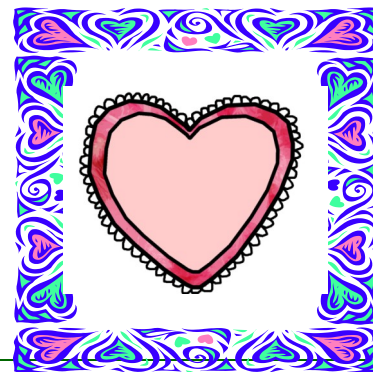




NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF February 12, 2018

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News and Notes

How to Read with Your Young Child

For Parents of Preschool Age Children

This Thursday at 8:45 a.m. in the K-1 classroom

Martin Brown, K-1 teacher, will share how reading with your child is the first step for your child to learn how to read. From his years of experience of teaching reading, Martin will model best practices and present a handy list of do's and don'ts and an explanation for all of them. Martin will also give a brief overview of the Village School kindergarten reading program and how it launches children into reading. You'll find out that you have been doing the right things all along by sitting and reading to your child, and you don't have to reinvent the wheel!

Piano Lessons Start Up Again After Vacation

Isaac will start piano lessons again on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, starting Feb. 27 and 28, for a 10 week session. Returning students get first choice for scheduling. To register, email jocelyn@villageschoolma.org as soon as possible.

Pizza Lunch for All on Tuesday

Marilyn Holway, who cleans the school, is treating students and teachers to pizza for lunch this Tuesday. So pack a light lunch and snack. Thank you Marilyn!

Bon Voyage 4th-6th Class

The 4th-6th class is flying out Wednesday morning with the most awesome tour guide, George Bennett. Have a great trip to England and Wales and send photos back. See you back on Feb. 21.

Farewell Sonya Wirtanen

Sonya, who has been doing Village School office work, is moving with her husband to Hawaii for a year to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, leaving at the end of the month. We wish them a wonderful year.

Winter Parking

The Fire Department requests that we keep a single file of cars in the driveway, so that a fire truck can pass through easily. To make room, it's best to pull in on the diagonal to the front lawn.



Preschool

Last week the children focused on cutting up the vegetables they brought from home to add to our stone soup. We had delicious stone soup for snack last Friday and many children asked for seconds! Thank you for all the vegetables. In the effort to help children try new foods, the preschool will have roasted beets for snack this week.

Last week the children made family Valentine cards and this week the children will walk to the Royalston Post Office to mail them home. This week our story is *Snow White and Rose Red* about two sweet sisters who live with their mother. One winter night a bear knocks at their door and asks to sleep by

the fire. The mother invites the bear in, and Snow White and Rose Red befriend him. In the spring the sisters help a grumpy troll who is always in one predicament or another. Ask your child what happens at the end of the story. The preschool is exploring friendship by reading books, using puppets to act out friendly scenarios and talking with the class about friends.

The children are very interested in tracking. On our walks, we are following tracks in the snow and guessing what animals made them. On Friday some children followed a mouse's tracks across the playground.

February 2018				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12 8:45 All School Sing	13 8:45 Reading Buddies knitting	14 4th-6th fly to U.K.  10:15 last Parent/Child Group until spring Valentines Day 	15 8:45 How to Read with Your Child For parents of preschool age children in K-1 classroom	16 yoga 1:45 1st-6th Cross Country Ski VACATION WEEK→

Kindergarten—1st Grade

We begin our Music theme this week with the picture book *The Song of Six Birds* by Rene Deetlefs, an African folk tale about a girl who collects songs from birds to fill her flute. She then combines the songs to play beautiful tunes for her friends and family. On Monday morning we'll collect books for our new theme display when we visit the Royalston library.

We're beginning a new writing unit on How-To books, such as *How to Go Fishing* or *How to Go to School*. We're making our own How-To books by learning how to write in steps, numbering the steps, and drawing a picture for each step.

In science we're making guitars out of tissue boxes and rubber bands. We had a wonderful Theme Share last week to complete our Humans theme, with parents and children working together in the classroom. Questions children answered included 'Name four things that keep you healthy,' 'Name three things that make you happy' and 'Write down six different feelings.'

On Wednesday we're celebrating Valentines Day. Children can bring in homemade Valentines gifts to share with the class at our

special morning meeting. We'll be singing Valentines songs including *Love Grows One by One*, *Magic Penny*, and *I'm Going to Mail Myself to You*.

In phonics Kindergarten is practicing high frequency words and making and writing words that end in -ay. 1st graders are practicing reading and sorting the long and short 'u' vowel sound and playing Follow the Path to practice high frequency words.

The kindergarten math class is beginning to combine two small quantities and write an equation such as $2+3=5$. Last week 1st Graders worked on a measuring activity called *Finding Keepers*. Using inch squares they measured cut out fish, and then decided if the fish were long enough to be 'keepers'. We also worked at math story problems that involved comparing lengths. This week we're using popsicle sticks, baby steps, and basketball player steps to measure string lengths.

Last Friday the 1st graders were excited to go cross-country skiing again while Kindergarten went sledding behind the school. Winter activities will continue this Friday afternoon.

2nd - 3rd Grade

The children are working on writing a persuasive essay. They've chosen their thesis statements and are building their arguments using reasons and concrete examples to support their opinion. We are hoping to finish these up this week. In reading, the children are working well with their partners and are discovering a lot of new and cool information. This week we'll finish up our features study by looking at charts and graphs. All of this work we've done in reading will support them when they begin re-searching their spirit animals after the break.

In science, the children learned about the phases of the moon. They did an experiment with a lamp and a Styrofoam ball (their bodies acted as the Earth) and rotated counterclockwise to understand why the phases happen. Then, they chose a phase of the moon and used scratch paper to create a picture of the moon.

The third graders went home with games and multiplication cards. They should be going through their cards each night and/or playing games to help them learn their multiplication facts. They are working on combinations with products up to 50. The array cards are particularly useful because they offer a visual representation. As they learn new facts, they should add them to their list of combinations they know. Once they have these facts memorized, they'll move on to combinations with products greater than 50.

The children's knitting projects are really taking off. They are creating fingerless gloves and often use read aloud time to continue working on them. Knitting helps the children build fine motor skills, and because they are working at the midline, it creates a sense of calm; also, they are learning a lifelong skill that can be a great hobby. The knitting scene is simply fabulous.

Tomorrow we'll deliver our valentines and then take some time to read the messages from our friends. The children always look forward to this special event. If you haven't passed in the permission slip for Crotched Mountain, please do so this week.

4th - 6th Grade

Please return the Crotched Mtn. skiing permission slip.

After months of anticipation, the class is leaving for the U.K. on Wednesday. This will be the fifth time we have had a field trip to England and Wales to visit a number of sites related to this year's theme of the Middle Ages.

Our itinerary begins with a day and a half in London, when we'll ride the London Eye – the great wheel that overlooks the houses of parliament - and take a cruise down the River Thames to see Tower Bridge, and the Tower of London. The following day we will visit the Tower itself, and in the afternoon we'll head by coach to a youth hostel near Stonehenge. The following day we will visit the famous stone circle and then tour Salisbury Cathedral, for which the children have been well prepared by the project in which they built their own models of cathedrals.

We'll then head for South Wales to visit the great castle at Caerphilly and the beautiful ruined abbey at Tintern. After staying the night in a genuine twelfth century castle, we'll tour Chepstow castle, once the home of William Marshal, described by his twelfth century contemporaries as 'the greatest knight', and someone that the class has learned about.

That evening we'll see *Twelfth Night* performed in Stratford-upon-Avon by the Royal Shakespeare Company. The class has been well prepared for the play by Carrie Hawkins, a former parent and math teacher at the Village School, and a high school teacher with a passion for Shakespeare. Carrie guided the children through the play by focusing on who the characters are, and what they want. When the students then watched a film production, they showed that they'd really got it. We're very grateful to Carrie for doing such a wonderful job of preparing all of us for watching the live theater production.

Our final day will be spent partly at Warwick Castle, which was occupied as recently as the 1970's, and in London, before we return to Boston on Wednesday Feb. 21st, at the end of an action-packed week.