Mrs. Shakespeare

This week we completed three NECAP assessments in the area of Math. Next week, fifth grade students will be taking the Writing tests on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 25th and 26th.

During the last two weeks we studied nouns during the word work part of our Literacy Block. This week we began a study of action verbs and linking verbs.

In science, we have continued our study of the Solar System and our planet's place in space. We learned about the inner planets which are small, rocky, and compact; and the outer planets which are made up of ice, gas, and liquids. We also learned about the Asteroid Belt that separates the two groups.

Students also began learning and reviewing keyboard skills with

Type-to-Learn. We continue to practice cursive writing regularly.

School pictures were taken this week, and next week we have flu shots!

Have a great weekend!

Four Winds

Our first theme of the school year is Weathering and Erosion. A slide show was presented at the all school meeting this week as a preview-ask a student about it! Volunteers are still needed! Please come and observe the fun and the learning in the classroom. All classes are scheduled for Thursday October 27th:

5/6 is 9:15 -10:30 3/4 is 11:00-12:30 1/2 is 1:00-2:30 K is 1:30-2:30

First - Second Grade News

The first and second graders had a super week!

During writer's workshop the first and second graders have begun writing their draft stories that include many descriptive details. Students are using their prewriting bubble maps that include details about their topic, and are writing stories. I am excited to share their SUPER stories with families when they are done.

During reader's workshop the first grader's word work included practicing their letter knowledge by identifying letters that have tall sticks like *h*, short sticks like *n*, or no sticks like *s*. Encourage your first grader to always start at the top, not bottom, and form their letters correctly. Later they sorted letters into many different categories. Towards the end of the week first graders worked on activities that used high frequency words. These are words that they will read and write often *i.e. the, what, see.*

Second graders worked on changing a word's meaning to past tense by adding *ed*. Later in the week they worked more with syllables in longer words, and how knowing a word's syllable parts can help them with spelling longer words. 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. I am hoping that by next week our guided reading groups will be up and running. These are homogenous groups (same skill level) that work with me daily on phonetics, word meaning, different reading strategies, understanding and written responses. I will explain more in detail what these skills include in a later newsletter.

During math workshop we wrapped up our chapter on naming numbers and estimating.

Mrs. Parker Jennings (PJ)

More work with number sense will be happening later in the school year. Next week we will begin our unit on addition strategies. During this unit students will be learning different addition strategies to build their fluency in computation.

During our theme, Nighttime, we explored the idea of sunrise and sunset, and how it appears that the sun moves in the sky. Then, students discussed if the moon moved in the sky, and I read the book *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown. Students noticed that Clement Hurd's illustrations showed the moon moving in the window. Next, we did an investigation as to what makes the moon and sun appear to move in the sky. Students were able to be either the Sun, Earth, or Moon during this investigation.

KEEP FILLING IN THE MOON JOURNALS. THEY ARE DUE BACK TO ME ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 8th.

I hope everyone has a super weekend.