

November 7, 2011

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News and Notes

All Classes are going to the Shea Theater Next Week

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, we will watch the Theaterworks puppet performance of Aesops Fables at the Shea. We will leave at 8:45 and return before noon. We will go on the school bus, which holds 47, so some students will go in cars. Let us know if you can drive, or if your child does *not* want to go on the bus. Please sign and return the attached permission slips.

Open House Saturday November 19 10 a.m. to noon.

We open the school and our hearts to visitors. Parents and students welcome guests. Parents bake for refreshments too. Flyers are in the hallway. Make sure to post flyers in your town. Take extras, and post them everywhere! Thank you.

About the Book Fair

The Book Fair begins Monday Nov. 28th in the hallway. Let Katrina know ASAP of any books you want to see at the Book Fair, including your favorite children's books.

Thank you everyone for making the Lantern Walk such a heartwarming and magical event, with a great outpouring of community spirit.

Annual Fund Update

Thank you to all of you who have responded to the Annual Fund letter. Those who haven't responded yet, please send in your pledge this week, to save Sarah Briggs the task of calling you. On Friday, Sarah will start calling parents who have not responded. Our aim is 100% parent participation.

After School Update Don't forget, pick ups after 5:30 are charged \$2 a minute. You can now sign up for After School by emailing tv.s.afterschool@gmail.com

Come to Parent Group Meeting on Wednesday Nov. 16

We'll prepare for the Open House, the Book Fair and look at inviting a special guest speaker to talk about parenting.

1st - 6th grade Cross Country Skiing in January

1st - 6th graders go cross country skiing on Royalston common every Friday afternoon from January 6 until February vacation, weather permitting. Children need skis, poles and boots that easily click into bindings. See if your child's skis fit from last year. Ask Rise about extra skis that may be available.

Thank you for the donations of school supplies for the school in Peru. Karen Walton took those supplies down with her. Stay in touch with us, Karen, on your journey!

Preschool

It was exciting for the children to be back at school after the snowstorm. Faces were painted on Thursday and finishing touches put on the lanterns. We read *Possum's Harvest Moon* by Anne Hunter on Friday in anticipation of the Lantern Walk. Possum sees the full moon rising and decides to invite his friends to an evening party before winter arrives. His friends decline the invitation because they are too busy until they all notice the full moon rising and realize they must celebrate with Possum. When the lanterns were lit Friday evening, the children lit up too, with the magic of it all. It was sweet to see the chil-

dren dancing with their parents, friends and teachers. We are sure they all slept well that night.

The class worked with clay in Art class. The children learned how to make a pinch pot and how to flatten clay using their palms. During Yoga on Friday, Loren taught the tree pose and the children sent good wishes to all storm-damaged trees.

This week we will revisit the story of *Chicken Little* and see if we can find acorns under the snow on a nature walk. There is No School tomorrow, Tuesday for Parent/Teacher conferences.

November 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 8:45 All School Sing Spanish	8 NO SCHOOL Preschool-6th Parent Teacher Con- ferences	9 K-1 at Sweetwater Farm 8:45-11:30 1:30 and after: Parent Conferences	10 2nd-6th at Farm School (in Athol) Drop off at Farm at 8:45, pick up at 3:00	11 NO SCHOOL VETERANS DAY
14 8:45 All School Sing Spanish	15 8:45 Whole school leaves for Shea Theater trip on bus. Return by noon.	16 8:45 a.m. Parent Group Meeting	17 Art classes	18 Yoga OPEN HOUSE→

Kindergarten—1st Grade

Our Native American theme continues this week with the story *Mother Bear*, a Haida legend about a girl who strays away from her friends and ends up living with a den of bears. We'll begin looking at the part that animals play in Native American stories, and find out about animals that live in our locality.

Last week the class put the finishing touches on their lanterns by attaching sticks for handles. It was a wonderful sight to see the whole school singing on the ramp to begin the Lantern Walk procession. From the singing, to the story by the fire, to dancing with parents, it was a magical evening for the K-1 children.

In art last week the class listened to Renee tell the Native American story *The Earth On Turtle's Back*. They drew their ideas from the story using felt tip pens, and colored their pictures by printing with water and squares of colored tissue paper. See the work on display in the classroom. This week in art we'll be working with clay.

This Wednesday we have our last fall visit to Sweetwater Farm. We'll see what jobs need to be done around the farm to prepare for the coming of winter. We look forward to seeing the animals again. Last week the kindergarten math class listened to the story *Rumpelstiltskin*, then counted the letters in the little man's name. The children used letter blocks to represent their own names and figured out how many letters are in their names. First graders are working on 2D shapes, focusing on quilt designs. We'll read a quilt story, look at quilts, and design our own repeating quilt patterns. Let us know if you have a quilt at home that you can lend for our quilt display in the classroom.

Please sign and return the attached Shea Theater field trip permission slip by Thursday.

Reminder: K-1 conferences have been rescheduled to this Tuesday and Wednesday.

Spanish Phrase of the Week: Por favor Please and Gracias Thank you

2nd - 3rd Grade

Last week we squeezed in two full days and the children were happy to see each other again. We shared stories of losing power (or not)—some were still without—and enjoyed playing in the snow.

Last week, we began a new reading unit focused on characters and their journeys. We read *Where the Wild Things Are* and observed that Max doesn't go on a real journey, but one within a dream. The children found evidence to back their thinking. We will think about how we learn about characters and try to understand why they make the choices they make and predict what will happen to them.

We also began a new unit in writing. We are studying 'list books' as a genre and will write our own list books for our reading buddies. We noticed that list books repeat a word or phrase throughout the text and we are looking at the adjectives used in the stories. We looked at the books *Hands, Hands, Hands* and *I'm Brave*.

In art the children heard the story *Sky Woman*. They used a sharpie to create a scene from the story. They then 'painted' the scene with tissue paper. They had fun experimenting with different ways to use the tissue paper to create different effects.

Second graders are finishing up the math unit on *Shapes, Blocks, and Symmetry*. We have been using mirrors to test for symmetry. Ask your child if he can find objects around the house that are symmetrical. Next week we will begin a new unit on *Stickers, Number Strings, and Story Problems*, looking at strings of numbers to add together, such as $3+6+4=13$. The 3rd graders wrapped up surveys and data collection last week. The children surveyed the K-6th children and then created lines plots to represent their data. This week we will work on measurement.

Children should be dressed to be outside all day and should wear boots, for the Farm School on Thursday. Drop-off and pick-up is at the farm. Please sign the attached permission slip for next Tuesday's Shea Theater field trip and return it by Wednesday.

Due to Veteran's Day and conferences, there is no homework packet this week. Math will be sent home on Monday and the children have reading homework attached to the newsletter. Math and reading are due on Wednesday.

4th - 6th Grade

A strange week to report on, with a power-less and empty school until Thursday. When we did return, we rushed to complete the children's lanterns in time for Friday's Lantern Walk, and the results were very appealing. With new, larger candles, they really did become 'bright little lanterns', with the light shining through the tissue-backed shapes that the children had cut in the paper that made up the walls of their lanterns.

The Lantern Walk itself was the best ever (don't we always say that?). The No-Name Band outdid itself and nearly everyone took to the dance floor. It was a delight to see so many alumni returning to dance and lend their experience to the younger children.

Friday was almost normal, which meant we had our regular yoga session with Loren. The children are beginning to 'get' yoga, helped by Loren's clear explanations, and it was good to see everyone participating fully last week.

This week we will begin a Language Arts unit that will last until the winter holiday. The aim is for the children to write and illustrate a story for their reading buddies, which will help them focus on the idea of writing for specific audiences. Before they begin to write, we will spend two weeks studying young children's picture books, and looking for the kinds of patterns and themes that are used.

In our theme study we will be reading some of the adventures of Robin Hood and looking at the historical background of his legend. This will include finding out about actual outlaws, what the 'forest' meant in the Middle Ages, and the special laws that governed it and, finally, how 'bad' King John of England earned his undeserved reputation. This will give a taste of how our view of history depends on who does the writing.

The 4th graders finished the math unit, *Multiple Towers and Division Stories* and will begin a new unit, *Size, Shape and Symmetry*. We will start by looking at measurement.

Don't forget that we will be visiting the Farm School on Thursday. Drop-off at the farm is at 8:45 a.m., and pick-up at 3:00 p.m. Please make sure to send in a lunch that does not need reheating.

Please sign and return the attached Shea Theater field trip permission slip by this Wednesday.

Reminder: 2nd-6th is at the Farm School this Thursday, with drop off at 8:45 and pick up at 3:00. *If your child attends After School*, please make arrangements for transportation back to the school.