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Liz Benoit, Principal

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

Upcoming Dates:

May

5/6 - Caledonia Cooperative School District informational Budget meeting @ 7:00 pm

5/10 - LI move up day 8th Grade

5/14 - Field Trip to Montshire Museum - Pre-K—Grade 2

5/17 - Field trip to St. Johnsbury Academy JGM Day - 7th Graders

5/17 - Field trip to Fairbanks Museum - Kindergarten & Pre School

5/23 - Field Trip to the Highland Center for the Arts K-5

5/27 - No School

5/29 - Field Trip Ropes Course 6-8

June

6/6 - Last day of Pre School

6/12 - 8th Grade Graduation

6/13 - Last Student Day of School—Early Release

Walden School News

May 3, 2019

Principal's Message:

2019 Caledonia Cooperative School District Annual School District Meeting

An informational budget meeting for the Caledonia Cooperative School District will be held on Monday, May 6, 2019 at 7 p.m. at the Walden School. The budget vote will be held in each individual town (Barnet, Walden and Waterford,) on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. The ballot will also include the vote for director for the term of three years for each town. The votes will be tabulated as a whole to determine the outcome of the budget vote and individually for the respective directors.

I encourage you to attend the informational meeting on Monday evening. Caledonia Cooperative School Directors will be on site to answer questions you may have regarding the 2019 budget. Copies of the Caledonia Cooperative School District Annual Report for 2019, were sent home with students previously. Heather Gonyaw, Caledonia Cooperative Board Chairperson, has encouraged people to feel free to reach out to her with any questions about the newly formed school district, the budgeting process, or the work of the new district. We look forward to seeing you possibly at the meeting on Monday evening.

Nurse Brock Earns National Board Certification Status For School Nurses

The Walden School community extends a warm congratulations to Nurse Molly Brock for earning National Board Certification for school nurses. Her successful completion of the certification program for professional achievement signifies her commitment to quality student care and lifelong learning.

The five domains of competencies included: Health Appraisal, Health Problems and Nursing Management, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Special Health Issues, as well as Professional Issues. We are proud of her accomplishments!



Preschool

Kendra Darrell

Preschoolers have been working hard following the expectations after the break. We have been experimenting with baking powder, vinegar, and paint, doing paint pours, planting seeds, and many other projects. We have also been discussing how people and animals age. We have been focusing on similarities and differences in their characteristics over time, this includes hair color, body shape, or even wrinkles.

Kindergarten

Marie Langmaid

Math: Students have learned several new addition and subtraction games to help them increase their math addition and subtraction fluency. They have been practicing adding and subtracting with 10 and rote count forward to at least 100 and backward from 100 daily.

Phonics and Reading: The students are reading contractions in text and including them in their writing.

Writing: Last week, the students began a unit on poetry. As a group, they brainstormed ideas for possible poem topics. They selected Halloween for their first group poem.

Science: Plants are the science unit for the last trimester. The students will be learning about the parts of a plant and what a plant needs to survive through literature, songs and chants, art projects, and seed and plant experiments.

Grades 1 & 2

Randi Collins

Reading: Students are meeting in reading groups and choosing a station for Daily 5 where they are either reading to themselves, reading to a partner, working on writing, word work, or listening to books. For read aloud, we are reading folktales and comparing different versions of the same story.

Writing: Students will be writing their own opinion pieces where they are convincing their reader about a topic. Some students are writing to say why a certain sport or food is the best. Some students are writing why they should do something and giving reasons why.

Math: 1st Grade Math - Students are going to be writing their own word problems. They will also be adding two digit numbers by breaking the number into tens and ones to add.

2nd Grade Math - During Second grade math students are working on taking larger numbers and adding them together. For example they are taking $320+480$ and giving tens to one number and creating $300+500$ to equal 800.

Social Studies: Students are learning how to make a map and what elements to include. They are also learning about the different continents and where they are located. We will have a quest, Ms. Scott is coming in to read a mapping book to the students and work on a mapping activity based on the book.

Grades 3,4 & 5

Humanities - Tamara Thompson

3rd Grade:

Third graders have started a new module called A New Home. This module offers students an opportunity to consider the history of immigration through the lens of stories as they analyze varying perspectives throughout history. To begin the module, students examine the character of Grandfather, in *Grandfather's Journey* by Allen Say. As they read, they will note how Allen Say develops the character by conveying his thoughts, actions, and feelings through text and images. Students use what they have learned about preparing to speak to deepen their small-group discussion. Students also demonstrate how to use hooks in explanatory writing. Following this, they will notice and wonder about the cover illustration of *Tea with Milk*, another work by Allen Say before students explore the text itself. While not a classic story of American immigration, Say's depiction of a young woman's efforts to assimilate to a new society captures the universal experience of people working to make a new country their own. As students gain insight into Masako's experiences as an American living in Japan, they will gain empathy for immigrants who come to the United States seeking a new home. Students will examine how linking words and phrases are used to connect ideas in compare-and-contrast writing.

4th & 5th Grade:

Fourth and fifth graders have started a new module titled The Redcoats Are Coming! Why is it important to understand all sides of a story? This basic question becomes the cornerstone of understanding for this module. With a focus on identifying and understanding perspective and its impact on our understanding of events and the decisions people make, students will gain greater skill in the area of critical thinking as both readers and writers. Because opinion essays are the main focus of writing instruction in this module, students will also learn to form and express opinions based on knowledge and text evidence.

The module begins by laying the foundation for understanding the perspectives of the two main sides in the conflict between the American colonies and the British Empire. This foundational knowledge is acquired by their current reading of *George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides*. This is an informational text that provides a balanced account of the different perspectives in the conflict. It also provides in-depth information about the events of the war. Students will refer to this text many times throughout the module, using it as a research source to increase their knowledge of the American Revolution.

Grades 3, 4 & 5

Math & Science – Travis Hill

3-5 Math

The fourth graders have started a fractions module. They are working on simplifying/reducing fractions to lowest terms. They are also finding common denominators and calculating equivalent fractions in order to compare two fractions. This skill will be needed when they begin adding fractions this week. These are important concepts that form a foundation for proportional reasoning in middle school.

The third graders are also working in a fractions module. They have been learning about what fractions actually mean. They are identifying the fraction of shaded area in figures. They are also drawing fractions. They will be working towards adding fractions with like denominators as well as interpreting fractions greater than 1.

The fifth graders are reviewing multiplying and dividing fractions and will be reviewing converting decimals into fractions. They will also be placing decimals and fractions on a number line.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Math & Science - Tammy Russell

6th grade STEM

Students are looking at food webs to help them understand the importance of photosynthesis in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Students are taking care of the seeds that have sprouted in our greenhouses from our whole school planting day before vacation.

7th grade mathematics

Students are continuing to practice with the distributive property and more with their new learning about Expressions and Equations. Students are working on SBAC problems individually and in partners as we only have a week before SBAC testing starts. Students have daily homework and a weekly quiz on Friday.

8th grade mathematics

Students are printing their hands-on geometry challenge in tinkercad and bringing it to life by printing it with our 3D printer! Students are working on lessons 4-8 in module 6 this week, with a focus on irrational numbers. Ask them what an irrational number is!

6-8 grade reading tutorial

Students are working to understand the life of Malala Yousafzai as we read her autobiography, *I Am Malala*, contribute to class discussions, and respond to prompts about the text using the RACE strategy to clarify their thinking. Another group of students have been engaged in reading informational texts and identifying sequence of event as well as cause and effect. We have read short biographies and are currently engaged in reading *An American Plague*, a history of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793.

7/8 mathematics tutorial

Students continue to apply cross multiplication and vocabulary to solve word problems related to percents and unknown variables. Students are reviewing math skills to be ready for STAR and SBAC assessments.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Humanities - David Irwin

6th Grade Humanities:

Students have completed the process of creating their very own monomyth. A monomyth is a story that details how a hero embarks on an epic journey, faces a crisis, and returns a better person as a result of the adventure. In our next and final module of the school year, students will be exploring how the struggle for power shaped the settlement of the New World, with a focus on the Jamestown Settlement. Our first text will be *Blood on River*, a work of historical fiction that introduces the harsh realities of colonization.

7th & 8th Grade Humanities:

Students have collected evidence and written an informational essay that explains how WWII has shaped the identity of the protagonist in *Code Talker*. In our third and final module of the school year, students will be asking themselves, "What is the power of language?" In Module 3, students will develop their ability to analyze the logic and validity of arguments and to consider differing perspectives.

6th Grade Global Citizenship:

Students began this unit examining how American society and the rights of Americans changed as a result of the Revolutionary War. We then moved onto a discussion about the numerous challenges that were faced by the fledgling country as it worked to unite the newly independent colonies under the Article of Confederation. As we wrap up this unit, students will gain an understanding of the compromises that the members of this young nation had to make in order to draft a constitution and save this country.

Please visit the school website: walden.ccsuvt.net
Thank you for your continued support of your children's education.

