

# September 26, 2011

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## News and Notes

### Jane Manring Memorial

This past Sunday, we gathered to celebrate a full life joyfully lived. It was a touching event. We heard some of Jane's poetry, which we hope to see in print next year. The Jane Manring Village School Memorial Fund was announced.

### Come to Curriculum Night This Wednesday for K-6th Presentations

Do attend your child's teacher's presentation on the classroom curriculum, events and practices for the year. It will keep you well connected to your child's school life this year. Also, if you are a **parent of a young child**, you may want to attend to learn about the unique curriculum. If you need it, there is babysitting in the Preschool room, just let us know. Bring your children wearing pajamas for quiet reading time. Don't be late, we need to start promptly. Here are the times:

5:45: K-1st      6:30: 2nd-3rd      7:15: 4th-6th

### Special Piano and Violin Concert This Sunday 3 pm Warwick Town Hall

Pianist Elan Sicroff and violinist Katherina Naomi Paul present a special recital of the music of Thomas de Hartmann.

### Sign Up for the Garlic and Arts Fest This Saturday and Sunday

Volunteers are needed for 2 hour time slots for the Village School tent, which offers woodworking for children. Bring your kids- they will love the tent and the festival. The sign-up sheet is inside the hallway ramp entrance. We need some extra 'kid' tools, especially braces (hand drills that hold bits for drilling)- let Rise or Leanne know if you can lend us tools.

### Parent Teacher Night Out Wednesday Oct. 12 6 p.m.

Get a babysitter and treat yourself to a night out at the Gardner Ale House, with teachers and staff. A space will be set aside for us, with food and drink. This is a time to meet parents and teachers. Free! (Thank you Rick W.)

### Sunday October 16 Family Work Day 10-4

The day is set up for parents to drop in anytime. We'll spruce up the playground, do deep cleaning projects and build shelves. Volunteers are needed to head up renovating the big play structure, and the shelving project. The school pays for materials. Children are, of course, welcome, and there is child care in the playground.

Come to Parent Group Meeting Wednesday Oct. 5 8:45

Needed: Volunteer to pick up clay for the school, in Amherst or Sheffield.

## Preschool

Last week the children held on to the rope and walked happily together on our first visit to the library, where they listened attentively to a story. Back in the classroom, the children made egg carton caterpillars and painted colorful butterflies using watercolor paints. They learned this finger play: *A fuzzy little caterpillar sat upon a leaf, he spun a little chrysalis and then fell fast asleep. While he was sleeping, he dreamed that he could fly and when he woke up he was a butterfly!* In preparation for our trip to Red Apple Farm this Thursday, the class is learning the song, *The Apple Picker's Reel*. Last week, art with Renee began by observing that apples are red, yellow and green. Then children painted with the colors, making

circles. Renee told the class this riddle: "Whose house is red, has no windows or doors and has a star inside?" Ask your child. This week our story is *The Turnip*. In this story an old man tries to pull up a gigantic turnip. He gets help from an old woman, a girl, a dog, a cat and a mouse. After each try, they say "*Fee fi fo fout, this turnip won't come out!*" This story goes well with Harvest Day this Wednesday when the children work with their Reading Buddies, harvesting vegetables from the garden. Please send your child to school with boots and clothes for getting dirty.

## September - October 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 8:45 All School Sing Spanish <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: pink; padding: 2px;">See the attached Coffee Order form for fresh locally roasted coffee.</div>	27 8:45 Book Buddies K-1 to Renee's garden for the morning 8:45 to 11:30	28 Harvest Morning (dress for getting dirty) <b>Curriculum Night</b> 5:45 K-1 6:30 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> 7:15 4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	29 Art classes Preschool Red Apple Farm visit Meet at Farm at 9:00 Rosh Hashana	30 4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> to Sweetwater Farm Drop off 8:45 at farm K-6th Hiking Rosh Hashana Coffee orders due
3 8:45 All School Sing Spanish	4 8:45 Book Buddies Music Classes 1:00 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Lawrence Brook field trip	5 8:45 <b>Parent Group meeting</b>	6 Art classes	7 1 p.m. K-6 <sup>th</sup> Jacobs Hill Hike Parents welcome

## Kindergarten—1st Grade

We continue our *Gardens and Vegetables* theme with the picture book *Oliver's Vegetables* by Vivian French. What happens when Oliver's grandfather informs him that if he wants French fries, he'll have to find potatoes?

Last week the class made some wonderful books titled *My Garden*, based on a picture book by Kevin Henkes. Some of the ideas in the books included rainbow flowers, jelly bean bushes, doors for bees and gummy worm trees. We'll complete the books this week. In art, the children glazed their pottery cups that they will use at snack time.

This Tuesday we visit Renee's garden and studio in Hubbardston for a special art session. We'll use vegetables to print covers for our journals and we'll decorate our cloth napkins. We'll leave school at 8:45 a.m. and return for lunch at school, and a normal (!) afternoon.

This Wednesday morning is our whole school harvest day. The children will partner up with their reading buddies and head to the garden to find potatoes and corn for picking. When we're done, we'll enjoy eating local corn. (And we'll eat roast potatoes at a later date.)

Last week in science, in our seed study, each child had the job of finding and extracting seeds from selection of fruit and vegetables. The extracted seeds included tomato, cucumber, carrot (from flowers) and pumpkin. We'll use the dried seeds to make seed books. In science this week, we'll hunt for worms in the garden, and observe and draw them. In music we are singing *The Corn Song*, *O What a Beautiful Morning*, and *Aikendrum*.

Last week the Kindergarten math group played *Attribute Block Match-Up*, looking at size, shape and color. A large red triangle matches a small red rectangle because they are both red. We also look at the counting jar each day to see how many objects are inside. Today there are 11 pennies and yesterday there were 13 buttons. First graders are working on counting and addition, including playing *Mystery Boxes*, *Five in a Row*, and *Double Compare*.

We look forward to seeing you at Curriculum Night at 5:45 this Wednesday for a special view of the K-1 year.

### Our Spanish phrase of the week is "tiempo de ordenar" - 'cleanup time'

#### 2nd - 3rd Grade

Last week the children visited Sweetwater Farm. We had a beautiful day. The children helped with morning chores which included collecting eggs, feeding the goats and then taking two goats for a walk. Then we collected apple drops and made delicious apple cider.

In theme we read the story *How Kishilemukong Created the People and the Seasons*. This week we will play the hand game that Grandfather North and Grandmother South played in the story. We also began a year-long project about the full moons. We started with the August full moon. The children learned the names for the moon (for example, Green Corn Moon or Sturgeon Moon), then chose one and created a picture about it with oil pastels.

In reading, we have been working on classroom routines to support our strong reading community. Last week we thought about what to do when we lose focus while reading, and what to do when we finish a book. This week we will learn how to work with our reading partners. We will also think about "found poetry." As part of homework this week, children should write down some words they read in one of their books that they think is poetic. We will share these on Thursday. See the attached explanation for more details.

Last week the children worked with a partner to create a two voice poem. They are putting on the finishing touches and we will share them with each other this week. On Wednesday, we will choose our magical place with our reading buddies to prepare for our poetry project next week. After we choose our magical place, we'll harvest in the garden with our Book Buddies.

In math, 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are learning about coins and coin values. Last Friday the students learned to play *Plus 1 or 2 BINGO* which was sent home to teach the family how to play because it's so much fun. This week we are working on combinations that equal 10. Look for another game, *Tens Go Fish* going home for family play. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are working on combinations that make 100. They will learn the game *Close to 100*. They will also work on combinations up to 10 + 10 to figure out which ones they "just know" and which ones they need to work on.

On Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 4, we will visit Lawrence Brook for science work. Please sign and return the attached permission slip.

We look forward to seeing you at Curriculum Night this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

#### 4th - 6th Grade

Last week we were very lucky to have a visit from Elizabeth Farnsworth, co-author and illustrator of a number of nature books, including the *Peterson Guide to Ferns*. Elizabeth showed the children how to identify a number of common New England ferns, and after drawing them in the classroom, we went out to find some, and record them. It was a very successful session and we are very grateful to Elizabeth for sharing her time and expertise.

As part of the build-up to the whole-school poetry project next week, in which the class will work with their reading buddies, we have been reading poems for two voices. The children paired off and practiced a number of poems, before reading them together to the rest of the class. On Thursday, the class wrote poems in pairs based on dialogues between two different animals. It was a challenging project, but the results were varied and amusing. Poetry for two voices has been supported in music lessons, in which we have begun singing a variety of traditional English songs. These include *The Keeper*, where a chorus is passed to and fro between two different groups. We will perform the song for the rest of the school.

In the whole-class reading of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, we are enjoying lively discussion of the various characters and how they react to the unfolding plot. Last week in an improvisation session, the children read and enacted two crucial conversations.

We ended a lively week with a visit to the Clark Institute Museum in Williamstown, to see a special exhibition of paintings by Pissarro. We saw a number of sketches of people that Pissarro later incorporated into finished paintings, which was a particularly useful example for the children. We also saw some extraordinary sculptures by the Ghanaian artist el Anatsui, made from reclaimed drinks cans.

In 4<sup>th</sup> grade math, multiplication cards go home today for practice. Go through the cards with your child, and encourage him to use a known multiplication combination to solve problems. This week we will find factors of numbers and look at factor relationships. For example, are there any common factors for 16 and 48?

We look forward to seeing you at Curriculum Night, this Wednesday at 7:15, when we will also discuss the trip to England. Don't forget, we are off to Sweetwater Farm on Friday. Drop off at 8:45 at the farm. Let George know if you are available to bring the children back at 11:30. We'll need one parent driver.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> grader upon receiving his recorder for the year, overheard in the hallway: "I feel like Harry Potter with his new wand. The wand chooses the wizard, Harry."