



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
www.wardsboroschool.org

November 4th, 2011

Volume 3, Issue 8

Wardsboro Update

The Principal's Desk Rosemary FitzSimons

Dates to Remember

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

Thursday & Friday,
November 24th and 25th
Thanksgiving Break
**Reminder: November
23rd is a
make up day**

Attachments:

Nature's News
Mount Snow ski pass
form-2pages
Stratton ski pass form-
1page
Windham Solid Waste
flier
Mount Snow Valley
Bright Lights flier

We had another great week at school!

The Penny Carnival was successful. We have a big (and heavy) pot of money that was taken to Hannaford for counting. Thank you to all who contributed and to Shauntay M. and Kayla H. for helping with the counting. We had a contest to see who could guess the dollar amount of the coins. The total amount raised was \$181.37. Mrs. Bates class won a great math picture book, *How Much is a Million* for the closest guess. As you know this year the money will go towards the Wardsboro Disaster Relief Fund.

TIGERS is back (more information in your student handbook). This theater group will be back again this year. TIGERS links closely to ROARS. The program will help students deal with bullying behaviors of the bully, child being bullied and the by stander. There has been research completed over the last few years on the role of the by stander in bullying situations. We realize this happens in WES also. This event

will help to address the issue with our students.

This week I spoke to the 3rd through 6th graders about "running for office" as a student council member. Each class will have two representatives, ideally one from each grade level. Students interested in running will give speeches to their peers next Monday. Speeches will include why he/she wants to participate in student council and how each of them will help their peers. Just writing and giving a speech to peers is a learning opportunity that can be challenging for the person giving the speech. We hold our student council meetings during recess at least twice a month, depending on current projects. Over time the student council has collaborated with me on a variety of topics that have supported school, local and world events.

Have you noticed our Wall of Wonder bulletin board at school? It is meant to display student achievements in a special activity (in or out of school), great work from art to math, etc. Next Friday,

From the Principal's Desk, cont.

November 11th is Veterans Day. We decided that our veterans deserve some time on this wall. Families are asked to fill out the enclosed form about family members or family friends who are serving or who have served our country in the military. Encourage your children to investigate previous generations who served and share information with us. Many children will have great grandparents, who served during World War II or the Korean War. Do we have any that can go back further? We'd welcome any pictures or drawing to highlight the events. This will be the first project that the WES Student Council helps me with this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Remember, that next week is conference week. We have an early release day on Thursday for conferences. This is a great opportunity for parents to connect with the teacher regarding student progress. As always, if students come with parents, please have them wait quietly on chairs in the hall next to the classroom. This would be a great time for some reading. We have no one to monitor the playground so, for safety reasons, we request that children not be left outside by themselves to play. If you have any questions, feel free to stop in and see me.

Have a great weekend!

School and Activity News—Area Events

Band News

The District Band Concert dates for the Winter and Spring Concerts have been finalized!

The Cadet Band, District Band and Jazz Band will be performing their **Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 14th**, at 7 pm in the Leland and Gray High School gym. There will be a dress rehearsal in the gym on 12/14, Cadet Band 3-3:30, District Band 3:30-4, Chorus 4-4:30, Jazz Band 4:30-5 pm.

The **Spring Concert will be Thursday, May 17th**, at 7 pm in the Leland and Gray gym. There will be a dress rehearsal for this date on Wednesday, May 16, Cadet Band 3-3:30, District Band 3:30-4, Chorus 4-4:30, Jazz Band 4:30-5 pm.

The District band will perform at the **Memorial Day event in Newfane on Monday, May 28th**, 10:00 am. Please meet at the firehouse at 9:00 am.

Ski Pass Information

Both Mount Snow and Stratton offer season passes to our K-6th grade students. The Mount Snow pass is free to Wardsboro students. If your child plans to ski or snowboard at Mount Snow during our Winter Activity Program they will need to get their pass before our program begins in January. Stratton has a processing fee and a December 12th deadline for their pass. If you need an extra copy of the Stratton form they are available in the school office. Attached to this newsletter are forms to apply for both of the ski passes. If you are interested please follow the directions on the forms and send them directly to the address on the form. Please do not send ski pass forms to school.

Pre-K and Kindergarten News

Mrs. Bates

Dear Pre K and Kindergarten Families,

It's hard to believe that today was the 40th day of school already. However, I'm always impressed at how much progress Pre K and Kindergarten students make in such a short amount of time. They truly are like "sponges". I got a chance to spend some individual time this week assessing Pre K student's letter recognition. It's so nice to see how much they have learned! Students participated with enthusiasm at this year's Penny Carnival. Thank you to all of the families who contributed to this year's worthy fund. I can't wait to hear the final amount of coins collected this year. We have finished up our Theme study of The Sky and we will now be focusing on some So-

cial Science themes including Citizenship, Friendship, as well as a short study of things from "Long Ago" closer to Thanksgiving time.

Many parents have been asking about what to send in as far as winter clothing. I realize that the early unexpected snow-fall caught many of us off guard. Kindergarten students should come in to school prepared each day for any type of weather. When there is snow on the ground they are required to bring in all of their snow gear. This includes coat, snow pants, hats, gloves and boots. As far as Pre K students, with our "special" schedule we will most likely only be going out for recess on Wednesdays when we are in "full" winter mode, weather permitting. Students will be getting their gross motor and movement activities during P.E. On Tues-

days and Fridays and music on Thursdays. On Mondays we will be utilizing the multi-purpose room to play games.

Thank you to those parents who have signed up for a conference time. I look forward to meeting with you. You will find your scheduled time in your child's home folder. If you haven't yet signed up, there is still time! I am hoping to meet with each of you. However, time slots are getting limited.

Do you love reading children's books aloud? Do you have a favorite book you'd like to share with us? Or know someone who does? I'm looking for "mystery readers" to come into the classroom on occasion to read aloud to the class. Please let me know if you are interested.



First - Second Grade News

The first and second graders had a great week! Please remember that with the weather changing so does clothing. The colder temperatures and wet ground requires students to have snow pants, coats, boots, hats, and mittens/gloves. Please make sure your child has these items daily. Also, please have your child or children bring a change of shoes.

Third - Fourth Grade News

Dear Third and Fourth Graders and Families,

I hope that you all have received your notice about your conference times next week. If you have not signed up for a conference time yet, please make sure that you give me some times and days you are available to meet. I'm looking forward to meeting with you all!

In science we have been learning about the rock cycle, layers of the earth and we are beginning a science inquiry unit titled Reading the Environment. Your student should have a letter in their homework folder telling you more about this science unit.

Next week I will be away at a literacy conference Monday and Tuesday. Plenty of learning will be taking place. On Wednesday the TIGERS performance will be taking place in the afternoon. This program teaches our students about being bullied, bullying, or being a bystander when someone is bullying. All the students are looking forward to the performance. On Thursday students have a half day, while the

Mrs. Parker Jennings (PJ)

teachers conference with families. If you have not already, please sign up for a conference with me ASAP.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.

Yours Truly,
Cris PJ

Classroom needs:

Clorox wet wipes

Mrs. Bills

In math we are all working on fractions. Everyone is working on ordering fractions, and comparing fractions. Third graders are working on finding equivalent fractions using fraction bars, and fourth graders are finding equivalent fractions using multiplication and division. They have also been finding simplest form of fractions.

During our literacy time students have continued their independent reading and reading response notebooks, and we have begun using SRA and doing guided reading. Each student has begun reading a book and working on reading and comprehension strategies. We have also been looking at fiction books and

searching for information about characters. We have found this week that this often requires us to make inferences and think about the words to learn about the characters. We have also begun spelling, and we have had the opportunity to meet in our groups to talk about the spelling patterns. Thanks for helping your students complete their spelling homework to help them study for their spelling tests.

I hope you all have a great weekend! Remember that you can always play a math game or read a good book if you get some free time!

Fifth - Sixth Grade News

Halloween and the Penny Carnival started our week off with great excitement! Fifth and sixth grade students helped to decorate and set up the multi-purpose room for the afternoon event. Earlier in the day, all fifth and sixth graders created goblin sticks, so that they could be experienced helpers with the younger students. Two fifth and sixth graders led the younger students in a costume parade that we all enjoyed. Grades 3-6 paraded for the younger students as well. In addition to making goblin sticks, students enjoyed walking to music on the Pumpkin Path, playing Grab a Ghost, and participating in the Race for the Witches' Stew.

This week we also finally finished the reading of, A Wrinkle In Time, by Madeleine L'Engle. Students worked on writing a response to literature related to the book and to the author's development of the main characters.

Other writing included an informational piece about a planet or other space topic. We hope to complete our science unit on space and our solar system, before the end of next week. Part of our spelling homework this week, included creating a crossword using 10 of the spelling words. Students completed crosswords made by their classmates.

In math, we continued our geometry unit and review of an-

gles and lines. We reviewed parallel lines, perpendicular lines, intersecting lines, and skew lines. We also began an introduction to transversals and how they create interior and exterior angles when they cross parallel lines.

Thank you to parents for returning the conference notices. If you sent one in, you should have received a confirmation notice from me. Please send the lower portion back to let me know that you received the date and time of your conference. I look forward to meeting with parents on November 10th and 16th!

Have a great weekend!

Dear Families,

Reading volunteers once again will be reading with children in the primary grades this school year. We welcome back last school year's reading volunteers. If you or someone in your family would like to be a reading volunteer, please contact me at school.

When you're at school, be sure to check out the WOW (Wall Of Wonder) board in the hallway. It's main purpose is to acknowledge children for their accomplishments and special activities, but this fall we've added Phil Dibble, one of our reading volunteers. He was chosen by Council on Aging Senior Solutions to receive their top honor for senior citizens who volunteer in their communities. If you know Phil, you probably already know that he not only is a reading volunteer, but has generously given his time, skills, and good nature to benefit our community in many ways; usually with his wife, June, joining him.

Mid-semester parent/teacher conference time is almost here. If I am not part of the conference you have with your child's teacher this month and I work with your child, please let me know if you would like to schedule a conference with me.

Sincerely,
Donna Sebastian

Veteran Wall of Wonder

Name of veteran

Military Branch: _____

When did he/she serve: _____

Where in the world did they serve: _____

Most interesting event, activity, or story to tell: _____

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