

Volume 11, Issue 3

October 9, 2009

SANDWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL *Family Newsletter*

www.interlakes.org/scs

Celebrate Excellence

Comments from the Principals



A walk through town last week with the Primary Multiage was a wonderful time to reflect on what a beautiful place our children have in which to grow up. The stately old homes and businesses provide the backdrop for the town's residents, who smiled warmly as they watched a parade of 29 youngsters march through town. The pride of your children in sharing that "Mom works here" or "My Dad worked on that house" was evident. The walk connects to our curriculum work around *community*. Primary Multiage focuses on our local community. During

students' time at Sandwich Central School we broaden the focus from local to regional to state to national and world communities.

Yesterday, the 6th grade took a hike to the summit of Bald Knob in the Ossipee Mountains. This hike connects with science geology curriculum on volcanoes. According to the U.S. Forest Service, "the Ossipee Mountains are considered by many geologists to be the best example of a ring dike formation in the world. A ring dike is the remains from a long extinct volcano that has eroded over millions of years. The Ossipee Mountains are a nearly circular range, 10 miles in diameter, located at the center of the former volcanic crater." The hike up Bald Knob put the students on the ring dike, and gave them a chance to see some volcanic rock crystal structures.

Preparations for the Sandwich Fair are reaching fruition. The school display is going up today, and the float for the Sunday parade was finished yesterday. We have many signed up to help park cars, but we can ALWAYS use more people, especially during the busy, hectic times around 10:30 a.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Please feel free to stop by and lend a hand, even if only for a ½ hour. It will be appreciated!

We had a fun assembly yesterday – The Waltens Acrobatic and Dog Show. The performers shared a message of staying focused and being motivated to accomplish your goals. It was a fun way for Veteran Middle Multiage and Rookie Upper Multiage to celebrate the completion of their NECAP testing. 6th grade finished their NECAPs today, and Veteran Upper Multiage will have some more NECAP testing to finish next week on Wednesday and Thursday.

Don't forget that Thursday, October 22 is an early dismissal (11:35 a.m.) and that there is no school for students on Friday, October 23. Parts of both of these days are reserved for Parent-Student-Teacher conferences.

Important Dates:

Oct. 13—School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Humiston Building

Oct. 20—Deadline for Box Tops collection

Oct. 22—Early Release 11:35 a.m. Parent/Student/
Teacher Conferences

Oct. 23—No School. Parent/Student/Teacher
Conferences

Nov. 4—Family Math Night 5:30—7:00 p.m.

Nov. 20—Harvest Supper and Astronomy Evening 5:30 p.m.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM!

Miss Costello's & Mrs. Petitti's Primary Multiage

- ♦ **Reading:** We continue to read nonfiction books about



ants. We have looked at their communities and compared it to our community as we walked through town. We choral read the poem entitled, Down, Down. It was a great poem about leaves falling all over town. We used this poem to look for letters, color words and rhyming words. We introduced syllables and had fun jumping, clapping, etc... to the beats they heard in words. We made a graph using their names to show syllables.

- ♦ **Writing:** The children created tongue twisters using their names. Then they created a picture illustrating their words. They are working hard during Writing Workshop expressing their stories through pictures and some children are using letters and words. Afternoon Friends are working on Daily Edits and focusing on: Using a comma in a date to separate the day and year; using an apostrophe and an s after a noun to show something belongs to one person or thing; beginning to use homophones to, two, too correctly; adding s to most nouns to make them plural.
- ♦ **Math:** Students have been practicing how to count by 1's. We have been practicing counting up and back on the number grid. We used our walk around town to create a phone directory. Children are practicing their numbers as they complete this book. We have been exploring complements of 10 by playing Two Fisted Penny and Penny Plate game. The analog clock was introduced and we began to practice telling time to the hour. Students also had the opportunity to explore dominoes and how to use the ruler. Here are some ideas to try at home: Count the steps needed to walk from the sidewalk to the front door (or between any two places). Try to walk the same distance with fewer steps or with more steps. Divide a deck of cards evenly between you and your child and put the cards facedown. For each turn, players flip their top card face up and decide who has the larger number. That player collects both cards. Continue playing until the deck has been used. Play a second round, but have the player with the smaller number take both cards. You may assign points to Aces, Kings, Queens and Jacks or remove them.
- ♦ Liz Spinale of First Student came to Primary Multiage to talk to the students about bus safety.

WHAT'S HAPPENING! CONTINUED from p. 1

Ms. Littlefield's Middle Multiage

- ♦ **Math:** Next week the blue group will be finishing unit 2. In unit 2, the Rookies worked on addition and subtraction strategies. Unit 3 has four main areas of focus: to review place value in 2-digit and 3-digit numbers, to review coin value and exchanges among coins, to tell and write time, and to gather data by counting. The following are a few Do-Anytime activities for unit 3: gather a handful of coins with a value less than \$2. Have your child calculate the total value. Ask the time throughout the day. Encourage alternate ways of naming time, such as half past two for 2:30. The orange group is in the middle of unit 2. In this unit the Veterans have been working on addition and subtraction strategies. The areas of focus for this unit are; reviewing fact families and number families, reviewing and solving "What's My Rule?" problems, using diagrams to help solve number stories, and reviewing algorithms for adding and subtracting. The following are a few Do-Anytime activities for unit 2: Practice addition and subtraction fact extensions, for example, $6+7=13$; $0+70=130$; $600+700=1300$. Use fact triangles to practice multiplication by covering the product. Practice division by covering one of the other numbers, make this brief and fun.
- ♦ **Reading:** This week we introduced the children to reading response journals. After listening to the story The English Roses each child wrote a journal response about how he/she made a connection to what happened in the story. The children did a wonderful job with their responses and they made some really great connections. During reading groups, we have been doing some readers theater. We have been talking about what kind of voice and expression a character might use when speaking. The children used some very creative voices. For our phonics and word study we have been working on reading and spelling short vowel words. We are planning to begin weekly spelling lists after Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences.
- ♦ **Writing:** The children in Middle Multiage have been writing for a variety of purposes. While reading the book Gooney Bird is so Absurd we talked about the different types of poetry mentioned in the book and each child worked to create his/her own poems. We also created a class book of facts about monarch butterflies. We read the book Tulip Sees America and used this book to begin a discussion about where we can get ideas for writing. The children are also working on their own writing workshop pieces.
- ♦ If you have not returned your conference form to Ms. Littlefield, please do so as soon as you can. Thank you!

Mr. Chapman's Upper Multiage

- ♦ NECAP testing has absorbed a lot of our time this week, but I am proud to report that our students worked very hard on these tests. I was impressed by their focus and genuine effort. The Rookies have now finished testing, and the Veterans will wrap things up next week when they take their NECAP Writing test.
- ♦ **Math:** Both groups continue to work on unit 2. The Rookies are working on addition and subtraction of multidigit numbers, as well as ways to organize and display data. The Veterans are about to review how to multiply multidigit numbers and how to compare numbers in the billions and trillions.
- ♦ **Reading and Writing:** This week we finished reading Thomas Rockwell's How to Eat Fried Worms. The students wrote their own worm recipes, so watch out if your child offers to make dinner and then heads to the garden with a trowel! We also read the Michael McCurdy's An Algonquian Year, in preparation for our study of Abanaki Native Americans. Soon we will begin reading novels in small group Literature Circles.
- ♦ **Science:** We have begun our unit on geology. The students have been practicing how to identify rocks and minerals based on

their color, luster, and hardness. Soon we will be learning about the rock cycle.

Mrs. Chase's 6th Grade

- ♦ **Social Studies:** The Egyptologists have been busily researching the answer to a number of questions about the ancient civilization to include in their 3-dimensional pyramid book. Their own pyramid models arrived this week! We have all sorts of pharaohs buried in their elaborate tombs full of artifacts for the afterlife. They're on exhibit in the hallway for everyone's enjoyment!
- ♦ **Reading:** We're continuing to read Lloyd Alexander's Time Cat. The actors just performed two of the sections, taking us to Peru in 1555 and The Isle of Man in 1588. This group is definitely ready for the theatre! The readers are also in the midst of reading a mystery of their choice for their upcoming book project. The 6th graders have been in the midst of taking the reading sections of the NECAP test.
- ♦ **Writing:** The writers have been exploring the use of similes and metaphors in their writing. They are also composing a narrative of their choice. It's always entertaining to see where they take you in their individualized writing!
- ♦ **Science:** Pangaea is where it's at! The earth scientists have been exploring Alfred Wegener's theory of continental drift, examining the evidence of how the landmasses may have been one. As we enter the world of earthquakes and myths from all over the world associated with them, the students created their own creative and imaginative myths! We're now discussing what causes earthquakes to happen and the Ring of Fire. On Thursday (our window of opportunity weather-wise!),



we climbed Bald Knob in the Ossipees to look at the ring dike formation. The autumn colors were amazing!

- ♦ **Mathematics:** In Unit 2, we've been building the mathematicians' conceptual understanding of place-value and whole-number operations to develop number sense and operational strategies for decimals. We've been reading, writing and interpreting numbers written in standard, number-and-word, expanded and scientific notations. Reviewing adding and subtracting decimals along with developing power-of-ten strategies has also been happening. Presently, we're developing strategies for multiplying and dividing decimals.
- ♦ **Other:** The 6th graders are ready to volunteer at the SCS Sandwich Fair parking fundraiser! We've been practicing greeting folks, thanking them for supporting our school, and giving the proper change! Let's hope for great parking weather!