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Wardsboro Update

The Principal's Desk Rosemary FitzSimons

Dates to Remember

Monday, October 31st
Penny Carnival,
1:40pm

Thursday, November 10th
Early Release Day -
Parent Conferances in
afternoon

Attachments:
Penny Carnival News

NECAP assessment season is complete. Thanks to parents who ensured their children had the sleep and breakfast needed for success and to students who put forth their best efforts to show the skills learned. As a celebration of this learning, the school was treated to an hour long science show by Dr. Quark. Although I wasn't at school to see it, I heard rave reviews.

This week I had the opportunity to glimpse at learning in several schools around Vermont with several principals from Vermont and Quebec. The schools varied in pupil populations from 484 to 69. This has been a learning opportunity to be able to observe what works in various settings along with thought provoking conversations between my Vermont peers and Quebec counterparts. The group spent Wednesday at WES. This provided an opportunity for teachers and students to interact with this group. Several of the sixth grade students had a great discussion with a Vermont and Quebec principal over a geometry task they were working on. We

were the smallest and most rural school visited. From our follow-up conversation, the principals left our school with a greater appreciation of the possibilities to provide rigor in a small school setting. Our week concluded with two teams collaborating and presenting our view of the commonalities between the two educational systems. Our group decided upon and shared the what, why and how of the following: school politics (governance and structure), school culture, community-school partnerships, human/financial resources and last, but not least, hiring and supervision. Overall, this was a great learning experience for me, causing me to think more deeply about what we do in Wardsboro and why.

Monday is Halloween. Remember that students should bring their costumes to school (not wear them) if they choose to dress up. The Penny Carnival plan is found in the newsletter. Parents are welcome to join us.

Have a great weekend!

School and Activity News—Area Events

Band News

There will be no District/Jazz Band rehearsal between 3-5 pm on Monday, October 31st, to allow for Halloween activities. Students are asked to put in an extra home practice to make up for lost rehearsal time. Have a safe Halloween

Soccer Banquet

All of our soccer teams have finished up the fall season. We will have a trophy and dessert night on November 3rd at 7:00 pm in the school gym. The coaches will hand out trophies and cake will be provided for everyone in attendance. Thanks to all who have made this a great year. Hope to see you there!

Haunted House

Haunted House, Saturday, October 29th, 2011 at the Townshend Elementary School, \$3,00 per person, 6-7pm less scary, 7-9pm Scare Time! There will be refreshments available. Come Rain or Shine!

Third - Fourth Grade News

Dear Third and Fourth Grade Families,

I want to give a huge thank you to all the students for working so hard on their NE-CAP tests! We are finally done with them, and are busy trying to get back into a regular schedule.

Our regular schedule has been adjusted, to make sure that we have a common literacy block with 5th and 6th grade as well as 1st and 2nd grade so that we can hopefully team with each other to better meet the needs of students. The biggest change in our schedule is that we have moved math to the afternoon, and science and social studies to the morning.

This week in literacy we have been working on making sure that when we read out loud we read with fluency, phrasing, and expression. They even had an opportunity to work on a Halloween reader's theater.

Both third and fourth grades are working on fractions, and we will continue to work on place value and improving our speed and accuracy of math facts and computation skills. If you have a moment have your child teach you how to play one of the many math games we have been learning at school to practice our math facts. The more they practice the more automatic their knowledge of the math facts will be. I included a few of the math

games in the packet I had at open house.

As you know Halloween is on Monday, and we are having the Penny Carnival. This year our pennies will be donated to benefit local victims of the hurricane. There is a prize of a pumpkin and a bag of candy for the child that brings in the heaviest penny bag. Remember costumes need to be brought to school, and they will have an opportunity to put it on after lunch. Costumes should not have a full mask, blood or weapons as a part of them.

Thanks! Enjoy your weekend!

Mrs. Bills

Pre-K and Kindergarten News

Dear Pre K and Kindergarten Families,

Our classroom continues to be a buzz of activity. On Thursday, students were thrilled to participate in a presentation from The Wardsboro Fire Department on fire safety. Thank you to our volunteers, who took the time to visit our school and explain to our class the importance of fire safety and what to do in the event of a fire. The timing of their visit was perfect because our visit to Letterland this week included meeting Firefighter Fred, who fights all of the fires in Letterland with foam. Students enjoyed hearing his story.

The annual Penny Carnival will be held on Monday October 31st at 1:30. Kindergarten students should bring their costumes to school and can get changed that afternoon. Parents are welcome to join us. Pre K students are also welcome to come back to school, with their parents for the fes-

tivities. Don't forget your pennies! This year the money raised goes to the Wardsboro Flood Relief Fund.

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled on Thursday November 10th. I have included a letter with choice of times that are available. I am hoping to meet with each parent. Please fill out the form and send back to school ASAP and I will make a schedule to let you know your time slot.

This week in math the kindergarten students began our number sense unit. We started off focusing on numbers 0 – 5. This week we learned about equal groups, more, fewer and concentrated on one to one correspondence when counting. That means counting one number for each object that you see. This week we practiced only with the numbers 1 – 4. I realize this may be a review for some, but an important skill to have mastered to help us once we start working with bigger numbers.

Mrs. Bates

We were treated this week to a science show on Tuesday. Students enjoyed all of the experiments and learned some new things about chemistry. See if they remember what makes chemistry work. Also on Thursday we had our first Four Winds class of the year. The focus was on soil and erosion. Thanks to our fantastic volunteers, Jill Dean and Karen Davis.

October book logs are due back to school on Monday. I have included a new chart for November in home folders. This is mandatory for Kindergarten students and Pre K students are encouraged to participate as well.

I will be attending a district wide kindergarten meeting at Townshend Elementary School on Wednesday November 2nd. Jennifer Finaldi will be the substitute.



First - Second Grade News

The first and second graders had a super week!

During writer's workshop the first and second graders have stretched their understanding that ideas can come from anywhere. I read them the story The Squiggle, where a little girl finds a piece of string on her walk. From just that piece of string she creates wonderful, detailed ideas. Next, each student took their own piece of string, glued it onto paper, and drew creative, detailed pictures that made a story idea.

During reader's workshop the first grader's word work included reading and writing the days of the week. Students demonstrated an understanding that the days of the week begin with Sunday, go in order, and end with Saturday. The first graders also began exploring word meaning by reading and writing words that mean one, and more than one. We call words that mean more than one plurals. Second graders word work included identifying the beginning parts of words, and if they begin with one consonant, a two consonant cluster, or a three consonant cluster. Later in the week they met Arthur Ar the first of five vowel stealers from Letterland. During literacy centers the first and second

graders have been doing a wonderful job at journal writing, word work activities, SRA, spelling activities, and enjoying books. Teacher center has begun, and while the rest of the class is working hard at literacy independent centers I am meeting with reading groups. Each first and second grader has been put into a colored group depending on their skill abilities. Throughout the year their groups might change as students require different skills as they grow and learn as readers. Just-Right Book Bags will be coming home some nights. Please support your child or children by listening to them read the book, and asking them questions about the book. Please review my packet that I sent home at Open House, for how you can support your child.

During math workshop we began our unit on Addition Strategies. This week we covered our Count On strategy where students count on one, two or three more to add quickly in their heads. As students learn a new strategy they will have opportunities to practice them in class and at home.

During our theme, Night-time, we read non-fiction texts to learn more about the Sun, Earth, and Moon. After reading, students sorted facts that would go with what they learned. During

Mrs. Parker Jennings (PJ)

the middle of the week we moved to poetry, and read a poem about the Sun and Moon. After reading the poem several times, students defined word meanings, explained the author's craft, and expressed how the characters were feeling throughout the poem by the things they were doing. WOW, they are smart! Our week also included our first Four Winds program on Thursday. The focus of this earth science program was erosion. Sadly, something we became far too familiar with at the beginning of the school year.

MOON JOURNALS are due back Monday.

I hope everyone has a super weekend.

Classroom needs: wet wipes



Fifth - Sixth Grade News

This week students were happy to be finished with NE-CAP testing for another year! Fifth graders finished the last of their eight sessions on Wednesday. Sixth grade students were all done with their six sessions of testing by the end of last week!

In addition to completing the NECAPs this week, fifth grade students received a geometry lesson from their sixth grade classmates. Sixth grade students reviewed the following concepts before presenting them in a teaching format to the fifth graders: Adjacent Angles, Vertical Angles, Complementary Angles, and Supplementary Angles. The sixth grade students completed posters to help with the explanations and also created a worksheet for the fifth grade students to complete. At the end of the lessons, fifth graders

rated their teachers on how well the information was presented.

This activity was an introduction to a larger unit of study of geometry for both the fifth and sixth grade. Parts of the National Math Common Core Standards and the Vermont Grade Expectations for Math have been combined in district-wide fifth and sixth grade math assessments that will be given in the spring.

This week also included an exciting chemistry demonstration for all students in the school. The fifth and sixth graders enjoyed the special experiments and learned about solids, gases, and liquids, among other fascinating information.

Other science this week included our first Four Winds class. A special lesson on weathering and erosion was capped with an activity that required students in small groups to use their

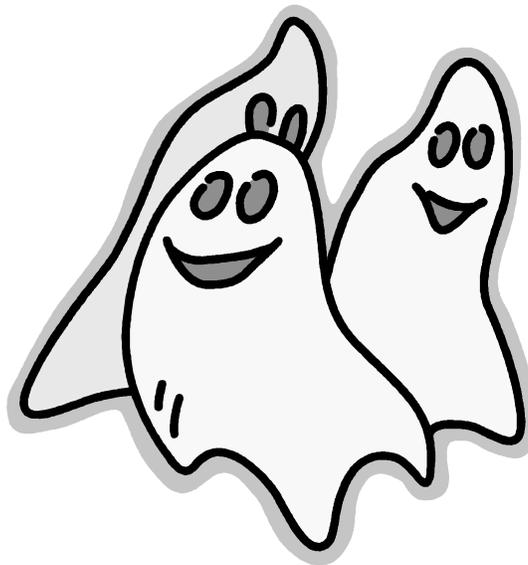
Mrs. Shakespeare

knowledge of how to prevent destruction of land areas. Students also had to utilize their understanding of budgeting as well as their skills for cooperative group work!

Fifth and sixth grade students also enjoyed the educational visitors from Canada and Vermont who came to our school. A few sixth graders were able to use some of the French they learned last year in a brief interchange with our guests! One of the guests was a former math teacher and helped the sixth graders practice their geometry presentations!

Have a great weekend, and don't forget your pennies for the Penny Carnival next week!

Have a happy and safe Halloween!



From the Health Office: The mosquitoes seem to have disappeared finally, but I wanted to share this information sheet about ticks. I have removed several ticks from area children in the last week. Be sure to check your pets too!

Lois Thibault, RN

Tick Bites

While most tick bites are harmless and don't require medical treatment, some ticks (like the deer tick, wood tick, and others) can carry harmful germs and cause diseases like Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Lyme disease. The deer tick is tiny, no larger than a pencil point. Other ticks are larger and easier to find on the skin.



Signs and Symptoms of Tick-Related Diseases:

- a red bump ringed by an expanding red rash, which looks like a bull's-eye (Lyme disease)
- red dots on the ankles and wrists (Rocky Mountain spotted fever)
- flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, fatigue, vomiting, and muscle and joint aches



What to Do:

If the tick is still attached to the skin, remove it:

- Using fine-tipped tweezers, grasp the head of the tick close to the skin. zip-locked bag it and save it to show the doctor if your child becomes ill.
- Firmly and steadily pull the tick straight out of the skin. **Do not twist the tick** or rock it from side to side while removing it.
- Put the tick in a sealed container or
- **Do not use petroleum jelly or a hot match** to kill and remove the tick.
- Wash your hands and the site of the bite with soap and water.
- Swab the skin with alcohol.

Seek Medical Care if:

- The tick might have been on the skin for more than 24 hours.
- Part of the tick remains in the skin after attempted removal.
- A rash of any kind develops (especially a red-ringed bull's-eye rash or red dots on wrists and ankles).
- The bite area looks infected (increasing redness, warmth, swelling, pain, or oozing pus).
- Symptoms like fever, headache, fatigue, chills, stiff neck or back, or muscle or joint aches develop.



Think Prevention!

- After kids play outside, check their skin and hair – especially the scalp, behind the ears, the neck, and under the arms.
- When playing in wooded areas, children should wear long-sleeved shirts and pants and tuck pant legs into their socks.
- Use an insect repellent with at least 10% to 30% DEET for protection against bug bites and stings in kids older than 2 years, always carefully following the directions for application.
- Avoid tick-infested areas.