

## SEPTEMBER 16, 2011 PARENT GROUP MEETING NOTES

### **PARENT GROUP MISSION:**

OUR MISSION IS TO AUGMENT, ENHANCE, AND SUPPORT THOSE RESOURCES THAT THE VILLAGE SCHOOL PROVIDES TO ENSURE A FULFILLING EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR CHILDREN. WE RECOGNIZE THAT HAVING COMMITTED TEACHERS WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THEIR JOB IS ESSENTIAL TO THE QUALITY OF THE VILLAGE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. OUR AIM IS TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES THAT PROVIDE TANGIBLE SUPPORT FOR THE TEACHERS, CURRICULUM, PROGRAM AND EVENTS OF THE VILLAGE SCHOOL.

The first parent group began with parent introductions and a brief overview of the parent group mission. We then reviewed the various activities Parent Group participates in to help the school and dove right into help needed for upcoming school events.

**Curriculum Night** We will need goodies for Curriculum Night and all parents are encouraged to attend their child's grade specific presentation. Parents of preschoolers who intend on going on to the Village School K-1 are encouraged to attend the K-1 presentation. This is the evening when teachers present their general curriculum for the entire year, and it is the best way for parents to be connected with their child's school life.

**Garlic & Arts Festival** This is the one festival a year that the school has chosen to have representation. It is a terrific event and the Village School Wood Working Tent is always a big hit with families. We will need lots of parent volunteers and teachers also staff the event. A signup sheet is up at the ramp end of the hallway. P.S. All new parents: Sign Up Sheets and other Upcoming Events, Coffee Orders, etc. are often located at the ramp end of the hallway. Please visit regularly to say in the loop.

**Parent Work Day** Bring your kids and let Rise know ahead of time of any special skills or projects you'd like to tackle. This is a time to spruce up the school for the year. It is lots of fun. Show up for a couple hours and tackle a good project. Your efforts will be appreciated all year. Let Rise know of any skills you have, and/or any projects that need doing.

**Adult/Teacher Night Out** at (and courtesy of) The Gardner Ale House. Get to know fellow parents and teachers on this wonderful evening. Please plan for your own babysitters. It is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup>. Ale House owner and parent, Rick Walton, has generously offered to set up a limited free bar (beer, wine, soda) and a nice array of appetizers, so it will be dinner! Free of charge, just get a babysitter.

### **Director's Report**

- The Jane Manring Memorial Event is planned for Sunday Sept. 25, potluck at noon, memorial at 1:30. This is to honor an amazing woman who worked in the school for many years and contributed a tremendous amount of heart and soul.

- The Annual Fund letter is going out soon, and all parents are expected to contribute. The school is thriving because of the generosity of parents and friends.
- Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> the school will be going to the Shea Theatre, on a school bus, for a puppet performance of Aesop's Fables. This is funded by the Cultural Council and the Yellow School Bus Grant.
- Rise is working on getting Circus Smirkus of Brattleboro, VT for the artist-in-residence week this year, following the great success of the Artist in Residence last year with Isaac Richardson.
- The Lantern Walk is coming up! A great event for both school and community which the children look forward to every year. Each class makes lanterns and join the bonfire for music, songs and stories. Then we parade to the town hall for potluck and contra dancing (for which the children practice diligently beforehand and are eager to show off).
- This year's enrollment is a tie for the largest enrollment yet at 54 students. 10 more students and the school would be totally full! A record amount of financial aid was awarded this year.

#### Other Discussion Points:

- We discussed getting **Bonnie Harris** ([www.bonnieharris.com](http://www.bonnieharris.com)) author of ***When Your Kids Push Your Buttons And What You Can Do About It*** to give a workshop one evening in late fall/early winter. (If you haven't read the book, it's worth taking it out from the library- you'll get a lot of great ideas about how to work with power struggles, anger, and more with your kids.) The current cost high so we discussed various ways to bring the cost down and get the word out to community members. After the success of an event last year with Betsy Evans it is felt that this would be a great opportunity for the school and larger community. Chris offered the possibility of streaming the event (at a small charge) to beyond our community to help offset some of the cost. All thought if we could schedule the event prior to the Garlic and Arts Festival it would be a wonderful place to advertise the workshop.
- Village School Cookbook. We would love to rework the original VS cookbook and add new parent favorite recipes. These recipes would need to be the #1 family favorite and wholesome. Copyright issues do not apply to cookbooks, so submit your favorite with your family fun name. Perhaps even children's artwork could accompany a recipe. If we proceed with attempting to have the cookbook done for the holiday season, submission would need to be received by October 21<sup>st</sup>. The cost of printing the books is being researched to determine if this really would be a valuable fundraising effort.
- The Parent Group is looking for volunteers for Co-Chair (2 positions available) and Secretary. The Treasurer position is currently held by Jeannine and Kristen. If you have questions about what would be involved. Please ask Rise, Celia (Mom to Leah and Hannah), Joanie (Mom to Noah) or Christina (Mom to Cayden and Caiomhe 'Keeva').
- The Next Meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of October, Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>.