

Walden School News

March 19, 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:

March

3/21 - ELO Extravaganza

April

4/12 - Early Release 11:45

4/13 - 4/20 - Spring Break

4/23 - Return from Break

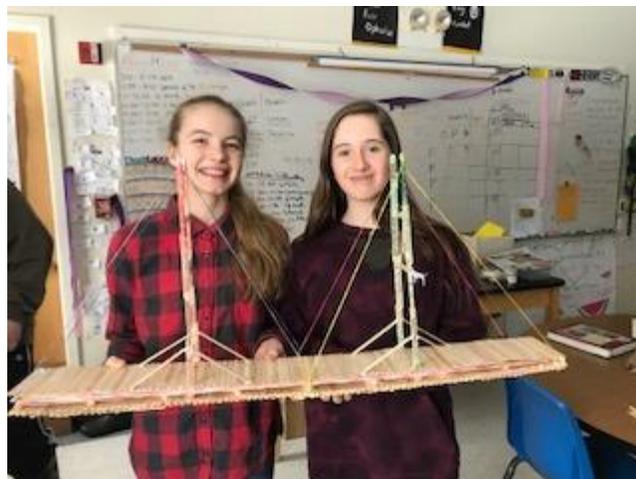
Principal's Message:

Recently, students in 7th grade introduced the character trait for the month of March. The character trait for the month of March is *patience*. They defined patience as waiting your turn with a controlled body and mind. Several examples were given to the entire school community such as waiting in line, listening to someone read a book, etc.. Students in the 7th and 8th grade classes had several opportunities to employ patience in the recent month while creating popsicle stick bridges for the *Lyndon Bridge Building Competition*.

Students used the engineering design method to complete the assigned task. Some groups chose to use a triangle design in the deck of the bridges because this design is well-known to distribute the weight evenly across the structure. Other groups experimented with different angles to determine the greatest capability to distribute weight evenly. Students noted the forty-five degree angle prevailed as the angle of choice in their bridge designs.

All groups researched designs, and developed teamwork strategies to complete the bridges on time. Some Walden entries sought to design for aesthetics and found their bridge withstood a weight of 14 pounds. Courtney Lewis shared her team's bridge collapsed under a weight of 592 pounds. A team from *Miller's Run School* took home first place after their bridge withstood a weight of 3000+ pounds.

Students described the overall experience as bittersweet. The loss was tough, however, students learned a great deal. They met many new people from several schools within the Northeast Kingdom. Congratulations to one and all!



Preschool - Mrs. McDonough

The preschoolers, can't get enough winter, even with spring on the calendar. We read the book *Stranger in the Woods* and watched the movie with its magnificent nature photography. Speaking of nature, the preschoolers will have a visit from scientist, Amy VanderKooi of the *Montshire Museum* with a presentation about Northern New England animals. Everyday in the preschool classroom literacy, math, science, social studies and art are integrated into activities. We celebrate ourselves and each other as we are learning to read and write each other's name. Ms. Patrice loves sending mail and now we do too. We have been mailing letters and have enjoyed receiving letters too.

Kindergarten - Mrs. Langmaid

Math—This week, the students are decomposing the numbers 6, 7, 8, and 9 using 5-group drawings, then removing a part, and recording each decomposition with a drawing and subtraction equation. They are continuing their work on writing the number just before and after a given number within 100 and composing numbers within 7.

Phonics and Reading—For the next two weeks, the phonics focus will be recognizing and using color and number words, recognizing and reading known words quickly, and changing the beginning sound or sounds to make and solve new words. The students continue to participate in reading groups each day and work on their phrasing and fluency as they read new and familiar text. They participate in book discussions and retell important information from the stories.

Writing—The students will finish writing their reports this week. Next, they will be learning how to use words to make a change with persuasive writing.

Science—Weather and seasons are being revisited for the next three weeks.

Grades 1 & 2 - Ms. Lowe

Reading - Students are working on their sight words. Students are either in 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 going to be reading and comparing different stories.

Writing - Students will be starting a unit on opinion writing. We will be working on an interactive writing piece this week.

Math - 1st Grade Math - Students will be counting on and the make 10 strategy when adding across 10, using single digit sums to support solutions for analogous sums to 40, and adding ones and ones or tens and tens.

2nd Grade Math - Second graders are starting a new unit and will be adding and subtracting to numbers up to 1,000.

Science - Students will be learning about animals and plants. This week, we are looking at plant parts and what helps them survive and grow and looking at the structure of animals and plants.

Grades 3,4 & 5

Humanities - Mrs. Thompson

5th Grade - This group of students has started a new unit on wordplay while they read the novel *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Students will analyze how the author plays with words to express meaning in a text. To begin with, students will close-read a transcript of "Who's on First?" to examine the wordplay and its effects on the characters and audience, and experiment with aspects of delivery by performing sections of the skit with a partner. Following that, students apply what they have learned about wordplay, as well as their speaking skills, to discuss how wordplay can create humor and confusion in a Socratic Seminar. Students then apply their understanding of wordplay to write an explanatory paragraph. At this point, students will begin reading the module's anchor text, Norton Juster's, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, a classic tale of adventure and wordplay. They will analyze the text to answer the question: How can writers use wordplay to develop a story's settings and characters? These lessons will give students the skills to write a character snapshot using literary elements.

Word Study - Students will take an assessment to check in on the progress they are making in their spelling. This assessment will determine the next steps in the instruction they will receive in the area of spelling and vocabulary. Our focus will continue to be on affixes (prefixes, roots, and suffixes).

3rd and 4th Grade - Students are beginning a new module on Outer space. In this module, students will examine Vija Celmins's *Starfield* and preview the module texts. They will ask questions about space. Students will also consider how to explain their own ideas in a discussion. In addition, they will read an informational article that introduces students to Galileo Galilei and his work. While reading the information piece, students will first identify the text's sequential structure and notice cause-and-effect relationships. Students will then examine ways to elaborate in a explanatory essay. After that, students 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.

Phonics - Identifying words with different vowel sounds, exploring homophones and recognizing double consonants in words.

Grades 3, 4 & 5

Math & Science – Mr. Hill

3rd-5th Grade Math - The three math groups are all very busy. Two of the groups are taking Mid-Module Assessments this week. One of these will cover multiplication of fractions by whole numbers. The skill will be assessed within the context of multi-step word problems. They will move on to fractions multiplied by fractions next.

Another group is working on basic understanding of fractions. They are breaking up pictures to show certain fractions. They also experiment with how changing the sizes of wholes changes the size of different fractions. The next step will be learning about fractions on a number line. This will lead to finding equivalent fractions and comparing fractions.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Math & Science - Mrs. Russell

6 Grade Math - Students are writing and evaluating inequalities and equations. They use variables to write expressions and evaluate those expressions when given the value of the variable (6.EE.A.2). Students are working to explain their thinking verbally and in writing.

7/8 Math - Students are using the distributive property and composite shapes to refine their area calculations. They are reviewing area formula application to real world problems and converting units appropriately. Students are finishing popsicle bridges to be tested Saturday at the 17th annual bridge building competition at Lyndon Institute.

6/7 Math - The kickoff of our new unit is an egg drop engineering challenge. Students will then uncover Newton's laws through engaging challenges with phenomena and personal and group data collection analysis.

Humanities - Mr. Snow

6th Grade Humanities - Students in the 6th grade are continuing their studies of the Hero's Journey. The students finished up their reading of *Ramayana: Divine Loophole* which was an excellent and beautifully illustrated retelling of the ancient Hindu monomyth. I strongly encourage you to ask your student to tell you about the features of a monomyth, as well as the stages of the Hero's Journey. Consider after watching a movie with your child, asking them to identify what stages of the Hero's Journey were present and recognizable. Currently the 6th grade is reading the classic Greek myth, *The Odyssey*. Students are continuing with their study of the features of the monomyth, identifying character archetypes, and recognizing the stages of the Hero's Journey. Students will be working towards an End of Module Task that will ask them to write their own monomyth.

7/8 Humanities - Students in the 7/8 class are continuing their studies of WWI through the use of art and literature. In the first assessment of this module students utilized informational readings to write a short essay on the reasons so many British and US teens joined the war effort. I strongly encourage you to talk with your student about what their reasoning was as to why so many people joined the war. Encourage them to show you their essay or to talk about the topic using evidence from their readings. Students are currently reading *All Quiet on the Western Front*, which is a classic novel about the experiences and conditions on the front. I strongly encourage you to talk with your student about what the conditions are on the front and how Paul and his friends are getting through the war.

Please visit the school website: walden.ccsuvt.net

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

