



Celebrating our 20th year!

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF  
**March 22, 2010**

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



**News and Notes**

**Come to Science Night This Wednesday 7 p.m.**

At Science Night each 4th-6th student proudly displays a 2-3 page report, one poster and the experiment set-up, and is ready to present the experiment and the results. It starts promptly, and is over by 7:45 p.m. (4th-6th students are asked to arrive at 6:45 pm.) Preschool parents can view projects earlier, on Wednesday morning. You don't want to miss it!

**Monday April 5 Special Visitors Day**

Children brought home invitations for their special visitor, to come to school with them on the morning of April 5. Their visitor will go to All School Sing with them, visit their classroom and meet their teacher. Afterwards, visitors can meet with Rise, who will tell them all about the school.

**Village School Art Show April 11 Save the Date**

The student Artists' Reception takes place at the Gardner Ale House on Sunday April 11, 3-5 pm. Students brought home invitations last week. The art show is going to be outstanding! The preschool is represented by one large collage created by all the preschoolers together. The art will be up at the Ale House for the rest of April, and then at the Royalston Library in May.

**Mud and Dressing for the Weather**

OK - we were totally wrong about mud last week. It was amazing how quickly the playground dried up in that unusually warm March sunshine. If it stays dry, sneakers are fine to wear. If it gets wet again, keep sending in boots. If there is a puddle, children will find it, guaranteed.

**Summer Programs for Children**

Attached is the brochure for the Summer Programs. Do tell friends. Extra brochures are in the hallway, for posting.

**Lost and Found**

The Lost and Found is overflowing. Take a minute to go through for your child's belongings.

**Calling All Potential Morris Men**

The Millers River Morris Men are practicing at Camp Caravan at 5:00 pm on Mondays. Any able bodied men from the age of 14 to 80+ are welcome.

**Auction Update**

This year, we have 4 Red Sox tickets to raffle on the day of the Auction. Raffle tickets to sell will go home soon.

**Preschool**

We will investigate wool this week, starting with the story *Charlie Needs a Cloak*. In this story, a shepherd illustrates all the steps of making cloth from wool including shearing, washing, carding, dyeing, spinning and weaving the yarn into cloth. Using wool from Rise's farm, we will wash wool on Wednesday, dye it on Thursday and card it on Friday.

Due to rain, the visit to Rise's farm is postponed to Wednesday April 7.

To represent the preschool class at the upcoming Art Show, the children made a colorful gigantic collage together, out of egg flats that they painted. It will be assembled, and put on display at the Village School Art Show opening at the Gardner Ale House, on April 11, from 3-5 pm. It will also be on display at the Ale House for the rest of April.

**March - April 2010**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>22</p> <p>8:45 All School Sing</p> <hr/> <p>Welcome Spring</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:45 Book Buddies</p> <hr/> <p>Music Classes</p>	<p>24 K-1 at Richardson Farm 9 am drop off 11:30 pick up</p> <p>7 pm Science Night starts promptly</p>	<p>25 Art classes</p>	<p>26 Yoga</p> <p>K-6 Swimming Pickup at YMCA at 3:10</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:45 All School Sing</p> <hr/> <p>Passover begins at sunset</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:45 Book Buddies</p> <hr/> <p>Music Classes</p> <p>Passover</p>	<p>31</p> <p>2nd-6th at Richardson Farm, pick up at 11:30</p>	<p>1 Art classes</p>	<p>2 Yoga</p> <p>K-6 Swimming</p>

## Kindergarten—1st Grade

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We continue our *Sea Creatures* theme this week with the story *The Great Storm*. It is a folk tale from India about Manu, who befriends a small fish who grows larger and larger until it finally goes to live in the sea. The fish then reappears with some important advice for Manu. We'll be telling, acting out and journaling the story.

In science last week Katrina bought in water snails for the class to look at and draw, along with a sea shell collection, some coral, and a sea sponge. The class made detailed pencil drawings of the sea objects. We finished the lesson reading from the book *At Home in the Tide Pool*. The children have been bringing many of their own experiences to our theme including beach walks, snorkeling and visits to aquariums.

In art last week we made fish cut outs, stuck them down on paper and then covered them with layers of tissue paper. Don't miss the display in the hallway. This Wednesday we will visit Rise's Farm in Phillipston for a lambing and sugaring field trip. We will meet at the farm at 9:00 am and pick up is at the Farm at 11:30. Parents are welcome to stay for the morning.

### 2nd - 3rd Grade

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Last Monday, Michael Young came to visit our classroom. He told us some Native American stories about spring, played his flutes for us and talked about spring. The students loved listening to the flute and the stories. He also taught us the song, *Wioste Olowan Inkepa taya*, a Native American lullaby. Thank you, Michael, for taking time to share the stories and music with us.

We ventured outside of the Northeast and learned how to create a sand painting, a popular form of art among the Navajo. The children watched a video of a Native American creating a picture with sand and saw many examples of sand painting. The children discovered that they had to work slowly and carefully as they put the sand on their pictures. Their creations include pictures of turtles, mice, and spirals.

The children are doing a great job researching their animals. They have been learning a wide variety of facts about their animals and are keeping their information well organized. This week we will learn how to take our information from our note cards and start putting it into a research report. We will wrap up our story-structure reading unit this week. The children are quite adept at finding events that lead to the conflict and events that lead to the resolution.

In Math, the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have been having a lot of fun playing *Make a Dollar* and *Unroll-a-Square*—the games focus on helping the children add up amounts up to 100 (or \$1.00) and subtract amounts from 100. This week we will focus on how many groups of 5 and 10 are in 100. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been working with arrays to help them understand multiplication combinations up to 12. This week we will work on division, with the understanding that division is the splitting of a quantity into equal groups. We will also look at how multiplication is the inverse relationship to division and think about how it can help us to solve division problems.

We will meet at Rise's farm on Wednesday, March 31 at 8:45 a.m. Pick-up is at 11:30. Please sign and return the attached permission slip. Children should be dressed to be outside all morning and should wear mud boots. Our field trip to the Pequot Museum is rescheduled to Thursday, April 8. The times for leaving and returning are the same.

**K-6th Parents:** Don't forget to send in swimsuits and towels on Fridays.

Last week the class heard the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> students play guitar and then played some simple chords themselves. We gave a short singing performance during last week's visit to the Royalston Library, singing four of our sugaring songs to Jen and Barbara, the librarians, as a thank you. This week we'll be continuing to sing ocean songs including, *Octopus's Garden*, *Seaweed Jam* and *Baby Beluga*.

We had a visit by some of the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders last week, who gave a conflict resolution workshop. They acted out a scene with two children arguing over a toy car and then asked the class for ideas on how to solve it. It was great to see the class participating thoughtfully in the older children's presentation.

In math this week, the kindergarten group is working on a new unit about 2-D and 3-D geometry. They are illustrating a shape book which they will bring home soon. 1<sup>st</sup> graders are working on subtraction; solving subtraction story problems and playing subtraction games including *Roll and Record* and *Five in a Row*.

### 4th - 6th Grade

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The highlight of this week is Science Night on Wednesday evening. We welcome any friends, and parents from all grades, to come and see the children's varied science projects. The event starts at 7:00 pm, and we would like the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders themselves to arrive at 6:45. Science Night is scheduled to finish at 7:30, though it usually runs over by a few minutes. It promises to be a great evening.

Most of the children have now finished their reports on aspects of life in Ancient Greece. Once a long piece of writing is finished, we usually have short writing tasks as a change of pace. In this case the children have been asked to write a short story in exactly 100 words. It's surprising how much can be fitted into such a tight word count, and the task helps teach the children to use only necessary words and to choose the most expressive vocabulary. For example (as novelist Graham Greene used to say), there's no need to use an adverb if you've chosen exactly the right verb. Next week we'll start work on the play. We will begin with short writing exercises in class, and some improvisation, and the children will soon be writing scenes almost nightly for homework as we put the script together.

Following a recent workshop on conflict resolution with Jane Manning, six members of the class planned and presented a similar lesson to the K-1 class last Tuesday. The lesson included role playing to show what a conflict is, and how to solve a conflict so that everyone gets something they want, a win/win solution.

In math, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have been listing decimal fractions representing thousandths, in order from smallest to largest. They will begin developing strategies for adding decimal fractions. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade math group has completed the unit on probability and is now working with some of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum as an extension. We should have time by the end of the year to fit in part of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade unit on early algebra.

In art everyone finished grouting his or her mosaic and we began a series of classes on figure drawing. The first exercise was a series of 'gesture' drawings, in which the children drew a number of sketches of each other in exactly a minute, and then in five minutes. The aim is to overcome reluctance to draw figures by giving no time to worry about it. The children took turns to model for the rest of the class.

Attached is the permission slip for our visit to the Richardson Farm on Wednesday, March 31. Last but not least, the date of our visit to the MFA has been changed to Thursday April 8.