
Waitsfield Elementary School

“It’s Elementary”

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Dear friends & family,

Today’s newsletter is the last of the year, as well as the conclusion of my first year at Waitsfield Elementary School. It has been a pleasure getting to know you all and working with the wonderful kids of this community. While establishing relationships and understanding the school were my primary goals for the year, there is quite a bit that has been accomplished this year as well. To name a few:

- Redesign of grade configurations to better match grade level expectations and coordinate local curriculum;
- An artist residency (Empty Bowls) that incorporated the theme of community service into a hands-on experience with clay and pottery making;
- Development of a schedule and service model to improve service delivery and access, through improved coordination, consistency and availability of early interventions for students with identified needs;
- Curriculum and local assessment development work in the areas of literacy, science and math;
- Staff work to bring further consistency of expectations around behavior and discipline;
- Development and passing of a budget that resulted in a 2% decrease from the prior year;
- Development of a capital improvement budget that addresses long-range needs of the facility;
- Development of an Action Plan, bringing focus upon the work to be done by the school over the coming year;
- Achievement, in our preschool program, of five star (the highest rating) evaluation from STARS (Step-Ahead Recognition System);
- Procurement of various grants including building renovations (\$49,500), the establishment of an adult/child mentoring program to commence next year (\$4,250), School Garden (\$450);
- Delivery of H1N1 vaccination to over 150 individuals;
- Hiring of two classroom teachers.

This work was all done on top of the daily business of delivering a high quality educational experience to each student each day. At the beginning of this past year, President Barak Obama delivered an “opening day of school” speech intended for classrooms around the country. He spoke to students of the responsibility that every child has to discover what he or she is good at, what he or she can offer to the world. Budgets, action plans, and grade configurations should all be only a means that help us effectively get to the most important job we have as parents, teachers and a community—helping our children develop to be the best they can be. I look forward to continuing to grow, with the Waitsfield School, in achieving this overarching goal and thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Have a wonderful summer, all!

Respectfully,
Kaiya

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES at W.E.S.

Paraeducator/Teacher's Assistant: We are seeking a motivated individual to provide small group and individual instructional support to a variety of students in our prek-6th grade school. The position follows school hours (7:30- 2:30) M,T,Th, and F. Candidates must be enthusiastic, collaborative, flexible, and enjoy kids. Experience in education, particularly in providing literacy and/or math, preferred. Associate's degree or equivalent needed. Submit letter of application, resume and three references to Kaiya Korb, 3951 Main Street, Waitsfield, VT 05673. Interested parties may also apply through SchoolSpring.

Construction, Painting: Waitsfield Elementary is currently seeking bids for painting and some construction work to be done in the building over the summer. If interested, please contact Kaiya Korb or Joe Robinson for further information.

School Garden Steward and Mentor (high school student): Want to play in the dirt this summer-- and get compensated to do so? Seeking two responsible 14-18 year olds who can take a lead responsibility for caring for Waitsfield School garden for a 5-week period over this summer. Responsibilities include supervising a few younger students, as well as directly working in the garden to make sure weeds are kept at bay and the crops are growing. Garden care responsibilities to include watering, weeding, monitoring for crop pests/disease, and communicating with School Garden coordinators. Reliability, self-motivation, and interest to mentor younger students required. Estimated 3 hours of work/week. Some gardening experience required. Work will be rewarded with compensation (a gas card from VG? visa gift card? gift certificate to iTunes -- your choice!) with a cash equivalency of \$10/hour.

Gardening Assistants (5th/6th grade students): Want to play in the dirt this summer-- and get compensated to do so? Seeking responsible 5th and 6th grade students to work in our school garden over the summer. You must commit to at least 2 weeks. Responsibilities include weeding and other work to keep the crops going. Work will be supervised by a high school student and parent volunteer. Estimated 3 hours of work/week. Compensation, which will be rewarded in the form of a gift (such as a gift certificate) will be equivalent to \$6/hour.

For further information, or to apply for these employment opportunities, please contact Kaiya Korb, W.E.S. Principal, at 496-3643 or kaiyakorb@gmail.com.

Summer Reading News from the Librarian's Desk

Your children have been so terrific about bringing all of their library books back so I decided, for the first time in 16 years, to let them check books out for the summer! Each child (unless they were moving this summer or in 6th grade, or had several books out) was invited to check out up to 5 books. Because this is a bigger responsibility than usual, they also signed a Summer Reading Contract, promising to keep track of the books and bring them back the first week of school in August. As always, books that are lost or damaged must be paid for, so we can replace them. Parents may also come in and check books out the last few days of school. Emily Church mans the library in the afternoons, or you can sign books out on the clipboard on the circulation desk. Be sure to visit our local Joslin Library this summer as well---their collection is smaller, but sometimes that makes it easier to choose. All of our DCF books are on loan to them for the summer, so 4th-6th graders can get a head start on them! Have a great reading summer! - Ellen Drysdale

Video Volunteer

WES is looking for a video volunteer to film monthly school board meetings, musical concerts, and other special events for public broadcast on Mad River Valley TV. No experience necessary - FREE training and equipment provided by MRVTV. If you are interested, please contact Kaiya.

OH-ASK

Thank you for your support for O.H.A.S.K. programming this year. We have greatly enjoyed working with your children! We would like to get a sense of our fall enrollment and are offering a discount. Returning students who submit a regular attendance contract by June 20th will have their deposit for the fall session waived! After that it will be the usual \$50.00 non-refundable deposit for the year.

The KinderCare deadline for registration is June 11th. We need your commitment form and deposit of \$50.00 by June 11th to make this **NEW** Preschool and Kindergarten afterschool option begin this fall! - Susan Smith, Director

Dates to Remember

6/10: Sixth Grade Graduation, 6:30 p.m.
6/11: Assembly, 8:00 a.m.
6/11: PK Open House, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
6/11: Step Up Day, 10:45-11:05
6/11: Last Day of School (regular dismissal time)
6/15: School Board Meeting/Board Retreat, 3:00-7:00 p.m.
8/23: Open House, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
8/25: Start of New School Year

Community Corner

- 1) The Waitsfield-Fayston Fire Department's annual fishing derby will be held on Sunday, June 13th from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Hartshorn's new Pond in Waitsfield. All kids up to age 14 are welcome. Refreshments will be provided to the participants. Win a fishing rod and reel, courtesy of Waitsfield Hardware.
- 2) Green Mountain Dojo will be holding a Kids Karate Camp for the week of July 12-16 for ages 6 through 13. The camp will be held Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at their facility in Waterbury. Space is limited. To register or for more information, call 595-9719.
- 3) KidsACT! Summer Musical Theater Camps, now in its tenth year in The Valley Players Theater and directed by Ruth Ann Pattee, is being held August 2-6 for students entering grades 4-6 in the fall. The camp runs 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday with a free performance at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, August 6th. Tuition: \$175. A camp is being held August 9-13 for students entering grades 7-9 in the fall. This camp runs 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with a free performance at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, August 13th. Tuition: \$200. Partial scholarships are available from The Valley Players. For more information or to register, contact RuthAnn Pattee at 793-4220 or thespians@gmavt.net.
- 4) Register now for fall soccer at www.madriversoccer.org. The Mad River Valley Soccer Association invites players of all skill levels (grades K-6 in Fall 2010) to register for the fall season. The fall program is focused on team play, skill development, and having fun. Please register online at www.madriversoccer.org. Fees - kindergarten: \$30; grades 1-6: first child \$40 and siblings \$35. Deadline: Registration after June 30th will require a \$10 late fee per family.
- 5) Family Theater: Mark your calendars now for two great family shows this summer at Phantom Theater at the Edgcomb Barn in Warren: Rob Mermin's BUBBLE CIRCUS on Saturday, August 7th at 5:00 p.m. AND Vermont Vaudeville's JUGGLERS ON THE ROOF on Sunday, August 22nd at 2:00 p.m. Each show is \$12 for adults, \$10 for those 18 and under, and \$6 for children 4 and under. For more information, visit www.phantomtheater.info or call 496-5997.

6) There are still openings for each week of HANDIWORKS for morning and afternoon sessions (Week 1: Marvelous Masks, Week 2: Bead Bedazzling, Week 3: Tantalizing Tin, Week 4: Playful Puppetry). We are looking forward to hearing from you by no later than Friday, June 11th, so if interested please e-mail Sarah Hughes at jamshughes@yahoo.com.