



WOODSTOCK NEWSLETTER

Date: June 1, 2007

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WOODSTOCK SCHOOL OFFICE

Dear Woodstock Families,

It is hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end so quickly. Maybe it's my age, but time seems to fly by at an unbelievable pace. We have sent you June calendars a couple of times, but weather issues have forced some changes, so please save the calendar attached to this newsletter. It is the most updated.

We had our Preschool screening and Kindergarten registration on the 23rd of May. We will be welcoming fourteen wonderful new Kindergartners next year. It was so much fun to meet them and talk with their families. We can't wait to see them again on step-up day!

Speaking of Step-Up Day, it will be held in the morning on June 5th. Our fifth graders will be picked up at the high school/middle school time by their regular busses and go to Telstar Middle School. They will spend the whole day there and come home on the regular bus schedule. Our present K-4 students will move on to their next year's classroom from 8:45-11:15. The new Kindergartners will be brought to school by their parents at 9:00 and be picked up by their parents at 10:30.

We held our annual Sports Awards Night for our 4th and 5th grade athletes on May 29th. This event is sponsored by the WPTA. They make it a wonderful evening and give us a chance to recognize each of our athletes individually and as a team. I am so proud of our kids here at WES. THEY GET IT! They understand that we play to have fun, learn some skills and become a member of a team. They take pride in each other's accomplishments and never fail to give credit or support to a teammate. This behavior is modeled by awesome coaches. I'd like to thank Lori Dean, Kelly Helms, Alex Helms, Andy Steck and Tim, and Pam House for their caring coaching. I am so grateful that they too, GET IT and understand why we have sports at the elementary school level.

The final student council event is scheduled for June 13th. It is our field day, which this year has a State Theme. It should be a lot of fun. If you can get the time off, try to come join in the fun. The WPTA is hosting a barbeque at lunchtime. I know they would appreciate some help with that. I want to recognize Mrs. House and her Student Council for all they do. So many special fun events are created and managed by this group. The students look forward to each activity that the student council puts together.

The last day of school is the 14th of June. It is a half-day. We will hold our annual awards day that morning. We will begin at about 8:30 AM. We hope as many families as possible will attend this event to watch us recognize and honor our students. Lunch will be served early that day and the students will be dismissed at about 11:30 AM.

We are planning a special celebration for the 20th Anniversary of this building. It will be held in the middle of August, probably the 15th or 16th. We'll let you know with mailings and info in the newspapers. If you'd like to help with this event, let us know or stop in to our initial planning meeting on June 5th at 6:30, here at school.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Woodstock families for their wonderful support this year. You guys are the BEST! It is great to come to work in a place where I know that we all have the same top priority...the children. The staff here at the school feels so much support from all of you. This great partnership makes it work for the kids.

Thanks for sharing your children with me all year. With my youngest child graduating and heading off to college, I am so glad that I have your children to spend time with. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Jolene M. Littlehale

Teaching Principal

KINDERGARTEN - Miss Wilkey

This year has flown by in Kindergarten. I can't believe school is almost out! The kindergarteners have learned so much and have all come so far. They are excited for summer vacation but are also quick to say that they like school.

We are ending the year with a unit on the ocean. The students are learning about many types of ocean animals. They have learned that whales are mammals and that they migrate. We are also busy making some ocean life crafts. Students have made octopuses and stuffed sea creatures. The class is very excited for our field trip to the ocean, especially for the opportunity to collect shells. We will be going on that trip on June 11th.

In Math, we are beginning to learn about fractions. Students are eager to divide shapes into halves, quarters and thirds. They were even asking about higher numbers. We worked together as a group to figure out the best way to divide a square into sixths. We will also start reviewing many of the math concepts studied throughout the year. It has been a popular subject with this group. They like to solve any type of math problem.

In Literacy, we are writing about the ocean and beach. Many students are choosing to write about ocean animals. Next week the students will have their final writing prompt of the year and they will have to describe an ocean animal.

We are also taking a look at fairy tales. We are reading many popular fairy tales and discussing the story elements as well as thinking about how we would change some of these stories. We will do some comparisons of fairy tales that are often re-told in different ways. I am also planning to read the class the tale of Puss In Boots. Most do not know the original tale and know of the character from the film “Shrek”. I would like them to know what the character is based on.

The kindergarteners continue to work hard even though it is difficult to do so at this time of the year. We will begin to wrap up the school year with some activities that tie into things we did at the beginning of the year. Students will draw another self-portrait to compare to the one done last September. They will also revisit their ‘hopes and dreams’ for the year and develop some for next year.

Have a nice end of the school year and a fun summer vacation!

GRADE ONE - Mrs. Wentworth

It’s hard to believe, but May has flown by. What a hectic, exciting month it has been. Some of the highlights were our Mothers’ Day Tea, a book fair, the Almadar magic show, our health and safety day, end of the year assessments, and final preparations for our field trip to the ocean. Phew!!!! AND we aren’t done yet – everyone is gearing up for Step-Up Day on June 5th, our trip to the ocean on the 6th, looking forward to Field Day on the 13th and the Awards Assembly on the 14th. Is it any wonder that we are all ready for a much needed summer vacation?!!!

As you plan activities and think about the summer days ahead, please remember to include some time for reading with your children. Research tells us that, “Children who read six books or more may improve or maintain their reading achievement. Those who do not read may lose as much as a year in their academic performance.” Livingston, N., & Kurkjian, C., (2006). Fun summer books. *The Reading Teacher*, 59(8), 818-824. Your children have worked extremely hard this year and I would hate to have them lose that over the summer. I will send home a list of recommendations for some good summertime reading the last of week of school. With your encouragement and their continued practice during the next couple of months, I know these children will enter second grade in the fall and WOW Mrs. Meisner with their abilities.

This class may be small in size, but they are huge on energy, excitement, and eagerness to learn. Each one has their own special personality. I have had a wonderful time getting to know and work with them every day. I am extremely proud of what they have accomplished in first grade. Although I will miss their inquisitiveness, stories, and laughter in my classroom next year, I will continue to follow their progress as they move through the grades. Thank you for your support and friendships. Most of all, thank you for sharing your children with me. I’ll leave you with this poem and my best wishes for a great, relaxing summer.

Great Expectations

It's time to say good-bye
Our year has come to an end.

I've made more cherished memories
and many more new friends.

I've watched your child learn and grow
and change from day to day.

I hope that all the things we've done
Have helped in some small way.

So it's with happy memories
I send them out the door,
With great hope and expectations
for what next year holds in store

By Maria Cuellar-Munson

GRADE TWO - Mrs. Meisner

The Second Graders had a great Environmental Day on May 21st! This is a day, which is lots of fun, but a great learning experience also! Thank you to all the chaperones who went with us: Lance Bean, Cindy and Paul Cox, Sean Gilson, Stephanie Mason, Michelle Richardson, Linda MacKillop, and Sherry Wentworth.

Our last field trip will be The Songo River Queen in Naples. We will cross the lake, travel up the river, and go through the "Lock" that is there and turn around and come back. The boat trip is about two hours long. We will have lunch on the boat and be back before the end of school. It's a great trip! Try to come if you can. There is no charge for the students (it comes out of their fund-raising money). Chaperones do have to pay, but I'm not sure yet of the price. I will be sending home more info soon.

We have finished all of our testing now. The NWEA's went very well! The kids did a great job! You will be getting a copy of their scores in their Report Card. We have completed our DRA's and Fry Words and all of our math assessments and writing prompts. We have one more official Spelling Test then we will be doing a lot of spelling activities. The kids are really enjoying Spelling Bees right now! We've been going over all their Fry Words (including some third grade words) and reviewing past spelling lessons. The last four people left each time get tic-tacs!

We are finishing up our "Treasure" literacy book in reading and are working on posters about the "octopus"! There was an informational story about them in our book and the kids are really interested in learning more about them!

We are continuing to work on multiplication, measurement, and 3-digit adding and subtracting in math.

We will start working on our first names in “Cursive” before school ends just as a kind of introduction. The kids love doing this!

Make sure you check your calendars for all the special events coming up! You don’t want to miss anything!

GRADE THREE - Mrs. Burke

I can't believe how quickly this month and this year have flown by. As I write this we still have some work that needs to be done, but we're almost there now. I am pretty happy with how well this class is continuing to stay focused, and actually pretty well behaved too (for the most part). They certainly have come a long way this year. I have seen a growing maturity, and I think that they are ready for the fourth grade. We have worked hard this year on becoming responsible for schoolwork, homework, and behavior. I have seen tremendous growth, and have gotten comments from other teachers about the changes too.

In math we are continuing to master the times tables. We are up to five students who have finished through their 12's. We are also working on division. It is a bit late in the year to be getting there, but some things take time.

For reading, I am integrating it with science/social studies. All students are reading about inventors and/or inventions. Each day for our science/social studies block we will all share what we have learned during our reading time.

We are just about to finish up our fourth quarter district writing prompt. Next I am planning on having the students review letter writing skills while also using cursive handwriting.

Next Friday (the 8th) will be our third grade sleep over. If you haven't received a permission slip and informational letter yet then ask your student to bring another one home. We will need to have one for any student who is going to stay over. So far I haven't heard too much about suggestions or donations for meals. I don't mind putting together a menu and shopping for it, and will send home a note when I have some idea of what it will cost. It's always a lot of fun, so if any parents want to join us the more the merrier. Just let me know.

Have a wonderful (albeit wet) weekend.

GRADE FOUR - Mrs. Ferland

June already? Seems like this year has flown by. It is hard to believe that this year is closing to an end so soon. Fourth graders have grown so much this year and have proven what an amazing class that they are. It will be hard to say good-bye. Although it is the end of the year, we have been busy finishing all our units.

In reading, we have been reading Beverly Cleary books. Everyone picked one that they were interested in. After we read each day, we wrote in a response journal. These journal entries were a chance for students to reflect and connect to what they are reading about. Then students have some freedom to discuss what they liked best.

In writing, we have just finished making poetry books. These books are a collection of structured poems as well as free verse poems. We will also have an author's tea to share these wonderful books. We also have spent some time studying about Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his poems. Our field trip on Friday will include a visit to his house.

In math, we finished decimals and fractions. We used the Smartboard to help us practice what we learned. The rest of the year will be about measurement and using the problem solving skills that we used throughout the year.

In science, we are working on our fossils, rocks, and minerals unit. We have learned the difference between a rock and a mineral. Ask a fourth grader to explain! We are getting prepared for our field trip to the Tamminen Mine in Greenwood. We will make displays of the rocks that we find.

In social studies, we are using a new research program called IIM to learn about Brazil. Each student has chosen a topic about Brazil to study. After doing their research, they will make a poster of their information and present an oral report to the class. The IIM program is used in fifth grade, so I hope this will help them be prepared for next year.

As you can see, we are still as busy as ever. This has been a wonderful year thanks to the students and parents of fourth grade. This group of kids is definitely ready for fifth grade. Ms. Wilson will be glad to have them. Have a great summer!

GRADE FIVE - Ms. Wilson

As the fifth grade teacher, I get the privilege of spending the final year with Woodstock students before the head off to Telstar or other locations of higher learning. I get the opportunity to watch them grow over the year, see them begin to transform into young adults, and help them transition to their next big step. This is the biggest benchmark for fifth graders since the year they came to Kindergarten - so it is truly an important part of their journey through life. As the fifth grade teacher, I get the chance to share in all this change, and to help students through this process. It is a gift as well as a challenge. It is hard for me to say goodbye to them, after all of the connections and community we have developed within our classroom. This is the newsletter that is always tough for me, because it is the newsletter in which I have to say goodbye.

The fifth graders have grown so much this year, and in so many ways. Their test results will show you that they have grown academically, with many of them meeting or exceeding goals that they set for themselves on the NWEA assessments. They have also grown socially, as they have taken on new roles within the school, and worked on community service projects

to show leadership and accountability to our school. They have also matured as individuals, finding out more about themselves, and taking on new interests. Their growth is my reward, and a gift to all the teachers in Woodstock School.

The fifth graders leave Woodstock with the knowledge that they will always have a family within this building, and are welcome back to visit any time. Every year we have graduates come back just to say hello, or to job shadow, and sometimes to work at events that our school sponsors. Many times students don't realize that they have changed physically, and as teachers, it is often hard to recognize our past students because they change so dramatically in middle school. One of my favorite moments of every day is dismissing the busses - not because I want the kids to leave, but because I get to see some of the students that I had previous years through the windows on the bus. They wave dramatically, and it always brings a smile to my face.

Every student that comes to Woodstock is loved and cared for. We are lucky to have such a strong community of students and teachers. It is hard to see our charges grow up and leave, but it is part of the cycle. This year's end will be a challenge, and tears will be shed, as with every year. This year will be particularly difficult because our grade 5 was so small this time. With only eight students, it was easy to become attached, and it will be so hard to say goodbye.

So I end this newsletter article with a heartfelt goodbye to my fifth graders. They will continue to grow physically, mentally, and academically over the years. They may come back to visit, or simply wave from the window of a school bus. Whatever they do when they leave Woodstock, they should know that they have made a permanent impression on all of the teachers and staff, and will always be part of our school's history and family.

RESOURCE ROOM - Mrs. Robinson

The school year has flown by very quickly. There are lots of activities going on so our schedule will be a little irregular the rest of the year.

I have enjoyed working with all of the students and hope that they take some time over the summer to do some reading, writing, and math.

I want to wish my fifth graders good luck at the middle school. I will miss you.

Have a nice summer everyone.

SCHOOL STORE - Mrs. House

The School Store is having a "BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE" sale next week. Our last day for any purchases will be on Friday, June 8th.

Thanks for all your support throughout the year, and a special thanks to the WPTA for funding some of our events.

ART - Miss Ingraham

Kindergarten has made some amazing pieces of work this year! I will be sending home a book that each student made. The book shows all of the important vocab words we learned this year. For our last art project of the school year we are working on making sunflowers with our handprints. Next week we will add tissue paper to the center of the flower shapes.

First grade just finished making batik butterflies. Each student cut out a butterfly shape and colored the entire butterfly with crayons. We dipped the paper butterflies into the water and crumpled the paper into a ball. Once the butterfly was opened again it made cracks in the crayon. We applied watercolor paint to the wet surface. The watercolor made the butterflies look like they had a crackled surface.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade worked on making drawings for the Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show. This contest is put on by the Bethel Historical Society. This year's theme was on the Androscoggin River. We looked at the history of the River and looked at some examples of artwork that had the Androscoggin River in it. Each student created his or her own interpretation of what the River contributed to people from the past.

M.K.A. – Mrs. Penley

MKA is closing for the year on June 13, 2007, at 6:00 PM! We will not be open on the 14th, due to the half-day of school.

GUIDANCE - Mrs. LaVallee

Student Responsibility - Part III

Responsible students learn to set goals for themselves. You can help them by taking these steps:

- 1.) At the beginning of the week, help your child identify one goal to achieve that week. Example, turn in the book report on time.
- 2.) Have your child write the goal on a piece of paper and post it on the refrigerator or bulletin board.
- 3.) Talk about how to accomplish the goal. Break the goal down into smaller steps. Example, read two chapters a night.
- 4.) As the week progresses, ask how things are going. If there are problems, talk about possible solutions. Example, allow ten extra minutes to work on the report before bedtime.
- 5.) At the end of the week, help your child evaluate how well he did. Did he achieve his goal? Why or why not?

Responsible students learn to plan their time. Getting things done on time takes planning. You can help with these steps.

- 6.) Help children set a daily schedule and keep it.

- 7.) Help children set a weekly schedule. If a child keeps a schedule for just 21 days, it will likely become a habit for many years!
- 8.) Use a calendar to help your child budget his time.
- 9.) Help your child develop a plan. Example, when he should study, how long he should study, where and what subjects he should study first, second, third...

Responsible students are ready ahead of time. Parents can help their children learn that being late or forgetting something doesn't just happen – it is a choice they make. Responsible children learn to make responsible choices. Children can choose to avoid that “crazy” morning time and other crises. Take five or ten minutes before bedtime to get ready for the next day. Get all homework and permission papers signed. Pack the backpack. Make lunch. Have the clothes laid out. Then get up early enough to eat a good breakfast and be ready to go. It's never too late to start. So, consider giving some of these suggestions a try!

Excerpts from “The Parent Institute”

MSAD # HEALTH COORDINATOR – Ms. Russell

For the 13th consecutive year, MSAD #44 will be sending a team to the annual Maine School-site Health Promotion Conference (a.k.a. the Wellness Conference) from June 25-28 at Sugarloaf. Six individuals, including two new members, will attend workshops and presentations and return home with an action plan to promote wellness for students and staff.

The Wellness Team consists of volunteers from the district, the community and the School Board. We are happy to have two WES staff members attending again this year- Karen Wilson and Barbara Russell.

INSTRUMENTS - Ms. DeVore

The Woodstock bands are ending this year with a bang! On May 3 both the fourth and fifth grade musicians traveled to the Grange Hall to play for the senior citizen's luncheon. They performed very well, delighting our older residents. The very next day the fifth graders went on tour, joining forces with the CPS and AES bands to perform at all three schools. By the end of the day we sounded like pros!

Recently the fourth graders formed a “marching band,” playing Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star as they marched across the blacktop outside the portable. They've even learned to do a two-point turn!

The fifth graders are madly trying to learn Carnival of Venice for Promotion Night. No small feat, learning a brand new piece in three weeks! Mr. Coolidge at the Middle School is going to enjoy working with these folks next year.

Have a great summer, everyone, and do remember to take your instrument out of the case every once in a while!

MUSIC - Mrs. Stowell

It's hard to believe that the year is nearing an end! The third, fourth and fifth graders have all been doing some recorder playing over the past weeks, and have progressed nicely.

The Kindergartners have learned a variety of duck songs, and listened to duck stories as well, they've even "sung in duck"!!

First graders have enjoyed call and response songs, and have added percussion instruments to +the response part of the songs.

Second graders used their high and low voices to sing in "And They Danced", and played sticks in the song "The Little Shoemaker."

PHYSICAL ED. - Ms. Russell

Being able to toss/throw underhand and overhand correctly prepares students for many activities besides baseball and softball! Examples include bowling, horseshoes, serving and overhead hits in tennis, badminton and volleyball.

This month, all grades have worked hard on their tossing and catching. K used beanbags, concentrating primarily on underhand tosses and stepping with the correct foot. Grades 1 and 2 did the same and added overhand throws using foam balls.

Grades 3-5 focused on proper technique of an overhand throw (i.e. arm position and stepping) and catching with two hands. Grade 5 also played some whiffleball. After working with partners, all classes played games that involved running and throwing, allowing the students to get some strenuous physical activity and have fun while practicing the skills. We will continue these activities to allow kindergarten students to be assessed on how well they cooperate and share the balls during the games.

Grade 1 students will take time out from the games to be assessed on how they have progressed on their skipping, galloping, jogging, and running.