



Beyond the Ordinary

Established 1998

June 4, 2009

End-of-Year Event

Please join us at the Bromley Thrill Zone this Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-on to enjoy the “end of the year.” See the office for more information or to buy tickets.

Kindergarten Graduation

The Mountain School at Winhall will host its Kindergarten Graduation on Monday, June 15 at 2:30 p.m. Congratulations to our 11 graduates!

8th Grade Graduation and Calendar

The 8th grade students will have their last “day” of school this Friday, June 5. They will be out of school Monday, have breakfast and rehearsal on Tuesday from 8:45-10:30 a.m., and graduation Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Please join us as we celebrate their accomplishment!

Middle School Dance

Want to dust off those dancin’ shoes? Join us this Friday night from 7-10 for the middle school dance. **We are still in need of chaperones in order to hold the dance.** Please let the office know Friday morning. Parents, please refer to the letter sent home Tuesday for needed donations and more information

Lost and Found

Our lost and found bins are overflowing! Please make sure to check bins for personal items. **Anything left over at the end of the year is donated.**

Upcoming Events

6/5	1/2 Montshire Museum field trip
6/5	Middle School Dance 7-10 pm
6/6	Bromley 10:30-5 pm
6/10	Great Escape MS field trip
6/11	Graduation 6:30 pm
6/15	Kindergarten Graduation 2 pm
6/16	Award Ceremony 9 am
	Field Day 1-3 pm
6/17	Last Day, 11:55 dismissal
6/22	Report Cards Mailed Home

Foreign Language Update

Thank you to all parents that responded to the foreign language feedback request. The Mountain School will retain its Pre-K-8 Spanish program. We are excited to find another outstanding, vibrant teacher to work closely with our students as they learn more about the Spanish language and Latin culture. We will keep you posted on our progress!

Welcome, Mrs. French

The Mountain School at Winhall is pleased to announce the appointment of Hilary French to the Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Lead Teacher position. Mrs. French lives in Manchester with her daughter and husband Daniel—recently named Vermont Superintendent of the Year (he serves as the superintendent of the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union). Mrs. French has been a teacher for 20 years and is certified both in Pre-K-8 Elementary Education and Early Childhood Special Education. We are excited to have Mrs. French join our team!

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

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A Word from the Headmaster

Time for Work!

By Daren M. Houck, M.Ed.

Abigail Van Buren, the advice columnist known as “Dear Abby,” once said: “If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.” Each June I write a letter to parents about the importance of students not only spending their time reading, playing, and relaxing, but also working. Researcher Marty Rossman at the University of Minnesota studied a group of young adults from the time they were young children. The startling results of the study were that the young adults who had participated in household chores when they were ages 3 and 4 **were more successful as adults than those who didn't**. Specifically, these young adults were more likely to complete their education, get a good start on a career, develop adult relationships and avoid the use of drugs. And get this: the early participation in household chores was deemed more important in their success than any other factor, **including IQ**. On the other hand, if children did not begin participating in household chores until they were teenagers, the experience seemed to backfire and had a negative effect on their success as young adults, using those same measures.

This year, though, I will stray slightly off this topic to discuss just what kind of “work” our children should be doing. American culture and European culture have strayed apart over the last several hundred years when it comes to the “artist” and the “craftsmen.” In Europe, those workers that are skilled craftsmen and women with their hands are still highly respected. However, somewhere down the line a segment of American culture (maybe those partly responsible for the economic downfalls we’ve seen?) has come to look down upon these skilled workers. Terms like “blue collar” have come to hold a negative connotation amongst certain folks (why do parents only seem to say they want their children to be doctors and lawyers?). What I find interesting is the work that many so-called “white collar” employees do to relax or find enjoyment. Woodworking, gardening, and

restoring old cars are just a few of the things that many accountants, day traders, and bankers do on those “off days.” Why?

I strongly believe that we as human beings not only find enjoyment in working with our hands, but also have a need for such work. The *New York Times* article by Matthew Crawford on May 24—entitled “The Case for Working With Your Hands”—addresses many of these same ideas. We not only have an innate need for this type of rewarding, difficult (have you tried logging all day?), and intelligent (have you looked under the hood of a new car recently?) work, but we have a direct need as well. The sense of satisfaction creating with our hands is supremely satisfying.

Crawford also talks about the advantages of these “hands-workers” in an economic downturn. Americans have stopped buying cars and motorcycles and dishwashers, instead choosing to fix the current (and still capable) ones they have. But who can fix these? Not the person on the phone in India, but the American mechanic right down the road. Our country has a need for skilled workers. They literally “keep America running.”

As summer approaches, I encourage all of you to find weekly tasks, chores, and responsibilities for your children. Not only assist them in their future success (as proven in the research), but also provide them with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that those who work with their hands feel everyday.

1/2 News

Reminder: Friday, June 5th is our field trip to the Montshire Museum. Your child needs to be at school by **8:00 am**. Please remember to pack a snack and lunch that does not require heating. We will have our culminating end of the year party on Tuesday, June 16th at 10:00 (field day is in the afternoon). Since it is in the morning, it will be a breakfast party. Please let me know if you can send in muffins, breads or fruit. Thank you!

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PK/K News

It is sad to be in the final weeks of the school year, but also gratifying to reflect on our accomplishments. The class this year has been truly amazing. Students are all kind and polite and enthusiastic about being here and learning every day. Every child shows they care about everyone, and it has made our class feel more like family.

Much learning has happened and I know it will continue over the summer. It is important for you to continue to read to them everyday, practice handwriting, both upper and lower-case, sound out and build CVC words and practice trick words. Doing this over the summer will help keep skills sharp and students will have a great start in the fall.

Graduation will be Monday, June 15, 2009. Hope to see you there!

3/4 News

Wow! I can't believe there are less than 12 days left of school! These are 12 action packed days! On June 10th, we are going on our super secret trip! For this trip students need to be prepared to be outside in all types of weather and environments. They will need rain coats as well as sneakers! I want to thank everyone for doing a great job of not spoiling the surprise! I know a few do know but they have respected those that wish to be surprised! Thank you! I also want to thank our drivers for volunteering their time. For this trip our drivers will be the following families: Pillsbury, Avison, Sweet, Gianotti, McMahan and Shchemelev! Thank you! We are looking forward to a great trip! We will leave at 8:45 am and return after the buses at 4:00pm. Please remember to plan for alternative transportation for your child!

In literacy, we recently shifted from studying the point of view of characters to the point of view of the author. We read several versions of 2 well known fairy tales and then compared them to see what each author's choices did to the story. As part of this study, we are also considering visual versions. As such, we had a great trip to see Cinderella as a ballet in Manchester. The students enjoyed the humorous "wicked"

stepsisters and identified that while the performance was not exactly as they remembered it, it did include the most important elements. We are now rewriting some fairy tales of our own!

In our thematic unit, we have been studying Canada. We started with making brochures and posters on modern day Canada and Canadian provinces but then quickly traveled back in time to see what life was like for the very first peoples who walked over the ice bridge from Asia as well as the first European settlers. I am trying to give the students an understanding of what life was like for the early settlers in Canada and Vermont. Lately, we have planned our journeys, experienced the motion of 10 foot ocean swells on the swings (many of us got seasick in moments!), experienced navigating the schoolyard with a compass and even enjoyed an old traditional pioneer bread called Bannock. The kids enjoyed this simple scone-like bread. Inuit children and campers today still enjoy this tasty easy to cook treat. In fact, Inuit children will often choose it over cookies! Here is the recipe for your enjoyment! As I said, it is simple pioneer food; they would have cooked it in a pan over the fire though this recipe lets you cook it in your oven! Enjoy! And if you are lucky, you may mix in dried or fresh fruits you have "gathered" in your travels to improve this great treat!

Bannock (Canadian Bread)

1 c Whole wheat flour
1/2 c All purpose flour
1/2 c Rolled oats
2 T Sugar, granulated
2 t Baking powder
1/2 t -Salt
2 T Butter, melted
3/4 c -Water; approx,

Stir together flours, oats, sugar, baking powder and salt. Add melted butter, raisins (if using) and water, adding more water if needed to make sticky dough. With floured hands, pat into greased pie plate. Bake in 400F oven for 20 to 25 minutes or until browned and tester comes out clean. Cut into wedges.

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5/6 News

Greetings!

5/6 has had many exciting learning opportunities in the last couple of weeks. We released our salmon eggs in the river, hoping for their success and healthy lives. We also completed our classroom designs for the Architecture for Humanity project. Working with two architecture students from Bennington College, they submitted a design that was a synthesis of their own knowledge and 5/6's ideas. We have learned a lot and hope to use some of their ideas in next year's classroom regardless of the outcome of the competition.

We are currently studying the American Civil War. On Monday, we visited Hildene where students had the opportunity to role-play as the Equinox Guards and learn how to march and sew socks! We then participated in a telegram activity where students communicated via telegrams to uncover one of Abe Lincoln's famous quotes. Finally, we took a tour of Robert Lincoln's home and learned many interesting anecdotes about the Lincoln family's life that made the history come alive! This week we will be exploring some artifacts from the American Civil War. Students are also learning about civil wars around the world for us to compare and contrast the causes of conflict.

As this is the last newsletter of the school year, I would like to thank all members of The Mountain School community for your support and enthusiasm towards education. Have a great summer!

7/8 News

Dear Mountain School Parents,

Hello! I am excited and honored to be the new 7/8 teacher. It has been a joy transitioning into the Mountain School over the past few weeks. I have felt welcomed by the positive energy, helpfulness, and openness of both the faculty and students. I am here Tuesday-Thursday until June 10, so please stop by anytime to visit.

To all involved with MSW: Thank you for welcoming me into your community and school. I look forward to working with each of you.

Kate Muir.

Mock Trial:

On Thursday, May 21st at 1:30 the 7/8 classroom was transformed into a courtroom with the honorable Peter Greenberg (aka Cat's dad) presiding. The prosecution and defense, comprised of 7/8th grade students, presented their arguments to a 12-person jury comprised of 5/6th grade students. The accused, Thomas Carter (Paul) was found innocent of 2nd degree murder and guilty of manslaughter. We had a fantastic discussion as the jury deliberated. Other 5/6 students played various roles such as court reporter, sketch artist, and family members of the victim and accused.

Thanks to all those involved that helped to make this a fun learning experience.

Pennies for Peace update:

So far students have collected almost \$200 in change for this fundraiser. Great job!

We still have two weeks left, so look under those sofa cushions and in between car seats and bring in that spare change!! Every penny counts and can help make a difference in a child's education.

"7/8 announced the last community service challenge, for this year, "Pennies for Peace" during morning meeting on Wednesday. Each MSW student, staff, and community member was challenged to collect "pennies" that will support the education of needy children in central Asia. Each homeroom and the office have a designated collection jar. We will update the progress of the fundraiser each week during all-school Wednesday morning meetings. MSW has a proud history of giving generously to worthy causes. We look forward to continuing that tradition during this challenge."

2008/2009 Yearbook:

Yearbooks are in! Thanks to the 7/8 students for working hard to create a fun and exciting yearbook. For those that did not turn in an order form a few extra copies are available in the office. The cost is \$10.

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MSW Garden Project:

We are looking for families to “adopt” our garden for a week over the course of the summer. During that week families would need to come to school (one day, however, you could come more than once if you want!) to weed, water, and harvest as necessary. The “tending family” is welcome to harvest and use whatever Mother Nature is offering that week. If you are interested in adopting our school garden for a week over the summer, please see Mrs. Houck to sign up.

Library News

The Library is happy to report that our Scholastic Book Fair was a great success. Many thanks to all of you parents and families who made this all possible. Please be sure to ask your children if I have reminded them of overdue books. It's really important to have as many as can be returned. I will be sending slips home. Also, please stop in and get a library card. We have some great books for adults. I enjoyed having your children this year. Next year our library will have a new look.

Spanish News

Thank you to those students who wrote sentences for the Spanish Newsletter. Thank you so much to Mr. Hasaj for helping with the 6th and 7th graders.

On June 12th, grades P/K through 5th will break piñatas. For this event, we need candy to fill the piñatas. Parents who would like to donate candy will be very much appreciated.

Box Tops For Education

Thank you to those families who have sent in their Box Tops. We just received a check for \$130.03! Please keep sending in your neatly clipped box tops! Thank you for your support!

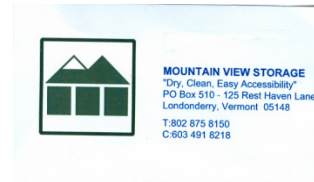
Lunch Stuff

Please help us keep MSW Green by packing everything your child needs to eat his/her lunch: napkins, utensils, etc. Also, please make sure that your child has his/her lunch with them when they leave for school.

Community News

Swine Flue Update

As of Tuesday morning there have been seven confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus in Vermont—two of those are K-12 students. Please carefully read the attached information provided by the Department of Health.



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

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:

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