

SES NEWSLETTER

Volume 6

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November 6, 2008

Japanese Intern Visits Sherburne Elementary School - A warm-hearted welcome goes to Kotaro Nakayama, a Japanese intern who will share the Japanese culture and language with all of us at SES in the upcoming three months. Mr. Nakayama arrived Sunday from Saitama City, Japan, and will stay with two Killington families during his visit. We extend a very special thank you to the Godfrey and VanHerwarde families for offering to share their lives and their homes with Mr. Nakayama and for making this cultural experience possible for all of us. Welcome, Kotaro Nakayama!

What Makes a Bird a Raptor? - Sherburne Elementary School students learned about this and more through an informative learning opportunity offered through the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS). On Halloween afternoon, students experienced the VINS Raptor Encounter Program, offering a first-hand encounter with a live red-tailed hawk, a barn owl and a great-horned owl. Students learned about the natural history, ecology, and adaptation of these efficient, flying predators, with a focus on the silent hunter: the owl.

In an interview after the presentation, 2nd grader Samuel Groom shared that owls have silent wings, but the red-tailed hawk makes a whooshing noise with his wings. What does make a bird a raptor? It is their sharp talons, which they use to kill their prey.

Woodstock Endowment Grant Awarded to SES - Sherburne Elementary School proudly accepts a Woodstock Endowment Grant of nearly \$1500 to purchase five more LEGO Mindstorm kits. This grant, along with earlier grants awarded, enables teachers to use this tool with an entire class of students at one time. We are deeply grateful to educator, Amy Ladabouche, for her persistence in finding funding to make this tool available here at SES. We are greatly appreciative of the Woodstock Endowment committee's continued support of powerful learning tools and all of the opportunities they bring to students in our school and across the supervisory union.

LEGOs Aren't Just for Kids - Ask any one of the faculty members involved in the October 25th LEGO Engineering Conference at Windsor Central Supervisory Union, LEGO Robotics are an amazing learning tool for people of all ages. After listening to inspirational and educational speakers share their stories about LEGO Robotics, teachers spent the entire day involved in hands-on applications, learning how to inspire and engage students in science, technology, engineering, and math subjects (STEM). Learning activities integrate easily with existing school curricula when using this worthwhile and exciting tool.

We are deeply grateful to WCSU Technology Integration Coordinator, Rick Dustin-Eichler, for bringing this opportunity to our community of educators. With LEGO materials recently purchased and a full inservice day devoted to learning about this tool, teachers are ready to bring this new and exciting learning tool into the classroom.
Loren M. Pepe, Principal

Trailblazer Ski/Ride Program News

Registration forms, SES & Killington Release forms and Parent/Student Guideline for the upcoming season will go home with students on Monday, November 10th. All four forms, completed and signed, are due back at school on November 21st in order for students to participate in the program. Thank you.
Mrs. Wise, Trailblazer Coordinator

Dates to Remember

November 3-14
Student Council Food Drive @ SES

November 7
Parent Teacher Conferences
No Classes
Help yourself to Free Donated Kids' Clothing @SES 8-3

November 10
Trailblazer Ski/Ride Registration Packets distributed

November 11
Veterans' Day
SES School Board @ 4:00

November 12
Soccer Banquet @SES @5:30

****November 13****
2nd Grade Thanksgiving Play @11:30
SES/Community Thanksgiving Luncheon
RSVP & Pie form attached
Last Names A-H 11:50—12:30
Last Names I-Z 12:30—1:10
Creative Literacy
at Sherburne Memorial Library
Flower Making 3:30—5

November 15
6th Grade Fundraiser Dinner
@ Swiss Farm Inn @ 6:00 p.m.

November 21
Completed Trailblazer forms
due back at SES

November 21– December 2
Scholastic Book Fair @ SES proceeds
benefit 6th Grade Class Trip

November 25
K,1 & 2 to Hiawatha @CSC

November 26-28
Thanksgiving Recess/No Classes

December 16
SES Holiday Program @6:30

December 18
SES Festival of Trees Performance@
Killington Grand Hotel @6:00

From the Health Room

At SES we recognize that student safety is a partnership between home and school. Given this, please review the following safety recommendations and rules for transportation.

The Vermont Child Restraint Law requires all children up to age 8 to ride in a child passenger restraining system (convertible, combination, and booster) child safety seats. Children age 8 through 15 must ride in an approved child restraint or safety belt system. Vehicle seats and safety belts are designed for people at least 4'9" tall and at least 80 pounds. It is also highly recommended by the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles that children do not ride in the front seat until they are at least 13 years old. Other vehicle safety organizations believe children should ride in the back seat until they are 15 years old. When a child rides in the backseat, his/her risk of death in the event of a collision decreases by a third. Also, passenger seat airbags are designed for adult bodies. The force/impact of an airbag can cause severe injury or death to a child. If your child meets the height and weight requirements for leaving a booster seat, ask the following questions before disposing of the seat:

Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat? Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat? Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm? Is the belt as low as possible, touching the thighs? Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If the answer is "no" to any of these questions, your child still needs to ride in a booster seat. Winter is upon us and road conditions are variable. We hope everyone will work together to make this a safe and healthy winter for all our students at SES.

Jamie Sudol, RN, School Nurse/Health Educator

Free Donated Kids' Clothing @ SES

Some gently used childrens' ski wear and foot wear have been given to SES for distribution. On Friday, November 7th, please check out the table in the school entry and help yourself to items your family can use. These are not SES lost and found items. Those items are still in the cafeteria and should be claimed by the owners. Any donated clothing left after 11/7 will be contributed to the Rutland Coats and Boots for Kids campaign.

Spanish Class News

This week in Spanish we celebrated El Día de los Muertos, or The Day of the Dead. Day of the Dead is celebrated in Mexico, northern Guatemala, and in parts of the United States. It is a combination between an ancient Aztec celebration and All Soul's Day, brought to the Mexican colony by Spanish Catholics.

El Día de los Muertos is neither spooky nor sad. Rather, it is a celebration of the lives of deceased ancestors and friends. People get together, share a meal, and give thanks for life. In that way, it is something like our Thanksgiving with a bit of Memorial Day thrown into it.

As part of our Día de los Muertos celebration, each class decorated sugar skulls. These skulls are a common toy or treat for Day of the Dead festivities. Although some sugar skulls are made to be eaten, the ones we made are purely decorative.

As a follow up to our lesson, ask your children what color the Aztecs associated with death. Ask them to explain what butterflies symbolize in Mexican literature.

Senora Eléna

Library News

Once again, the school offers the library ECHO pass to people in our community. When you show the pass at the ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain in Burlington, up to two adults and three youth will be admitted for just \$2.00 each. Ask Mrs. Pilsmaker at the SES front desk if you would like to borrow the library ECHO pass.

Mrs. Vaughn, SES Librarian

SES Votes!

Election day is not just for grown-ups! The Sherburne Elementary Student Council and their advisor, Amy Ladabouche, set up a process for students at SES to participate in Vermont Votes for Kids at school and at the actual polls. All students at SES voted in school and elected Barack Obama as their new President and James Douglas as their Governor.

Christina O'Brien, Claire Mercier, Ezra Hennie, Trevor VanNiel, and Alex Crompton went to Killington Town Hall during the day and helped at the polls. We greeted people at the door, handed out stickers, and put absentee ballots into the voting machine. It was fun and a good way for us to learn more about voting.

Also, after school, Christina O'Brien, Raichle Johnson, Joe Bianchi, and Lucas Godfrey went to their town halls so SES students could vote there, too. Thank you to all parents for your support, and to everyone at Killington and Pittsfield Town Hall.

Christina O'Brien, Student Council President

Student Council News

Please remember to bring non-perishable canned goods, cereal etc. to SES next week for the Student Council food drive, through Friday, November 14th. All donations will be given to the Rutland County Food Shelf. As always, thank you for your generosity!

SES Call List Correction

Butch Findeisen's phone number is incorrect at the top of the call list. It should read 422-4458.