

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:

June

6/7/17 School-wide Morning Meeting and Stewardship Day

6/9/17 Field trip to Boston Museum of Science Grades 5-8

6/12/17 8th Grade Commencement

6/13/17 Field trip to Shelburne Museum Kindergarten and 1st & 2nd Grades

6/14/17 Field trip to Groton State Park Grades 3 & 4

6/15/17 Last Day of School Field Day and early release (11:45)

Walden School News

June 6, 2017

Principal's Message:

Recently, students in grades K-8 participated in a variety of end of the year assessments used to measure current levels of performance across various content areas. Teams of teachers began analyzing data during a recent in-service to determine individual student strengths and areas of need. We began to look at the strength and delivery of programming to meet individual student needs. We will continue to evaluate data while making instructional decisions.

During the next two weeks, students are scheduled to participate in a variety of place based educational opportunities and field trips designed to enhance students' learning. The annual Spring Stewardship Day will take place on Wednesday, June 7th. The Walden School Community looks forward to partnering with families to maintain our outdoor learning environments.

Recently, a team of eight middle school students represented Walden School at the annual Heart and Soul race, held recently in Essex Junction. Students were joined by Ms. Russell and Miss Fox. Students trained for eight weeks during ELO, in preparation for the event. Congratulations to one and all!



Heart and Soul

Walden School Team

Pre-K: Ms. Murray

Preschool had a great time at Family Day last Friday. They graduated and participated in games and had a nice lunch with everyone. Thank you preschool students and families for a wonderful year!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Langmaid

Math—From now until the end of the school year, the students will be practicing addition and subtraction facts within 10 to increase their fluency; building and drawing flat and solid shapes; composing flat shapes using pattern blocks and drawings; and decomposing flat shapes into two or more shapes.

Reading—Please continue to have your child practice reading the new and familiar books brought home daily to improve and/or maintain reading fluency and reading comprehension.

Science—The students understand that most plants need soil, sun, water, and air to live. Their most recent experiment involves growing bean seeds with different plant need configurations and predicting which seeds will grow and which seeds will grow the best. Ask your child about the seeds growing on the window sill and the ones in the closet.

Writing—The phonics focus from now until the end of the year is consonant clusters (also referred to as consonant blends); reading and writing words with long and short vowel sounds for a, e, i, o, and u; and writing known words accurately and consistently in their writing.

Keep saving Box Tops throughout the summer! The kindergarten and preschool together were one of the classrooms that brought in the most Box Tops during the last collection contest!

Grades 1 & 2: Ms. Lowe

Reading: Students are working in 6 different stations. They are meeting in reading groups, reading to self, reading to someone, working on writing, word work, and listening to reading. In reading groups students are reading books at their level and writing about their reading. Students are looking at nonfiction texts connected to our science unit on habitats.

Writing: Students are writing their opinions on various topics, including best pet, best snack, characters, and books.

Math: 1st grade math—Students will be identifying halves and quarters and working on telling time to the hour and half hour.

2nd grade math—Students will be sorting and collecting data to create different types of graphs.

Science: Students will be learning about different ecosystems in the world and about different living things in those ecosystems. This week we are focusing on oceans and the arctic.

Grades 3 & 4: Mrs. Larose

Math: Our fourth grade Math class is finishing our unit on multiplication and division of multi-digit numbers with an end of unit assessment. Our math tutorial time is finishing up fact fluency with application problems. The extension group is continuing their work with fractions and connecting that work with decimals.

Third grade math will finish the year learning about area. Students will have the awareness on how to break different figures into multiple rectangles in order to find the area by multiplying the length by the width. Students will be learning this through finding area of irregular shapes within our building and classroom using meter sticks.

Grades 3 & 4: Mrs. Larose

Reading: Students are continuing with their chapter books; *Mouse and the Motorcycle* and *Hatchet*. Students are practicing to find evidence and respond to text with the RACE method which requires them to restate the questions, answer all parts, cite the evidence and explain with elaboration of detail.

Writing: Students have been conferencing about their first drafts of narrative writing. They are ready now to revise and edit their work while considering where their work needs the use of sensory images, or elaboration to paint pictures with their words. The students are also considering word choice and purpose while they consider their audience and how to increase the action and interest in their stories.

Science: Our Science unit on structures and functions of living things is coming to a close. We will review all that we have learned with a couple of whole class activities and then finish off with a final assessment.

Math: Mr. Hill

5/6 Math: One of the 5/6 groups is working on finding area of irregular regions. This requires them to use logical and spatial reasoning along with the various formulas. The other group is being introduced to the concept of volume. They will be learning through hands-on use of cubes as well as drawings.

7/8 Math: As the year comes to a close, the 7/8 group will be working more on functions and graphing. This will include scatter plots and best fit lines. We will also spend some time reviewing concepts from throughout the year.

Humanities: Mrs. Thompson

5th & 6th Grade: One group is beginning a text titled *A Long Walk to Water*. It is a historical fiction text based on *the Lost Boys* (refugees) from Sudan. Students are learning about the Second Sudanese Civil War through the lens of children who actually experienced the brutality of this war.

The other 5/6 group will continue reading about activists during the Civil Rights Movement. They are working on using the RACE strategy to answer questions from the text in paragraph form. They will continue to use their comprehension and fluency strategies to accurately read instructional level texts.

7th & 8th Grade:

This group will read sections of the text *Unbroken* as they analyze how specific dialogue or incidents in a plot propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision. They analyzed similarities and differences between individuals, ideas, and events in the two texts. Knowing multiple perspectives has allowed for them to develop claims for their arguments.

***For all grades, these units will bring us to the end of the school year. In the midst of all units, students will be assessed with the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark reading assessment. There will be NO homework while assessments are occurring.*

Grades 5– 8

STEM: Mrs. Russell

Group A is finishing their life science evidence and claim writing as they use the structures and functions of plants we are growing inside and outside of the classroom. Students will be "making" their own plants using maker materials or the 3D printer.

Group B is working to finish their self designed renewable energy models. We will put them to use later this week on the nature trail as we teach each other about hydro, wind and solar power. Students will also wrap up their "Idle-Free School" project.

Group C is focused on Family Heritage projects along with choice STEM projects as they wrap up their learning before moving on to 8th grade and high school. Students will share their projects in an interactive way this Friday.

Please visit the school website: walden.ccsuvt.net

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

