

Walden School News

April 4, 2018

Walden School
135 Cahoon Farm Rd
West Danville, VT 05873

Tel:802-563-3000

Fax:802-563-3030

Liz Benoit, Principal

lbenoit@waldenschoolvt.education

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

Upcoming Dates:

April

4/12 - Early Release 11:45

4/13 - 4/20 - **Spring Break**

4/23 - Return from Break

4/30 - Parent Advisory Committee/Roundtable Discussion @ 5:00

May

5/31 - Walden School Spring Concert

Principal's Message:

Crisis Command Drill

In response to the recent school tragedy in Parkland, Florida and threats against some Vermont schools, Governor Scott, directed the Department of Public Safety to coordinate with schools throughout Vermont to conduct school safety site assessments.

Trooper Upson, of the Vermont State Police, met with me to conduct the on site assessment survey to determine the preparedness of our responses to various emergencies. I invited Trooper Upson to join us for the monthly crisis command drill. We used this opportunity for Trooper Upson to witness our response during the activation of the drill in specific reference to both the internal and external structure of the building. Students noted the drill took longer than expected due to the review of the external structure security.

A number of strengths in the execution of our drill, particularly the speed and efficiency of the students' response was noted by Trooper Upson. He then took a moment to meet with each class to congratulate them on a fine response to the drill.

A Reminder to Keep Electronics at Home.

Students are reminded to keep toys, disruptive devices including personal electronics at home. Objects such as toys, radios, iPods, electronic games, cell phones, pagers or similar equipment **are not to be used in school**. Students who choose to bring these items to school assume the risk of losing or damaging these items. Students may have these items confiscated if they do not adhere to the guidelines.

The office telephone is a business phone. A student will have access to the office phone for an outgoing call if the call is deemed an emergency, he/she has the staff person's permission, and the staff person monitors the call. Such calls should be kept to a minimum and are at the discretion of the school personnel. Social arrangements must be made before coming to school. Incoming calls from parents should also be kept to emergency status. After school arrangements need to be made prior to your child leaving for school.



Preschool - Mrs. McDonough

The Pre-K children have spent two weeks celebrating the books of Dr. Seuss and lots of Cat In the Hat silliness across the curriculums of literacy/reading, math, science, art and music. We have read books over and over again getting better and better at our rhyming.

Kindergarten - Mrs. Langmaid

Math - Beginning next week, the math focus will include representing addition and subtraction in a variety of ways; solving addition and subtraction word problems within 10; and when given any number from 1 to 9, the students will find the number that makes 10 when added to the given number.

Phonics and Reading - This week and next week, the students will revisit vowel and consonant (VC) patterns. They will be working with -og, -ig, -ay, -en, -ed, and (VCC) patterns, -ing, -all, -ill, -ent, and -ick. Students will also be working with word ladders, in which they build words from other words by changing only one letter. All of the words they'll be working with will follow a consonant-short vowel-consonant pattern. Each word in the ladder differs from the one above it in one way at either the beginning, middle, or end of the word.

Each student has received another sight word poem booklet to help support reading in phrases and fluently. The students are having opportunities to earn more book prizes by reading to middle school students during the week and at the ELO program.

Writing - The kindergartners are continuing their persuasive writing pieces and responses to stories read independently.

Science - Next week, our weather focus will be the wind and clouds.

Science - Grades 1 & 2 - Ms. Lowe

Reading - Students are working on their sight words. Students rotate from reading groups or in Daily 5 where they are reading to themselves, a partner, working on their writing, word work, or listening to books. Students are also working on comparing texts.

Writing - Students are working on an interactive opinion writing piece. This week they are writing their own opinion piece. They are working on including an introduction, reasons (details), and adding a conclusion.

Math - 1st Grade Math - Students will be using tape diagrams to solve addition and subtraction problems.

2nd Grade Math - During Math this week students are continuing learning addition and subtraction strategies for adding numbers up to 1,000. Students will be taking a mid-module assessment this week.

Science - Students will be learning about how some things made by humans are created from nature. They will think like an engineer to build and fix problems.

Grades 3,4 & 5

Humanities - Mrs. Thompson

3rd and 4th Grade - Students will begin to build a deeper appreciation of Galileo and his work as they explore Peter Sis's picture-book biography, *Starry Messenger*. Students will work in small groups to ask and answer questions that set the stage for learning in subsequent lessons by encouraging them to monitor their own questions and to set their own purpose for reading and learning. These are important skills for students as they enter the upper elementary grades and begin assuming more responsibility for their learning. In addition, students collaboratively develop a paragraph about Galileo using facts, definitions, and details.

5th Grade - Students will read chapter 5 of the *Phantom Tollbooth* as it introduces them to another character whose description and behavior help students discover the meaning of his name— Officer Short Shrift. Juster's depiction of Officer Short Shrift, as well as a model character snapshot of an imaginary character from "Abandon", serve as mentor texts as students learn how writers can bring characters to life by "showing-not-telling." Following this, students begin brainstorming ideas for Focusing Question Task 2, their own "snapshot" of a character from Abandon Elementary School whose name and description is a Juster-like play on words. Then, students write and revise their character snapshots for Focusing Question Task 2.

Grades 3, 4 & 5

Math & Science – Mr. Hill

3rd-5th Grade Math - The three math groups are all showing great progress. One of the groups is working on multiplication with fractions. They have progressed from fractions times a whole number to fractions times fractions. The next step is to multiply with mixed numbers. The fourth graders are doing work with Geometry. They are working on vocabulary related to lines, shapes, and angles. Third graders are working on locating fractions, both proper and improper on number lines.

In Tutorials we are practicing different skills and concepts. Some students are practicing long division. Some are working on advanced Geometry concepts. Others are practicing multiplication facts to improve fluency.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Math & Science - Mrs. Russell

6 Grade Math - Students are working to understand and develop formulas for area, volume, and surface area. Students use composition and decomposition to determine the area of triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons. In Tutorial students are working with mixed numbers and improper fractions. In extension, students are applying math with the Stock Market Game and CNN10 applications.

7/8 Math - Students are connecting discrete and non-discrete functions to real-life situations. Students are applying $y=mx+b$ and previous ration/proportion work to the new unit. Extension is working with HS geometry. Tutorial is focused on multi-step equation solving.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Math & Science - Mrs. Russell

6/7 Math - Students are working to explore energy transformations. Students will be exploring phenomena as well as data collection and analyzing evidence to create reasonable explanations.

Humanities - Mr. Snow

6th Grade Humanities - Students are continuing with their studies of the monomyth, reading the book "The Odyssey." Students are spending time analyzing and working to understand the many trials and challenges within "The Odyssey" that Odysseus works to overcome. They have been working to summarize, analyze, and find the themes of passages and stories along with their connection to the overall story. Students are also working to apply their learning of the stages of the Hero's Journey, along with the character archetypes through the writing of their own monomyth. They will begin this project soon.

7/8 Humanities - Students are continuing with their studies of WWI through art and literature. Students have reviewed several pieces of art, including the "Gassed" by John Singer Sargent and "Soldiers Playing Cards" by Fernand Leger. I strongly encourage you to talk with your student about how art and literature are used to develop attitudes towards the war. Students are continuing their reading "All Quiet on the Western Front" and beginning to learn about film techniques in order to analyze the differences and similarities between the film adaptation and the novel.

Please visit the school website: walden.ccsuvt.net

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



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Cat In the Hat parade.

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