

June 14, 2012

Dear Friends and Families,

While the days of the 2011-2012 school year are rapidly winding to a close, there is no shortage of activity. Just today, 5th and 6th grade students were industriously putting together bat boxes (thank you to the staff and parent volunteers who supported a crew of pre-teens with power tools!) and putting together books and movies to help raise awareness about bats and their current plight. Next door, students in Mr. McAllister's class are running through lines in preparation for their performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this Friday morning (almost in time for the solstice) while children in Mr. Young's room finalize their skit demonstrating the timeline of our school. As we bring closure to this school year, please reflect with your child on how he/she has explored challenges and grown since last September. At the beginning of the school year, I talked about how we learn through mistakes. Can your child identify mistakes made throughout the year (I certainly can for myself!) and lessons learned from them?

Graduation is next Tuesday, 6 p.m.; all community members are invited to help us recognize the 24 wonderful students who are completing their journey at W.E.S. I hope you can join us. We will also have an **end of the year assembly on Wednesday, June 20, 8:00 a.m.** The assembly will be followed by "step-up" activities, where students will have an opportunity to mix with the teachers and other children who will be part of their grade cluster next year. As in the past, look for specific class placements for next year in your mailboxes the day after school is dismissed.

Thank you all for sharing your children and selves over this past year. It continues to be a great pleasure to work in such a terrific community.

Respectfully,
Kaiya

W.E.S. Welcomes Katie Babic as our School Counselor!

I'm pleased to announce that Katie Babic will be joining the Waitsfield Elementary School staff as our guidance counselor beginning with our new school year. Katie has several years of experience as a school counselor, working most recently at U-32 as a middle school counselor and, before that, for four years as the counselor at Danville Elementary School. Katie and her family are Waitsfield residents; her son will be starting in our 3 year old preschool program. During the interview/hiring process, those involved were struck by her poise, her skills with an array of kids, her ability to be no-nonsense but also enthusiastic, and her creative ideas. She has been much loved by all who have worked with her and we're looking forward to soon counting ourselves amidst that group.

Thank you to Liz Belknap, Sue Dillon, Rachel Rosenblum, Leigh Stockton and Rob Williams for serving on this hiring committee.

Celebrating a Library Volunteer -- and Looking for Replacements!

Today we'd like to celebrate Stu Libby, library volunteer extraordinaire. For 7 years he has come into the library every Monday and Tuesday and done a masterful job of putting away books and straightening shelves on these busy days. It's a thankless job with a little resemblance to washing the dishes or vacuuming (except that it requires more attention and accuracy) as the books keep on piling up and the shelves keep getting mixed up, in spite of repeated entreaties from the librarians. With his daughter's graduation this year, he is retiring. We are SO grateful to him for his cheerful devotion to this task and his good company, and are left with a lump in our throats and a pit in our stomachs at his loss.

Adding to the lump and the pit is the news that Emily Church will be increasing her hours with the expanded preschool, and decreasing her hours in the library. This leaves many more hours with the library unattended, (as I am here only 2 ½ days) with books piling up and shelves mixing up. The time period right after lunch recess is particularly a challenge, as many teachers have silent reading then, and send kids down who need a new book.

We're hoping to find 2 or 3 regular volunteers to fill the needs of the library next year. The hours can be adjusted, though early afternoon is a priority and some time on Thursday and Friday mornings would be nice, as the library is unattended then. Besides shelving books and straightening shelves, kids can use some gentle, diplomatic guidance finding the right books. Training will be arranged. If you have any interest in finding out more about this volunteer position, please let Kaiya or me know. Personally, I find that being around kids and books and putting the two together is a wonderfully satisfying activity!
- Ellen Drysdale, librarian of Warren and Waitsfield Schools

Girls on the Run Completes Season

Congratulations to all of our Girls on the Run, all of whom completed a 5K this past Saturday. You truly are all #1! Thanks to Susan Koeplinger, Lianne Petrocelli and Rachel Rosenblum for coaching (and playing!) with this great crew.

The girls have extended their food drive and are collecting goods through this coming Tuesday, June 19th. Please consider making a donation; the food shelf is experiencing a great shortage at this time. Donation boxes are available throughout the school.

WAITSFIELD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

AGENDA

June 18, 2012, 4:00 p.m., School Library

4 :00 CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4:01 Approval of May 21, 2012 minutes and June 8, 2012 minutes

DISCUSSION

4:05 Audience and Written Communication

REPORTS

4:10 Financial Report

4:15 Principal's Report

4:25 Washington West Representative Report

4:35 Superintendent's report

ACTION ITEMS

4:45 Policy packet #2, ready for adoption: C1 Board Meeting Agenda Preparation and Distribution, C2 Board Meetings, C2-P Regular Board meeting procedures, C3 Public Participation at Board Meetings, C4 School Visits By Board Members, C5 Board Relations with School Personnel, C6 Board Commitment to Non-Discrimination, C6-R-P Procedures For Handling Complaints, D1 Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment, and Criminal Records Check, D2-R Professional Development, D2-R-P Professional Development Procedures, D3 Staffing and Job Descriptions, D4 Educator Supervision and Evaluation, D5 Personnel Files, D8-R Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace, D10 Public Complaints About Personnel, D11-R Drug and Alcohol Testing Transportation of Employees, D-12-R Harassment of Employees, D13-R Health Insurance Portability and Account Ability Act Compliance, E12, Electronic Communications Use and Retention, F17 Head Lice, F17-P Head Lice, F26 The Use of Restraint and Seclusion, F31-R Extended School year Services, F31-P-R Extended School Year Services, G11-R Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources and the Internet, G11-R-P Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources and the Internet Procedures, B2 Board Goal Setting and Evaluation

4:50 Action Plan Update, renewal

5:00 Tax Anticipation Note Approval

5:08 Fuel Bid Approval

ANNUAL RETREAT

5:15 Review work of the past year

Establish priorities and work plan for 2011-201

6:15 RECESS FOR DINNER

6:45 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel

ADJOURNMENT

CALENDAR

6/15 Assembly at 8:00: A Midsummer Night's Dream performed by Mr. McAllister's Class

6/15 Valley 6th Grade End of Year Celebration 6-9 pm at the Big Picture

6/18 First and Second Grade Field Trip to Shelburne Museum

6/19 6 p.m. 6th grade graduation

6/20 Last day of school; **Dismissal at 12:10**

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Performed by Mr. McAllister's Class will be performed at 8:00 am in the gymnasium. All are welcome!

Story Walk Returning to Mad River Path

Summertime strollers on the Mad River Path behind Small Dog on their way to the picnic gazebo will once again be able to read 3 delightful children's books. The brainchild of Anne Ferguson, a central Vermonter who loves reading and hiking, Story Walk is a way to encourage both activities. The idea has been enthusiastically endorsed by many communities in Vermont and many other states. The library staff at Waitsfield Elementary School, Ellen Drysdale and Emily Church, have installed the Story Walks from the Kellogg-Hubbard Library for the last 3 years.

Pages of the books are laminated and will be posted at intervals along the path. At the gazebo, walkers will find a notebook to write comments in response to the books.

The first Story Walk book will be posted from June 12 to 26. *Guyku, a Year of Haiku for Boys*, by [Bob Raczka](#) and Peter H. Reynolds, chronicles the activities the boys—and girls too—enjoy throughout the year, such as climbing trees, skipping stones, catching grasshoppers, and having icicle fights.

The second Story Walk book will go up on June 27 and continue until July 11. *Me . . . Jane*, by Patrick McDonnell, tells the true story of the young Jane Goodall, who had a beloved toy chimpanzee, and loved to observe nature. She then of course grew up to study wild

chimpanzees and became a renowned conservationist and environmentalist. A Caldecott Honor book for 2011, this book is one of ten on Vermont's Red Clover list for 2012-13.

The third Story Walk book will be posted from July 12-26. Chicken Thief, by Beatrice Rodriguez, is a sweet wordless story about a fox who steals a chicken, and runs off with it, cradling it lovingly. Amazon's description reads : "A love story, a road movie, and a playful speculation on stereotypes and misconceptions, The Chicken Thief makes for an unforgettable reading experience!"

Enjoy the walk. . .and the books!

Valley 6th Grade End of Year Celebration

Friday, June 15, 2012

6-9 pm at the Big Picture

Theater and Cafe

Music and lights by Peak Entertainment

Beverage and Dessert Bar

Games and Dancing

Open to all Mad River Valley 6th Graders

Admission: \$5

Parents are welcome as volunteers and to socialize with others in the cafe. To donate or volunteer, please contact: cwhite@madriver.com

Dear Waitsfield School and parents,

I am in third grade, and my name is Ayla Fidel. My friends Angela Bywaters, and Sage Devereux and I have set a goal to raise \$1,000 for the Vermont Food Bank. As hard as we have worked to reach our goal alone, it would be great to have help from the people who care as much as us.

The Vermont Food bank is a great organization that helps feed the hungry. Even

though you may smile, there are people that are too hungry to be happy. Every day there are people who have to decide, should I have breakfast, lunch, or dinner? The Vermont Food Bank prevents having to choose one meal.

Hunger is a very big problem all around the world. And it has to be helped. Lots of people all around the world have tried to help end hunger, but it is one of those things we can't just make go away.

So if you could just donate a few dollars, you could be helping the world one step at time. To donate contact us, we are in Mrs. Belknap's class. Or you can email us at ayla@madriver.com. Thanks so much, for your kind donation. The Vermont Food bank will be very appreciative!!!

Sincerely,

Ayla Fidel, Angela Bywaters, and Sage Devereux

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.

A listing of summer camp experiences available throughout the valley can also be found on our school homepage.

Fresh Air Fund Families Needed

The Fresh Air Fund sends thousands of city children to visit volunteer host families in 13 Northeastern states from Virginia to Maine and Canada every summer, and the families enjoy the experience as much as the children who visit them. Become a host family today by calling Beth Libby at 496-2642.

Waterbury Rapids Swim Team

Sign ups for the team will be June 8th, 6:00-7:30 at the Waterbury Pool Building at Anderson Field. The first practice is Monday, June 25th. This team is parent-run and emphasizes fun and improvement. Practices are held 5:00-6:15 Monday-Friday and most swim meets are held on Thursday evenings at the Waterbury Pool. Call Carol Baitz, at 244-1895 for more information.

Babysitting/ Summer Camp

Spud, kickball, soccer games, water sprinkler, water balloons, card games, cooking, making candles, making jewelry and bike rides are some of the things children can

do at a camp organized by high school freshman Nell Shea. The camp will run Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:00(with some flexibility around schedules), and will cost \$25/child each day and \$20/sibling. The camp runs July 9th - the week of August 13th. For more information and to register, email Nell at: nshea98@yahoo.com

"Beauty and the Beast Jr."

On June 16, Green Mountain Performing Arts will present "Beauty and the Beast Jr." at Harwood Union High School. The show will feature students from GMPA's Musical theatre program, in this classic Disney musical. Over 40 students help to bring this story to life, ranging in age from 7 to 14. They have been rehearsing since September for this final performance. All proceeds from the show will go to the Taber Merchant Memorial Scholarship fund. Taber Merchant, a student at GMPA, passed away last year at 11 years old. This fund provides need-based scholarships for any class offered at GMPA. The show is directed by Scott Weigand, with choreography by Brandy Hines, and musical direction by Stefanie Weigand. The show will be at 1pm. Tickets are \$8 and are available at the door, all seating is general admission.

KIDS DAY AT SUGARBUSH

Saturday, June 23rd, 9 AM-4PM. For more information visit sugarbush.com or call 800-53-SUGAR.

Tennis Lessons at the Toker Hill Inn

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays beginning Monday June 25th. Work on stroke progression is at 10:00-11:00 and sessions for competitive experienced players are 1:00-4:00. Cost is \$10/session(scholarships available). Lessons are led by William Smith and Gabby Pasteris and Chase Fortier. Contact Chase Fortier with questions at 802-595-9303 or email chasevt2111@gmail.com

KidsACT Summer Camps Still Have Openings

Session one is July 16-20 for students entering grades 1-3, Session two is July 30-Aug 3 for students entering grades 4-6, and Session three is Aug 6-10 for kids entering grades 7-9. Please visit the camp directory on the home page of the school web site (waitsfieldschool.org) to see more details in the summer camp directory or email Ruth Ann Pattee at: thespains19@gmail.com