

SES NEWSLETTER

Volume 14

sesvt.org

March 12, 2010

Town Meeting - I wish to extend a great appreciation to all who support education and our school through involvement at the Killington Town Meeting and the Pittsfield Town Meeting. Congratulations to Jennifer Iannantuoni for her election to continue with her seat on the SES School Board, and congratulations to Eileen Godfrey and Roger Rivera for their election to the Woodstock Union High School Board. The support extended to the school by the community and all parents at SES helps to provide an exemplary education to our students.

Technicool Presentation - Students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades recently participated in an interactive Technicool presentation, brought to us by Kathy Kretz, through the Prevent Child Abuse Vermont Organization. Technicool is a safety program designed for Vermont children and teens. The program encourages safe online behavior by addressing risks inherent to today's new technologies and provides participants with knowledge to protect themselves. Subjects covered include cyberbullying, social networking sites, email and instant messaging, cell phones and text messaging, online gaming and more. A few students shared important messages they learned: Liam -- "Be really careful about what you put on Facebook." Mimi -- "Even if you delete something online, it will still be there. So always be careful." Jordan -- "Set your Facebook profile to 'private.'" Ask your child what he/she learned from the Technicool presentation.

Sixth Graders Meet the Middle School - Spanish, French, Band, Chorus, YOH Theatre, Math Team, Exploratories, Union Arena, Horticulture, Creative Film, and Advanced High School Course Offerings... These are some of the experiences offered to students as they move on to Woodstock Union Middle School. On Monday, March 8th, students and their parents met with Woodstock Union Middle School representatives to learn about the breadth of offerings at middle school. Seventh grader, Christina O'Brien, joined WUMS Principal Dana Peterson, and guidance counselor, Vali Stuntz, to share specific details about course selections, extra curricular activities, and personal experiences.

Second Graders Visit Billings Farm - Second graders joined Bridgewater Village School's second graders on a visit to Billings Farm recently. Children learned about Vermont's white pine tree and its importance to the history of our state. Students observed trees, compared types of wood, and used the needles to make a delicious cup of white pine tea. Students illustrated their impressions of the farm, which will be part of a display at a future art exhibit.

Loren M. Pepe, Principal



Dates to Remember

March 14

Daylight Savings Begins!

March 17

Grade 6 parents "Meet the Middle School"
@WUMS @6:30 pm

March 18

Final Trailblazer Ski Day for 2010

March 27

Fundraiser dinner @Swiss Farm Inn to
benefit 5th grade @6 pm

March 30

Last Chess Club Meeting

March 31

Band Rehearsal @WUHS @3:30 pm
End of 3rd Marking Period

April 1

WCSU Music Festival w/SES Band
Grades K-6 @ 10 am

April 8

Grade 5 to Boston

April 9

No Classes/Staff Development

April 13

School Board Meeting @ 4:00 pm

April 15

Parent Teacher Conferences
Jump Rope for Heart

April 19-23

Spring Recess/ No Classes

May 4

SES Spring Concert @6:30 pm

Dining Hall News

Lunch bills have recently gone home. Please check your child's backpack for an invoice.

Although payment may be made at the front desk, any questions regarding bills should be directed to Mrs. Flynn.

Famous African Americans: Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman was born in Maryland around 1819 as a slave, but no one exactly knows when because there are no records kept for slaves when they are born. When Harriet was a teenager she saw a slave trying to escape. She followed him into town where he was cornered in a store by a man who said to Harriet, "Help me tie him up so I can whip him." The slave escaped when Harriet refused to help tie him up. The man was so angry he threw a two-pound weight at the slave. It missed and hit Harriet on the forehead. She started to get headaches and she said "glimpses" of the future. This started Harriet's famous career of freeing slaves on the Underground Railroad.

When Harriet was 24 she married a man named John Tubman. Later after they were married Harriet wanted to run away to the North to be free. John refused to go with her. He even made a threat that he would turn her in if she tried to escape, but Harriet left later that night without letting John know. Slaves often sang songs that had secret meanings. This is the song Harriet sang to let her sister know she was leaving: "I'll meet you in the morning, When I reach the Promised Land, On the other side of Jordan, For I'm bound for the Promised Land." Then Harriet left the plantation on her way to freedom.

When Harriet was working in a restaurant in the North she heard news that her niece's husband, children, and herself were getting sold farther South. So she went to get them from being sold to the South, and to escape to the North. That was Harriet's first trip to the South to help slaves get to freedom, but later Harriet made many more trips South. If a slave she was bringing to freedom wanted to go back to the South she'd say, "Move, or DIE!" with a gun pointed at the person. She would say that because if they went back they would be whipped into saying who was bringing them to freedom. Finally, after Harriet was too old to travel, she stayed in her house, but she was not lazy. She helped poor blacks who went through town. She helped deliver babies, she fed the people, and she gave them a place to sleep. She had some land that had no house on it, so she gave it to a man who built a nursing home on it instead.

In the final years of her life Harriet moved into the nursing home in the year 1911. She asked a man to sing at her funeral. A few hours before she died, Harriet was singing as happy as she ever could be. Harriet lived a long and happy life; she died at age 96 in 1913. I learned that you had to be brave to help free slaves. I also learned that you had to be even braver to do it 20 more times. Harriet Tubman was a very brave woman, and helpful to many slaves that were freed.

Maya Johnstone, Grade 5

Second Grade News

Salmon eggs arrived in second grade. Second graders are learning about fish. Talk to Mrs. Laird if you would like to see the eggs.

Technicool for Parents?

If interest warrants it, SES will plan a Technicool presentation for parents. Please inform Mrs. Pepe if you would like to see this occur.

Killington Teen Center News

The Killington Teen Center is having a fundraiser Sunday, March 14, Battle of the Bands.

It is an all ages show, family oriented, at the Pickle Barrel in Killington. Doors open at 2, bands start at 4. Uncle Dad and the Family Secret is hosting it, Monster drink is sponsoring. Food and drink will be available.

Admission: \$5 at the door.

Mathathon News

The Mathathon is a fundraiser to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital. For over a decade, Sherburne Elementary students have been supporting this worthy cause, and have donated over \$50,000. Students have received math fun-books and registration forms for the Mathathon, as well as detailed instructions with a timeline. Students should begin working on their problems, as the fun-books and pledge money are due March 26th. Thank you.

Mrs. Simonds, Teacher Grade 6

Famous African Americans: The Greensboro Four

Do you know how it felt to be a black person in the 1960s? In the article "Sitting Down to Take a Stand" by Suzanne Bilyeu, four ordinary, black college students made a difference by sitting-in. These four black students were very scared and they were courageous.

They were scared because they did not know if they were going to survive. "I felt that this could be the last day of my life," recalls McCain. McCain was one of the Greensboro Four. If I were one of the Greensboro Four, I would be just as scared as they were.

Another thing about the Greensboro Four is they were very courageous. They were because they risked their lives by doing this. They would leave after the Woolworth's closed, and then go back the next day even though people would be taunting them. I probably would not have gone back after what they went through.

In conclusion, I think if the Greensboro Four had not protested, there might still be segregation. These men were very brave and it's too bad they had to wait another six years after the court's ruling of the Brown vs. Board of Education case.

Daniel Whittaker, Grade 4