

Mountain Memo

Oct. 14, 2009

Important Dates to Remember:

Oct. 22-23 – Teacher Convention – NO SCHOOL

Nov. 11 – Veteran’s Day – NO SCHOOL

Nov. 13 – Book Fair Opening Day

Nov. 19 – Parent/Teacher Conferences – ½ Day

Nov. 20 – District Inservice – NO SCHOOL

Nov. 25 - 27 – Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL

Classroom news:

Pre-K:

Our class has had a wonderful start to the school year. After taking some time to get to know each other and establish our classroom routine, we are now busy learning and having fun each day.

This past week, we learned all about leaves. We took a leaf walk, made projects, learned leaf songs, and played a fun math leaf game. Other themes for our fall will be: Fire Safety, Spiders, Halloween, Dinosaurs, and Thanksgiving. We hope to start learning songs soon for the school's Holiday Concert on December 8th. We are sure that this fall will be a fun and productive time!



2nd Grade:

It's hard to believe that it is the middle of October already! We have had a busy start to the year. In reading we have just finished a theme called Silly Stories. We read about



different animals that acted like people. We are again working with the kindergarten and first grade classes during literacy center time. We choose



different reading or writing activities that help us practice these skills.

In math we have been working with fact families, function machines, and the number grid. We are also working at memorizing math facts through 18. Social Studies has been interesting since we learned about different community helpers and what their jobs are within the community.



We have also had the chance to have some fun learning experiences, one of them being our trip to Champlain Orchards with the 5/6th grade classes. Ms. Pam even helped us in the kitchen. We made applesauce with apples that had been donated



by students for the cooking project, and then the whole school got to sample it. Yum!

In Four Winds we learned about fields and ecosystems with Mrs. Suker and Mrs. Hutt Vater, and lastly, we have been reading with Jayson and Jazy on Wednesday afternoons. A big thank you to all of these volunteers for their time, we appreciate it!

3rd /4th Grade:

This year our class will lend a hand with the Rutland Area's annual 'Stuff a Bus'. We will collect canned and boxed food from Monday, Oct. 26th until Friday, Nov. 13th, when we will deliver what we have collected to the location of 'Stuff a Bus' and make our donation.

All donations may be sent into school with your child and will be collected by the 3rd and 4th graders who will then keep a chart showing the progress from each room.

The food benefits families in all of Rutland County. Shrewsbury is in Rutland County so the food collected would help families in Shrewsbury who need it.

5th/6th Grade:

On September 22nd, the fifth and sixth grades journeyed to the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Fish Hatchery in Chittenden. Prior to the event students had discussed ways to meet the hatchery challenge of packing a waste-free lunch, something we continue to talk about in the classroom. On the day of the trip,



students began the morning with a USFS Fisheries biologist, walking along Furnace Brook while exploring the elements of a healthy fish habitat. By far the most popular was our last workshop, a demonstration of electro-fishing. Everyone wanted a turn with the waders and nets. We even caught a wayward Atlantic salmon who had escaped from the hatchery.



News Flash:
Teenage Girl and Sled Dog Survive Deadly Snowstorm.

With these words, Chloe Hutt-Vater and Grace Powers began their mock interview, based on the characters and events in *Diamond Willow*, a 2010 DCF nominee. This culminating project captured their classmates' attention. Watch-out Channel 3 News!



When the leaves start changing color and the weather turns crisp, apple season is here! This year the second graders along with their "big friends" in the fifth and sixth grades worked together on several apple themed activities, including a visit to Champlain Orchards. As a part of the field trip, students had the opportunity to donate apples to one of three places: the Vermont Food Bank, the school community or a mystery charity. At the assembly following our fieldtrip, we shared our apple books with the rest of the school and let them know we had another surprise in store for them. For our final apple activity students worked with Miss Pam to make applesauce, which they shared with the school at assembly.

Mrs. Fishwick's Message

New England Common Assessment Program

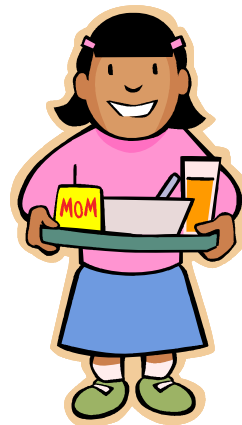
Our 3-6 grade students have just completed The New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP testing). The NECAP tests are given each year to all students in Vermont. The assessment measures your child's progress toward Vermont's Grade Level Expectations. Our students worked very hard throughout the testing. Results should be available in February.

Bully Prevention

Bully Prevention Specialist, Jerry Kreitzer held a parent information night on September 3, 2009. He also met with the Shrewsbury Mountain School Staff at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Kreitzer reviewed the definition of bullying and shared strategies for students, parents and school staff on combating bullying and harassment. He provided strategies to help parents understand what they might do if their child is a target or a bully. Mr. Kreitzer also talked with parent about cyber bullying and internet safety. If you would like a copy of the materials he share, please let the office know, and we will send a copy home with your child.

Food Advisory Council Meeting

We are required to have at least one meeting each year to discuss or food service program with students, staff, and parents. The meeting will be held on 11/10/09 at 1:00PM in the multi-purpose room. The meeting is open to anyone wishing to attend. We will discuss our new lunch program and menu.



ALERT NOW

ALERT Now is an automated calling system that Rutland South Supervisory Union and Shrewsbury Mountain School will be using. The system will be used for notification of weather related school closings and other emergencies. The system allows us to record a message and send that message by making one phone call. The district will test the system on 10/19/09. If you have any questions or if you do not receive a test call, call Mrs. Fishwick at 492-3435.

H1N1

Not a day goes by without hearing something on the news about the H1N1 Flu virus. Shrewsbury Mountain School is offering vaccinations to student on November 4th with the second dose given on December 2nd. Vaccinations are voluntary and parents may be present. You must have signed and returned the Vaccine Consent Form in order for your child to be included.

If your child has flu like symptoms, please keep your child home. A child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. Donations of disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer are welcome and appreciated.

Girls and Boys Basketball

Mr. Morrison will be hosting a 5th and 6th grade girls' basketball open gym on 10/19/09 and 10/20/09 from 3:15 – 4:30.

At this point in time we do not have a boys' basketball coach nor do I know if we have enough boys to form a team this year. If you are interested in coaching, or if your son is interest in playing basketball, please contact Mrs. Fishwick at 492-3435.

New Playground Equipment

Students and teachers would like to thank the PTO, along with volunteers from Home Depot, Carrara's for the donation of the concrete, delivery and man power for installation, and to Jamie Carrara and Steve Bruce for digging holes and helped with the installation of the new structures. Thank you for everything you have done for our school community.

