



Contact Information:

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Wardsboro Update

The Principal's Desk Rosemary FitzSimons

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, December 14th
**WCSU Elementary
Band Concert 7:00pm
at L&G**

Thursday, December 15th
**L&G Winter Concert
7:00pm at L&G**

Monday, December 19th
Holiday Concert

Friday, December 23rd
**Make-up Day for
Wardsboro**

Monday, December 26th—
Friday, December 30th
**December Recess,
No School**

Monday, January 2nd
**New Year's Holiday,
No School**

Attachments:

- ⇒ Nature's News
- ⇒ Winter Activities Program – Permission Form for Grades K-6

All of us are challenged with time to get done all that needs to be done. Sometimes parents don't have time to read through the entire newsletter and miss important information. Teachers are challenged with higher expectations and ongoing efforts to improve teaching and learning. In an effort to be more productive and provide a newsletter format that is easier for parents to read quickly, our newsletter will have a new look. Each teacher will write a bulleted list with 4-8 highlights of the week, presented on one page. Parents, this should open conversations with your child/ren who can fill in additional details of the activities. Any additional pages will include general school information along with information from me, articles from School Club, Four Winds, Connections and others.

Volunteers Needed:

- We have had a yearly **Scholastic Book Fair** that our librarian used to run when she was here a full day and had time without students. The last two years Jen

Densmore has taken over the task. Her children have now moved on to L&G so we need a new volunteer. This last year we received credit to purchase \$800 worth of books. It would be great to continue this. Please let me know if you would be interested in continuing this service to families. Perhaps two or more parents want to work on this. I can give more details of what is involved. I am sure Jen would be happy to give advice, also.

- **Head lice** – We have had a couple of students with this problem this year. This can be aggravating for parents and students. We follow the recommendations from the Vermont Department of Health. Please read over the information enclosed in this newsletter. We appreciate the calls we get from parents alerting us to problems.
- **Volunteers needed for School Club sponsored soup program** – call for details.
- **Winter sports volunteers needed** – Our winter sports

From the Principal's Desk, cont.

program begins the day we return from our holiday break. Parents, we need volunteers to support both students attending Mount Snow and the Stratton Rec Center. If your child/ren are going to Mount Snow remember forms and fees are due by December 5th (must be at least 7). This has been a tough year for many. The School Club is again offering scholarships to help out. Call me if this would be helpful. **Parents of students**

sledding, we need your help. Please sign up on the permission slip attached to this newsletter if and when you can help with this activity. We have three paras who will oversee this activity but who need additional support to ensure the safety of our children. Busing is provided for both groups.

School and Activity News—Area Events

School Club News

Thanks to all who came out to support the school club at the Pampered Chef party!! It was a great success!!

The 50/50 raffle made \$131 to donate to the Wardsboro disaster relief fund. Congrats to the winner Laurel Cashman!

Cub Scouts

Den meeting Thursday, December 8th at 6pm at the Wardsboro Town Hall

Band News

Stage Rehearsal for Elementary Music Winter Concert at L&G gym, on Tuesday, December 13th from 3-5pm. The concert is on Wednesday, December 14th, at 7:00 pm.

The order is:

Cadet band 3-3:30

District band 3:30-4

Chorus 4-4:30

Jazz band 4:30-5

Students should bring their instruments and music to the staging rehearsal. Parents please pick up your child following their rehearsal slot. I need a couple of parent volunteers to supervise students during the rehearsal. Please let me know through my email: mmckinney@windhamcentral.org or phone, 257-5357. For the evening concert students should wear black slacks/white shirts.

Holiday Bazaar

Sunday, December 4 at the Wardsboro Town Hall 11:00am-3:00pm. Free photos with Santa 12:00-2:00, meet the friendly Husky Sled dogs. Bake sale, specialty foods, hand-crafted ornaments, soup café. Sponsored by The Friends of the Wardsboro Library

Pre-K and Kindergarten News

Mrs. Bates

Dear Pre K and Kindergarten Families,

We had another great week. All students came back healthy and rested after the long weekend. We have one change in our schedule. In an effort to improve student learning, we have decided to split up the group for a short portion of the morning. Mrs. Sebastian will now be working with a group of students on the Kindergarten word work lessons. She has included an article in this weeks newsletter with more details on what they have been working on. From Letterland this week, we met Jumping Jim. We learned that he is a terrific juggler. Next week we will meet the famous Kicking King.

This week we wrapped up our study of life "long ago". At the art center students made

place mats out of paper weavings. We will laminate them and use them during meal times. The patterns came out great! We also tried our hands at butter churning. Thank you Mrs. Melis for bringing in your butter churn to school. This was a great process.

This week kindergartners finished up our unit on numbers 6-10. I think we can officially call our kindergartners number experts. Students this week used number lines, practiced counting backwards and used the numbers in our phone numbers to create a class graph of the most common number. We found out that the number 9 is the most common. Next week, we will begin learning about numbers 10 – 30. We will first concentrate on the "tricky teens" and then move on to the 20s and 30s. I will be sending home the Family Involvement packet in your child's

home folder.

Kindergartners continued guided reading groups this week. We are continuing to work on learning new reading strategies when we encounter an unknown word in text. Several groups have also been reading some informational texts. Everyone is doing a fabulous job!

Thank you to our Four Winds volunteers for a great class this week. Students enjoyed the puppet show and the hands on activities with Rocks.

November Reading logs (the ones with the turkeys on them) are due back to school. I have sent home December reading logs. These will not be due back to school until after the holiday break. Hoping we get 100% participation this month.

Have a great weekend.



First - Second Grade News

Mrs. Parker Jennings (PJ)

Below are a few of the first and second graders narrative writing pieces based on the book When I Am Old with You by Angela Johnson, a story about the bond between a grandchild and grandfather. A grandson imagines a future when he will be old with his grandfather, and they will do everything together...The poignant

reality that time will never allow these two to be together at the same age is softened by the fact that they still share happy times even though they aren't the same age. Each first and second graders' piece was written with this same idea, sharing the bond of a special person's love through simple acts. The pieces have been created, revised and edited by

the student and each other. Therefore, readers can see how writing is developmental, and ever evolving. Please enjoy all the stories posted outside our classroom.

Have a wonderful weekend!

One Sunday night we were having a bonfire. Me and my friends were playing We were making a fort It was cool. It cept falling down. When it was smore time my smore was huge and tasty I was icstited My smore tastid yummy. It smeld yummy to. I love it! So far Im probly gonna love it from now till I leve. When we told spooky storis it was extra spooky cus it was really dark!

By Allison, 2nd Grader

Going to the Betch

I am going to the betch for a speshl day with my dad. I played with the slimy sewed winging it abov my hede. I can here the wavs splashing. I am shivring cold becos I went ondr water. I put on a towl so I wod be worm. I smell the solty ocean air. At sunset we left. We will see you tomoro at the seashor!

By Aryanna, 2nd Grade

One night I went to my grams house and had a bon fire. I played with a fluffy dog. I love dancing with my cusins. My mom and dad came with me. We looked up at the sparkly stars. We smelled the smolky fire. I had a wonderful time.

By Tela, 1st Grade

Me and my dad like to play cards. We playd cards in the dinning room. We were lauging lowd. I hear my mom making dinner in the kitchen I do not like it wen the oven beps the cards were a litle dusty because we have not uesd theme in a long time we had a grat time.

By James, 1st Grade

Third - Fourth Grade News

Dear Third and Fourth Graders and Families,

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and relaxing Thanksgiving Break! We have jumped right back into our work. Early this week we watched the movie *My Side of the Mountain* and have been working on comparing the book and the movie. The students were very quick to pick up on many of the differences.

In math we are wrapping up our study of fractions, and we are beginning to work on using decimals. I am

amazed at how quickly they have picked these up!

In literacy we have continued working on writing our responses to nonfiction text. Students have also been practicing their keyboarding skills on Type to Learn and we have continued using Spelling City. In addition to this students have continued to work in guided reading groups, where we are focusing on improving our comprehension strategies and our written reflections to what we have read. They also have been reading books of their

Fifth - Sixth Grade News

This week students completed the thankful activity we had planned for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Each student has an envelope filled with positive comments to read over when a mood boost is needed! Sometimes we need to be reminded of all the good things people think about us!

In MATH, fifth grade students learned about using benchmarks for estimating amounts and also when to use a table in problem solving. Sixth grade students began reviewing numerical and algebraic expressions. Both grades are learning about the following properties: the Commutative Property of Multiplication and

Addition, the Associative Property of Multiplication and Addition, the Distributive Property, and the Identity Property of Multiplication, and the Identity Property of Addition.

In SOCIAL STUDIES, students completed the first part of their individual world maps. They labeled the seven continents, the four oceans, the Equator, the Prime Meridian, the Tropic of Cancer, and the Tropic of Capricorn. In future weeks, students will be learning to identify and locate on the world map: major seas, rivers, mountain ranges, etc. Those who have learned all the required geographical knowledge by winter vacation, will take home an inflatable globe! We have also be-

Mrs. Bills

choice and writing response letters to me that I continue to respond to. This has provided a great opportunity to focus on specific skills with students, and to really get into some more in-depth discussion about their reading.

In science we are trying to wrap up our unit of study, Change in the Environment and the Rock Cycle.

Make sure the kids are continuing to read at home and practice their math facts.

Enjoy your weekend!

Mrs. Shakespeare

gun to learn about early world explorers.

In SCIENCE, (Four Winds) we learned about rocks and minerals. Students will continue to learn about types of rocks and other earth science as soon as we have wrapped up our unit on space! We hope this will be completed by the middle of December! We expect to begin our next science unit of study before the winter break. We will be learning more about: Weathering of Rocks and Soil Formation, Rocks and Minerals, Earthquakes, Plate Tectonics, and the Layers of the Earth!

Have a great weekend!

Dear Families of students from Mrs. Bates' class who are doing word work with me (Mrs. Sebastian),

At School

I have been working with the children's names at school to help them learn some key understandings about print and how it works. One of the most important keys is that *first* and *last* have particular meanings when applied to print; for example, the first letter of a word is on the left and the last letter in a word is the farthest to the right.

At Home

To help the children understand *first* and *last* letters, I've sent home their names, which they cut up into individual letters.

Sit together and ask your child to put the name together in the correct order, showing you the first letter and the last letter in his or her name.

You might repeat this process with the names of family members, friends, and storybook characters. Write their names out, cut them up into individual letters, and invite your child, with your help, to reassemble the names.

While your child is putting the names back together, ask your child to identify the first and last letters of each name, and discuss how he or she knows (the first letter is always farthest on the left; the last letter, farthest on the right).

Have fun!

Mrs. Sebastian