

Walden School News

January 31, 2019

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Liz Benoit, Principal

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- Principal's Message
- News from Pre-K—Grade 8

Upcoming Dates:

February

2/1 - Flannel Friday

2/6– LI Placement Test 8th
Graders

2/8 - Early Release Day
11:45

2/11 - Cal-Co-op Meeting at
Walden School at 6:00

2/25 - 3/5 - Winter Break

Principal's Message:

Students attending Walden School have been afforded the opportunity to participate in the Child Nutrition Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the last three years. Students regardless of income have been able to participate in the meals program, free of charge. The period of eligibility for Walden students ends on June 30, 2019.

I have asked Caledonia Central Supervisory Union Food Service Director, Ken Cyr, to articulate what this means for Walden School families. Attached to this newsletter is an update from Mr. Cyr. Please take an opportunity to review the letter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Cyr at the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union.

The Flannel Shirt Day Challenge

The North Country Supervisory Union has challenged Vermont Supervisory Unions as well as businesses to a competition to raise money and/or food donations. On February 1st, students, staff and community members are invited to participate in the Flannel Friday for Food challenge. We encourage you to wear a flannel shirt. If you would like to participate, please bring a food donation and/or \$1.00 to donate to the local food shelf.

The competition challenges us to see which school can:

- 1: Raise the most money
2. Collect the largest amount of donated food
3. Have the highest percentage of staff and students wearing flannel.



Stu-

dents in Ms. Langmaid's class use geometric flat shapes to solve mathematical problems.

Preschool

Kendra Darrell

Preschool has been reading books that are song books which are familiar to students. We are also reading books that revolve around animals performing tasks that are often times not associated with animals such as sheep eating in a restaurant or driving a jeep. These books are fun for students to analyze and act out. We have been playing games such as race to the top which works on counting sequence, counting with 1:1 correspondence, and number recognitions.

Kindergarten

Marie Langmaid

Math - The focus for this week and next is comparing sets within 10 using more, less, and fewer and comparing quantities and numerals. The students continue to count daily with 1:1 correspondence to at least 100. They are learning to count back from 100.

Phonics and Reading - The students will continue writing and distinguishing between the long and short sounds of vowels in words. They are revisiting hearing and creating rhyming words and working with word parts (at, an, ag, ed, et, in, it). As they read, the kindergartners are working towards reading their familiar books with phrasing, fluency, and expression.

Writing - The two types of writing the students are currently focused on are writing how-to-books and writing responses to some of the books they have read during their guided reading lessons. As a group, they are using shared writing to write how to make toast and how to practice a fire drill.

Science - Forces and Motions: The properties and characteristics of balls and the things that affect the way balls behave are the two connecting themes that run throughout this unit. The students will begin by observing, using, and comparing different balls. Later, they will experiment with different balls on ramps.

Grades 1 & 2

Randi Collins (Lowe)

Reading - We are reading books written and illustrated by Mo Willems during the read aloud portion of our day. Students are learning about him as an author and illustrator. Mr. Willems writes about living and working together in a community.

Writing - Students are writing informational pieces to teach an audience about animals. Students first selected an animal they were knowledgeable about and determined important and interesting facts to include in their writing.

Math - 1st grade math - Students are measuring and comparing length.

2nd grade math - Second graders are continuing to work on multi-digit addition and subtraction with decomposition and composition of 10's.

C3 or Science - Students are learning about money. How we get money and what we can do with money. Students will also learn about a budget and why we might make one.

Grades 3,4 & 5

Humanities - Tamara Thompson

Third Grade - Students analyze how Pete Sis combines text features, illustrations, and language to create a text rich in meaning. Then they will be examining conclusion paragraphs in explanatory writing. After that, students will complete a New-Rated Assessment to demonstrate their master of reading skills, such as noting the sequence of events, recognizing cause-and-effect relationships and using context clues to clarify the meaning of new works. Students also gain additional information about the Moon, including its distance from the Earth theories and about its origin, and its relations to the Earth. Next, they view a video presentation of the same text and practice listening to recounting important information. Before moving onto a new text, they will gather and sort evidence into categories to review what they have learned by reading *Starry messenger* and Galileo's *Starry Night* and then use a Writing Planner to plan an explanatory essay.

Fourth and Fifth Grade - Students will participate in a whole-group activity to develop themes for *All Summer in a Day* and then record evidence to support the different themes. A Socratic Seminar follows in which students have the opportunity to discuss how the setting of the story affected the characters as well as what they feel is the best theme for the story. Then, they will view Part 3 of the video for *All Summer in a Day* and compare it to the text. Next, students do a final revision of the narrative paragraph they started earlier on in the module. Students will then learn about writing snap shots by watching a brief Barry Lane video called *My Favorite Day*. After that, students will read and annotate Robert Frost's poem *Dust of Snow* to explore how a winter setting affects the speaker in the poem. They will generate questions about the poem to discuss, as well as retell the events of the poem in an imagined story in a storyboard format. They will finish by writing snap shots as captions to explain the sequence of events in the poem.

Grades 3, 4 & 5

Math & Science – Travis Hill

The fourth graders will be starting a new module. Their new unit will focus on Geometry concepts. The beginning of the module focuses on lines and angles. Students will learn some of the important vocabulary.

The third graders are continuing a unit on multiplication and division. They are using skip counting to help them solve multiplication facts. Then they use those multiplication facts to solve the related division facts.

The fifth grade is working on calculating the volume of rectangular prisms. They are doing very well with it so far. Next, they transition to find the volume of irregular shapes composed of rectangular prisms.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Math & Science - Tammy Russell

6th grade STEM:

Students will continue to apply literacy standards as they write and speak about their new understandings of the nervous system in STEM class. Students will conduct an inquiry every day based on their own human body and will use the evidence collected to make claims, justified by research.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Math & Science - Tammy Russell

6th grade tutorial:

Students are working on geometry extensions with Mr. Benoit or geometry hands-on/minds-on applications of volume with Ms. Russell based on STAR results and teacher-generated assessments.

7th grade mathematics:

Students will be taking the end of module assessment this week to demonstrate integer mastery. Module 3 begins this week, with a focus on expressions and equations. Students continue to work with fractions in math tutorial and will be applying this work to percentages soon.

8th grade mathematics:

Students are working to master the slope intercept equation: $y=mx+b$. Students have focused on slope thus far, but will now apply that understanding to converting the equation and interpreting the m (slope) and b (y intercept) as well as graphing equations and connecting all of this algebra to real life.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Humanities - David Irwin

6th Grade Humanities:

Students have been excitedly reading *Ramayana: Divine Loophole* while exploring the question, "What is the significance and power of the hero's journey?" We have learned about character archetypes commonly present in monomyths, including the hero, shadow, mentor, and ally archetypes. Students have also examined plot structure and sequence in *Ramayana* and applied what they learned to practice their own narrative writing by writing an original scene for *Ramayana*.

7th & 8th Grade Humanities:

Students are working towards answering the essential question, "How did World War II affect Individuals?" We begin answering this question with reading the novel, *Code Talker*, a historical fiction account of a young Navajo who becomes a code talker with the U.S. Marines in the Pacific theater of WWII. Students practiced taking note of main characters, character traits, plot, and setting. We also have begun learning about Navajo culture and the experience of Navajo children in U.S. mission schools.

7th & 8th Grade Global Citizenship:

Students have begun an inquiry into the causes, proliferation, and impact of The Black Death in Asia and Europe during the mid 1300s. Students examined medieval trade routes and compared those routes with the spread of the plague. We have also been evaluating and deciphering primary source documents written by people who lived during the time of the Plague! This inquiry will include students gaining skills in examining primary and secondary sources, translating data into an infographic, scripting a mock newscast, and developing a public service announcement.

Please visit the school website: walden.ccsuvt.net

Thank you for your continued support of your children's education.

