

KES Newsletter

Volume 9

December 19, 2014

Dates to Remember

December 22-January 2
Holiday Recess/No Classes

January 5
Classes Resume

January 12
End of Second Marking
Period

Trailblazers' Student
Assembly @8:15 AM

January 15
2015 KES Trailblazers'
Ski/Ride program begins

January 19
In Service/No classes

January 23
KES School Board of
Directors meet @8:15AM
@ KES

February 2
Grades 3-6 to Castleton
State College Theater

February 6
KES School Board of
Directors meet @8:15 AM
@ KES

February 16-20
Winter Recess/No Classes

Happy Holidays!



Life Lessons in the Third Grade Holiday Store

Third graders put their newly honed math skills to practical use in the KES Third Grade Holiday Store this past week. Lovely, donated items became merchandise in the store when third graders placed price tags for under \$1.00 on all items and quickly learned what it takes to be a merchant with only a cash box, paper, and pencil at hand: no calculators or cash registers at this store! Students from throughout the school brought their small change to school to do some holiday shopping and walked away with beautiful items.

This entire process aligns perfectly with the work Mrs. Carey and her third graders do in class, and this project gives their work a real life, hands-on purpose. In addition, it provides students across the grades an opportunity to do a little holiday shopping and practice their own math and communication skills in the process.

Thank you to Kathy Iananntuoni (pictured above), Annie Masillo, Robin Alberti, Kara Stickney, and Eunice MacDonald Rice for volunteering time to oversee our merchants and their customers.

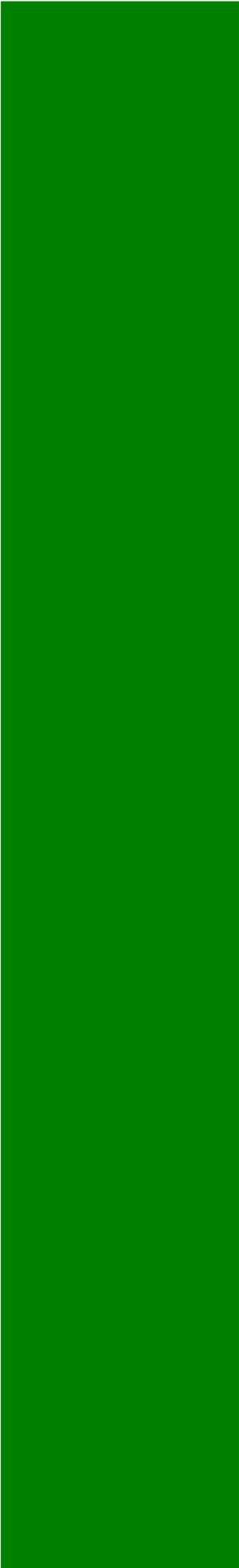
Students Performed *Holiday Windows*

Students sang and danced their way around the KES stage as they celebrated the holiday season at their recent concert.

As always, the KES community is appreciative for the time and effort put forth by faculty and staff, all of whom played a part in the success of this production, especially the following people: Christine Morton, music and band director; Maria Garland, backstage manager and co-producer; Kate Carey, set design and co-producer; and Melissa Knipes, choreographer.

The performance was enhanced by new stage lights made possible through the efforts of our parent group, KEEPERS, and Chris Clarke.

We also thank all of our guests for joining us!



Technology Integration in Our School

Using Microsoft's Excel program, Amy Simond's math students learn creative, innovative, 21st Century ways to solve math problems, reinforce math concepts, and display their learning. Most people think of Excel as a program for creating spreadsheets. Mrs. Simonds students, however, know the power of Excel as a mathematics tool. What exactly do these students do in Excel?

In fifth grade, students learn the basics of Excel by conducting surveys and graphing their results. Using Excel, they calculate percentages, add columns and rows, and perform other operations within their spreadsheets. Fifth and sixth graders typically collaborate on engaging and exciting projects, such as, exploring Fibonacci numbers. In this instance, students will use Excel as a graphing calculator to determine the formula of the sequence and then graph it.

During fifth and sixth grade units in algebra, students learn how to analyze patterns and determine formulas. Using columns A and B in lieu of traditional x and y variables, students are able to plug in their formulas much like a graphing calculator. Amy Simonds uses Excel with her students, not only to prepare students for algebraic concepts in middle school, but to help them understand that Excel acts as a powerful tool, used by people in all professions on a daily basis.

Coming Soon: Trailblazer Ski and Ride Days!

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade will attend a ski/snowboard assembly on Monday, January 12th, in preparation for the first KES Trailblazer Day of the season, Thursday, January 15th. Areas of focus will include ski attire, ski day procedures, and skiing and snowboard safety. The expectation is that all children will adhere to the rules on the mountain and demonstrate appropriate and safe behavior at all times.

Parent pick-up time is at 3:30 pm in Ramshead Lodge, and children know that a parent or designated adult MUST sign them out. Our children are viewed upon as Junior Ambassador Patrols, meaning that Killington Elementary students set an example for all mountain guests by being respectful, responsible, and safe.

Loren M. Pepe, Principal

Health Room News by Susan Clarke, RN

Let's fight the flu together!

Your decision to get the flu shot or not goes well beyond you. It also affects the many lives you touch...

Influenza is a contagious disease of the respiratory tract (nose, throat, and lungs) that can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia and the worsening of other chronic health conditions. Flu symptoms may include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches. The best way to protect your family from new influenza strains is to get vaccinated each year.

The top five most virus-contaminated areas in the home are:

1. Telephones (have you cleaned your cell phone lately)
2. Appliances such as the refrigerator and microwave
3. Faucets
4. Light switch and door handles
5. TV remotes

Follow good health guidelines: eat right, exercise, and get plenty of rest to help boost your immunity to fight the effects of colds and flu. Wash hands frequently, do the elbow cough, and disinfect hot spots at work and home. Treat the symptoms if you must, but DO NOT give aspirin to children, because it may cause a rare but serious illness called Reye syndrome. Always speak with your healthcare provider before giving medication.

KES Trailblazers' Ski/Ride 2015 Starts January 15th!

KES Children need a Killington season pass, equipment for their chosen sport, and appropriate warm, waterproof clothing to participate.

An average ski day looks like this:

8:00 Arrival at KES - Bring boots and ski clothing: long johns, ski pants, socks, goggles, gloves, hats, neck gators, helmets and Killington PASS.

8-10:00 Drop off skis, poles and snowboards at KES inside entry.

12:00-12:30 Lunch

12:30-12:50 Students get ready! Parent volunteers are needed in the younger grades to help dress. Skis are transported separately to Ramshead by volunteers as they are not allowed on the bus.

12:50 Buses leave KES for Ramshead.

1:00 Skiers and snowboarders arrive at Ramshead. The bus is met by chaperones and teachers. Bags are dropped off in the KES area upstairs.

1:05 Students pick up their equipment at Ramshead, assemble at cones in their groups with their instructors.

1:15-3:30 Ski/Ride Lessons on hill. Chaperones in Ramshead Base Lodge.

3:30 All skiers and snowboarders must be picked up at Ramshead. BE PROMPT. There is no bus transportation home from the mountain. PARENTS NEED TO SIGN CHILDREN OUT WITH ONE OF THE PARENT CHAPERONES in the KES Trailblazer area of the base lodge UPON PICKING UP THEIR CHILDREN.

Encourage and support your child to honor his/her commitment to ski/ride every Thursday. If the weather is unsuitable for skiing, the school, not Killington, will make the decision to cancel by 11:00 a.m.

Information has already gone home regarding pass procedure. If purchasing a season pass at the KES family rate is a financial hardship for you, please contact Mrs. Pilsmaker as soon as possible. If you were unable to attend the KES Parent Swap, and equipment and/or clothing is unavailable to you, please contact Mrs. Clarke as soon as possible. The holidays are coming and long underwear, ski socks, gators, gloves, etc. are wonderful gifts.

Tel. 802.422.3366 Fax. 802.422.3367 www.kesvt.org

Contact Info

Sheila Pismaker, Admin. Asst., spilsmaker@wcsu.net

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