

Celebrating 60 Years of Educating Essex Junction 's Children

September 30, 2011
Issue 172



Tuesday, October 4th
Picture Day
Classroom pictures will
ONLY be taken on this day.

Tuesday, October 11th
Fire Safety Assembly
8:15
&
PTO Meeting
at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Center
Free Childcare Provided



Scholastic Book Fair
October 12th-October 19th

Friday, October 14th
Mr. Neil and Mrs. Dall's
Classrooms are
off to the Pumpkin Patch at
Whitcomb Farms
Bus leaves at 8:30



Monday, October 17th
Ms. Mahoney &
Mrs. Hamilton's
Classrooms are off to the
Pumpkin Patch at
Whitcomb Farms
Bus leaves at 8:30

&
Ms. Comeau, Mrs. Macmillan & Ms.
Turcot's Classrooms are off to the
Flynn to see
"Sylvester and The Magic Pebble."
The bus leaves at 11:10.

Thursday, October 20th
Parent Conferences by Appointment;
NO School for Students Today and
Friday, October 21st



SUM-IT-UP AT SUMMIT



www.ccsvvt.org/summit

• Walk to School Day —

Wednesday, October 5th, is International Walk to School Day! We hope that you will join in the fun and use your feet or bicycle to get to school. Walk with your sisters, brothers, Mom, Dad, grandparents, friends, and neighbors - talk, enjoy being outside, get some exercise, and help our environment by leaving your car at home. Live too far away to walk or bike the whole way to school? Try "Park and Walk" - drive part of the way to school, find a public parking spot to leave your car (like street parking, a shopping plaza lot, behind Brownell Library, Maple Street Park, or on Railroad Avenue). No sun? No problem! Pull on those rain boots and get out your umbrella. Volunteers from school and Essex CHIPS will be there with some fun little gifts for you and to cheer you on for walking or biking to school!

• Concern about Dogs on School Grounds-

There appears to be an increasing number of parents appearing at school with dogs. In fact this week, we had an unattended dog appear on our playground during recess while children were playing. We strive to be very considerate of students with allergies to animals or emotional trauma around animals. We are judicious about this by not allowing animals in our school. We are asking you for the same sensitivity by keeping pets in the car when you come to pick up your child or at the very least standing behind the orange container where children are not traveling in that direction. Thank you for your attention to this safety matter. Principal Hughes welcomes questions regarding this expectation.

• Echo Pass Available for Loan —

Thanks to the PTO, soon the ECHO pass will once again be available to loan to our Summit families on a first come, first serve basis. We have had a pass to loan these past few years, and have found that it is very popular due to the reduced rate it provides for admittance to the ECHO Center. (No reservations for the pass will be accepted.) If the pass is borrowed for a day Monday-Thursday, it is expected that the pass will be returned to school the following day. If borrowed for the weekend, the pass will be returned on Monday.

• PTO —

Do you realize that you are an automatic member of Summit's PTO? Each month, parents faculty and administrators come together to discuss school and PTO events. Joint efforts schedule the calendar with community building activities as well as special opportunities such as the upcoming book Scholastic Book Fair. The next PTO meeting will take place on Oct. 11th beginning at 6:30 pm. and all are welcome to join. Please visit the PTO web page to learn more details about all of the activities sponsored by our PTO!

And on the subject of the PTO...we are seeking a treasurer. If you are interested in this position, please contact Christy Fay, at 878-9899.

• Fun Run —

Autumn is a suitable time of year to plan an outside school wellness event where children and guests run, walk or skip up to one mile (eight times) around the school playground (or

gym if it's raining). Music adds to the festivities and helps everyone to move. Healthy snacks are served when finished. Each child is encouraged to do his or her best and during P.E. class children are invited to set an individual goal. The number one objective is to have fun and enjoy this special school-wide event scheduled for the afternoon of Monday, October 31st. Specific times for each grade level will be sent home in October. Mark your calendars if you'd like to assist in helping children keep track of their laps, please call the main office.

- **End of Day —**

If your child walks home, please remind your youngster that when the whistle is blown at 3:10 this is a signal to begin heading home so that the crossing guards are there to assist. If no parent has arrived, children are asked to find the school adult with a vest so that calls can be made to inquire about the afterschool plan. School supervision ends by 3:20 so plan accordingly.

- **Natural Playground —**

The prospect of building the Summit natural playground is dependent on individuals stepping forward to assist in specific areas such as: communication, fundraising, writing grants, construction, and administration. Please consider taking on a leadership role so that this design becomes a reality. Contact the main office (878-1377).

- **NECAP —**

Third graders will take the NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) during the week of October 10th. Letters were mailed home to third grade parents./guardians explaining that the children are assessed during three sessions on literacy and three sessions on math. Children are given learning tasks based on the 2nd grade standards and serve as another indicator of how are children are progressing as well as the effectiveness of our educational programming. Results are mailed home to parents sometime in late winter.

- **Taking a Break —**

Part of transitioning to school is learning about school rules and guidelines. Your child may come home and share that sometimes at Summit Street School individuals are asked to take a break. After a warning, if a child continues to violate a school rule, a child is usually asked to take a break. This break may be at a desk or specified desk. Educators model for the children that this is an appropriate step to provide think time to someone who may be challenged to follow a school rule or classroom procedure. Some teachers call this the Think Chair, Break Chair or Peace Chair. This is not intended to showcase someone who has made a mistake but rather acknowledge that all of us (even the teacher) may need a few quiet moments to reflect, regroup before trying again. Taking a break may occur on the playground, in the lunchroom, at recess or in a classroom. This reflection time provides an opportunity for an individual to observe others who are following the direction, to regroup and prepare to follow the directions. Some teachers have a quiet signal to alert a child it's time to take a break; this message is best conveyed privately and individually. This is a strategy supported by the Responsive Classroom in assisting children to understand the expectations of school. Contact your child's classroom teacher if you would like to learn more about this.

- **Buddy Teacher —**

When a child has taken a break and continues to violate a rule, another step that is often selected is for the child to take a break in a buddy teacher's room, which is usually a nearby classroom. The class visits the buddy teacher's room in advance and talks about what it looks like when a child visits the buddy teacher's classroom. The routine is practiced just like taking a break within the classroom. This step is warranted for the child who is not taking the situation seriously and needs a break away from friends to regroup and think. After a brief period of time, the child is directed by the buddy teacher (who does not discuss the situation with the student) that it is time to return to his or her classroom. Upon arrival, the teacher touches base with the student and reinforces the expectations. This is another Responsive Classroom strategy that promotes an opportunity for children to learn to take time, reflect and rethink a behavior. Again, your child's teacher can explain the specifics to you about how and when this approach is used.

- **Open House —**

The annual Open House is a reminder of the wonderful parents/guardians who share their children with us. It was fantastic to see our school so full of joy as we anticipate a successful and engaging school year ahead. In October, we will be scheduling Parent Conferences, which provides an opportunity for parents and educators to sit together and discuss specific programming for each child. Do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any emerging questions or suggestions. We recognize that you know your child best and we hope to partner with you in providing the best learning year possible.

- **Special Thursdays —**

Please ask your child if they are participating in world language, health, guidance or information literacy on Thursdays. You can always learn about this curriculum by visiting our Summit web page.

6 Pillars of Character

Trustworthy, Respectful, Responsible, Fair, Caring, and a Good Citizen

These 6 characteristics will be replacing our well-loved "Stars of the Week" at Summit Street School. Students will be focusing on 1 pillar at a time, reading books with their teachers, doing projects, and learning about character in Guidance class. The first pillar we have begun to discuss is "responsibility." I read the book "A Big Mistake" and had students make a drawing out of a "mistake" (a squiggle mark). Hopefully they brought their creations home for you to see!

Students will be nominated by any adult or student for the focus pillar. These next few weeks it will be "responsibility." The adults will write the name of the student on a slip, state why he/she was responsible, and put it in the envelope outside my room. At the assembly every other week I will say the names and hand the slips to their teacher to give them to take home. This way students can be nominated for more than one thing or more than once. Of course I will make sure every student gets nominated at least once.

As we continue to teach our students, it is important to recognize the "whole child" and understand the importance of building character. We want our students to leave Summit Street School as healthy and happy parts of our community.



If you have any questions re. the 6 Pillars of Character, please contact Ashley Wageman at awageman@ccsuvt.org.

The program comes from the "Josephson Institute Center for Youth Ethics" and the webpage is www.charactercounts.org

Cell Phones



Ink Jet & Toner Cartridges



iPods & Other MP3 Players



Box Tops for Education - Collected by PTO Members

Campbell Soup Labels - Collected by PTO Members

Hannaford Receipts - Collected by PTO Members "During their Special Collection Times"

The money we receive from recycling cell phones, ink jet & toner cartridges & iPods & other MP3 players helps to cover field trip admittance fees for those students who cannot afford to pay.