

KES Newsletter

Volume 10

January 17, 2013

Dates to Remember

January 18

Teacher In Service
No Classes

January 22

Report Cards Go Home

February 1

KEEPERS Meeting @8:15
KES Dining Hall

February 6

Grades 3-6 to CSC
Dance Works Chicago

February 7

Four Winds Training

February 9

Gaming Day 12 - 2
@ Sherburne Memorial
Library

February 18-22

Winter Recess/No Classes

February 27

WCSU Band Show case
3:30 PM @WUHS

March 1

KEEPERS Meet @8:15 AM
KES Dining Hall

March 3

Family Snowshoe @
Mission Farm 1-3 PM

March 6

WCSU Band Show case
Snow Date

**2nd Marking Period
ended on January
9th.
Look for report
cards on January
22nd.**



Superstar Program at KES

"Be respectful! Be responsible! And be safe!" This is the mantra at Killington Elementary School (KES) as we begin our third year of participation in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). At KES we call this program our "Superstar" program, named after one of our students' favorite trails on Killington Mountain. Children receive stars and praise to reinforce expected respectful, responsible, and safe behaviors.

School-wide, we set goals for ourselves and hold all-school celebrations when we reach each goal. However, the over-arching goal is for the faculty and staff to maintain a school environment that is most effective for achieving academic, emotional, and social goals. Talk to your child about this to gather more information and ask about our most recent snow-sculpture celebration after students earned a collective 12,000 stars!

Once again this year, our Superstar Program includes an opportunity to offer greater support to students in need, upon teacher and/or parent referral. If your child is selected to participate in this, you will receive a letter from us with a request to act as a partner in helping your child achieve her goals. If you would like to select your child for this type of program, please discuss this with your child's teacher.

PBIS is a research-based program that focuses upon sound educational practices grounded in psychological and sociological theory.

A Great Day for Trailblazers

KES kindergarteners through sixth graders enjoyed an exhilarating afternoon on Killington Mountain last Thursday! With more than 30 volunteer instructors, including Vermont Adaptive ski instructors, Killington Mountain School students acting as ski and ride assistants, inside chaperones, equipment transporters, and others who devote their time and energy to this program, our students eagerly participated in the first KES Trailblazer Day of the season.

We extend a special thank you to Killington and Pico Mountain Resort for affordable passes offered to our students and other steps taken this year to make the KES Trailblazer program successful. We are incredibly grateful to our parents and community members for their willingness to equip and outfit students in need, for devoting nine Thursday afternoons to the program, and for exercising flexibility in student groupings. This program, a vital part of our physical education program, encourages healthful exercise to last a lifetime and builds community within our school population. It offers many of our students an opportunity to learn to ski and ride that they would not otherwise experience. We thank you ALL for keeping the KES Trailblazer tradition alive!

Geography Bee Competition

"To visit the old quarter in the city of Fez and to go hiking in the Atlas Mountains, you would travel to what country?", "The Edwards Plateau, where many tributaries of the Rio Grande rise, is located in what state?",

"The Kutznetzk Basin, a region of heavy manufacturing, lies approximately 1,000 miles east of which major mountain range?" Members of Mrs. Garland's and Mrs. Simonds' Geography Team answered these questions and more as they competed to win the school-wide Geography Bee on Friday, January 11th. Congratulations to sixth grader, T.J. Borzekowski, for winning the competition and congratulations to his fellow teammates and competitors for their quest to gain geographical knowledge. T.J.'s next step is to move on to the regional competition in Middlebury. Good luck, T.J.!

Safe School Update

This past week KES had a visit from Vermont State Police Lieutenant Chuck Cacciatore, along with Killington Town Constable Whit Montgomery, to review crisis procedures in the school. Overall, KES has solid plans and procedures in place to guide us in the event of a crisis. In the upcoming months, children and staff will continue to practice drills, and law enforcement officers plan to join staff and children during these exercises to determine if there are any new considerations to be made by the KES Crisis Team and the KES School Board. In addition to this, Tim Vincent, from the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust, visited KES to discuss ideal plans for safe schools and to offer new resources, such as a "Threat Assessment Toolkit" to schools throughout the state. It was noted that programs for school climate, such as Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports and Crisis Prevention Intervention, are designed to help schools create a positive and supportive environment and act as an important initial step to becoming a safe school.

Loren M. Pepe, Principal

News from the Health Room

As a community, it is important for us to recognize if and when a child is in harm's way. Child abuse and child sexual abuse are more prevalent than most people realize. If we are educated about the "warning signs", we can help prevent unthinkable outcomes. As many of you remember from last year, Vermont now has a mandate called "ACT I" that requires schools to educate the staff, students, and community about child sexual abuse. Please be on the lookout for a booklet that will be sent home for all parents to read, entitled "STEP UP: Protect children from sexual abuse". This book contains valuable information for everyone. I understand that this is an uncomfortable subject, but together we can do something to help keep our children safe.

In health classes, ACT I will be covered by using materials and curriculum that have been carefully researched and are approved by a multitude of child advocacy groups including the Vermont Department for Children & Families. Lessons will be age appropriate, always using anatomically correct terminology for body parts. If you have any questions regarding these lessons, please contact me at 422-3366 ext 212. I would be happy to share with anyone what the children are learning in the classroom. Once again, be on the lookout for the booklet that will be sent home in the near future. As a caring community, we can be a "safety net" for our children.

Jamie Sudol, R.N., School Nurse

THE ECHO LEAHY CENTER - BORROW A BOOK, BORROW THE PASS

This pass is available at our school. It offers reduced admissions to the

Echo Leahy Lake Science Center in Burlington. The pass is valid daily for four members of the same party for \$4.00 to visit the Center. Just ask at Mrs. Pilsmaker's desk to "borrow the Echo pass." Show the pass to the staff at the front desk at the Echo Leahy Center. And then, return the pass to the school so another family can experience ECHO at the same discounted rate.

Eileen Vaughn, Librarian

Snowshoe At Mission Farm

On Sunday, March 3rd, from 1-3 PM, Church of our Saviour, Mission Farm Road, Killington, will sponsor a free snowshoe event on groomed trails surrounding the church. All ages are welcome and families are especially encouraged to join the fun. Equipment will be provided if needed; however, come prepared with layered winter clothing.

The trek will include commentary on "What to Look for in the Winter Environment." The three snowshoe loops include: a flat terrain along the meadow and Ottauquechee River, or a moderately challenging snowshoe with some hills and flat areas, 17 or a challenging climb through the trees with great views. Depending on age, ability and choice of trails, the snowshoe will take approximately one hour. Refreshments will be served after the outdoor activity in the guest house opposite the church.

In the event of inclement weather, the snowshoe event will be held the following day, Monday the 4th of March, from 1-3 PM. Please check Church of our Saviour's website for last minute information. If winter does not cooperate with adequate snow, the snowshoe will be a hike on the same trails. For questions, call Betsy at 802-672-3179. We look forward to seeing you at Church of our Saviour on March 3rd.

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