



NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF
January 11, 2010

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News and Notes

No School This Wednesday

Teachers are working all day with Wendy Davenport on the Language Arts curriculum. It's a great opportunity for teachers to work together intensively, brainstorm, and reflect on old and new ideas. With the morning's inspiration, teachers use the afternoon to work on and refine classroom practices and lesson plans.

K-6th Reports and Conferences

Reports go out next week, and the following week K-6th Parent-Teacher Conferences take place. Please read the attached letter for information about scheduling your conference.

Music and Recorder

The children did a great job of practicing for the Holiday celebration. Parents- please continue to encourage your children to keep practicing recorder at home- it really shows! Jocelyn became the "Pied Piper" last week when she was playing flute in the K-1 classroom. All the children dropped their play and rushed in to watch and listen. They were enchanted. We hope to hear the sound of more live instruments playing in the school this week.

No School Monday January 18th, for Martin Luther King Day.

Don't Forget Boots and Slippers

Children are sledding at recess. With snow on the ground, no outdoor shoes are allowed in any of the classrooms. All children need a pair of slippers that stays at school. That way, wet outdoor boots stay in the hallway cubbies, and children move around the building with warm dry feet in slippers. An extra pair of gloves/mittens is handy for the afternoon recess. Please also make sure that your child has a **complete change of clothes** in a bag with his/her name on it in the cubby. Then children with wet clothes can change into dry clothes and be comfortable for the rest of the day.



Preschool

Our story this week is *Rapunzel*, a preschool all time favorite. In this story a girl is put into a tower by a sorceress. When the sorceress visits each day she calls "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair." Rapunzel's braid becomes the rope that the sorceress, and later, the prince climb to visit her.

The class will continue to make their own castles and sculptures out of wood pieces and wood glue. Castle stamps will inspire castle stories this week.

We will be singing: *The Grand Old Duke of York*, *Lavender Blue* and *London Bridges*. There is no school on Wednesday due to the Teacher In-Service Day.

January 2010				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11 8:45 All School Sing	12 8:45 Book Buddies Music Classes	13 NO SCHOOL TEACHER INSERVICE DAY	14 Art classes	15 Yoga Lynn is back 1st-6th Cross country skiing
18 NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Day	19 8:45 Book Buddies Music Classes 2nd-6th knitting begins	20 Spanish	21 Art classes K-6 Reports mailed	22 Yoga 1st-6th Cross country skiing

Kindergarten—1st Grade

This week our *Winter Birds* theme continues with the story *The Sparrow with the Slit Tongue*, a Japanese folk tale about a man who rescues a sparrow being chased by a raven. We have started to gather items for our bird theme display including many books, nests, pictures, and feeders. In our morning meeting, the children have been eager to talk about birds they have seen. Last week with Katrina, the children made bird feeders from milk cartons, doweling sticks and twist ties. They also took home two types of bird seed to try out in their feeders. We look forward to hearing what birds visit the feeders! We have also set up a bird feeder at the classroom window and await our first bird visitors.

Last week in art, Renee began the class by showing a wonderful collection of bird feathers including the wings from a Blue Jay that had crashed into a window at her house. The children were fascinated to be able to hold and see the wings close up. Next we examined a variety of bird nests, each made and held together in different way. The children then set to work making their own nests, beginning with a pinch pot from clay and then using dried grasses, sticks, wool and

other natural materials to work into the nest. They finished by making clay eggs to place in the nests. Each nest is unique and they are all on display in the classroom for you to see. In music this week we will sing about birds with the songs *Three Ravens*, *Ab Bright Bird*, and *Mr. Woodpecker*, a song for which we use wooden sticks for the tap, tap, tapping.

In math, the kindergarten group is working with patterns. We have been making repeating patterns with little bears. We hide the last three bears in the pattern under cups. The class has become adept at recognizing the pattern and then predicting what color bears are under the cups. 1st graders are working on sorting and collecting data. This week we'll sort buttons and shapes. We will take surveys, and ask questions such as, "Which would you rather be, an eagle or a robin?" We'll also use tally marks to keep track of birds we see at the feeders.

Last Friday the 1st graders joined the 2nd-6th for cross country skiing, while the Kindergarten went sledding. All returned at the end of the day happy and worn out from their adventures.

2nd - 3rd Grade

We welcome Preston White and his family to the 2nd grade and the Village School community. He fits right in!

Last week, the children put their super sleuth thinking to the test. They dove into their mysteries and had a great time searching for clues and trying to solve the mysteries. This week we will keep track of clues, suspects, and look for conventions of mysteries such as disappearing items, traps, and haunted houses.

In writing we read the rebus story, *The Turtle and the Hippopotamus* to begin thinking about how rebus stories work. We also watched a short video of Native American petroglyphs, which impressed the children and was inspiring. This week we will look at the story *Bug in a Rug*. The children will use a story map to begin brainstorming their ideas for their story. They will also begin creating their pictures for the story.

In Science we went scouting for animal tracks in the woods. The children had so much fun running through the snow, trying to discover tracks and then figure out what animal made the tracks. What was most interesting was trying to figure out the stories behind the tracks. We saw fox, squirrel and deer tracks. Two sets of tracks showed that two foxes met up and then ran off together.

In Music we used the rhythm sticks and heard Jocelyn play the flute. We began a new song and used the drum while singing it. In Art, we began making medicine pouches out of felt. We began designing our bags and once the designs are finished, we will sew them together and add a strap.

In Math, the 2nd graders will work on solving problems about tens and ones and work on problems that involve adding ten to any number. 3rd graders will work on solving subtraction story problems and understanding that comparison is the difference between two numbers.

We ended the week with our first cross country skiing session. With a fresh dusting of snow and light snow falling, the children put forth great energy and had fun going around the big field. The children helped and encouraged each other and did a great job. We look forward to skiing again this Friday.

Who's missing?

Rise is away from Jan. 16-25. Wendy and Jocelyn are holding down the office.

Lynn is away until this Friday. Julianne Mallet is filling in.

4th - 6th Grade

We are pleased to welcome Helainè White into the 5th grade. It didn't take her long to become fully integrated into the class.

Helainè joined us just in time to start a new short writing project in which each student is writing a short story for his or her reading buddy in the preschool or K-1 class. We began by thinking about writing for different audiences and how a piece written 'for the teacher' might be different from a story composed for a five-year-old. It has been lovely to see the children thinking about favorite topics for their reading buddies and trying to tailor their stories accordingly. It's also interesting to see how well some of the class understands the importance of, for example, repetition in stories for young children. Each book is being thoroughly illustrated by its author, and we hope the finished products will become part of their respective class libraries, for future reading buddies to enjoy.

Our theme work is currently based on the story of Troy. As well as reading Rosemary Sutcliff's retelling of the *Iliad*, we have been looking at the history of the Mycenaean civilization, which preceded what we generally think of as ancient Greek culture. When we come to study the archeology of Troy, we will find that contemporaneous excavations at Mycenae helped identify which of the several layers of cities in western Turkey was in fact Homer's Troy. The class was amazed to hear, that following the collapse of the Mycenaean culture, the art of writing was actually lost for several centuries.

In Spanish the children are continuing to write and perform outlandish stories, which have been a very effective vehicle for extending their vocabulary.

5th graders are using equivalent fractions and percents to solve problems. The 6th graders continue to study fractions and decimals this week and next week we will start a unit on area and perimeter.

Our current read-aloud book is *The New Policeman*, by Kate Thompson. This is a brilliant, amusing and original book that we highly recommend for adults and children alike. *The White Horse Trick*, Thompson's recently published third book in what has now become a trilogy, is an electrifying parable about global warming and the origins of the Earth.

With the great conditions for cross country skiing this past Friday, the children were confidently flying across the snow. Weather permitting, we'll ski again this Friday.