

Walden School News

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Liz Benoit, Principal

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

Upcoming Dates:

November

11/21—11/23—Thanksgiving
Break

December

12/3 - Cal Co-op Board Mtg
@ Waterford School 6:00

12/12 - Nearly Winter
Concert @ 6:30

12/15 - PTA Craft Fair

12/20 - Gifts 101

Principal's Message:

I am pleased to announce the Walden School Community earned a VTPBIS Merit award for the outstanding work last year, in the area of positive behavioral interventions and supports. Instrumental to our success is school-wide clinician, Damien Owczarski, who supports students and staff on a regular basis.

Recently, a school-wide celebration was organized in recognition of the student body's display of Walden School's core values of being safe, responsible and respectful citizens. The theme of this celebration was community and cultural awareness worldwide. Activities were developed with a focus on comparing the similarities and differences between the United States of America and the country of Great Britain. Included among the learning opportunities were the following: a student-friendly version of rugby, baking apple fritters, trivia highlighting interesting vocabulary, creation of flags, as well as artistic compositions.



The Vermont VT PBIS Merit Award is pictured above along with Mr. Owczarski, Mr. Hill and Mrs. Thompson

Preschool

Kendra Darrell

Preschool is working on reading books about our families and friends. We have enjoyed making family houses and discussing our favorite things to do with our friends. We have worked on our 1:1 correspondence by pairing objects with a written numeral as well as dots. This works on our numeral recognition along with our counting. We are working on recognizing not only our names but the letters in our names across multiple settings.

Kindergarten

Marie Langmaid

Math—This week, the students began a unit on two- and three-dimensional shapes. They're comparing shapes and describing similarities, differences, parts, and other attributes. The students continue to count daily with 1:1 correspondence to at least 50. Please practice counting by ones and tens to at least 50 with your child.

Phonics and Reading—The students are learning seasonal and holiday songs and chants. They are using environmental print to help them read and write new and familiar words.

Writing—The students are beginning to include details and a beginning, middle, and end to their daily writing. They have been practicing their handwriting on lined paper.

Science—Various habitats have been introduced, defined, and located on the world map. We explored our school "backyard" habitat and recorded our findings.

Grades 1 & 2

Randi Collins (Lowe)

Reading - Students are working on their sight words. Students are doing Daily 5 where the students either read to self, read to a partner, work on writing, word work, or listening to books. Students meet in reading groups every day. For read aloud we are reading books about taking care of family.

Writing - Students are working on their handwriting. They are also creating narrative stories. Students are working on creating an organizer to help put their stories in order. Students are writing many different personal narratives that they will then pick one to make final edits.

Math - 1st grade math - Students are learning how addition and subtraction are related.

2nd grade math - During second grade math students are on the second part of module 3. Students are continuing to gain an understanding of the ones place, tens place, and hundreds place. They are also continuing to gain understanding on bundling ones, tens and hundreds to make tens, hundreds and thousands.

Science - This week we are learning about weathering and erosion.

Grades 3,4 & 5

Humanities - Tamara Thompson

Grade 3 - Students begin reading a new text by reviewing the contents and text features of *Shark Attack!* Students generate questions about sharks. Following that, they will gain basic information about the dangers of sharks and learn to identify a main idea and supporting details in a chapter, using the text and important text features, such as photographs, illustrations, a map, and captions to gain information about a topic. For writing, they will determine an exemplar paragraph in preparation for developing a topic in an explanatory paragraph. They will work with text features in *Shark Attack!* to locate important information about how people have developed tools to stay safe around sharks. They will use this evidence to develop a collaborative paragraph to serve as a model for how to develop a topic using facts, definitions, and details. This will lead students into reading another text about the sea where they learn about Giant Squids.

Grades 4 and 5 - Students begin to explore what poetry is by thinking about what they already know and then examining a short, but puzzling, poem, "The Red Wheelbarrow" by William Carlos Williams, the first poem featured in *Love That Dog*. This poetry work is a lead-in to the novel and will help them empathize with the character during the upcoming lessons. Students will be introduced to Jack, the main character in *Love That Dog*, as they collect evidence about the events in the novel and explore the novel's structure. After collecting evidence, students will write a one-paragraph summary of the events they have read about. Then, they will begin learning the elements of poetry, first by analyzing "The Red Wheelbarrow", and then by reading an analyzing Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." Both poems support the narration in *Love That Dog* as Jack refers to or includes elements of the poems in his own writing. Learners will continue to read more of *Love That Dog* and as they think about what is happening as Jack reads and writes poetry.

Grades 3, 4 & 5

Math & Science – Travis Hill

3-5 Math - The third graders are studying a unit on Measurement and Place Value. Students have finished working with telling time and determining elapsed time on number lines. Now, they are working with metric units of mass. They are using number bonds to decompose kilograms into hundreds of grams.

The fourth graders are also studying a new unit. Their unit will focus on multiplication and division. The first topic spends time developing formulas for finding perimeter and area. They will use the formulas to solve problems within a context.

The fifth graders are working on multi-digit multiplication and division. They use different strategies to solve these types of problems. The goal is for them to know a procedure as well as have number sense to understand why procedures work.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Math & Science - Tammy Russell

7 & 8th grade STEM - Students are diving into engaging inquiries as well as cell studies this week with application and understanding of plant and animal cells. Students will collect evidence with “naked eggs” and create analogies between cells and common systems like a school, restaurant or castle.

7th grade Mathematics - Students are beginning their second module this week by working with integers, which are whole numbers, negative and positive, and zero, of course. Students will be adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers through differentiated and challenging word problems.

7th grade math tutorial - Students are now transitioning to operations with fractions, including adding and subtracting with unlike denominators.

8th grade Mathematics - Students are reviewing expression and equation work from 7th grade before becoming immersed in 8th grade algebra studies. Students were focused and precise in their geometry work with dilations, as demonstrated in their recent assessment.

6th grade Math Tutorial - Students are working on geometry applications like perimeter, area and volume, as indicated on STAR in tutorial for the next 6 weeks.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Humanities - David Irwin

6th Grade - Students have successfully learned how to incorporate textual evidence from two sources into a single paragraph. Students have also been studying figurative language and its use in the novel, *Bud, Bud not Buddy*.

7/8th grade - Students have been learning about plot structure and crafting a sequential summary as they are reading *The Canterbury Tales*.

6th Grade Social Studies - 6th grade students have transitioned from STEM into social studies. Students will examine the causes and implications of the American War of Independence starting with a look at the French Indian War.

Northwoods Field Trip

Middle School Students took a field trip to Northwoods Stewardship Center in East Charleston. At Northwoods, our students engaged in a series of team-building and leadership exercises. Activities included an A-frame walk, a low ropes course, and a water boil challenge.



Please visit the school web-

site: walden.ccsuvt.net

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