

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:

May

- 5/1-5/31** Spring Assessments
SBAC , POA
Science NECAP
- 5/19/17** Pre-K-4 trip to Fairbanks
Museum
- 5/22/17** St. Johnsbury Arts Day
- 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** Trip to Harvest Hill Farm
Grades 2 & 7

June

- 6/9/17** Field Trip to Boston
Museum of Science Grades 5-8
- 6/13/17** 8th Grade
Commencement
- 6/15/17** Last Day of School
early release (11:45)

Principal's Message:

Walden Student Ambassadors Present at the Vermont Rural Partnership Spring Conference:

On Friday, May 5th, Walden Student Ambassadors, Courtney Lewis, Jessica Hubbard, Natalie Davis and Christopher Borland attended the 17th Annual Vermont Rural Partnership Spring Conference held at Cabot School. The purpose of the conference was for students to learn about the amazing opportunities available in small, rural schools. The mission of the Vermont Rural Partnership is to promote student voice and engagement through authentic, place-based learning that celebrates the unique culture and heritage of each of the 18 partnership schools and their community.

Our Student Ambassadors described their recent three-day experiences with Author-in-Residence, Natalie Kinsey Warnock to students representing fourteen different schools. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Chris Borland gave an overview of the work students experienced during the residency. He explained the various ways students researched their ancestors and developed projects to honor family members. Courtney Lewis displayed a trifold featuring her great grandmother, while Natalie Davis made a scrapbook honoring her great, great, great grandmother, and Jessica Hubbard created a picture book celebrating her grandfather. Each student project was unique in its discovery and presentation format.

In addition to representing Walden school, Students learned about other school projects including how one school used treadmill-powered fans to cool their school as well as how one school embraced hands-on cooking with their student population.

Students described the conference as a positive bonding experience that influenced the development of leadership skills.



Pre-K: Ms. Murray

We did a bean bag toss and counted the numbers on the bean bags and held up fingers to what the number was. Everyone loved it!!

We have been using pattern blocks this week with different cards to build animals and various shapes. We have harder cards that the students love to try as a challenge.

As we get closer to the end of the year, you can tell that your child's paintings are getting more defined and you can see objects in them.

Kindergarten: Mrs. Langmaid

Math: The students are composing and decomposing numbers from 11-19 into ten ones and some further ones, and recording each composition or decomposition by a drawing and/or equation (e.g., $18=10+8$). They are being introduced to place value through addition and subtraction.

Phonics/Reading: Beginning this week, the students are being assessed in reading and comprehension of the text, letter identification, letter sound knowledge, word reading, word writing, and concepts about print.

Writing: The students are creating several poetry pieces and working on their narrative writing. They are writing responses to the books they read in reading group. They write the problem and solution, make inferences, report factual information, retell the story in their own words, and/or describe the characters and setting. The students cite the page number(s) where they found the evidence to support their responses.

Science: Plant fictional and informational books are read aloud throughout the unit of study. The objectives for the unit are for the students to understand what plants need to survive and why plants are important; to identify plant parts; and to explain how humans make positive and negative choices that effect their environment.

Grades 1 & 2: Ms. Lowe

Math: 1st grade math—Students will be adding tens and ones, and adding a single digit number to a two digit number.

2nd grade math—Students will be adding and subtracting within 1000.

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.

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 deserts, and grasslands.

Grades 3 & 4: Mrs. Larose

Reading: Reading tutorial continues to work to improve reading fluency, increase vocabulary knowledge and practice answering higher level comprehension questions that require finding evidence in the text and analyzing author's craft and purpose. We continue this work in our reading groups. Two groups have finished their Natalie Kinsey Warnock chapter books and will be writing a summarizing essay. Then one group will return to *Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary while the other group begins *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen.

Math: This week in fourth grade math the students are extending their learning of division strategies to bigger numbers and applying the skills to word problems. They try to choose the most efficient strategy and check their work with multiplication. The third graders are continuing with multiplication and finding area of shapes. We will continue our math tutorials in work with fractions and fact fluency applied to problem solving.

Science: This week we are learning about the structures that take in information and respond to it. We are studying the 5 senses and the brain and nervous system. We are also learning how plants respond to their environment and conditions. Janah Pellerin will be joining us Wednesday afternoon for some planting activities.

Writing: All students will be completing their non fiction reports and typing them up to share with the Kindergarten and the First and Second grade students on Friday morning.

Grades 5– 8

Math: Mr. Hill

5/6 Math: One of the 5-6 groups is working on a geometry unit. They will begin working on area and progress to surface area of 3 dimensional solids and volume. Algebra concepts will be integrated in as well when students manipulate known formulas to solve for different parts of the formula.

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 working with functions. They will be able to look at a data table and write a function to describe the pattern. They will also be able to graph functions and identify whether graphs represent a function or not.

Humanities Mrs. Thompson

The ELA SBAC testing was last week. It was very time consuming, which did not allow a lot of extra time for core instruction. Students had time to get caught up and to continue working on their family history projects that they designed through the process that local author, Natalie Kinsey Warnock walked them through. Next week the Math SBAC begins! There will be no homework while there is testing.

Grades 5– 8

Humanities Mrs. Thompson

5th & 6th Grade: One group is finishing up their unit on the Great Depression before beginning a unit on the second Civil War of Sudan. It is important for students to recognize that there was not just the Civil War that the U.S. endured, but also Civil Wars that are currently happening in the world today.

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 begin their new unit on World War II next week. They will be learning about the Japanese American Internment camps to give them a different perspective on the War. We will begin with some basic information surrounding the complexity of the war before we begin to focus on just the relationship between the Japanese and the Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor. We will be using two complex texts to analyze closely for meaning as we construct meaning about the events that occurred during this world war.

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 assessment as well.

STEM: Mrs. Russell

Group A: One 5/6 Group will be studying life science as we engage with making claims from evidence collected outside from our new learning about photosynthesis and producers.

Group B: The other 5/6 group will work to inform and persuade others about their transportation study results. Students are making posters and writing articles. They will then become “makers” as we get creative in the school and outdoor classroom.

Group C: This group of 7/8 graders will be uncovering phenomena around them in the indoor and outdoor classrooms. They will be following their interests (researching) to collect life science evidence, make claims, explain their reasoning and write rebuttals.

Please visit the school website: walden.ccsuvt.net

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

