

KES Newsletter

Volume 7

March 4, 2016

Dates to Remember

March 6
Movie Night: *Inside Out*
@ 4PM @ Roger Clark
Memorial Library, Pittsfield

March 8
WCSU Band Showcase, 2:45 -
6:30 @ WUHS

March 9
WCSU Band Showcase Snow
Date

March 10
School Board of Directors'
Meeting @KES @8:15AM

Trailblazers' Ski/Ride week 6
(2/11, 2/25, & 3/3 were
cancelled)

March 11
KEEPERS Meeting @KES
Dining Hall @8:15AM

March 13
Auditions @ Chandler for
Anything Goes

March 14
Girls On The Run Begins
On line registration begins for
Summer Soak

March 17
Final week of Trailblazers'
Ski/Ride program

March 21
Floor Hockey Grades 5 & 6
Semifinals @1 PM @ KES
Gym Parents welcome!

March 23
Sixth Grade Parent
Information Night @WUMS
in the North Cafeteria @6:30
PM

March 24
Floor Hockey Finals
Grades 3&4 @11AM
Grades 5 & 6 @1PM
Parents welcome!

March 29
End of 3rd Marking Period

April 4
Jump Rope for Heart @KES

KES Parent/Teacher
Conferences

Red Cross Blood Drive
@Pittsfield Green
12:30-5:30

April 11-15
Spring Recess/No Classes

March Madness

While the calendar tells us we are in the month of March, Mother Nature is taking us on the temperature roller coaster ride. One moment the subzero temps feel like January and the next the temps are as warm as early May. At this time of year, these unusual fluctuations can often leave us feeling disappointed or frustrated, regardless of whether we are a snow sport enthusiast or not. At KES, after three consecutive weeks of canceled Trailblazers, we are taking advantage of extra time in the classroom to learn new skills, as well as how to tolerate changing schedules due to circumstances beyond our control, such as weather.

We continue to stay positive for the remaining two weeks of Trailblazers. We thank the many volunteers who are so giving of their time to support this program in all kinds of weather!

Killington Elementary School (KES) Annual Meeting

We thank the Killington community for supporting the school budget for 2016-17 at the annual school meeting held at KES at 4:30 PM, February 29th. The school district meeting was followed by a wonderful community dinner put on by the Sherburne United Church of Christ in the KES dining hall. The annual Killington Town Informational Meeting followed in the gym at 7PM.

Congratulations to Jennifer Iannantuoni on her reelection to the KES School Board and to Jim Haff for his reelection to the Woodstock Union High School Board.

Jennifer Iannantuoni, School Board Chair, clearly and articulately answered community questions regarding Act 46. She encouraged interested parties to attend the monthly meetings in Woodstock to learn more about the legislation and the potential impact on the community.

The support this community extends to the school helps us to provide an exemplary education to our students.

Sixth Graders Met 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 (WUMS). Last month students met with WUMS representatives to learn about the breadth of offerings at the school. Seventh grader and KES alum, Taylor Crompton, joined principal, Dana Peterson, and guidance counselor, Vali Stuntz, to share specific details related to course selections, extracurricular activities, and personal experiences.

On Wednesday, March 23rd, @6:30 PM, WUMS will host an information night for 6th grade parents and guardians to meet teachers and learn more about 7th grade curriculum.

Parent Conferences and End of Third Quarter

March 29th marks the end of the third marking period. Parent conferences, scheduled for April 4th, allow parents and teachers time to meet to discuss student progress and goals. Please try to attend the conference time for

May 3
KES Spring Concert
@6:30PM @ KES gym

June 27-July 22
Summer Soak

your child. Research clearly shows a link between student performance and active participation and communication between parents and teachers. Information regarding conference scheduling will be sent home soon.

Mary Guggenberger, Principal



Grade 5 & The Nature Trail

Fifth grade Lewis & Clarks spent the fall embarking on an exploratory journey of the "foreign" land of the KES Nature Trail. They hiked, climbed, surveyed, and investigated. They took photographs, sketched their surroundings, collected samples, and named lands. They intensely studied how the land, water, plants, and other wildlife interacted. To complete their studies, the 5th graders wrote scientific

conclusions explaining the naming of their new land, as well as why they believed they found different organisms on different parts of our nature trail. And that's when they realized they weren't even close to done.

The 5th graders took off their pioneer hats and donned their engineering ones. They decided that they wanted to create trail signs that would live permanently on the nature trail and to present their newly discovered and named lands to the public—but which wood were they to use? What type of wood would make the best trail sign? The 5th grade engineers are currently immersed in an engineering design task to determine just that. They are testing how wood is affected by water, changing temperatures, and other forces. Once the 5th grade engineers determine which wood makes the best trail sign, they will work with Mrs. Kaija to wood-burn trail signs that will live on the KES Nature Trail forever, so be sure to look for them when walking through our woods!





Sixth Graders Learn With Legos By Eileen Vaughn, Library Media Specialist

Sixth grade girls spent a few weeks during their library period building and then programming Lego characters. They became experts using the Lego WeDo software. Alligators with animated mouths, ducks spinning, and an airplane moving were just a few of the projects. The culminating activity was a soccer match. One group programmed the kicker, and the other team programmed the goalie. We even had a monkey-drumming cheerleader to add to the excitement. Computer science mixed with creativity and collaboration made these lessons both fun and rich in new learning. To see a video of the final soccer shootout, go to this Vimeo link [Lego WeDo Video](#).

2016 WCSU Band Showcase by Jody Henderson and the WUHS/MS Band Students

The 2016 WCSU Band Showcase (our fourth annual) will take place on Tuesday March 8th (with a snow date of Wednesday March 9th), in the WUHS/MS main gymnasium.

The schedule for the after school event follows:

2:45-3:15 HS and MS band students setup the gymnasium.

3:15-3:30 Elementary band students will arrive after school to get to know Mr. Henderson and rehearse as a combined elementary group. All elementary band instructors will be present. Parents should plan to drop their elementary student off and return at the time indicated below. (if students need to arrive earlier than 3:15 to meet a personal transportation issue, they may)

3:30-5:00 Elementary band students rehearse under the direction of Mr. Henderson, band director of WUHS/MS bands.

5:00 HS and MS band students will join the elementary students while all

enjoy a snack break. Snack will be provided at this time.

5:15 HS and MS band students will rehearse with the ES students, forming one awesome WCSU mass band (last year 130 students strong..!)

6:00 parents will return to enjoy the WCSU mass band perform their combined work at 6:10.

6:30 the event will conclude so that families can get home for the remainder of the evening.

We'd like to remind students and families that this is a once a year event, and encourage that it be considered an important opportunity in the context of other recurring commitments and activities.

Some great music has been carefully selected for the event, and sent to all the elementary school band instructors. We are all looking forward to another great showcase!

The number one goal by far, is to build camaraderie and reinforce excitement about the overall band experience with the students, parents and teachers. The targeted result is a 4-12 continuum in the band program based on strong retention and commitment. And we will make some nice music too!

We are again very excited about this showcase. The previous years have been such a success. Thank you for all your encouragement.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, April 4th the Donor Coach will be at the Pittsfield Library on the Pittsfield Green from 12:30-5:30. Walk-in or for an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767).

Dining Hall News

Bills for February lunches, drinks, and snacks went home this week via e-mail and/or paper copies with your child. Please contact Mrs. Flynn, 422-3366, X 213, if you did not receive a bill or have any questions.

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