

KES Newsletter

Volume 8

April 1, 2016

Dates to Remember

April 1
Killington Parks &
Recreation Dance for
Grades 4-6 @ KES 6-8 PM
Fee: \$5

April 2
Killington Parks &
Recreation hosts "date
night" @ Town Office
5:30-8:30 PM

April 4
Jump Rope for Heart @KES

KES Parent/Teacher
Conferences

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

April 6
Talent Show Rehearsal
@12:30

April 7
Grade 4 Pancake Breakfast
8:30 AM @ KES

April 11-15
Spring Recess/No Classes

April 18
Spring Soccer Starts

April 20
Kindergarten Registration
@KES

April 21
School Board of Directors'
Meeting @KES @8:15 AM

April 22
KES Talent Show @11 AM

KES Volunteer Appreciation
Luncheon @12 PM

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

May 5 & 6
Grade 5 to Boston

May 9 -13
Grade 6 to Nature's
Classroom

May 12
School Board of Directors'
Meeting @KES @8:15 AM

May 30
Memorial Day/No Classes

June 3
Kids' Symphony @KES
@1:30 PM



REACH FOR THE STARS!

On March 22nd, students met their goal of 10,000 stars as an incentive to Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe! As a result, teachers organized games of balance, speed, ingenuity, and collaboration to celebrate the accomplishment. Last Wednesday, students were surprised with a Minute to Win It! game format to challenge their skill sets. The gym was alive with laughter and, most importantly, a real sense of encouragement and support for each other as students tackled what appeared to be an impossible feat! Thank you to the teachers for pulling off such an inspiring celebration with only a day's notice. A special thank you to all of the students for persevering in reaching your goal and showing support for your classmates during this fun and exciting celebration.

Jump Rope for Heart & Parent/Teacher Conferences

Monday, April 4th is not only Parent/Teacher Conferences at KES, it is also our annual Jump Rope for Heart marathon. Students will spend the day in the gymnasium honing their jump rope skills.

June 6
KES Step Up Day
KES Field Day & Picnic @
Johnson Recreation Center

June 7
WUMS Step Up Day

June 8
Grade 3 & 4 Play

June 9
School Board of Directors'
Meeting @KES @8:15 AM

June 10
KES Kindergarten & Grade 6
Graduation @9 AM

Last day of classes
3:00 PM dismissal

June 27-July 22
Summer Soak

All students compete in the jump rope event and some choose to raise money for the American Heart Association. Contact us if you have any questions. Be sure to stop in for a visit before or after your conference.

The third marking period ended on March 29th. 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 your child. Research clearly shows a link between student performance and active participation and communication between parents and teachers.

KES Talent Show & Volunteer Thank You!

On Friday, April 22nd, at 11 AM, KES students will share their talents with an audience of their peers, families, and community members.

Performers provided permission slips and put together a rehearsal piece for faculty advisers. Everyone is welcome to attend and cheer on our stars.

Following the talent show, KES invites all of our valuable volunteers to an Appreciation Luncheon in the KES dining hall. Only through our volunteers are we able to offer programs such as Trailblazers and Four Winds. Volunteers keep our library operating smoothly under Mrs. Vaughn's tutelage and classroom guest readers bring excitement to our younger readers.

Smarter Balance Assessment

It happens every year; the sap runs, the dirt roads become impassable with mud, and statewide standardized tests begin to bloom in our classrooms! KES students in grades three through six will soon participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) being administered in Vermont and in many other states across the country. Reading, writing, and mathematics are the main areas of focus in this assessment. This is the second year students have taken the SBAC. It is a computer-adapted test, designed to respond to your child's performance and provide your child with test questions adapted to his/her level.

As we approach the testing window for your child, it is important to maintain a balanced perspective of these assessments. The tests results are another means to measure teaching and learning. These test results provide teachers with valuable information to better understand your child's progress to date. The test results also allow us to identify areas for growth in our curriculum and professional development. Our children will take all kinds of tests for different purposes throughout their life, such as to enter college or study a trade, to drive a car, or to be eligible to hunt. Tests will likely be a part of their lives. We do our children a service when we project a positive and low-stakes attitude towards these tests.

Please encourage your child(ren) to put forth good effort during these assessments. Classroom teachers will remind parents of students in grades three through six when they will be participating in this assessment. The following time periods are listed below for your reference. Thank you for all you do to support your child(ren) as they learn and grow!

Testing Windows:

5th and 6th graders April 19th - 29th

4th graders May 3rd - 13th

3rd graders May 17th - 27th

Mary Guggenberger, Principal



Grade 4 News

Grade 4 students have been extremely busy this month! The cafeteria-turned Wax Museum created a real-life experience for students to study the biography genre and explore a piece of history at the same time. Thank you to all who attended the "Grand Opening" last Friday and, special thanks to Mrs. Kaija and Mrs. Vaughn for collaborating with Ms. Murray and the students to include art and research technology in this project.

When grade 4 students were not working on their biographies, they were collecting and boiling sap for maple sugaring. Even though the sugaring season was as unpredictable as the winter weather, the fruit of their labor was still sweet! Students are looking forward to showing their gratitude for all of the help they received in their sugaring endeavor by hosting a pancake breakfast for their parents and invited guests on April 7th at 8:30 am in the KES cafeteria. Fourth grade parents should look for an invitation from their child very soon; so please mark the date on your calendar!



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).



What Is Wind by Mrs. Knipes

Students in first grade were introduced to the concept of wind that incorporates engineering principles in engaging, hands-on lessons, using NGSS and Common Core as frameworks. These engineering lessons focus on design with an emphasis on students sharing their ideas and methods. In a lab style environment, students simulate the sharing community between engineers and scientists to create a community of learners.

During the wind lesson, students had the opportunity to make and test pinwheels under the direction of Laura MacLachlan from Vermont Energy Education Program. These lessons celebrate the student as explorer, tinkerer and collaborator and they lay the foundation for deeper understandings of energy in higher grades.

The Band Showcase was a huge success! by Christine Morton, Music Educator

A 2016 Windsor Cenral Supervisory Union Band Showcase was held on March 8 at the Woodstock Union High Sschool. The number one goal was to build camaraderie and reinforce excitement about the overall band experience with the students, parents, and teachers, and to make beautiful music. This experience gave our KES School Band the thrill of being part of a Band with 160 or more players! All of our students were so happy that they decided to be part of this experience. Kudos to:

Lily Kowalczyk, Logan Sudol, Chloe Masillo, Paige Fieldhouse, Brexton Eckler, Charlie Rice, Jacob Roth, Alex Rice, Nina Borzekowski, Devon Ziegler, Maria Sell, Mac Abrams, Joseph Goes, and Sophia Nisimblat for a job well done!

Killington Elementary School
686 Schoolhouse Rd.
Killington, VT 05751

Tel. 802.422.3366 Fax. 802.422.3367

www.kesvt.org

Contact Info

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

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