

SES NEWSLETTER

Volume 11

sesvt.org

January 22, 2010

Vermont Students Score - A recent news release from the Vermont Department of Education reports that Vermont students rank among top performers on a national math assessment. Only one state outperformed Vermont in eighth-grade math and only two states outperformed Vermont in fourth grade math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Vermont has shown steady gains on the NAEP in both fourth and eighth grade math since 2003. Fifty-one percent of Vermont grade four students achieved the rating of “at or above proficient” compared to 38 percent of fourth-graders nationally. Forty-three percent of Vermont grade eight students achieved the rating of “at or above Proficient” compared to 33 percent of eighth-graders nationally. (VT DOE Fall 2009)

Knitting: Good for the Brain! - Little do the Knitting Club goers know: knitting is good food for the brain. Besides being a practice in concentration, knitting helps to improve fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination, and forces both sides of the brain to work in a synchronized fashion, promoting greater brain development. When a child knits, each hand takes part in a separate activity and bilateralism occurs. Bilateralism strengthens the thinking process as it builds both the left and right hemispheres of the brain. In addition, great concentration on the part of the child is required. Ask the children what they are doing during knitting club, and they put it simply. Third grader, Sam Groom, claims he is making a hamster, meanwhile, his friends, Toby Borzekowski and Adare O’Neill, are making hats. While these students create with knitting needles and yarn, their brains benefit.

Art teacher, Finnie Trimpi, hosts Knitting Club in the Specials’ Room each Friday at 12:30 for first graders through sixth graders.

Teacher Inservice Focuses on Technology Integration - The January 18th inservice day focused on technology integration in the classroom. Teachers from throughout Windsor Central Supervisory Union joined together to present technology integration opportunities that can be used by all. Several of Sherburne’s faculty provided informative and useful presentations, including Eileen Vaughn, Maria Garland, Lisa Laird, Jennifer Burch and Loren Pepe. We thank WCSU Technology Integration Coordinator Rick Dustin-Eichler for organizing this inservice and for offering guidance and learning opportunities to faculty and staff along the way, and we look forward to the new technology integration opportunities that will occur in the classroom as a result.

Trailblazer Days at SES - Students in kindergarten through sixth grade attended a ski/snowboard informational meeting on Wednesday, January 13th.

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Dates to Remember

January 28

Grades 4,5 & 6
to Castleton State College
“Cross That River” 10:00 am
Trailblazers @1:00

January 29

Report Cards go home

February 2

Cub Scouts Sign Up 3-5 @ SES

February 9

School Board Meets @SES@4 pm

February 15—19

Winter Recess/ No Classes

February 23

SES Band Practice w/Ben Potvin
@8 am

March 2

Town Meeting/No Classes

March 31

Band Rehearsal @WUHS @3:30 pm

April 1

WCSU Music Festival w/SES Band
Grades K-6 @

April 9

Teacher Inservice Day/ No classes

Parking Protocol

Please remember that “no parking” in front of the school is also in effect on Trailblazer Thursdays from 12—1.

Kindly remember our “no idling” rule in the SES parking lot for student safety.

Happy “February” Birthday

Lilly Buker 2/1



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Ski attire, ski day procedures, and skiing and snowboarding safety were areas of focus. The expectation is that all students will adhere to rules on the mountain and behave in a respectful manner at all times. Former Killington Ambassador, Lillian Clark, met with children to give them these reminders and more to help ensure fun ski and ride days. Trailblazer Co-Coordinator, Joan Wise, helped children understand how to dress to stay warm on the hill.

Thanks to a consortium of parent volunteers and friends, the ski and snowboard days are underway! SES students swished down the trails of Killington on Thursday afternoon, delighted to be back on the mountain with their friends from school.

Loren M. Pepe, Principal

News from the Art Room

The art room is a busy place, busting with civic duty and general greatness! First and second graders are working diligently doing their best to create wonderfully painted images of penguins. Just as diligently, third graders are creating gorgeous images of polar bears. The motivation for such outstanding work is the upcoming silent auction to be held at the Union Arena the first week in February! The student work will be on display and open for bidding with the hopes that friends, family, and community members will place a bid in support of the efforts each student has generated for the well being of our planet.

The Union Arena is trying to raise money so that an energy efficient heating and cooling system can be installed with projected savings of over \$600 per month in energy bills. In addition, students have been talking about the effects that human generated pollutions are having on our polar regions, greatly affecting the livelihood of animals such as the penguin and the polar bear.

With the money generated from the silent auction, 50% of the earnings will be donated to the Union Arena and the remaining 50% will go toward the classroom's adoption of a penguin and polar bear. Many of the children expressed concern about where the polar bear would live when it arrives at SES, and I graciously assured them that there is plenty of room in Mrs. Flynn's cooler!

Enjoy the snow, stay healthy and active, and please come out to support our students at the Union Arena silent auction!

Mrs. Trimpi, Art Teacher

Four Winds News

Our next Four Winds' Meeting will be on February 4th from 8:15—10:15 in the Specials' room. The subject is Staying Warm taught by Marni and Jane. Ellen is providing snack. Stay warm and we will see you then. Contact Beth Hike with any questions, 746-8144.

Cub Scouts Sign-up & Bottle Drive

Tuesday, February 2nd, 3:00pm - 5:00pm at Sherburne Elementary School meet area Cub Scout leaders and learn about your local Cub Scout Pack 101, in Killington, Pittsfield, Chittenden & Mendon.

Unload your returnable bottles too!

For more information, contact William Paskevich, Tiger Den Leader, 1st grade, 802-725-8555.

Rutland Youth Theatre Spring Show Auditions

Auditions for *The Prince and The Pauper* will be held 1/30 & 1/31 from 3-6 pm for students in grades 2-8. Show dates are March 26-28. Participation fee: \$45 pp or \$70 family.

Auditions for *Willy Wonka* will be held 3/20 & 3/21 from 11:00 am—2 pm for students in grades K-12. Show dates are June 4-6. Actors, dancers and musicians are needed. Interested musicians for our live orchestra contact Jacob Patorti at jpatorti@yahoo.com. Participation fee: \$45 pp or \$80 family.

All auditions are at the Dana Recreation Center. You may choose to bring a 2-3 minute prepared piece that will showcase your strengths. For more information contact Saskia Groom, director, 558-4177.

Weather Information Updates

Planning a trip and want to know the condition of the roads? Visit this website: <http://511.vermont.gov/main.jsf>