

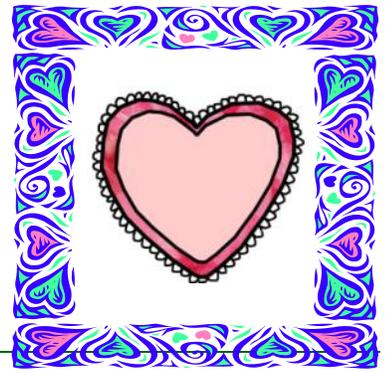


Our 29th year

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF February 11, 2019

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News and Notes



5th-6th Publishing Party for Parents This Thursday

8:20 a.m. Everyone is welcome. The children will share their learning and writing about the Greek philosophers, as part of their study of Ancient Greece.

Pizza Lunch for K-6th on Thursday

Marilyn Holway and Joe Allen, who clean the school, are treating K-6th students and teachers to pizza for lunch this Thursday. So pack a light lunch and snack. Thank you Marilyn and Joe.

1st-6th Crotched Mtn. Downhill Skiing this Friday

It looks like we'll have great conditions. All parents will be notified of car pools. We aim to be at the mountain at 8:45.

No School This Wednesday February 13 for the Staff Inservice Math Day

About the Staff Inservice Math Day this Wednesday

This year, the school purchased (thanks to gifts at the Silent Auction) the latest updated version of the Investigations Math curriculum. Teachers are working hard to familiarize themselves with changes and additions in the new curriculum. The curriculum is updated in two ways: First, to meet Common Core standards. Second, through trial and error, and teacher feedback, the curriculum adjusted to teachers' needs and students' actual learning, and included new lessons, and changes to original lessons. The staff is grateful to have the new curriculum to teach. Part of the Inservice Math Day will be spent looking at the new curriculum, part of the day is spent preparing for the Parent Math Morning on March 12th, and part is looking at student work and trying to understand student thinking.

Preschool

Every year we notice when the weather warms and the sap begins to rise, the children's energy rises too. So hall crawls take place daily and we are getting outside as soon as we can. Last Tuesday the children were fascinated when Brooke read aloud *Everybody Poops* by Taro Gomi. There were many comments and questions and Brooke discussed elimination in a very matter of fact way.

Thank you, Zandy, for bringing Stuart the pig to the preschool playground for science and to help celebrate the Year of the Pig for the Chinese New Year. The children fed carrots to Stuart and petted him. Later in the week the class drew whimsical pictures of Stuart.

Last week in art class children made red lanterns for the Chinese New Year. Come and see them hanging in our windows. Many children worked on Valentine cards for their families. We plan to mail them on Monday when we are on Royalston Common for the Royalston Library program. While the older classes may make cards for their classmates, we have found that keeping Valentine's Day simple and focused on love of family feels right for this preschool age. This week we will tell the Grimm's tale of *Snow White and Rose Red*. There is No School this Wednesday, February 13th for the Teacher In Service Day.

February 2019				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11 8:30 All School Sing	12	13 No School Inservice Math Day	14 pizza for lunch 8:20 a.m. 5th-6th Publishing Party 	15 1st-6th Crotched Mtn. Skiing 
18 Presidents Day	19	20	21	22
SCHOOL VACATION				

Kindergarten

This week our new theme begins, *Fire and Heat*. Over the next seven weeks we'll make books about Dragons, read myths about fire, learn about the sun, and investigate how people and animals keep warm. This will include art work, science experiments and music about Fire and Heat. Our story this week is *The Fire Bird*, an Australian Aboriginal story about a shy boy who learns to become confident.

Many thanks to all the parents and grandparents who attended our Water and Ice Theme share last week. The children were very happy to share and celebrate with their guests.

In reading lessons we are looking at *Pattern Power* – the ability to recognize and learn sentence structures that repeat in early reader books. In art last week the class enjoyed cutting out hearts for a Valentines project. We're celebrating Valentines Day in the classroom on Thursday morning with a special circle. Children are invited to bring in homemade cards or homemade gifts to share with the class.

In science last week, Village School parent Brooke Coleman visited to talk about how important it is to drink water and the journey it takes through the body. We also experimented to see how flowers drink water. We put carnations in jars of colored water and the next day we observed that the tips of the petals had changed color from the flower drinking up the colored water.

In phonics last week we practiced writing words beginning with the same sounds. This week we're practicing reading high frequency words and number words. Last week in math the class enjoyed playing *Make Twenty* and *Double Compare*. This week we're working on ways to make different visual arrangements of the numbers from five to ten and playing *Toss the Chips*.

3rd - 4th Grade

Last week was our second health class with Brooke. She built upon the work we did on feelings and recognizing how our bodies respond to certain feelings. We paid attention to how our bodies lifted and opened up, drooped or closed up and what it we felt like when practicing different emotions. The children had a lot of fun practicing feeling excited, angry, lonely, bored and other feelings. At the end of the class, she invited them to be curious about their feelings and to pay attention to how their bodies respond to certain feelings. We also looked at judgment statements versus factual statements around feelings. She finished by having them write a valentine to themselves so they remember to love themselves; she'll deliver them to children on Tuesday. Our third class is in March.

In art, the children painted their plaster reliefs. They worked on accenting the raised lines and mixed paints to create new colors. Look for these to come home this week. The children had a blast in science creating their projects. Catapults were built and tested, a burglar alarm was set and tested, and other electronic creations were in the works. They'll continue working on them this week.

The fourth graders started a new unit: fractions. We are thinking about different fractions and what they look like within a grid of 24 squares, looking at fraction equivalents and which fractions are greater or less than others. A letter goes home this week that outlines the content of this unit.

Our downhill skiing trip is Friday. Children should be at the mountain at 8:45. Children are provided with a one slice pizza lunch that comes with a drink, but they should bring snacks and a water bottle. All that skiing makes them very hungry!

We celebrate Valentine's Day **tomorrow**, February 12th. Children should bring in their valentines to deliver to each other. On Thursday, don't pack lunch. Our cleaning people are treating the children to pizza for lunch. Thank you Joe and Marilyn!

1st-2nd Grade

We worked on our reviews last week by learning how to grab the reader's attention with a strong leading sentence(s). The children tried out different types of leads including asking questions or using excitement to pull their readers in. We'll finish them this week.

In art last week Leia introduced the class to the idea of positive and negative space. The children cut hearts out of colored paper and used the heart, the positive image, and the left over paper, the negative image. They then glued the pieces side-by-side or top to bottom on another piece of colored paper. The results are colors that pop out at the viewer.

Last week in science the class conducted a sound exploration. We talked about high and low sound and how they are related to fast and slow sound waves. The children examined and played with a variety of instruments including a zither, a glockenspiel, and various percussion instruments. Using a shoebox and elastic bands we were able to see, and feel, the vibration when we pulled against the rubber band. After an impromptu musical parade, we took out the BIG drum. By holding a paper plate with sand sprinkled on it over the top of drum the kids were able see when the sound waves hit the plate because the sand bounced with the vibration. We experimented with how close to hold the plate in order to get the biggest or longest vibrations.

Please help your child remember to bring their valentines in on Thursday for our celebration. Today we are making mailboxes for valentine delivery.

We end this week with the trip to Crotched Mountain for downhill skiing. Remember to pack extra snacks to help your child refuel.

5th - 6th Grade

This Thursday is the long-awaited Publishing Party to celebrate the class's lengthy writing project about five Greek philosophers. This was a very challenging undertaking for 5th and 6th graders, and everyone responded magnificently. The members of our five separate research groups - one for each philosopher - worked together to find information, and then wrote individual biographies. It has been fascinating to hear children swapping notes about the esoteric school run by Pythagoras, Aristotle's mathematical researches, or Plato's theory of forms. The fact that such matters mean anything to children of this age is a tribute to their curiosity and tenacity.

The children will share their reports in class time, and everyone - not only class parents - is welcome to our Publishing Party, at 8:20 this Thursday, Valentine's Day, when you can read about Plato's theory of love, among many other interesting ideas.

Last week we had a successful science conference, in which all the children shared their Science Night projects, and solicited advice on how to proceed this week, during the last day of testing. We were glad to have the professional advice of Dick Hyland, who helped with practical questions, and gave advice on how the children could refine their presentations. After the break, the class will be working on reports and preparing display materials for Science Night itself, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday March 20th. As always, everyone is welcome.

In art last week, the children took back their ceramic pieces, which had been fired by art teacher Leia Roberts. The children have produced a wide variety of designs and are now working on decorating their pottery, using both black-on-red and its reverse, to produce pieces which are now known as 'bilingual' since they cover both design styles. Some works in progress were on display at the Open House last Saturday and all the finished work will be displayed in the hallway in March, following the final firing.