



On Wednesday, January 23, the 4H chapter at KES participated in a wonderful visual arts project. Students in PreK-5th grade were present. The session was led by Colleen Wilcox, a graphic artist who resides in Pittsfield. She is well known for her designs featured on Etsy and in businesses across Vermont. Colleen volunteered her time to teach students the steps in creating a piece of artwork in her style of lettering. First students designed their own unique font for lettering. Then they brainstormed words and phrases that came to mind about their special person. When they completed brainstorming, it was time to sketch the heart and begin the lettering process. Lastly, students chose a color palette of markers with which to color their lettering. The end result was a vibrant and unique Valentine designed especially for a loved one. Please checkout Colleen's work on her website wanderonwords.com or see her at art festivals across the state such as Art in the Park in Rutland.

In other ASP news, Nora Sylvia has created a joint project with the cafeteria services in our district. She is planning and conducting kid friendly cooking sessions with a healthy focus on nutrition. Last week we made hummus and cut up vegetables to serve with them for snack. This week, we tried a healthy twist on brownies by using black beans as our base instead of wheat flour. The program is called Kids in the Kitchen and will continue on Tuesdays.

Winter can be a time for the doldrums and being a little stir crazy. The ASP is a great way to let kids get in some physical activity, have social time, have a healthy snack and spend time doing homework each day. We have many fun events planned throughout the month and the calendar is always posted by Mrs. Pilsmaker's desk.



Big Friends & Little Friends Enjoy Billings Farm

by Mrs. Knipes

Sixth grade (Big Friend) and kindergarten students (Little Friend) went to Billings Farm on December 21st to enjoy a program called Historic Celebrations of Christmas and Light. There were several activities that everyone participated in such as candle making and cookie making in an old wood stove.

We learned about Christmas traditions from long ago and studied Hanukkah and Kwanzaa using read aloud books and a map. Thank you to our Big Friends for helping us learn so much about the holiday season.

Annual KES Talent Show

The KES Talent show is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12th, 2 pm, in the gym. On Tuesday, January 29th, during recess, performers will audition a well-rehearsed, 1 - 2 minute, act with all necessary props.

Permission slips went home with students last week. A parent signed permission slip is required to try out and participate in the show. Try-outs are a way to ensure appropriateness and an opportunity for teacher feedback.

Sixth Grade News by Mrs. Simonds



Sixth grade students made holiday sweaters in December, just in time to wear them for holiday celebrations over vacation! They sewed on bells and ribbons, glued on tinsel and garland, and used a generous amount of glitter! They also used the Cricut Machine and Maker Space to design original decorations and artwork that they could sew on their sweaters. They had a lot fun completing this project, and the sweaters were all so creative and amazing!

Girls On The Run at KES, Sign Up Next Week!

Girls on the Run is a non-profit with a mission to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident. By using an interactive curriculum that creatively integrates running, we help to positively impact girls in 3rd to 6th grade. In addition to the life-long lessons learned, the 10-week program culminates with the girls being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5k. The goal of the program is to unleash confidence through accomplishment while establishing a lifetime appreciation of health, compassion, and community.

Registration for the spring KES team opens online on Monday January 28th. Your 3rd-6th grade daughter received a registration packet at school this week. Please let Ms. LeBrun or Mrs. Getty know if you have any questions.

Exceptional Writing in Language Arts at KES

Kaitlyn Burres, grade 5, did an excellent job of writing a personal narrative, a true story, and bringing out the heart of her story, which was how hard it can be to say goodbye to a beloved pet.

The Last Time
Kaitlyn Burres
1/8/19

It was sunny out. I felt sunny too, until it started to rain.

I could see light flowing through the window. I looked at the board. We were adding so I let my thoughts take over. Yay! One more week until summer vacation. My thoughts were disturbed by Mrs. Sunny.

"Kaitlyn! You must listen! I've been calling on you for the last five minutes. Now tell me, what is 1+1?"

"Duh, it's two." We were in second grade shouldn't we know this stuff?

I wondered what Tom, Daisy and Princess (my dogs) were doing.

"Ok, kids, let's pack up!" Called Mrs. Sunny who seemed happy, too happy. I got packed up, went outside and waited to get picked up.

Then I saw Dad.

"Hi, K (which was Dad's nickname for me). We need to talk."

Dad paused. His smile just now was replaced with a frowning mouth, his eyes now were a serious stare, his face was a mix of a puppy an oddly shaped storm cloud (he probably didn't shave this morning).

"No! He can't die! He's not even twenty!" Dad just told me that the dog who slept next to my bed, the dog who I'd loved since the moment we met, my loyal protector had died!

"K , he has lived two more years then we thought he would, with his sickness and his age (which was thirteen). He was just unhappy." Dad tried to explain to me why they let Tomer die, but I was seven and very upset.

When we got in the house, Mom came to meet me.

"Hi Bug," said Mom in an inflated voice. "I know you're sad, but we have a surprise for you. We, well, we got Tom's ashes and we want the whole family to spread the ashes."

"Me too?"

"Yes."

"But, Mom!"

"Bug."

It seemed Dad had zoned out.

"Glenn?"

"What?"

"Mom, what are ashes?"

"They're part of Tom."

"Like his guts?"

"No!"

This continued for a while.

"Thank you, but I don't feel like it. I'm too sad." I said in a whimpery voice. I heard little animal noises come from my mouth, my eyes squeezed closed, then came the tears. He can't, not Tom, he can't have died. I looked outside and saw pouring rain.

"Please, K," Mom said.

"Mom, I, but." I paused and thought. I knew spreading the ashes would make me feel better. I didn't know why I was fighting spreading the ashes in the first place. Also I was too tired to argue. "Okay," I said finally.

When it stopped raining my mom, dad, Daisy, Princess, and I went outside. When I was spreading the ashes, I smiled a bit and I swear I could see a little bit of sun though the clouds. I knew Tom was watching over me and I knew he was happy in heaven.

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