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KES Newsletter

Volume 13

March 8, 2013

Dates to Remember

March 9
Board Game Day @
SML 12-2 PM

March 11
Grade 2 to Billings
Farm @ 10:00 AM

March 11- May 24
Killington Swim Program
Spring Session

March 14
Last 2013 Trailblazer
Ski/Ride

March 17
Auditions for
Beauty and the Beast
Chandler Music Hall

March 23
Spring Fling Breakfast,
9-10:30, KES Dining Hall
Killington Rec. Center
Great Egg Hunt, 10:30 - 1

March 27
3rd Marking Period Ends

April 4
Four Winds Training
8:15 AM, Specials' Room

Cub/Boy Scout Open
House 6-8 PM @ WES

April 5
KEEPERS Meeting 8:15
AM, KES Dining Hall

Grade 5 Fundraising
Dinner @ Swiss Farm Inn
@6 PM

April 11
Jump Rope for Heart

April 30
KES Family Math Night
5:15-7:15

Town Meeting

I wish to extend a great appreciation to all who support education and our school through involvement at Killington's Annual School District Meeting. Congratulations to Jennifer Iannantuoni for her election to continue with her seat on the KES School Board, and congratulations to Eileen Godfrey for her election to the Woodstock Union High School Board. The support extended to the school by the community and all parents at KES helps us provide an exemplary education to our students.

Thank you to Phebe Gordon for overseeing childcare for the evening, and to our two sixth grade childcare helpers, Dharma Neil and TJ Borzekowski.

Sixth Graders Meet the Middle School

Spanish, French, Band, Chorus, YOH Theatre, Math Team, Exploratories, Horticulture, Union Arena, and Advanced High School Course Offerings.... These are some of the experiences offered to students as they move on to Woodstock Union Middle School. On Friday, March 1st, students and their parents met with Woodstock Union Middle School representatives to learn about the breadth of offerings at middle school. Seventh grader, Kyle Weirether, joined WUMS Interim Principal Garon Smail, and guidance counselor, Vali Stuntz, to share specific details about course selections, extra curricular activities, and personal experiences.

Loren M Pepe, Principal

Building Math Skills with Games at Home by Amy Simonds, KES Educator

A great way to reinforce math skills and build fluency is to play math-related games at home. War is a card game that can be played with two or more people, and is fun for kids of all ages. You deal an equal amount of cards to each player, face down. On each turn, each player turns over his top card. The player with the highest card collects all cards. If the cards are equal in value, you have a "war." You play three cards face down and the fourth card face up. The high card takes all the cards in that round. You finish the game by counting who has the most cards, or you can play until one person has all the cards.

Yahtzee is another game that helps students build addition and multiplication skills, and is appropriate for ages 8 and up. You can purchase the game, but you really only need 5 dice and a sheet of paper to keep score. The object of the game is to obtain the highest score from rolling 5 dice. I played this game throughout elementary school with my family, and it really helped me become fluent in my math skills. If you are interested in the directions, or need materials for these games, please see Mrs. Simonds in the KES sixth grade!

Celebrate Pi Day! by Amy Simonds

March 14th, 3-14, is Pi Day. Pi, which is 3.14, is the relationship between a circle's diameter and its circumference. Sixth graders celebrate Pi Day by finding the circumference, diameter, and volume of exercise balls, comparing the circumferences of youth basketballs with adult basketballs, and so on. You can celebrate Pi Day with your child in many ways: Find objects that are circular and measure their diameters (the distance across the circle). Share a pie (fruit-filled or pizza-pie) and discuss its diameter, radius (the distance from the center of a circle to the outside), and circumference (the distance around the outside of a circle). Read *Sir Cumference and the First Round Table*, and the other books in this series. They are on display in our KES Library!

Learning to Type at Home **by E. Vaughn, Librarian/Ed. Media Specialist**

Children today write extensively in all of their classwork, even in math class! Sometimes their responses are written by hand; other times they must use the computer. In the year 2015, the new testing program for children in 3rd grades and up will require all students to write their responses via the keyboard, online. KES recently purchased Type to Learn 4 for all of our students to use at school. Practice at home would help your child gain more experience with this necessary 21st Century skill.

The following programs are available online. Most youngsters find the practice both fun and rewarding.

Dance Mat typing has animated characters and fun instructional voices. This is for younger students, ages 4-8.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>

These bare bones lessons for older students come with lots of information and important tips. <http://www.typing-lessons.org/>

Many of the online lessons use games to teach the keyboard. For even more suggestions to give your child a head start on typing go to freetech4teachers.com/-resources-for-developing-typing or kesvt.org/pages/typingtutors.html

Help your child gain proficiency at typing skills with these typing programs that you can use in the home. A proficient typist will experience greater ease and comfort when putting thoughts down on paper and assignments and assessments will go more smoothly.

Health Room News **by Jamie Sudol, School Nurse**

Many parents minimize the impact that television viewing has on their children. In our busy lives, television can be a convenient "baby sitter." It entertains our children so that we are free to cook dinner, finish up work, or get errands done. In the meantime, our children are exposed to advertisements for unhealthy foods, violence, and often foul language. Watching television is a sedentary activity. Compound this with snacks that often accompany viewing and you have an instant recipe for an overweight child. Inadequate sleep due to brain stimulation from television at bedtime leads to day time fatigue, decreased attention span in school, and weight gain.

Research shows how detrimental excessive viewing can be on our child's health, academic achievement, and lifestyle. In one recent study, two thirds of the children

surveyed had televisions in their bedrooms.

How can we minimize our child's viewing time and still keep them busy? First, if your child has a television in her bedroom, move it out! Bedrooms are for relaxing and sleeping. Replace the TV with a bookshelf and visit your local library to fill it with rotating books. The bedroom is a perfect place for your child to read quietly. Even if they can't read yet, they can have a "book look" through illustrated books. Encourage your child to go out to play. Teach them some old fashioned games they can play in the front yard or driveway like hopscotch, hula hooping, and tag. If your child must be inside, encourage imagination games, puzzles, and board games. Card games are a great way to keep children entertained and learn math skills at the same time. There are card games for all abilities and a deck of cards is relatively inexpensive. Give your children household duties like vacuuming and cleaning their room. This keeps them busy and moving. If your child is addicted to TV video games, look for interactive games that make your child move. Exercise in front of the TV is better than no exercise at all. Let's think outside of the box and get rid of the "box."

Spring Fling Breakfast & Great Egg Hunt

Please join the KEEPERS on Saturday March 23rd from 9:00am to 10:30am for our annual Spring Fling Breakfast fundraiser. Pancakes, bacon, sausage and eggs are on tap.

\$6/Adult \$4/kids. Afterwards enjoy entertainment and the egg hunt provided by the Killington Rec Dept.

We will need volunteers for serving, cooking and selling tickets at the door. Also there will be a sign up list for breakfast items we are looking for to be donated to make this event a success!

Think Spring!

You are invited!

The KES community is invited to attend a fundraising event for the fifth graders' upcoming overnight trip to Boston. Ms. Naugle's fifth grade class is hosting and serving a sit-down dinner at the Swiss Farm Inn in Pittsfield on Friday, April 5th at 6:00 PM. The dinner menu will include soup of the day, garden salad, choice of entrée, and finally your choice of dessert. The cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child. Please contact Ms. Naugle if you are interested in making a reservation. This annual event sells out quickly! First come, first serve!

Trailblazers!



Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Kim Gaines, Killington Parks & Recreation Department's Volunteer of the Year!

All of us at KES offer warm congratulations to Kim for this well-deserved recognition and thank her for her generous gift of time for our students both during recreation department activities and school-based activities.

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