

SES NEWSLETTER

Volume 6

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November 21, 2008

Celebrating Geography Awareness Week - Students at Sherburne Elementary School celebrated Geography Awareness Week with various activities and with "T-Shirt Where-In Day" on Wednesday, November 19th. Many students participated in this favorite national event with t-shirts from various places, from Cambodia to New Zealand to Barbados. Students found peers with shirts from state and national parks, islands, a river, a mountain, places where other languages are spoken and places across the ocean. Happy travels to all Sherburne families as the Thanksgiving and holiday recesses rapidly approach!

SMARTBoard Consultation for SES Teachers - Jennifer Harper, SMARTBoard Consultant, spent the day with SES faculty recently to provide teachers with opportunities to learn more about potential educational uses with SMARTBoard technologies. The SMARTBoard, an incredible teaching and learning tool, is an interactive, computer driven whiteboard that we feel fortunate to access at SES. With donations and grant monies awarded last year, six SES classrooms are now equipped with this amazing tool.

Thanksgiving Lunch Enjoyed by All - Turkey, stuffing, green beans, and mashed potatoes satiated students, guests, and faculty at the annual SES Thanksgiving Luncheon on Thursday, November 13th. Dining hall manager, Gail Flynn, made a delectable lunch, followed by scrumptious pies donated by students and parents. Faculty served food and mingled with guests, while second graders serenaded diners with "Pilgrim." The Thanksgiving Luncheon is a time for students and faculty to express appreciation to the community for the support offered to school all year long. A special note of appreciation goes to Barb Foley for her unflagging assistance in the dining hall each year at this time and to Gail Flynn for her ability to make a Thanksgiving Luncheon for 225 people seem effortless.

Giving Thanks - Second graders presented the play, *The Pilgrim Story*, to fellow students, parents, teachers and special guests on Thursday, November 13th. Students, dressed as Pilgrims and Native Americans, described the devastation faced by Pilgrims in the winter of 1620 and the thankfulness they had for the Native Americans who helped them survive that year. A very special thank you is extended to second grade teacher, Lisa Laird, who has her students share the Thanksgiving story with us each year.

Sixth Grade Bookfair - The annual sixth grade bookfair is available to all parents, students and special guests now through December 2nd. Stop by and check out the books and other materials available for purchase. Proceeds go to the sixth grade class fund to offset the cost of their week at Nature's Classroom.

Looking for a Hike? - Enjoy the great outdoors on the Benjamin Maxham Nature Trail, located behind Sherburne Elementary School's soccer field. Thanks to Doug Johnstone, the trail has new and improved bridges to help hikers pass the trail without stepping in streams and water holes. Mailboxes are on the trail and ready for future learning station activities, which will be completed in the spring. We would also like to thank Aili Johnstone for helping her dad on the trail and Maria Garland for finding funds to help cover costs.

Recess Offers Valuable Opportunities - Collaboration, compromise, and resolution, important tools for today's workplace, begin at an early age for students right on the schoolyard playground. For most students today, however, these skills
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Dates to Remember

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

December 2
K/1 to Billings Farm

November 25
K,1 & 2 to Hiawatha @ CSC

November 26-28
Thanksgiving Recess/No Classes

December 16
SES Holiday Program @6:30

December 17
Big Friend/Little Friend Breakfast w/
Frosty @SES @10:00

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

December 22-January 2
Holiday Recess/No Classes

Donations Needed for 3rd Grade Store

Third grade merchants are gratefully accepting donations for their holiday store until Dec. 12th. Your contributions of new or gently used jewelry, scarves, pottery, ornaments, candles, toys and general giftware will be priced by third graders who will open the store doors to all other students for holiday shopping on 12/17,18 & 19.

Donations dropped off at SES are greatly appreciated and necessary to keep this SES holiday tradition alive. Shopping days, when family gifts are available for small change, are anticipated and appreciated by students throughout the school. All proceeds go to a local charity chosen by the 3rd grade class. Thank you.

Happy "December" Birthday

Christina O'Brien 12/4
Bridgit Black 12/22



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are limited to the playground, unlike days of the past, when students experienced these opportunities in their neighborhoods every day after school and throughout the lazy days of summer. Backyard kickball games, with no adult present, are largely a thing of the past. Consider all of the decisions that needed to be made in those games: team choosing, kicking order, determination of which trees and rocks acted as bases. In addition, there were many other issues up for discussion, for example, issues of fairness that may have included whether or not younger children moved up before kicking the ball and so much more. Most importantly, everyone wanted to enjoy the game in a fun-filled atmosphere; conflicts needed to be resolved in fair manner. Children today do not have the benefit of working on these skills as naturally and as often as children did in the past. Today children experience outdoor games through adult-driven sporting events, rarely enjoying and benefiting from the experience of figuring things out for themselves. Recess time remains a sacred thirty minute time period when children are given opportunities to work on collaboration, compromise and resolution skills, with minimal adult interaction. Talk to your child about recess. Consider all of the opportunities for learning available in this less structured time of your child's day.

Loren M. Pepe, Principal

Health News

Winter is here and so is the cold, dry air. People are turning on their heat and houses are getting dry. Consequently, I have been seeing a lot of nose bleeds lately. The medical term for nose bleeds is "epistaxis". Epistaxis can occur when the mucus membrane lining of the nose becomes dry or traumatized. Children will often pick at their nose if it is dry and irritated. This makes the situation worse! I have consulted with the doctors at Mid Vermont ENT (ear, nose and throat doctors) and we have come up with some helpful hints for preventing nose bleeds this winter. The key is to keep the lining of your nose moist. This can be done by applying a small amount of aseptic ointment such as bacitracin ointment to the inside of your nose. Apply a small amount of ointment to your finger and gently rub it around the bottom of your nostrils. Breathing in through your nose will help spread the ointment around. Never use a Q-tip inside your nose. Q-tips can cause trauma and if inserted too far, come very close to your brain! Vaseline can also be used to lubricate your nose but the ENT doctors recommend bacitracin ointment over Vaseline because of the petroleum in Vaseline. Bacitracin ointment can be purchased without a prescription. Another way to keep your nose moist is to use a humidifier in your home. Children who suffer from frequent nose bleeds may benefit from having a humidifier on in their room at night. Nasal saline spray is another easy way to moisten the inside of your nose. Saline spray is a good way to help flush the nasal sinuses when they are clogged up from a cold. Simply put the tip of the spray bottle into your child's nostril and squirt the saline while they inhale through their nose. Remind children to blow their nose gently so as not to damage their ear drums. If your child suffers from chronic nose bleeds, it may be time to see an ENT doctor.

I would also like to remind parents that it is getting cold, snowy, and often wet outside. Our students go outside for recess almost every day. Please make sure they have proper clothing for the weather conditions. Hats, mittens or gloves, snow boots and snow pant are necessary items. Please remember to pack them in your child's backpack if they are not wearing them to school. If you need any of these items, please let us know. I can be reached at ext 212 and have confidential voice mail. Happy Winter!!!

Jamie Sudol RN, School Nurse

Music News

Attention Parents of Band Students: Mrs. Morton will see the entire band from 2:00 until 2:45 on Tuesdays during the month of December. All band students will complete their December lessons at 2:45 pm in time for pick-up or the bus at regular dismissal.

Art Room News

Many thanks to all who have donated recyclable supplies to the art room. Due to the extent of your generosity, Ms. Trimpi will need some time to organize the donations and will let us know when she's ready to accept more things.

Trailblazers Ski/Ride

Greg LaBella & Butch Findeisen will be organizing a training session for all Trailblazer ski and ride volunteer instructors in December. If you have not touched base with them regarding your interest in the program, please do so. We are hoping to include our kindergarten students in the ski/ride program but must have sufficient volunteers for grades 1-6 first.