



January 19, 2012

The Cub

The "Electronic" Voice of The Mountain School at Winhall

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Remember to Like Us on Facebook!

Do you have a Facebook account? If you do, MSW has launched a NEW Facebook page and needs you to "like" us - even if you did once before. You can see photos and updates, as well as receive important announcements via text messaging. Thank you for your support!

Middle School Dance Friday

This Friday is the Middle School Winter Dance, hosted by the 7th grade. The dance is from 7:00-9:00 p.m. A permission form (attached to this email) is required. *A reminder that middle school students must have all homework in to participate. A work room will be provided during the dance for students to complete their work so they may attend when their work is completed.*

JISP Reminders

Please remember to send your child in with all of their equipment on Tuesdays. Skis and snowboards cannot go on the bus, so please use the equipment buckets located in the front of the school. Students need passes, helmets, boots, gloves, snow pants and coats, gators and more. If you have a middle school child that can stay after to ski, please sign and submit the JISP Release form. See the office for more information.

Middle School Exploratory Classes Change for Winter

Winter Exploratory ("Explo") classes have begun. Students in 5/6 will be participating in a Study Skills class, students in 7 grade will be

participating in Speech class, and students in 8 grade will be participating in Cooking class. Students in 7/8 will also be participating in Wood Shop. *A reminder that all 7/8 students must submit a \$5 shop fee to the office. This fee was due last Friday.*

We Still Collect Print Cartridges!

A reminder that MSW recycles print cartridges and cell phones to assist in fundraising efforts. Please bring all used equipment to the office. Thank you!

Do You Have Pictures?

We are in need of school photos! If you have quality pictures of school events or activities, please share them. A blank CD is available in the office for anyone willing to share a large amount of pictures, or you may send a few via email. Thank you!

Peer Leadership Training

Attached is information regarding the Collaboratives Peer Leadership Training program. Middle school students interested in being a leader and mentor are encouraged to review the attached information. You may contact the Collaborative with any questions.

Basketball Teams Gear Up

This year's boys and girls basketball team have opened their 10-game season. This year's teams are comprised of:

Boys:

Sean Apps
Matt Eichhorn
Thomas Gordon
Madox Mathews
Turner Morrison
Murray Senecal
Taiaroa Tait
Davey vonAchen

Girls:

Alex Griffin
Sunny Lin
Fiona McMahon
Mikaela McMahon
Josi Mosher
Amelia Nick
Lilly Peckel
Caralyn Schwartz
Lucy Senecal
Natalia Thorsson
Annie Thorton
Haley vonAchen
Cali Wadsworth

Good luck Wildcats!

Classroom News

Here is some exciting news from some of our classrooms:

Pre-K/K News

This first trimester, the goal in the Pre-K/K room was to create a community. To create a supportive community, they established procedures, rules, and

expectations. As the children became aware of what it means to be a contributing member of a community, the class was introduced to work stations that allowed for creative exploration and learning. The photo below shows a glimpse of the classroom at work. In just this one snapshot, you can see: two student painting scenery for a skit, one student listening to a Tumblebook story on the classroom computer (www.tumblebooklibrary.com, username: mntschool, password: books), a teacher working with two kids on the rug with the hands on sound buckets, another student working on fine motor skills, and another student writing at a table.



Since "a picture is worth a thousand words," this classroom teacher has made it her goal to post more classroom pictures on Picasa to share with parents so that they can see the children working on learning.

Mrs. French would like to thank the parents for their continuing support in making and maintaining a strong community. Thanks to the adults who have come in to read aloud and to share their professions. There was also a wonderful response to the apple picking and ballet fieldtrips this

fall, as well as the Weston Playhouse trip this month. feeling confident that the MSW children will be respectful citizens.

1/2 News

Since returning from the December Holiday break, we began a unit on the Universe, Earth and Environment. Our unit will include some activities such as: keeping a nightly moon journal, painting the night sky, learning about some of the constellations, making moon cookies and eating our way through the phases of the moon, describing and comparing different types of rocks and soils, making a model of the water cycle and conducting experiments with the sun.

This unit will be the perfect segue into the study of China as many important discoveries and inventions related to the earth and solar system came from the Chinese people. During this unit we will explore the culture, geography, government, history, and arts of China. Teaching about China is very near and dear to me as I was fortunate enough to spend three weeks in northern China in the summer of 2004. We hope to collaborate with Sunny, our 6th grade international student from China as much as possible.

Over the course of these two units, we will be reading two new book club books; *Magic Tree House Midnight on the Moon* and *Magic Tree House Day of the Dragon King*.

3/4 News

It has been a fun and productive first trimester in the 3/4 class. Our first theme study, Underground, centered on caves, soil, and worms, and the most recent theme of Waves, was focused on ocean, sound and light waves. Students have enjoyed and written many forms of poetry, including bio-poems, Haiku, Diamante, and Cinquain. They have just finished listening to *Harriet the Spy* as a read-aloud, while pondering such questions as, “Are little white lies ever okay?”

We read many articles and stories in our monthly *Storyworks* magazine, and entered the December poetry contest.

The class recently received their first correspondence from the local “Farm to School” initiative. It was exciting to read a the letter from a farmer in Pawlet and get a real sense of her life and connection to the land. We look forward to another letter in January. Students now have digital microscope and a hand-held microscope in the classroom, along with a small collection of

bugs and slides, which they observe whenever they get the chance. The vermicomposting project has been a great success, and this month we will be gathering our first compost to enrich the soil for the plants in our classroom.

Chorus

Due to JISP on Tuesday, Chorus has been moved to Wednesday mornings from 9:00-9:30 a.m. during winter. Middle school students interested in joining are welcome!