

Walden School
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Liz Benoit, Principal

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

Upcoming Dates:

May

5/1-5/31 Spring Assessments
SBAC , POA , Science NECAP

5/23/17 Merger Vote

5/23 & 5/24 8th Grade Class trip
to Northwoods Stewardship Ctr.

5/25/17 Memorial Day Celebration

5/25/17 Spring Concert @ 6:30

5/29/17 No school—Memorial Day

5/30/17 No school—In-Service

5/31/17 Field trip to Harvest Hill
Farm Grades 2 & 7

June

6/6/17 Field trip to Fairbanks
Museum Grades 3 & 4

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

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

6/12/17 8th Grade
Commencement

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

Walden School News

May 22, 2017

Principal's Message:

Tomorrow, May 23rd, polls will be open at the Walden Town Clerk's Office from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to vote on the Act 46 District Merger. There are two articles for consideration. Article 1: The joining of Barnet, Walden and Waterford schools to create the Caledonia Cooperative Unified School District. Article 2: To elect (3) school directors to serve on the proposed Caledonia Cooperative Unified School District.

Last week, informational meetings were held in each of the three schools. Committee members and consultant, Peter Clark, presented information to audience members and fielded questions. Additionally, committee members distributed brochures as a means of informing the public about the mission of the proposed Caledonia Cooperative Unified School District. The mission statement is as follows: "The Caledonia Cooperative Unified School District: A cohesive and coherent system of education that strives for excellent student outcomes, delivered in a safe, supportive, challenging and rich instructional environments whose primary goal is to graduate young people ready to take their place in the world, as skilled, engaged, productive, and caring global citizens." The brochure also outlined the unification and cooperation of the schools in the proposed Caledonia Cooperative Unified School District.

Absentee ballots may be requested until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22, 2017. There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election.

A Reminder.....

**The ACT 46 District Merger Vote
is Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

Pre-K: Ms. Murray

Last week we had a great time tie dying shirts and using the water table outside. We also practiced throwing and kicking balls and working on our gross motor skills. In Health class with Ms. Fox, the students went out on the nature trail and talked about summer safety.

We had a wonderful time at the Fairbanks Museum. The students loved the interactive section and all the taxidermy!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Langmaid

Math: This week, the students have been assessed in their number and operation knowledge. They have been using their individual Rekenrek to 20 to count and model numbers. They are deepening their understanding of teen numbers as 10 ones and some more ones and using a variety of configurations such as vertical towers, linear, array, and circular configurations. The students show, count, and write to answer “*how many*” questions with up to 100 objects.

Reading—This week and next, the students will be assessed on reading an unknown text and demonstrating their comprehension of the text read. Students are selecting books from our browsing book boxes and classroom library to read independently. Mo Willem’s books are very popular. These books support practice in reading dialog with expression.

Science—Our “greenhouse” bean experiments have been quite exciting for the kindergarten. Each kindergartner put 5 green bean seeds in a plastic sandwich bag with some water and cotton. Next they hung their “greenhouses” in the window. Each day the students record their observations with a drawing and/or labels. Ask your child to explain what they have observed over the past two weeks and the 3 functions of roots.

Writing—Poetry and responses to the books they read in reading group continue to be their writing focus.

Please continue to collect and send in Box Tops. Our classroom challenge ends May 25th. The money earned will support the playground.

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 text 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 adding a two digit number to a two digit number. 2nd grade math students will be sorting and collecting data to create different types of graphs.

On our field trip to the Fairbanks Museum, the students took a class on weathering, erosion and how mountains were formed in Vermont. Students had a great time and saw animals that they may not see in the wild.

Grades 3 & 4: Mrs. Larose

This week fourth grade students are finishing their unit on multiplication and division of multi-digit numbers. Our reading will focus on Author's Purpose. In Writing we will be improving the use of transition words and describing words to make our writing interesting and well organized for the reader. We will finish up our Science unit on structures of living things. Our word work this week will look at the difference between plurals and possessives and the use of s versus 's.

Our trip to the Fairbanks Museum went well. We learned a lot about erosion and weathering and how it affects the landforms of Vermont. We also had fun trying out the new interactive displays there. Students were well behaved and represented us well.

Math: Mr. Hill

5/6 Math: One of the 5/6 groups is working on a geometry unit. They are using algebra to find missing angles. They will be calculating area of irregular shapes by decomposing them into common polygons.

The other group will continue their unit on fractions. They are currently working on multiplying fractions. They will also get to division with fractions. Then we will solve word problems involving fractions in which students must decide which operation to use in order to solve the problem.

7/8 Math: This group will be continuing work with functions. They are looking at real life scenarios and identifying the constant rate of change (slope) and the initial value (y-intercept).

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.

In addition, this group has joined the 7th graders for a separate project where they will be debating next week about two World War II topics: The Atomic Bombs and Japanese-American Internment Camps. Students are split into Pro and Con teams for each topic. They are stating claims (their argument) and supporting it with relevant evidence from quality sources.

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. Also, they will analyze similarities and differences between individuals, ideas, or events in a text.

***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 will be continuing to collect evidence about different biomes they observe and collect evidence about the biome bottles they made last week. Students will use literacy skills to make claims from the evidence and will explain their ideas with clear reasoning. Students will focus on the Deciduous Forest biome on a daily basis as they use the outdoor and indoor classrooms. Students will finish their family heritage projects.

Group B will extend their learning of renewable and nonrenewable energy sources. Students will choose an energy source to “dig deeper” about and will “make” a model or other project to help teach the class about the energy source in a creative way. Students will finish their family heritage projects.

Group C will wrap up their bottle rocket investigations and will investigate different phenomena life and physical science phenomena this week. Grade 7 will engage with engineering on the nature trail on Tuesday and Wednesday while the 8th graders are on their end of the year trip. Students will finish their family heritage projects.

Please visit the school website: walden.ccsuvt.net

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

