



NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF April 9, 2018

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News and Notes

Bring Teddy Bears This Thursday or Friday

Our annual Teddy Bear Picnic is on the front lawn hopefully this Thursday. Rise will confirm via email. Every child should come to school with a teddy bear. The children are grinding corn with Leanne to make muffins for the picnic.

Parent Child Group This Wednesday

At 10:15 in the preschool room for parents & children ages 0-4.

Auction Happenings

Merchant letters are going out this week, for donations to the auction. If you know of anyone who should get the letter, please email Rise.

New Building Progress Open House 10-1 Sat. April 28

Mark your calendars-invite friends and family to see the beautiful almost-finished new building.

Looking Ahead- The May Day Celebration on Tuesday

May 1st at 9 a.m. is also Grandparents and Special Visitors Morning. Watch for your invitation!

Here is the recipe you have been asking for:

Rise's Buttermilk Pancakes Serves 6 (cut it in half for 3)

4 cups whole wheat pastry flour
2 T. baking powder
2 tsp. salt

6 eggs
1 cup vegetable oil
4 cups buttermilk (milk is OK too)

In a separate bowl, mix dry ingredients.
Separate the eggs. Beat the egg whites until almost stiff
In another bowl, beat egg yolks, beat in oil, beat in buttermilk.
Mix wet ingredients into dry ingredients. Fold in egg whites.
Serve with maple syrup. Enjoy!

Check the Lost & Found and Empty Cubbies

There are lots of sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets, snowpants, single mittens and more in the hallway Lost and Found. Also, please help your child clean out his or her cubby for vacation, especially taking home snowpants and winter clothing.


Preschool

The preschoolers bundled up and enjoyed a full morning at Rise's farm last Friday. The children quietly observed a mama sheep with her day old lamb. They visited the barn where the older lambs live with their moms and are protected by Lightning the llama. The class climbed the ladder up into the hay loft and collected eggs in the chicken coop. After walking down the road to visit Trina's pony, goat and bunnies, it was time for story and eating pancakes with maple syrup in Rise's kitchen. Thank you Rise and Trina for hosting us on the farm.

This week we will continue to explore sheep with the story *Charlie Needs a Cloak* by Tomie dePaola. In this story a shepherd shears his sheep. Then he cards, spins, weaves, dyes and sews a new cloak. Using some wool from Rise's sheep, the

class will wash the wool in the media table. When the wool is dry, the class will card the wool, straightening its fibers. Next the wool will be dyed in two color baths. We will also grind corn for corn muffins for the Teddy Bear Picnic this week. Rise will let you know via email, when the weather will allow us to have the picnic on the front lawn, hopefully Thursday or Friday. Each child should bring a teddy bear to school for this special morning.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, April 27th, when the preschool will visit Sweetwater Farm in Petersham for the morning. Also Tuesday, May 1st is the May Day Celebration with the may pole and more at 9:00. Grandparents are especially invited to attend.

April 2018				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 8:45 All School Sing Spanish	10 8:45 Reading Buddies Music	11 8:30 a.m. K-1 Theme Share 10:15 Parent Child Group	12 Hopefully..... TEDDY BEAR PICNIC Bring Teddy Bears to school- Rise will email to confirm 	13 yoga K-6th Swimming Pick up at Athol YMCA at 3:10
16	School Vacation Week			

Kindergarten—1st Grade

We complete our Music theme this week reading the children's books on music that they have been working on. Last week we completed most of the work on the books by writing introductions. We had two musical visitors last week. On Tuesday Jon Clark, a professional trumpet player, visited the class to show and play the trumpet and trombone. On Wednesday Brad, Wendell's dad, came to visit with an upright bass, a guitar, a banjo and a mandolin. The children got to listen and dance to his music, as well as play some notes on the upright bass. This Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. is our music Theme Share to which all parents are invited. The class will be singing and sharing their work and ideas from the past eight weeks. Don't miss it!

After Spring Break, our new theme is Local Animals. On Wednesday April 25th we'll be visiting Camp Caravan for a pond-dipping and hiking field trip. Please sign and return the attached permission slip.

This Thursday is our annual Teddy Bear Picnic. Children should bring a Teddy Bear from home. We'll introduce our bears at Morning Meeting and later we'll join the rest of the school on the front lawn for bear songs, a snack, and a bear hunt.

In phonics Kindergarten is practicing reading and writing plurals, and hearing and writing sounds in words. 1st graders are learning how to learn words using a Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check procedure, and playing a Lotto game based on diagraphs sh, ch, wh, and th.

The children happily and actively played math games with their families at Math Morning. The kindergarten children proudly taught *Fill the Hexagons* to their parents along with four other games. 1st graders are starting a new unit, *Color, Shape, and Number Patterns*. We begin by building, continuing, and predicting what comes next in repeating patterns.

This Friday swimming continues at the YMCA.

2nd - 3rd Grade

We had a wonderful trip to the Ecotarium. It was a treat to watch the children think as scientists as they observed animals, performed experiments and learned about cityscapes. We started with the Mount Washington exhibit where children learned about fog, how mountains affect the flow of wind and a class favorite, experiencing the force of category 1 hurricane winds. Next, we went outside and saw the foxes, baby skunks, and a red tailed-hawk.

Afterward, the children explored the various exhibits. They experimented with pendulums, building bridges, neighborhoods and seeing how trees create cool pockets within a city. After lunch, we visited the planetarium and learned about the planets, which complemented our study of the solar system earlier this semester.

Another highlight of the day was visiting the otters. The children's giggles filled the air as they delighted in watching the otters wrestle, play chase and swim. Their acrobatics impressed the class. Thanks to our parent drivers and chaperones and to Cathy for organizing the trip.

The third graders began a new unit in math. They are back in a number sense unit with the focus on addition and subtraction. They will work on crossing over 1,000 and work on solidifying their strategies for addition and subtraction. Please see the attached math letter for more details. We had an enjoyable Math Games Morning. The children liked teaching the math games to their parents (and beating them!). Some of the second graders even had a chance to play third grade games. Thanks for coming in and having fun with us.

Swimming is going well. We've been asking the children to try to think of one thing a week that they think they can focus on improving so that they have a goal when they go into their lesson. They are putting in good effort and are making progress.

We are hoping to have our Teddy Bear Picnic this week. It's weather dependent and we'll let you know the day before. Each child brings in a teddy bear and can wear pajamas to school if they wish.

4th - 6th Grade

We made good progress with the play last week, and by the end of the week the children had completed Act I and were halfway through Act II. The aim is to finish the whole play by the middle of this week, and complete casting in time for the April break.

We always write the play under some time pressure, and this is deliberate. It helps to keep the ideas and energy flowing, and because we allow a maximum of three weeks for the whole process, it doesn't drag on, or squeeze out other writing projects. The class has responded well, and on some days, has managed to write a whole scene during the day and another for homework.

Once the children have completed their own versions of each scene, the class teachers take the students' individual scripts, and comb through them to find lines from different children to create the composite script that will be performed. Sometimes lines from two or more children are combined as one.

Each morning the class reads through the newly assembled scenes, and we make adjustments and improvements where necessary. It's been pleasing to see students becoming so familiar with the characters they're creating that they recognize when a particular speech or sentiment is better suited to one person rather than another.

Towards the end of last week we read through the whole play, as far as the early scenes of Act II, to get a better picture of how the play should be ended in the final scenes. The children took it in turn to read different parts for each scene, which will also help them choose their casting preferences.

In the middle of all this writing, we found time for a successful Math Games Morning on Thursday, aimed at giving parents an understanding of how math games help children learn. A large number of parents came in to try various math games from the 4th, 5th and 6th grade curricula. The room buzzed with energy and enthusiasm, and the children clearly enjoyed playing – and often winning – games with the visitors.

We'll let you know the date of the Teddy Bear Picnic, hopefully later this week. All children bring a teddy bear to school.