

# KES Newsletter

Volume 9

January 4, 2013

Dates to Remember

**January 7**  
Trailblazer Assembly @  
8:15AM

**January 9**  
2nd Marking Period Ends

**January 10**  
Trailblazers' Ski/Ride

**January 17**  
Trailblazers' Ski/Ride

**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

**February 18-22**  
Winter Recess/No Classes

**Trailblazers' Ski/Ride**  
Do your children have their:

Killington Season  
Pass?  
Snow board or skis,  
boots, and poles?  
Warm winter ski  
jacket, ski pants,  
mittens, helmet, and  
appropriate  
undergarments?

If the answer is no to any of  
these questions, please  
contact Mrs. Pilsmaker asap!



## Trailblazer Training

With a renewed force of volunteer instructors, we plan to continue the KES Trailblazer Program for the 2013 ski and snowboard season.

Physical Education teacher, Greg LaBella, trained 25 volunteer coaches in preparation for nine

weeks of leading ski and snowboard groups. Thank you to Greg LaBella, Kim Gaines, and all volunteer instructors for helping us ensure that our Trailblazer Program is up and ready to go on January 10th.

## School Crisis Planning

As stated in a recent letter to parents, I would like to assure you that we take safety measures and crisis planning seriously in our school. Prior to the start of each school year, Killington Elementary School (KES) faculty review crisis procedures and make any necessary changes in order to keep our children safe and guide us in the event of a crisis. Throughout the year, our students practice lockdown and evacuation drills. Teachers remind children that the drills are to increase their safety in a number of different situations. KES takes a balanced approach to school safety, recognizing that a combination of strategies, rather than one or two extreme solutions, can be most effective in keeping students safe. Our safety procedures were developed carefully and in accordance with recommendations by the Vermont State Police, and they are reviewed and updated by our KES Crisis Team regularly. In the rare case of an evacuation drill that calls for students to leave school grounds, students will be transported to the Sherburne Memorial Library or to Killington Mountain School. The Blackboard Alert system would then be activated to keep parents informed. It is a priority at Killington Elementary School to create a climate where adults and students respect and trust each other and where all students feel connected, understand expectations, and receive the behavioral and emotional support they need. In the upcoming weeks, the Crisis Team will work with community and state law enforcement and others to review our Crisis Plan and determine if there are any new recommendations for our school.

## Ski/Snowboard Safety Guidelines Presented to Children

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade will attend a ski/snowboard assembly next week in preparation for the first KES Trailblazer Day on Thursday afternoon, January 10th. Areas of focus will include ski attire, ski day procedures, and skiing and snowboarding safety. The expectation is that all students will adhere to rules on the mountain and demonstrate appropriate and safe behavior at all times. Pick-up time is at 3:30 pm in Ramshead Lodge, and children know that a parent or designated adult must sign them out. Children are viewed as Junior Ambassador Patrols, meaning that Killington Elementary School students set an example for all mountain guests by being respectful, responsible, and safe.

## **VSO Performance Comes to KES: "Percussion Means the World to Us"**

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra's (VSO) "DrumShtick" Percussion Trio made a big hit at Killington Elementary School recently. DrumShtick performers, Brian Johnson, Robert Levis, and Jane Boxall know how to turn kids on to classical music. Their show, called "Percussion Means the World to Us," explores a culturally diverse repertoire and includes demonstrations of non-Western instruments. Through their sometimes zany humor, these accomplished musicians introduced children both to general musical concepts and to the family of percussion instruments. Our students loved the performance.

This performance is part of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra's statewide SymphonyKids education program, which reached over 23,000 schoolchildren last year with 203 presentations for 170 schools in 136 different communities. The recent performance at Killington Elementary was made possible in part by the People's United Bank.

Loren M. Pepe, Principal

### **2nd Marking Period ends on January 9th.**

Report cards will be sent home on January 22nd.

### **A Typical Trailblazer Ski/Ride Day at KES**

1. Children arrive at KES with one bag containing their head to toe clothing to board the ski bus at 12:50 PM.
2. Skis & poles (or snowboards) must be in the school foyer by noon.
3. Children eat lunch at noon and proceed to classrooms to get dressed at 12:20 PM.
4. Buses begin loading at 12:50
5. Students & volunteers load equipment into a volunteer's truck bed and students ride the school bus to Ramshead Base Lodge where they are met by KES teachers & chaperones.
6. All students proceed to the second floor KES designated area at Ramshead and leave their bags.
7. Students pick up their equipment by the Ramshead chairlift and meet their coaches at the area designated by cones w/Mr. LaBella at 1:00 PM.
8. Trailblazers ends promptly at 3:30 PM. A Parent, or approved designee, must come into the lodge and sign children out with the base lodge chaperone no later than 3:30 PM.

THERE IS NO END OF THE DAY BUS.

Questions? Contact Mrs. Pepe or Mrs. Pilsmaker at 422-3366

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