

# KES Newsletter

Volume 8

December 5, 2014

## Dates to Remember

December 5  
Festival of Trees  
KES students perform @5PM

December 11  
Trailblazers' On-Hill Session  
@ Ramshead @ 1:00 PM

December 16  
KES Holiday Concert  
@KES @ 6:30 PM

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

## Presenting Holiday Windows

Hurry, Hurry, Hustle, Bustle... It's that time of year when we're all in a flurry! Join us on Tuesday, December 16th, at 6:30 pm when our students present a holiday program that reminds us to slow down and enjoy all the love, beauty, friends, family, and fun times that surround us in the holiday season. Please mark your calendars and save the date! Each child is in a concert group with one of the teachers in our school. Each teacher will send home a notice to inform parents about attire needed for the performance.

## KES Student Council Food Drive

The KES Student Council ran a successful food drive for the Killington Food Shelf. Thank you to all who contributed!

The Sherburne United Church of Christ on the corner of U.S. Route 4 and River Road is the location of the Killington Food Shelf. They have asked us to remind those who could use some help with food to call Jane Hanley, 422-3271, or Beverly Anderson, 422-3484, to make arrangements to visit. Right now the shelves are well-stocked!

## Unraveling the Mystery of Computer Programming

It's Computer Science Education Week: December 8th-14th! From one grade to the next at KES, students spend time engaged in computer programming. Through code.org, a non-profit, our students delved into several online and unplugged activities to help them learn more about computer science.

Thanks to our librarian/media specialist, Eileen Vaughn, students at KES are working on various Hour of the Code projects to gain more knowledge and skill related to this important facet to our everyday life.

In today's modern world, we are surrounded by technology, yet few of us truly understand how a computer works. Under Mrs. Vaughn's tutelage, KES students learn about computer programming through hands-on lessons. It is our hope that this knowledge will help unravel the mystery of technology and enlighten our students so they may one day build upon this work and find greater success in the career path of their choosing.

According to technology icon, Steve Jobs, "Everybody in this country should learn how to program a computer...because it teaches you how to think."

## Tech Integration in Our School

Step into Allison Naugle's fifth grade classroom and you could find every one of her twenty-one students typing vivaciously on their netbooks. "What are they doing?" you may ask. A quick walk around the room informs you that they are working collaboratively, writing a shared piece, or analyzing each other's written responses or essays while sitting at opposite ends of the classroom. At the same time, their teacher analyzes their writing and makes inquiries, all while working on her computer. It's a new world, and these students will be comfortable and accustomed to working collaboratively from anywhere while receiving ongoing and simultaneous feedback from their peers and teachers or, one day their colleagues,

supervisors, and clients.



### Geography Awareness at KES

Geography is a critical component of education for our 21st century learners. At KES, we ensure that our students have opportunities to gain greater awareness and knowledge of our planet. For example, third graders, with their teacher, Kate Carey, practice using the compass rose to determine the direction they would travel to reach Idaho if starting in Kansas and which direction they would travel if interested in reaching India from Japan. They learn about topographical maps and political maps, discuss scales and legends, identify specific elevations, locate rivers and mountains, and review their study of continents, oceans, and hemispheres.

Just recently, fourth grade teacher, Maria Garland, organized whole school activities for our students to enjoy and learn from while using a traveling, giant floor map of their home state of Vermont borrowed from the Vermont Geographic Alliance. What can a parent do? As you read together about other places in stories or you hear about them in movies or on television, take advantage of this opportunity to discuss these places with your children. Together determine the location on a map. Explain how one might travel there, the time difference, and the possible differences in climate and culture. Help open up your child's eyes to the world all around him.



### Vermont Holiday Festival Tonight for KES Families!

KES students are invited to participate in a holiday choral performance at the Vermont Holiday Festival taking place tonight, Friday, December 5th at 5:00 pm. Get a preview of our upcoming concert and view the beautiful

tree adorned with ornaments created by our students!

We ask student performers to be ready to perform in the Oscar Wilde Ballroom at the Killington Grand Hotel at 4:45 pm. The Chamber of Commerce has arranged for a room for performers' coats and is offering fresh, hot pizza by the slice for purchase. Student performers do not need a ticket to enter. Complimentary tickets for their families went home yesterday. We hope to see everyone there!

**Loren M. Pepe, Principal**

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### **3rd Grade Holiday Store is Looking for Donations & Volunteers**

Once again, the third grade will create a holiday store in their coatroom for all KES students to shop and purchase gifts (all under \$1) for family and friends.

The KES merchants are looking forward to setting up their store with your donations of like-new scarves, jewelry, knick-knacks, and other valuables. We also need wrapping paper donations for the wrapping table outside the store. Please no scented donations or well-loved stuffed animals!

Donations are being accepted daily until Monday, December 15th. Store hours will be during snack time (10 AM) and recess (12:30PM) on Wednesday, December 17th and Thursday, December 18th. Please send children with small change to spend while 3rd graders hone their math skills adding up purchases and making change.

NEEDED: Third grade parents are needed to help set up the store, help students man the shop, and break down. Please contact Mrs. Carey or Mrs. Pilsmaker if you are able to help out.



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

KES students in grades K-6 all ski or snowboard on Thursday afternoons as part of the Trailblazers' Ski/Ride physical education program. The 2015 program begins January 15th. Children need a Killington season pass, equipment for their chosen sport, and appropriate warm, waterproof clothing to participate.

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.



### Trailblazers' Volunteer Ski/Ride News

Trailblazers' Volunteer Coaches met yesterday, Thursday, December 4th, @ Ramshead @1PM for a required on-hill KES safety/information session. A second session will be held on Thursday, December 11th, same place, same time, with Coordinator Greg LaBella and PSIA Tyler Gugliotta for those volunteers who could not make yesterday's session.

Please remember to get your fingerprinting receipts in to KES before the December holiday recess in order to be reimbursed.

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