



Westford School News

October 7, 2011

Principal's Corner

One More Tool for the Tool Belt!

Parenting Workshops offered at Westford Elementary

Parenting is the best and often the most challenging job anyone can have. My own three children have certainly taught me a lot! Two of the many things my children have taught me are that every child is different and that there is always more to learn about being a parent.

With this in mind, I am very pleased to announce that Kim Horton and our school Enrichment Committee have organized a series of parenting workshops for grades PK-4 starting on October 25th. These workshops will be lead by Scott Noyes of Essex Junction. Scott has presented nationally on a variety of parenting topics. The topics that Scott has planned will speak to a wide variety of parenting issues. Knowing that every child is different, Scott's presentations can give any parent helpful new ideas about parenting. Sort of like another new tool for your parenting tool belt. I hope many of our families can attend these events. Free food and childcare will be provided! Please let Kim Horton know if you are able to attend.

Sincerely,

3rd & 4th Graders Learn About Science

Mrs. Pingree's class learns about rocks and minerals

My class has been studying Rocks and Minerals. We did two experiments with our rocks. The first experiment was a scratch test to determine the hardness of the rock. They realized that most of their rock samples were around a seven which is pretty hard. The hardest is diamond which is a ten. The softest is talc which is a one. The next experiment that we did was to identify if their rocks had calcium carbonate in them. We applied a mild acid onto their rocks which was vinegar. If the rock fizzed, it meant that the rock had calcium carbonate in it. This is how caves are formed; when the acid rain falls, it eats away at the limestone which has calcium carbonate in it. During the course of

Parenting Education Workshops Coming to Westford School!



Presented by: Scott Noyes of "Empowering Programs"

www.empoweringprogms

For: Parents of students in pre-k through fourth grades

When & What: Come to one or all of them....Tuesday nights...

- **October 25th** "Routines, Rituals and Transitions"
- **November 1st** "Positive Discipline"
- **November 8th** "Helping Children Develop Healthy Sleep Habits"
- **November 15th** "Raising Children in a Violent Society"

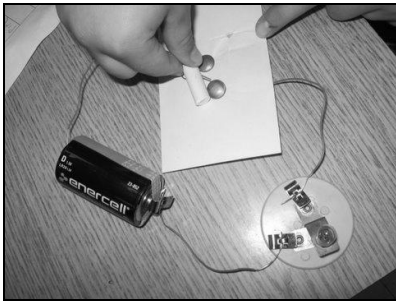
Where: Commons Area at Westford School

Time: 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Childcare and dinner will be provided for all that attend! Please R.S.V.P. to Kim Horton as soon as possible so we know how many people to provide for!



millions of years, the limestone forms holes which lead to passages and even rooms inside the earth. The pictures above show the students performing the acid test on their rocks. At the end of this activity, I gave each student a piece of chalk, which is limestone, and they put the vinegar on the chalk. Their chalk suddenly fizzed abundantly! This helped the students realize that caves are formed in this way which takes millions of years.



All 3rd & 4th grade students will be studying about electrical energy this year. The science standards require that students will demonstrate their understanding by building complete circuits and explaining why electricity flows or does not flow through a circuit. Students will also be asked to use experimental data to classify different materials as conductors and insulators. Currently, Mrs. Siegriest's 3rd & 4th class is building circuits while learning to make wire and switches from everyday household items. Recently they tested the conductivity of different materials by laying them across their homemade switches. A good conductor completed an electrical circuit that lit up a small light bulb.

Book Fair Volunteers Needed



Each year the Westford School library, in collaboration with the Westford PTO, hosts a Scholastic Book Fair. The proceeds from the fair help fund library inventory and programs.

This year's fair will be held from 11/28/11- 12/2/11. Family night will be held 11/30/11 from 4:00 to 8:00pm. We will need your help to cashier Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

If you are able to volunteer please call Kendra Myers at 878-5048 or email her at duckdown@yahoo.com.

Thank you! – We couldn't make the fair a success without you!

The Westford PTO is an organization in which parents and educators work together to enrich and enhance the academic experience of the children of Westford by supporting curriculum-based activities, athletics and fine arts.

All of our parents and teachers are encouraged to attend our regular PTO meetings which are held in the staff room. The next PTO meeting is this coming Monday, October 10th at 6:30 PM.



Mark your calendar for our annual Pumpkin Glow Halloween Event! October 27th from 6-8PM

Missing a pair of glasses? This pair was found on our playground this week. Call the school office to claim them



Attention parents of students in grades 5-8: The Parent Portal for grades is now open. Click the link on the right hand side of the school web page for access. Parents should have received a letter with login details. Login help is being provided by our technology department at 879-8192 or helpdesk@ccsuvt.org.



Our school community received some sad news last night. Phyllis Forsey lost her son Geoffrey after a long illness. Phyllis has worked at our school for many years as a teaching assistant and as a bus driver. Geoffrey and his children attended Westford Elementary. We extend our condolences to Phyllis and her family.