



NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF  
**February 1, 2010**

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[www.villageschool.to](http://www.villageschool.to)



**News and Notes**

**This Wednesday is Literacy Night from 6 to 8 p.m.**

It starts promptly at 6 in K-1 classroom. We will spend a half-hour in each classroom- come when it starts, so you can follow the spiral progression that builds through the classrooms. Don't miss the grand finale in the 4th-6th classroom- and see the outstanding results that great readers and writers are producing. Children's work will be displayed in the classrooms. Don't miss it! This builds understanding and enhances the parent-teacher partnership. Bring friends!

Child care is available in the preschool classroom. It will be a slumber party - children come in their pajamas, and Village School alumni will read bedtime stories to them. Please let the office know if your child is coming.

**Open House this Saturday too! 10 to noon.**

It's a double whammy this week. On Saturday, from 10-12, we open the school and our hearts to visitors. Parents are essential for greeting visitors, baking, serving refreshments, and helping out in the classrooms. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway. Bring your children - they will enjoy the Open House too.

**And Don't Miss Parent Group Meeting! - this Wednesday morning 8:45 a.m.**

**Help and Hope for Haiti**

Here at the Village School, there are few connections to the island nation. Chuck Baxter, Hannah and Leah's dad, is there right now working with Mission of Hope in Grand Goave. Joanie Cohen-Mitchell, Noah's mom, lived and worked in Haiti throughout the late 1980's and 1990's. This week, Joanie and Celia Baxter will visit classrooms, sharing about Haiti, showing pictures and raising awareness.

The Village School supports Partners In Health, a Boston-based non-governmental organization that operates a hospital and clinics throughout the central Plateau of Haiti. You can go online and donate to Partners in Health at [www.pih.org](http://www.pih.org), or leave a check in the hallway donation jar. Students can put in some of their allowance or savings in that jar- every penny, quarter and dollar helps.

**Reenrollment Letters are Out**

Reenrollment letters went out last week. Don't forget to send in the contract with the deposit, by February 12.

**Preschool**

This week the preschool will continue exploring dinosaurs and we will make our own volcano and watching it "erupt" using baking soda and vinegar. We will learn the story *The Snow Child* about a childless couple who build a child out of snow, who comes to life when they kiss her! We will put snow in the media table and the class will use spray bottles filled with color to make a rainbow.

Don't miss LITERACY NIGHT this Wednesday from 6-8 pm. It's a great opportunity to learn how the school's unique

language arts curriculum prepares students for 7th grade and beyond.

Come hear staff presentations and see student work. Child care is available in the preschool classroom. Children are invited to come in their pajamas to hear bed time stories read by Village School alumni.

And join us for OPEN HOUSE this Saturday from 10-12, and chat with visitors about the preschool.

February 2010				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1</b> 8:45 All School Sing <hr/> <i>It is a busy week at the Village School.....</i>	<b>2</b> 8:45 Book Buddies Music Classes <b>2nd-6th knitting</b>	<b>3</b> 8:45 am Parent Group meeting Spanish <b>Literacy Night 6-8 pm</b> Child care provided	<b>4</b> Art classes	<b>5 8:30 am 4th-6th Publishing Party</b> 1st-6th skiing <b>OPEN HOUSE → 10 to Noon</b>
<b>8</b> 8:45 All School Sing <b>2nd-3rd Lunch &amp; Wolf visit field trip</b>	<b>9</b> 8:45 Book Buddies Music Classes <b>knitting</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Art classes	<b>12</b> Yoga 1st-6th cross country skiing

## Kindergarten—1st Grade

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We continue our *Birds* theme this week with the story *The Six Swans* from the Brothers Grimm, about a girl who sets out to rescue her brothers who have been turned into swans. We'll be retelling, journaling and acting out the story. We had a great nature hike at Camp Caravan last Wednesday. We hiked across the property through the snow to a stream that was running fast from the previous day's rain and snow melt. On the way we climbed boulders, saw many deer tracks and heard bird calls. This week in science we will investigate the different shapes of bird beaks and how these relate to the way birds find, pick up and eat food.

We began last week's art class with the story *Good-night Owl!* by Pat Hutchins, then we made our own owls from clay. We'll be firing them this week and glazing them on Thursday, along with the clay ducklings we made last week.

We visited Royalston Town Hall last week for a dance class lead by Jen Nano. The class got to stretch, dance with sticks and fabric, as well as jumping through hoops. They were all tired and happy by the end.

Last week we had a recording session in music class. Jocelyn brought

in recording equipment and the class sung some of their favorite songs and played recorder. It was great for them to listen to the playback afterwards and hear their voices and recorder. Jocelyn made a CD of the songs for us to listen to in class and we'll record more songs later in the year to make a finished CD for the class to take home.

The kindergarten math group began the measurement unit by tracing their feet and using connecting cubes to determine the "length" of each foot and then recording their findings. 1<sup>st</sup> graders are starting a new *Investigations* unit, *Fish Lengths and Animal Jumps*. We'll begin by measuring objects around the classroom with different measures including cubes, tiles and paperclips, before measuring in inches.

Don't miss Literacy Night this Wednesday starting at 6 p.m. You will get a taste of how our unique literacy curriculum makes lifelong readers and writers. You can drop off your children in pajamas in the preschool room. Just let the office know if your child is staying. Parents are also very welcome to volunteer in the K-1 classroom for the Open House this Saturday.

## 2nd - 3rd Grade

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Our poem of the week is *I am a Wolf* by Sloane Jensen. As part of our wolf study, we will go visit Wolf Talk Educational Programs on next Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. We will leave the school a little before noon to have lunch at The Gardner Ale House and then we will go learn about wolves. We will return to the school by 3:00 p.m.

Please sign the attached permission slip and waiver and return it by Thursday. In preparation for our field trip, we watched a documentary about wolves. Then, we drew pictures of wolves and wrote three things that we learned about wolves. Today we will watch a second documentary that follows a pack of wolves as they are reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park. We will also read wolf stories this week.

This week, we will begin making valentine boxes to hold our valentines. On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> the students will exchange valentines in class. The valentines should be hand made and brought in that morning.

In Math, the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders had a great time composing and decomposing three-dimensional shapes. They all had a keen eye for seeing how shapes can be combined together to make a new shape. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were busy measuring the perimeters of various classroom objects and did so with great accuracy. This week 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will work on sorting shapes by their sides and angles. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will learn how to find the area of an object.

The children had a great time in Music last week. They had two recording sessions with Jocelyn and now have their own CD. They sang, played the drum, and added sound effects to the songs. It was a unique learning experience. The CD will be sent home today. Please have the children listen to it and write down 2-3 thoughts that they have about the CD.

Last week we began studying water in science. We learned about surface tension and did some experiments to see how soap breaks the surface tension of water. Ask your child how soap propels a boat and how to magically move pepper floating on water.

Don't forget to join us for Literacy night this Wednesday, beginning at 6 p.m. in the K-1. Parents are also needed for the Open House this Saturday, from 10-12.

## 4th - 6th Grade

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This week the children are presenting their reading buddies with the books they have written specially for them. The books are fully illustrated and story ideas include Legos that come alive, aliens visiting Earth, an adventurous mouse and a king who is cursed by a magic turtle.

Each book is dedicated to the author's reading buddy (or buddies) and the idea is that the books will become part of the pre-K or K-1 class libraries. Who knows? When the younger buddies are reading to their own buddies a few years hence, they may be using these very books.

We are all so pleased with way the books have turned out that we thought it would be a shame not to share them with a wider public, so everyone is invited to a Publishing Party in the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at 8:30 a.m. this Friday. The books will also be on display, along with artwork and science projects at Literacy Night this Wednesday, and during Saturday's Open House.

Last week, Jocelyn brought in microphones, a keyboard, and recording equipment, and students recorded over a dozen songs for a CD. This first recording session is the "rough draft" for a CD that we will complete at the end of the year. Each child has been given a CD so they can evaluate the songs at home and, after further work, the CD of Village School songs will be available to everyone.

During science last week, the classroom was full of young scientists carrying out a wide variety of experiments for their Science Night projects. This week we will have a conference in which each student will explain his or her project to the class and everyone will be able to offer comments and suggestions for ways to enhance it, and to make any testing more rigorous.

This week in our theme lessons we will continue to study the archeology of Troy and finish reading the story of the Iliad as retold by Rosemary Sutcliff. Next week we will learn about various key encounters and battles between the Greeks and the Persians, and look at Greek triremes and the Greek naval victory at Salamis. After the vacation we will be studying the life of Alexander the Great.

In math, 5<sup>th</sup> graders will play a game in which they will roll two dice marked with fractions to try to reach a sum equal or less than, but not more than one whole. If they roll a fraction such as 5/6 in their first roll, they will have to decide whether to roll again and risk going over one whole.