

**The Clarendon Crusader**  
**Clarendon Elementary School, North Clarendon, Vermont**  
**January 20, 2012 Issue No. 20**

The Crusader is dedicated to all members of our community. All are welcome to submit articles, poems, bulletins, and illustrations. **Writers, please indicate whether you want your full name to be used.**

**Calendar Notes**

- January 20, Cheerleading Practice, 6:00-8:00pm in gym, Coach Cottrell's BB team Home vs. Wallingford, 5:00pm
- **January 21, Boys and Girls Basketball Open Gym CANCELLED**, Coach Mason's Team Practice, 12:30-2:30pm
- January 23, Boys'(only) Basketball Games Home vs. Rutland: Team 1- 4:30pm, Team 2 – 5:30pm, Grade 6 Promotion Night meeting, 6:45pm
- January 24, Grade 4 StarBase, Girls' Basketball Practice, 3:45-5:30pm
- January 25, Basketball Games Home vs. Wallingford: Girls' – 4:00pm, Boys' – 5:00pm
- January 26, Grade 5 trip to the Montshire Museum, Boys' Basketball Practice with Coach Mason, 3:00-5:00pm, Girls' Basketball Practice, 5:00-6:30pm
- January 27, , Boys' Basketball Practice with Coach Cottrell, 3:00-5:00pm, Cheerleading Practice, 6:00-8:00pm in gym, Join the Crusader Band at Spartan Arena, 7:00pm
- January 28, Basketball Games Home vs. Fair Haven: Girls' – 10:00am, Boys' – 11:00am
- January 30, Grade 4 StarBase, Basketball Games Home vs. Poultney: Girls' – 4:30pm, Boys' – 5:30pm
- January 31, Grade 4 StarBase
- February 1, Boys' Basketball Practice with Coach Mason, 3:00-5:00pm
- February 2, Boys' Basketball Practice with Coach Cottrell, 3:00-5:00pm, Girls' Basketball Practice, 5:00-6:30pm, Mill River United Soccer registration, 7:00pm, Music Room
- February 4, Open Gym, 10:00am-12:00pm
- February 6, Team 1 Boys'(only) Basketball Games Away vs Middletown Springs: Team 1- 4:30pm
- February 7, Girls' Basketball Practice, 4:00-5:30pm
- February 8, Boys' Basketball Practice with Coach Mason, 3:00-5:00pm
- February 14, Valentine's Community Luncheon
- February 20-24, **WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL**

**CLARENDON "CRUSADER" BAND TO PLAY AT CASTLETON SPARTANS HOCKEY GAME**

Come and see the Castleton "Spartans" take on the Saint Anselm "Hawks" next **Friday night, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00**. Our "Crusader" band will be playing "Oh Canada" in honor of the Canadian team members and provide spirit music throughout the game. There will be additional fun(d) raising activities throughout the evening in support of the Band and Chorus trip to the "High Note Festival" in June.

**Band students need to arrive at the Spartan Arena at 6:30 to set up.**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP**

There will be a Free Throw Championship at the Knights of Columbus building located at 21 Merchant's Row in Rutland on January 29, at 12:00pm. Contact Lou Wicezbicki at 282-5803 for more information.

## **NECAP RESULTS**

We have been reassured by the Vermont Department of Education that individual student NECAP results from the October 2011 administration of the assessment will be available to be mailed home to parents sometime during the 2nd week in February. The results have been embargoed until the Commissioner's Press Conference on February 8th. Grade 4 will take the NECAP Science assessment this May.

### **BAILEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY NEWS FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012**

The Library offers a free coupon swap to help teach people how to save money on their grocery bill. This coupon swap occurs the 4th Thursday of each month. The next Swap is Thursday 1/26/12 from 7pm-8:30pm. This event is open to everyone. We ask that you bring your scissors, any unexpired coupons you are not using and a non-perishable food item which will be donated to the Rutland Community Cupboard.

The Library will be holding their next book discussion on 2/13/12 at 7pm. The discussion will be on "One Summer" by David Balducci. All are welcome to come and talk about your thoughts on the book.

Any questions regarding these events, please feel free to call the Bailey Memorial Library at 747-7743.

### **CHINESE NEW YEAR IS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012**

Many people are looking forward to the Chinese zodiac year of 2012. The dragon holds special significance for the Chinese people. More than 4,000 years ago, there were two large tribes and many smaller tribes in China. The tribes had animals as emblems. The two large tribes unified and chose the dragon as their symbol. In fact, the Han Chinese still call themselves the descendants of the Dragon. In Chinese astrology the dragon was seen as a powerful almighty king because it was made up of different parts of animals such as a tiger, fish, snake and an eagle. The Chinese dragon was not seen as a threatening evil being as we do in the west - rather a symbol of power, superiority and rule.

### **TRACKING ANIMALS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

At this time of year, Vermont's woods may seem silent and deep, but tracks in the snow tell a different tale. Why not unravel the secretive world of winter wildlife by becoming a nature detective? All you need is an adventuresome spirit, a blanket of snow and the great Vermont outdoors! It's exciting to find the trail of a wild creature. And, you don't have to be an expert to have fun tracking. Knowing what wildlife is likely prowling nearby and having a basic understanding of their survival needs is all that's necessary to begin reading the stories they've left you in the snow.

Like a thumbprint, every animal leaves a track that is distinctive to its kind. The best place to start studying these tracks is in your own backyard. You'll probably find prints of squirrels, birds, raccoons - and even the neighbor's cat. As you examine the different tracks, note their size, number of toes and track pattern. If you want to find tracks in other places, then think like an animal and put yourself into their "paws," so to speak. Smaller mammals - often food sources for large wildlife species - sensibly stay close to cover for safety. For instance, a cottontail rabbit foraging for food remains near its burrow or a protective brush pile in case a hungry hawk or coyote is out hunting. In winter, cottontails eat raspberry and blackberry plants, dry hay, corn and the bark of tree saplings. To get from place to place safely, they use travel lanes, which include brushy fence rows, corn rows and stream banks.