

Dear Friends & Families,

A walk through classrooms today revealed students involved in rigorous and engaging learning in various settings. Students in Ali Hale's classroom were engaged in an experiment to "see how long they could keep an ice cube alive". Children designed experiments, created hypotheses and recorded data. They were practicing scientific inquiry, but I think they might have described it as having fun. Hard to imagine anyone trying to preserve ice right now! In kindergarten, students were rotating through a variety of different centers, some playing a dice and chips game where they were exploring if numbers were greater than, smaller than or equal to nine, some were creating stories to match number sentences and others were using cube blocks to build double digit numbers. Students in Mrs. Belknap and Ms. Basom's rooms were working together to write procedure writing pieces, with the older buddies supporting the students with their writing. Mr. Van Dine's students were engaged in self-reflection about their work thus far in the 2nd trimester, contemplating the work they've done, ("we began with exothermic rapid oxidation with a catalyst", one student wrote; talk about scientific vocabulary!) and what they can do to help move themselves towards greater excellence. As I write, several pairs of students and adult community members are scattered about our school sharing books and lunch together as part of our Everybody Wins mentoring program. Such dynamic experiences come through careful planning, but sure feel like a seamless part of what goes on each day.

Thank you to Scott Kingsbury for being so quick in response and helping us get sand out on our playground so that kids could go outside for recess. We continue to work to make the best of the weather and still allow kids to get some fresh air while being safe!

Respectfully,
Kaiya

CALENDAR

2/8/12 **Early Release Day, 11:50 dismissal**

2/9/12 Sixth Grade Band to Harwood

2/15 Ski & Ride Program, 1 - 4 p.m.

2/16 - 2/24 Artist Residency: Bread & Puppet

2/17/12 Assembly 7:50

2/27/12 - 3/6/12 NO SCHOOL

Mark your calendars; our artist residency with Bread & Puppet Theater Troupe will begin on Thursday, February 16 and culminate with a performance on the afternoon of Thursday, February 23rd. The theme of the residency is community support. More details coming soon!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that the opportunities/events listed below are not specifically endorsed or screened by school staff; as always, families should use their own standards and review processes to determine appropriate activities.

New Classes at Green Mountain Performing Arts(formally One Studio Dance)

Green Mountain Performing Arts has opened its new location at 37 Commercial Drive in Waterbury(behind Juniper's Fare Restaurant). GMPA is a nonprofit school dedicated to providing outstanding dance and performing arts education in a non-competitive and supportive environment. We have a lot of new classes just starting for youth and adult students and are taking new enrollments now! For information call: 244-8600 or email www.GreenMountainPerformingArts.org

Family Evening XC SKI Fundraiser at Ole's Nordic Ski Center

Bring the kids & headlamps and enjoy great XC skiing, ski games, and fun. Dinner provided by Ole's new Sugar Mama's Cafe. This event will take place Friday, February 10th, 5:30-7:00 PM and is hosted by the "Snowbelles". Ole's is donating free trail access and use of facilities. There is a suggested donation of \$25 for individuals and \$100 for families(includes dinner and activities). Money raised will kick off the Snowbelle's effort to raise funds for the American Cancer Society during the national Relay for Life event. For more information contact Jennifer White: jenniferwhitevt@yahoo.com or Dori Ross at: dorihross@gmail.com

1234 Parents! Parenting Children Ages 1 to 4

A three-part workshop that focuses on the Active Parenting Method, which emphasizes open communication and how to raise confident, cooperative children. Topics include: how to discipline your child without violence; how to prevent tantrums; how to childproof your home; and how to care for yourself during the stressful toddler years. Wednesdays: February 8, 15, and 22, 6-8 PM, at the Thatcher Brook Primary School. Cost: \$15 one and \$25 a couple. For more information or to register and reserve childcare call: Christopher Robertson at the Family Center 262-3292, Ext. 115.

How To Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk

A six week course in concrete parenting skills such as: communication with kids; engaging kids' willing cooperation; disciplining without hurting; and fostering love and respect in families. Tuition: \$20 for one and \$30 a couple. Wednesday evenings March 14-April 18 , 6-8 PM, at Thatcher Brook Primary School. Call Christopher Robertson at the Family Center: 262-3292, ext. 115 for more information and to register. Space is limited to 25 people. Advance registration is required.

Fundraiser for Harwood Athletics

The Harwood Athletics Department is hosting a huge mattress sale. The sale will offer new mattresses, box foundations, and frames at discounted prices Saturday, February 4th, 10am-5 p.m, at the Harwood Gymnasium. National brands such as Simmons, Serta, and Corsicana will be offered. The sale price will include delivery set up, and removal of old bedding as well as substantial contribution made to the Harwood Athletics program. Orders will be filled and delivered by the end of the following week. For more information contact Sue Duprat at duprats@harwood.org.

Parenting On Track: Your Family, Your Solutions!

A dynamic and inspiring free 2-hour presentation with parent educator, speaker and author, Vicki Hoefle: Monday, February 6, 6:30-8:30, at the Main Street Middle School, 170 Main Street, Montpelier. In every moment we are either interfering with or enhancing the relationship we have with our children. This program will help you make more effective decisions so your kids can grow into capable, cooperative, responsible, respectful and resilient young adults! To register call: [802-343-9966](tel:802-343-9966) or online at www.parentingontrack.com/services/free-two-hour. Free onsite childcare available. Reservations required. Call: 223-4949 X 2.

How To Raise A Money-Smart Child

Giving your children or grandchildren a primer on money management skills can have a positive effect their entire lives. During the How to Raise a Money-Smart Child seminar, you'll learn how to start teaching your child or grandchild about financial goal-setting, self-discipline and the basics of making wise money choices. The seminar will take place February 21st, 6:30-7:30 pm, at the Joslin Memorial Library. RSVP

by February 17th to David Babic at 496-5533.

Come to the Groove Tea Party!

Early release day Wednesday, February 8th, 1:00-2:30pm, at the Red Hen Bakery. Sip yummy tea from the "Groove Tea Project" and listen to great music. We'll create an art show, so please create your own masterpiece to bring along that day. Our theme is "Where Does Tea Come From?". For matting purposes, your art should be 8X10 and flat. This event is intended for kids in pre-school through the early grades.