



Beyond the Ordinary

Established 1998

December 3, 2009

Upcoming Events

12/14-12/18	Scholastic Book Fair
12/17	Opus Event
12/21-1/1/10	Holiday Break-No School

A Big Thanksgiving Thanks!

Thanks to everyone that made our school and community Thanksgiving celebration a success. Despite it being such a busy time of year, all of our families went the extra mile to create a fantastic, homemade feast. The generosity of our school families and community members is amazing! We had such an abundance that we were able to deliver a full Thanksgiving meal to the Winhall Police Station—which they very much appreciated.

An extra special thanks to the following people that donated and cooked turkeys:

Tim Apps
Lisa Bauch
Laura Gianotti
Stacey and Dutstin Gordon
John Hunnewell
Megan McMahon
Jodi Morrison
Tara Senecal
Susie and Chris Thiele
Sally Wadsworth

Extended Care Program

A reminder that MSW offers extended care to families for a small fee. Students may arrive at the school at 8:00 a.m. (costs for mornings are only \$3/day) and/or stay after school until 4:30 p.m. (costs for afternoons are \$5/day). Students must have a permission form on file. Drop-off and pick-up take place in the Library. If you are interested, please contact the office.

Still Need Those Soccer Uniforms!

We still have **19 soccer uniforms out**. Please return the uniforms ASAP. Thank you!

Mrs. Clark's CD's for Sale!

Laura Clark, our music teacher, has offered 15 CD's to the school for sale at \$15/CD, with \$5 of every sale going to the school. Mrs. Clark is an extremely talented singer/songwriter with three CD's to her name. If you are interested in purchasing any of her music, please see the office.

Please Watch Your Speed!

Have you noticed the new speed limit signs as you drive up the driveway? Safety is always a priority, and thanks to the town, we have a newly posted limit of 15 mph. Please remember, there are students here that we must care for. Watch your speed!

End of Trimester

Tomorrow is the last day of the first trimester. Be sure to look for report cards next Thursday!

JISP News and Reminders

Reminder: The deadline for JISP forms and payments was Nov. 24th. **If you have not turned in forms and payments and want your child to participate, please contact Carol ASAP!**

The first day of JISP is Tuesday, 1/12. All students will be riding a bus up to Stratton at 12:30 p.m. (Lunch will be eaten at the school at 12:00). Volunteers must be at the bus stop to meet students by 12:40 sharp. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Betsy Wadsworth.

Daren M. Houck, Headmaster
Karli Spence, Assistant Head
Carol A. Stachelek, Office Manager

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A Word from the Headmaster

The Importance of Family

By Daren M. Houck

There is no better time than Holiday Time to remember the importance of family. Research supports that the home has the greatest impact and influence on students. After all, a student attending Pre-Kindergarten-8th grade at The Mountain School at Winhall will graduate having spent less than 10% of their life at the school. Where they spend that other 90%, as well as what they are doing and whom they are doing it with, all shapes the person they will be for the rest of their lives.

This Holiday Season I hope that every family starts new traditions together. Activities such as weekly family meal night (where everyone has a role in preparing a meal and eating it together), Friday night family game night (board games or card games for all!), Saturday afternoon community service time (what better way to instill this value into our children than do it with them?!), monthly family history and research sharing time (collecting old photographs together into a scrapbook and talking about them together), and more.

I hope that each and every one of you enjoys your time together. As a community, we hope to support each other in any way we can—share ideas of special activities you do with your family. Happy Holidays, and enjoy starting those new traditions!

Pre-K/K News

December is always a festive month. We are already beginning a few handmade gifts for our families. But, exactly what we are trying to make is a secret.

However, the food activities we cooked in November were fun. The PreK/K class tried its hand at making cranberry sauce and some Chinese American dishes like Chinese fried rice and Chinese egg roll salad. Thanks to our parents for contributing to our cooking lessons as

well as the Community Thanksgiving Dinner this month. Thanks also to Paul for opening the door to China for us.

During November, the PreK/K children listened to many stories like 'Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving by Dav Pilkey. _ _But, it was the books with lots of facts, such as On the Mayflower: Voyage of the Ship's Apprentice & a Passenger Girl by Kate Waters and If You Lived at the Time of Squanto by Anne Kamma, that appealed to them a great deal. _ I think Squanto could have a fan club.

Perhaps inspired by colonial times, the PreK/K worked steadily this month. Their efforts on reading activities, like sound drills, sorting sounds, and learning some letter formations, were good. For many of the students, our math skills involved recognizing numbers, counting, and instant recognition of quantities to five.

We are looking forward to singing for you on December 17th. Fa la la la la!

1st & 2nd News

Congratulations to our newly elected senators, Morgan Weber and Priscilla Hunnewell! They will join the school student senate as the representatives from our classroom.

We are continuing on in our study of Mexico and are preparing for our culminating events. We will be presenting a puppet show at the OPUS event on December 17th. We will also be having our Mexican Mercado at some point during the week before the holiday break. Katie Cyr will be getting in touch with you to ask for contributions for the market (cookies, small toys, etc.). Thank you in advance for your support!

This class has proven themselves to be amazing authors. I am so impressed with their abilities, I would like to have a winter Author's Tea, I usually do this in the spring. At this tea, each child will read one of their original pieces of writing followed by a time for you to have tea and cookies in celebration of their work. Please

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join us on Tuesday, December 15th at 2:30. I would like to make sure every child is represented by an adult. If you are unable to make it, please let me know so I can find a stand-in.

The 1st – 4th dance that was originally scheduled for December 11th is going to be rescheduled. We are hoping to have it on January 8th. We're just waiting for confirmation that the MRP room is available. More information to follow.

Enjoy this wonderful holiday season!

3rd & 4th Grade News

The Third and Fourth Graders have been enjoying having Ta Na, from Inner Mongolia, and Paul visit us on Tuesdays and Thursdays to give us an introduction to various aspects of Chinese-Mongolian culture. So far, we have engaged in discussion about the similarities and differences in our families and traditions, learned some Chinese words, and practiced writing Chinese characters. Paul has extended the learning in Art class by introducing brush strokes and techniques of Chinese watercolors, which we have been practicing in class. Next week, we will be preparing Chinese food.

We have also been planning and practicing for our performance in the Holiday Concert on December 17, 2009. Students need to wear all black clothing for the performance. If this is a problem, please let me know and we will try to find items for students to wear. We are very excited about it and are looking forward to sharing that with you.

Mrs. Burnett

8th Grade Student Spotlight: ?

My name is Bridgette Eichhorn and I'm in 8th grade. I like the Jonas Brothers. They are cool. I love my family, Mom, Dad, and Matthew and our pets. Calie and Sally are my cats. Sammy is our dog. I go to the lake in the summer. I can swim there next year.

*Did you guess last month's Student Spotlight?
Thanks, **Morgan Avera!***

Student Senate

MSW is pleased to announce the school's newest Senators per this week's elections. They senators are as follows:

Pre-K and K: Jack Morrison
1st grade: Morgan Weber
2nd grade: Priscilla Hunnewell
3rd grade: Patrick Lewis
4th grade: Allie Nowicki
5th grade: Cole Gianotti and Mikaela McMahan
6th grade: Caralyn Schwartz
7th grade: TBD
8th grade: Bridgette Eichhorn

Thanks, Senators, and we look forward to an exciting year together!

7th & 8th Grade Social Studies

In Social Studies students are writing a research essay that answers the essential questions, "Do ordinary people commit genocide and enslave fellow man?" We have been studying the Holocaust and modern day human trafficking.

8th Grade Math

In 8th grade math students are wrapping up the Pythagoras unit and are starting to build scaled frames of their dream cabins.

7thGrade Math

In 7th grade students continue to explore the importance of scale. We have been deriving heights of various objects by examining mirror images and shadows.

NEED MORE BOOKS ANG MAGS

We are trying to get some more books and magazines that are attractive to students in 7th and 8th grade for the classroom. If anyone is willing to donate books and magazines or money for books and magazines then please contact Jon Wilson and jwilson@themountainschool.org.

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Visual Art/Art integration News

The past few weeks have been busy in the art studio. We have been focusing on the fundamentals in a unit on the Elements of Art and the Principles of design. These are the building blocks of art, and we have been exploring them in various ways, in grades Pk- 8. We have also been busy on various integration projects and have been working with Tan Na, our visiting teacher from Inner Mongolia, China. As the trimester comes to a close I would like to acknowledge the great work that has been going on in the studio. Students have been working diligently and creatively on their assignments, I am proud of them.

In the next couple of weeks we will be focusing on preparing for our Holiday Concert (12/17) at 6:00. I am looking for one or two parents who can help to set up the stage platforms on Wednesday after school. If you are interested in helping out for an hour or two please contact me as soon as you can.

Looking forward to next trimester: We will be continuing to work on the Elements and Principles, but with a slightly different focus of applying them in creative ways. Over the latter part of the winter we will also begin preparations for the annual Empty Bowls project. We had excellent participation last year and I hope to involve even more community members this time around. As always, I invite you to visit your child class in the art studio and join us in some art making!

Have great and creative holiday season!

Library News

The library has some exciting things coming up very soon. Please mark your calendars for the week of December 15th. We will be having our Scholastic Book Fair from Tuesday the 15th.through Friday, the 18th. with lots of exciting new books and gifts for your holiday giving. There will be a special Family Night on Thursday, December 17th. which will be joined by our annual winter Opus event. If any parents

would like to help, I would really appreciate this. You can call or e-mail me at school.

The Book Fair allows teachers and classrooms to receive many helpful materials as rewards to supplement curriculum for their students. We have purchased many new books so far this year, and we hope to continue to do this. We have been listening to music by George Frederick Handel, and enjoying the art work of Edgar Degas. Our Red Clover books have taken us to many different continents this month. The library will have a new look, soon. Hope you are all enjoying this holiday season.

OPUS Potluck and Concert

There will be a potluck dinner for all families at 5:00 p.m. on December 17, followed by the Fall/Holiday concert at 6:00 p.m. The concert theme is "Journeys." Families with last names beginning in A-M should bring a side dish and N-Z bring a main dish. The Art Studio will be closed for a town meeting and the MPR will be full with the stage. Therefore, families will eat in classrooms with their students in a fun, family-style setting. We ask that families continue our start of a new tradition by bringing place settings for their own family. Remember, we are working on being a no-waste school. Each classroom has a sink and dish soap available for washing. Thank you for your support of this new tradition!

Development Report

This year's **Annual Giving Campaign** has already raised over **\$6,500!** Thank you to those families that have participated. We need your support more this year than ever before! Please share extended family names and addresses for participation as well...it takes great commitment and generosity to our students by all to make a school successful.

Thanks to Susan Levitin for donating **five new IBM desktops** to the school. The desktops have been placed in the homerooms and are available with special software to assist students in the writing process.

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A Voice From the Past: A nice note was placed in a recent Annual Giving contribution by a former Winhall resident. The note stated:

Dear Mr. Houck,

I look back to my history in Winhall with pride. I hope the residents and students and parents are fully supportive of the school. A great experiment.

*Sincerely,
Ed Bullock*

Thanks for the note and your continued support of our children, Mr. Bullock!

Monthly Values

On the first Thursday of each month, the entire MSW community meets for Morning Meeting. During this meeting, the school talks about certain values important to our school. September and October's value was "Cooperation." November and December's value is "Assertion." Today, students performed skits based on the following "rights":

- The right to be treated with respect
- The right to make mistakes and be responsible for them
- The right to refuse requests without having to feel guilty or selfish
- The right to ask for what you want (realizing that the other person has the right to say 'no')
- The right to be listened to and to be taken seriously
- The right to say "I don't understand"
- The right to ask for information

Be sure to help teach these values; as a community, we are all in this together!

Remember Those Hats and Gloves!

Winter is here. Please remember warm coats, hats, and gloves. Students need all three items everyday for recess. We go outside as long as it is above 10 degrees. Thank you!

Parent Advisory Board  Footnotes
Good Day Mountain School Families!

We had a brief PAB meeting on Wed, Dec. 2nd.

The PAB made a purchase of Basketball uniforms for the Middle School girls basketball team-yeah!

We would like to remind all families that there is plenty of space left to sign up to help sort and/or run bottles at the Winhall Transfer Station.

Last month the PAB threw an impromptu Teacher's Lunch which was very successful. Thank you to all of the families that made the lunch possible.

Thank you to Megan McMahon and Ric Swenson for coordinating our last Spaghetti Dinner in November. It was fantastic.

We have "Mountain School Gear" available to purchase via order form. All orders will be made to order.

We are also offering "Transpacks". These are ski bags which are available in 2 sizes, one for our small students, and one for our bigger students. Please find the form on the back of the newsletter.

I hope that the holidays treat everyone and their families very well.

Thank you for your continued support.

Amy Peckel, President PAB



Thank you to the Cyr family for their donation of a 10X10 storage space for our School!

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Procedures for public participation at Board meetings:

Individuals wishing to address the Board must contact the Board Chair at least 3 days in advance of the Board meeting. The contact should include the subject of the presentation and the approximate time needed to speak. Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.

The Mountain School Board of Trustees:

Debbie Peretz, Chair * Chuck Scranton, Vice Chair * Thom McMahan, Treasurer * C.J. King *Virginia Morgan *Ric Swenson * Betsy Wadsworth

Parent Advisory Board:

Amy Peckel, Chair
Lisa Bauch, Co-Chair
Susie Thiele, Treasurer
Abby Birch, Secretary
Megan McMahan/Rebecca Mann – PK/K
Katie Cyr/Sarah Weber – 1/2
Jodi Morrison – 3/4
Abby Birch/Denise Scholander – 5/6
Sherry Nowicki/Christie Archer – 7
Robin Apps/Susie Thiele - 8