



KES NEWSLETTER



Volume 6

www.kesvt.org

November 9, 2012

ABCs of Parent Conferences—Parent / Teacher conferences are coming up on Monday, November 12th. Use the ABCs to get the most out of your parent/teacher conferences. Here's how:

A - Ask questions. Before the conference, jot down a list of questions you have considered. Bring the list with you to the conference. Here are the kinds of questions you may wish to ask: What will my child learn this year? What are my child's strengths and needs? How does my child get along with other children in the class? How can I best help my child be a successful learner?

B - Be honest. You know things about your child that can help the teacher help him learn more. Share what you know. Share your child's likes and dislikes, and share any problems or concerns. If parents are arguing at home or a family member lost a job, your child is likely worrying about these things in school.

C - Cooperate. A teacher may share a concern about your child during the conference. If this happens, work with the teacher to come up with a plan to address it. You and the teacher both want what is best for your child. Decide what you will do at home and how the teacher will help your child at school. Set a future date to meet and review how the plan is working. (Elementary school parents make the difference!, vol. 21, no. 3, November 2009. p. 1)

A Scrumptious Thanksgiving Feast—Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, pie, and more pie! Parents, students, and special guests enjoyed the annual Thanksgiving luncheon at Killington Elementary School on Thursday, November 8th. Dining hall manager, Gail Flynn, made a scrumptious lunch for all, followed by delectable pies donated by our parents. Faculty served food and mingled with guests, while Mrs. Laird's second graders shared poetry and "Things for which we're thankful." We extend a special note of appreciation to Mary Sell for assisting in the kitchen, and we thank Gail Flynn for a delicious Thanksgiving lunch.

KES Awarded Grant for Gardening—Our parent group, the KEEPERS, recently wrote a proposal for a Vermont Principals' Association Service Learning Grant to help the school acquire more raised garden beds, a composter, and other equipment needed to sustain our gardening effort at the school. To date, the VPA awarded Killington Elementary School with \$500 for this effort. Much appreciation goes to KES parent, Mary Sell, for writing this grant on behalf of all of us at KES!

Namaste! Yoga at KES—On a recent day at Killington Elementary School, visitors were intrigued to see children in a wide circle in the gymnasium move through a series of poses, or asanas, first seated, then standing, some inverted, and some upside down. Children learned that in yoga, while your body works hard to hold each pose, your mind and spirit work hard as well. Yoga instructor, Karen Dalury, engaged and challenged students through a series of yoga poses. Teaching our children yoga is part of our effort to teach children about sustainable and eco-friendly living.

Spelling Team Competes at Regionals—The KES Spelling Team traveled to Benson Elementary School on Saturday, November 3rd, to compete in the Vermont Principals' Association Regional Spelling Bee. Contenders included teams from Benson, Cornwall, and Wallingford. Spellers remained composed and focused throughout this challenging event and finished in second place. We are proud of our spelling team participants: TJ Borzekowski, Quinn Alper, Alec Peyton, Hannah Coates, Theresa Steward, Owen Coates, and alternate, Maddie Rieger. Thank you to Coach Allison Naugle for working with our spelling team.

Loren M. Pepe, Principal

Dates to Remember

November 12

Parent/Teacher Conferences/ No Classes
KES FREE Winter Gear Swap

November 14

Donations to the Killington Food Shelf
Deadline

November 16

Grades 3-6 to CSC @9:00 AM

November 19

Grade 2 performs "A Native American
Welcome" @ 2:15 pm

November 21-23

Thanksgiving Recess/ No Classes

November 30

KES School Board Mtg. @8.15 am

December 1

Game Day @ Sherburne Memorial
Library 12—2 pm

December 7

Killington Park & Rec Winter Dance
Grades 4-6 @ KES Caf. 7-9 pm

December 11

KES Holiday Concert @6:30 pm

December 14

KES performance @ Festival of Trees
@5:00 pm

December 17

VSO Drumsticks performance @1:15

December 24-January 1

Holiday Recess/No Classes

January 2

Classes Resume

KES Mock Election

The KES Student Council hosted Kids' Vote Vermont prior to the actual elections. In the KES student vote, President Obama won by approximately 25 votes.

Health Room News

As many of you know, KES has had several confirmed cases of pertussis (whooping cough) as well as other illnesses such as intestinal bugs and common colds. Consequently, I have had multiple conversations with the Vermont Department of Health. Pertussis is at a fifty year record high in Vermont. The causes for this may include waning effectiveness of the vaccine, and the fact that this is a particularly virulent strain of Pertussis. In order to protect our community, and minimize the effects of this outbreak, please follow some simple rules.

Review the importance of frequent hand washing with your children. When they come home from school, the first thing they should do is wash their hands thoroughly with soap and warm water for a minimum of twenty seconds. Teach your child to cover a cough with her elbow, not her hands. Emphasize the importance of not sharing items, especially drinks! If your child has been coughing persistently for several days, please call the pediatrician and insist that your child is tested for pertussis. Although we do not usually send a child home simply for coughing, you may be called to pick up your child at school if we feel that he is coughing uncontrollably. Please ensure that your child is getting proper nutrition and sleep. Infants and young children should be kept away from anyone with a cough. If your child is coughing, please minimize their after school contact with other children until their cough subsides. More information is available online on the Vermont Department of Health website. Don't hesitate to contact me or your pediatrician with any questions. I am looking forward to a healthy winter here at KES!

Jamie Sudol, RN, School Nurse

Thanksgiving Food Drive Continues Until Wednesday, Nov. 14th

The KES Student Council is holding a food drive to support the local food shelf and families in need. The Killington Food Shelf needs specific items to help local families with every day meals and to help them celebrate Thanksgiving. Please consider donating paper towels, toilet paper, crackers, coffee, tea, kids' cereals, snack bars, boxed white potatoes, turkey gravy mix, canned pumpkin, and more. The attached list will offer suggestions for items that would be most appreciated and utilized. However, please note that we cannot take perishables at school. Food will be delivered to the food shelf on November 14th, the week prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

KES Student Council

Safe Routes To School News

A parent survey went home this week with students to gather information for our participation in the Safe Routes To School program. Students receive a prize for returning the completed survey; however, only one survey needs to be completed by each family. In order for all the children in your family to receive their gift, please let teachers know that a survey was completed and returned to school.

This program will prove beneficial to our school and community. Please contact Betsey Bianchi, KES Champion, to get involved or attend the next meeting of the KEEPERS, Fri., Dec. 7th @ 8:15 am.

Fourth Grade News

As part of fourth grade Vermont studies, the class is reading "Green Mountain Hero" by Edgar Jackson. Students wrote letters to Ann Story from the point of view of her son, the main character, Solomon Story. Brinley Johnson's letter, dated October 22, 1774, follows:

Dear Ma,

I miss you and all my siblings. We made it to Vermont, it is beautiful and we think you will like it. Pa and I did so many things. We had fun adventures. I will tell you about the Trader, the perfect spot, new neighbors, the wolf, and raising the roof.

First let me tell you about the Trader and how he bamboozled us. At first Pa did not trade the horse and I wondered why. It turns out Pa wanted to get more out of him and guess what, we did. We got gun powder, bear grease, a kettle, and, of course, we got the canoe. We were about to leave but the Trader said, "Need paddles?" Pa was shocked but he said no. Pa told me that he bamboozled us. Pa and I were half way down the river when Pa stopped the canoe, cut down a tree, made paddles and we went on our way. I think the trader that bamboozled us was not the best person in world but I am glad we got all that stuff.

Also we found the perfect spot for the house. It has a spring nearby, the trees are not that big, it is by the creek, and it is quiet here. When we picked the spot Pa took out his ax and started cutting down trees. When Pa thought we had enough trees we started putting the house together. But nightfall was approaching and we stopped. I think you will like the new house very much because Pa and I worked hard.

Next we met new neighbors, the Smauleys. The neighbors are Benjamin, Eli, and Mrs. Smauley. They live up at Middlebury. It is a long way from us but at least we know we have neighbors nearby. By the way I think you will like the new neighbors.

In the middle of the way to Vermont in the night Pa heard a sound. Guess what it was? It was a pack of wolves. Ma, don't get worried, we are fine. Pa and I stayed by the fire but it was getting low. I was so scared. The wolves were getting closer and closer. Pa had his musket by him. He shot one. All the wolves howled. But lucky the sun started to rise. Pa and I were so glad we thought we were goners. But we were not luckily.

Later the Smauleys came to the house for Pa's birthday party, Mrs. Smauley brought a ginger cake. Benjamin, Eli, Pa, and I worked on the roof for a couple hours, took a break and ate the ginger cake. It was yummy. After that we worked on the roof some more and we finished. It looks good.

I hope you like hearing about our journey. I really miss you and my brothers and sisters and can't wait to see you all. I hope you all like the house. Well I have to get back to work.

Your son, Solomon