

SES NEWSLETTER

Volume 14

sesvt.org

March 20, 2009

Broadway Lights on the SES Stage - They say the neon lights are bright on... the SES stage! After years of wishing for twinkling lights of our very own, our wish will come true! A grant proposal for stage lights, risers, and other backstage items received partial funding from reserved funds from the Inn of Six Mountains and the Counting Sheep Project, along with \$2500 in new money from Killington's Rise Above grant. We are delighted to enhance the on-stage experience for all of our children, creating lifetime memories and instilling an appreciation for the arts. With great appreciation, we extend a thank you to Killington and Pico Resort, the Inn of Six Mountains, and the Counting Sheep Project for funding this project and to SES educator, Kate Carey, for writing the grant proposal. We also thank Kevin Margolin, from Atomic Professional Audio, for providing us with lights at cost and for offering to do our initial set-up.

Student Named Geography Bee Finalist - Christina O'Brien qualifies as a National Geographic Society semifinalist for the 2009 Vermont Geographic Bee. After winning the school level, Christina took a qualifying test sponsored by the National Geographic Society. In each of the fifty states, the National Geographic Society invites the students with the top 100 scores to compete at the state level. Congratulations, Christina! Christina will represent SES at the 2009 Vermont Geographic Bee at Middlebury College on Friday, April 3, 2009. Congratulations also to SES Geography Bee Coach, Mrs. Barbara Kahler!

Sixth Graders Meet the Middle School – Spanish, French, Band, Chorus, YOH Theater, Math Team, Exploratories, Union Arena, Washington D.C., Horticulture, Creative Film, advanced high school course offerings ... these are some of the experiences offered to our students as they move on to Woodstock Union Middle School. On Friday, March 13th, students and their parents met with Woodstock Union Middle School representatives to learn all about the breadth of offerings at middle school. Seventh grader, Brielle Finer, joined WUMS principal, Dana Peterson, and guidance counselor, Vali Stuntz, to share specific details about course selections, extra curricular activities, and personal experiences.

Final Trailblazer Day for SES - Thanks to our incredible parent volunteers, the SES Trailblazers experienced another successful ski and snowboard season. The Trailblazer program would not be available without the active involvement of our parents and community members as ski/snowboard volunteer coaches, equipment runners and chaperones. It is exciting to live in the Killington area, especially when one takes advantage of the snowy mountains! A very special thank you to all of our volunteers and Killington Resort for giving our students an opportunity to continue the skiing and snowboarding tradition loved by students at SES.

Loren M. Pepe, Principal

Dates to Remember

March 26

5th & 6th grades to Union Arena Hockey Playoffs @ 11:30

March 30

District Band Rehearsal @ WUHS 3:30

March 31

District Chorus Rehearsal @ WUHS 3:30

April 1

3rd Marking Period Ends

April 4

Preschool Spring Fling Breakfast

April 7

Grades K-3 to "Charlottes Web" Woodstock Town Hall Theater

April 13

District Band & Chorus Rehearsal

April 14

K-6 @ 10:30 to WCSU Band & Chorus Concert

April 16

Parent Teacher Conferences
Jump Rope for Heart

April 20-24

Spring Recess/ No Classes

May 5

SES Spring Concert @ 6:30

May 11-15

6th Grade to Nature's Classroom

May 14-15

5th Grade to Boston

Happy "April" Birthday

Fredric Byarm	4/14
Hannah Coates	4/17
Daniel Whittaker	4/21
Zoe Montag	4/24
Lilly Holding	4/25
Colby Stevens	4/26
Aili Johnstone	4/27
Eliana Ruben	4/30



Health Room News

Having trouble talking to your child about the “birds and the bees?” Discussing subjects such as growth and development, reproduction and personal hygiene can be awkward and embarrassing. Luckily, there are some wonderful books available to give us a hand! Thanks to Mrs. Vaughn, we now have some excellent new books that address these subjects for ages four and up. The books are filled with current and accurate information presented in an age appropriate and often humorous way. They are filled with anatomically correct, adorable cartoon drawings that make them visually appealing to adults and children alike.

Also available is a book specifically for girls, and one for boys, about becoming a teenager and the changes that go with the process. All of these books are available for both parents and children to borrow. Due to their sensitive subject matter, they are being kept on the health room bookshelf and not in the library. If you or your child would like to browse or borrow one, simply ask Mrs. Vaughn or myself. Just ask to see our “new health room books”.

Books are a great way to explain complicated or sensitive subjects to children of all ages. They help ease the burden of knowing how much information is appropriate for each age group. Some of these books are specifically labeled according to the age group for which they were written. So next time your child asks a question about the “birds and the bees”, don’t freeze! Come on in and take home a book.

Jamie Sudol RN

Spanish News

Students in grades 3-6 took a google “trip” to Venezuela. Students were eager to see the homeland of our friends Valeria and Alberto Conde, and the Condes were excited to share their culture with us.

Our journey is available for parents and students to view at home on the SES website. You will need an internet browser and google earth to view the trip. If you have trouble viewing this at home, please see Mrs. Pilsmaker to make other arrangements.

This was a student-led trip. Each class made a list of questions that they had about Venezuela. The questions touched on many subjects, and ranged from “Do Venezuelans have the same freedoms that we have?” to “Do they have Wii there?” Students were divided into groups and each group was assigned three to five questions to research and answer. Each group answered their questions in the form of a paragraph. Because we like to engage all five senses in our cultural experiences, we snacked on *tostones*, or fried bananas during our ‘flight’. Please contact Señora Elena at fleibly @comcast.net if you would like the recipe.

Answering the simple questions posed in class led to issues that parents may want to address in more depth than we can manage in the classroom. Examples of some of the topics raised are: socialism, the definition of the ‘poverty line’, and our rights to free speech and to bear arms. There are many ‘teachable moments’ in this trip for your older children as well. For example, compare what happened to the Venezuelan oil industry to Wall Street’s fear of nationalizing the banking industry in this country. And of course, since our trip, President Hugo Chavez succeeded in his bid to remove a limit on the number of terms the president can serve.

¡Buen viaje! Or as we say in English, have a great trip!

Congratulations!

In his first year of eligibility, Zac Chernin qualified for the VARA J4 State Championship Races that were held at Killington March 14 - 15. Slotted at #70 out of a field of 78, Zac placed 22nd overall in the Giant Slalom

Victoria Chernin competed in the VARA J5 Mid Vermont Council Ross Finals that were held on March 14th at Queechee. She had the fastest in each of her runs, finishing first overall out of a field of 58.

Good job Zac and Victoria. We are proud of your accomplishment.

The Beaver and the Otter

Once upon a time outside there was a beaver and an otter outside our classroom window! The beaver was waddling on a path in front of us. The otter was just sitting in the nice hot sunshine. Our class was so surprised about that. Those animals are new for us to see and how surprising to see an otter just sit, well because he might be done swimming.

The beaver’s tail looked strange to me. The beaver looked wet so I bet he was making a dam and got a little wet. I had so much fun seeing a beaver and an otter that day. THE END.

By Hannah Coates, Grade 2