

October/November  
2008

# CPS Newsletter



## Mrs. Paula Southard-Stevens, Principal

Winter is upon us, and as always, safety is a top priority. While driving around our schools, remember to watch for students who may be behind snow banks, or slipping into the traffic flow. Also, be sure to follow all of the parking area designations.

The staff members at all of the Charlestown Schools wish all of our families a happy and healthy holiday season.

### Important Dates to Remember

11/26 - 11/28: No School - Thanksgiving Vacation

12/2: PTA Meeting 7pm at CMS

12/12: CPS Winter Concert 1:30pm at CMS

12/17: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band performance 2:00 pm at CPS

12/24 - 1/2: No School - Christmas Vacation

1/19: No School - Martin Luther King Day

1/30: Report Card Day

2/16 - 2/20: No School - February Vacation

## Music Notes: Ms. Lefebvre & Mrs. Armstrong

Many thanks to all who participated in our first annual Veterans' Day celebration! We hope you can join us for our upcoming Winter Concerts, which are as follows:

**Charlestown Primary School Winter Concert** - Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Middle School gym. This will be a vocal performance by students in grades 1-5, with the kindergarten students joining us for the final song.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginner Band** - Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Primary School gym.

### A Look Inside:

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## From the Nurses Desk: Mrs. Mary Kane

### Winter Concert Info.

**12/12:** CPS Winter Concert at CMS 1:30

**12/17:** CPS 5<sup>th</sup> grade band performance 2:00 in the CPS gym

CPS was chosen to participate in the NH Department of Health and Human Services 2008-09 Third Grade Healthy Smiles - Healthy Growth survey. The purpose of the survey was to gather information about oral health, height, and weight of children living in New Hampshire. A dental screening was performed by a dental hygienist, and information about healthy eating and physical activity were provided to each student.

Thank you to all our students and parents who participated in our Thanksgiving food drive to benefit the local food shelf. Five very large boxes FULL of your generous donations were delivered to the food shelf on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our custodian, Kim Benware, for making that delivery for us!

## News from the Resource Room: Mr. Rosinski & Mrs. Beneat

What an exciting start we've had this year in Mr. Rosinski's and Mrs. Beneat's resource room. We're both working with students from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade with specialized reading programs and modified math. We've introduced a new reading program called "Accelerated Reader" to help our students with reading comprehension. Students are getting immediate feedback by taking tests on the computer to show what they've learned. They love it! A special thank you to our Reading Specialist, Meg Green, for implementing this very successful program. Our reading students are also showing their independence with "Read Naturally". This program focuses on improving fluency. Every student works at their own pace, and we are all impressed with their results. 5<sup>th</sup> grade math instruction is done in each student's home room with the assistance of Mrs. Beneat, Mrs. Knox, and Ms. Waysville. 4<sup>th</sup> grade math is a small group that meets every day in our room and focuses on remediation of basic math facts, along with our math program, Investigations. The students also enjoy various math games and puzzles. We are looking forward to a well-deserved Thanksgiving break!

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual fundraiser!

## Kindergarten News: Mrs. Hesch, Mrs. Alford, & Ms. Roe

The annual kindergarten Trim-A-Tree will be held in the school cafeteria on Thursday, December 4, from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. Kindergarten children and their parents will create tree decorations for our holiday tree. Each child will also make a take home ornament. The children will also bake and decorate holiday cookies to enjoy that evening. At the conclusion of Trim-A-Tree, the children will sing for their parents under the direction of Ms. Lefebvre, the music teacher. Proceeds from the school fundraiser will be used to purchase materials and ingredients needed for this event.

The kindergarten children recently enjoyed a trip to the Silsby Library for a presentation on owls given by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Woodstock, Vermont. The library received a grant for this presentation and invited the kindergarten classes. The teachers and students would like to thank the Silby Library staff for this wonderful and enjoyable opportunity.



## Reading Specialist: Ms. Green

CPS recently purchased a computer program entitled Accelerated Reader (AR). AR directs students to books at their independent reading level. When students complete their book, they will take a computerized quiz. A report automatically prints out when a student completes the quiz. Information printed in each report not only gives the student and teacher the score of the quiz taken, but also a cumulative of all previous quizzes.

It is important to note that we want to see students maintain a cumulative average between 85% and 96%. If a student's average is too high, then she or he is not reading books that will gently challenge her or him with reading progress; conversely if the average is too low, then a teacher needs to investigate the cause and help resolve the issue with the student.

I have had the good fortune to work with the AR program in previous school districts, and my experiences there are proving to be true here at CPS. Students are very excited about taking reading quizzes on the computer. Their enthusiasm is contagious. They are eagerly asking for books and recommending books to each other. They are also reading together and helping each other out with reading strategies if someone has a problem or gets stuck. AR provides a fun way for the students to experience reading success and fosters a desire to keep reading.

The AR program is now serving students who are ready to read quizzes on the computer with minimal assistance. In the days to come, I suspect that your child will have a story to share with you about their experience using the AR program.

The implementation of the AR program is quite labor intensive. Books need to be labeled and categorized. Therefore, if anyone would like to volunteer with these tasks, feel free to contact me. I welcome your help.

## First Grade News: Ms. Ashley & Mrs. Campbell

Both first grade classes are close to finishing their units on geometry in math class. During this unit, students strengthened their spatial skills by composing, decomposing, sorting and classifying a variety of two-dimensional shapes. We are also continuing to work on problem solving skills and addition skills.

We're very pleased with the progress that our students are making in reading. Our first graders are using many different strategies to read unknown words, and everyone is working hard to read more fluently. Hopefully you are seeing some of the same progress as you read with your first graders every night.

It's this time of year that we like to remind parents to be certain that all students have their names inside their sweatshirts, jackets, gloves, hats, etc. First graders are expected to be able to dress themselves to go outside each day. Some of the jackets tend to have tricky zippers; if necessary, please have your child practice zipping his/her coat at home to be sure this can be done independently.

If any of you have any special hobbies, skills or talents that you think might interest our students and fit in nicely with the first grade curriculum, we'd love to consider having you come in to work with the students. Please let your child's teacher know if you'd like to come in to share your expertise.

Both classes have discussed the story of the Pilgrims, the Native Americans, the Mayflower, and what we now think of as the very first Thanksgiving feast. We wish you all a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

## Title 1 News: Mrs. Beer, Mrs. Martin, Miss Waysville, Miss Botting, & Mrs. Beam

Have you ever attended a Title 1 family activity? As our Games Night invitation says, "The fun starts here at Title 1!" We have several evenings planned for our Title 1 math and reading students and their families, so please be on the lookout for your invitation!

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have already hosted many families from around the district at our popular Games Night in November. The hour always goes quickly while we enjoy math and reading games together. Then on December 16<sup>th</sup>, we will host our Bedtime Story Night for Title 1 first and second graders. In January there will be a parents' program, and February will be the month for a math night. Stay tuned, other events may follow!

Title 1 gives extra reading support to qualifying students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> and supplemental math help to those who qualify in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. Our reading program teachers are excited to be continuing student help in Foundations, the Wilson Language System, and Read Naturally. This year we are also eager to be a part of the Accelerated Reader program that Ms. Green is introducing to the whole school. The most rewarding days are when we see students enthusiastic about a book or about their successes!

To view this newsletter online, visit the Charlestown Primary School page on our district website:  
[www.sau60.org](http://www.sau60.org)

### THANK YOU!

The students and teachers in kindergarten, grade one, and grade two would like to extend a very special thank you to

Mr. Berquist

and the

Charlestown Fire Department.

Mr. Berquist generously donated his time to provide the students with a program on fire safety. Each child received an activity pack on fire safety and a calendar. The highlight of the visit was the tour of the fire truck.

Thank you Mr. Berquist!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News: Mrs. Olsen & Ms. Parkinson

The third grade has kept very busy this fall! In math, we have finished studying data collection and graphing, and we are learning all about multiplication! The students are very excited to learn about factors, products, and arrays. In social studies, we are currently studying Native Americans and regions of The United States in preparation for our Harvest Breakfast. Our cursive writing is improving every day, and we cannot believe how many lowercase cursive letters we can write. Parents often ask how what they can do at home. Please continue to read nightly and practice multiplication facts. We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News: Ms. Olsen & Mr. Pavao

It is a wonderful world of science, discovery, and nature in 4th grade. Did you know that the skunk can spray a target from 12 feet away? Or that a Gray whale can travel over a thousand miles a year? Fourth graders are learning many interesting ways that animals adapt to their environment to survive. Students have really embraced their new science textbooks with wonderful visuals, activities, and topics that connect science to reading. One of the grade level goals in science is that students begin to understand and interpret how humans impact their environment. We will be reading a story called Just a Dream by Chris VanAlsburg that focuses on what can happen to our world if poor choices are made about caring for it.

Our students have started an exciting new reading program called Accelerated Reader to help boost fluency and testing scores. Our classroom libraries are being organized according to reading levels to make choosing appropriate leveled books easier for your child. Our reading specialist has been a tremendous asset in getting this program off the ground! Accelerated reader is in addition to your child's current reading instruction giving them the opportunity to increase their reading skills at their own pace.

Students are making great gains in learning how to solve multiplication story problems. Please remember to read the parent note at the top of the homework page for additional support and extension activities. Be on the look out for the investigation parent letters that will help explain what we are learning and how we are teaching certain concepts. They give examples and explanations of how to talk with your children about math. Also, the hard cover student text resource has great visuals and steps for understanding math through pictures.

With the holidays around the corner, let us not forget to be thankful for the joy these children bring into our lives. We work with them, and for them, hoping to guide them to reach goals beyond their expectations. At this time of year, it is good to remember to appreciate the opportunity this affords us.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Science by Tim Fitzpatrick

I liked learning about migration and habitat and how genes are passed on from your parents. We learned how animal population can go up or down. We learned animals can go into extinction. It takes a very long time before an animal's habitat can be repaired.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Animal Science by Sadie Hentschel

I really enjoyed learning about birds and the different kinds of beaks they need in order to survive. We learned about migration. We played a game about it. We learned that when a human takes an animal's habitat and puts something else in its place, the animal might not be able to adapt to it, so the animal might become extinct. An animal's habitat has to have its basic needs. Every animal's basic needs are food, water, shelter, and air.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Science by Dana Dearborn

We did a migration game and we were different types of birds and we would jump or fly from tape to tape. Each piece of tape is two square feet and there were developers. They would take away our habitat and some birds almost became extinct. The population of some birds went down a lot and a lot of the birds' basic needs were water and when the developers took the water lands, a lot of the birds died. They died because they couldn't fly or jump to the next water land. Then environmentalists came and brought the land so the birds could make it to Florida and back. I learned how it felt like when birds have to fly farther than they should. I also learned how it felt like to be endangered because there were only two of my kind and one died. I learned that science can be fun and it is hard to get places by flying.

The Charlestown Primary School staff wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

Help earn cash for our school by clipping and sending in Box Tops 4 Education labels.

### From the Office: Mrs. Pilvelait & Mrs. Wyman

Your child's safety is very important to us. Please remember to call the office if your child is absent. At the beginning of the school year we sent home each child's registration information in order for it to be updated. If at any time throughout the school year this information changes, please contact the school office.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News: Mrs. Boisclair & Ms. Chase

It has been a busy fall for the second graders. Much of this past month has been filled with play rehearsals. Students auditioned for the Thanksgiving production and were all given an important part. We have memorized lines and practiced our acting. This big performance will be the culmination to our Pilgrims and Indians unit.

Kids and Cops will begin this month and will take place each month for the remainder of the year. This program allows local police officers to be a part of our classroom community once a month. In December we will take part in the second annual Kids Giving Back to Kids. The students will go with the officers to Walmart. They will be broken up into groups and each group will be Christmas shopping for a specific child in the community. Students will need to budget their group's money, use estimation skills and problem solve. You will receive more information on this soon.

As the cold weather approaches, please remember to send your children with all they need to stay warm at recess!

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News: Mrs. Desilets, Mrs. Edson & Mr. Meyers

Since the last newsletter, we're finding that our fifth grade is full of aspiring poets! While doing writing exercises that incorporate feelings, senses, alliteration, and assorted literary devices, the students are increasingly showing an interest and enthusiasm for writing. In addition, they are realizing their own potential and imagination.

Our work in the math Investigations program continues to build on concepts we've learned from the first quarter. Students are utilizing multiplication to help them find volume of rectangular prisms, and how the dimensions of a box change when the volume is changed. Some future activities include organizing rectangular packages to fit in rectangular boxes and constructing different units of volume.

In social studies we've been discussing the varying theories on the earliest inhabitants of the Americas. Through some cooperative group research, students were able to focus on a particular geographic area and report to the rest of the class on which Native American tribes it included, as well as their food, shelter, land features and climate, and any other facts their group found interesting.

In science we wrapped up our weather unit with an awesome weather program presented by the Museum of Science, Boston! Matthew, the presenter, used many students to demonstrate weather phenomena and tested their weather knowledge. We were able to share this experience with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, as well as the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade from the North Charlestown Community School. Now we're gearing up to study matter in science with lots of fun and engaging experiments!

Mrs. Desilets would like to thank the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who have been doing the recycling each week. Great job! A special thank you to Monica Santaw who has been helping train other recyclers.

**Charlestown  
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Fall Mountain Regional School District  
"Improving Lives"

**We're on the Web!**  
visit us at:  
[www.SAU60.org](http://www.SAU60.org)

## Financial Assistance

### Home Mortgage Concerns

Residents with concerns or questions about their mortgage are encouraged to call the Department of Banking Hotline at 1-800-437-5991. Trained, knowledgeable staff will be available from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.  
<http://www.nh.gov/banking/outreach.html><http://www.nh.gov/banking/>

### Fuel Assistance Program

Helps households in a heating emergency by securing emergency delivery of fuel, delaying a shut-off notice, or referring clients to another source of assistance.

Cheshire County: 352-7512 Ext. 4122, 4124, 4224, 4142  
Sullivan County: 542-9528 Ext. 4311, 4321

### Electrical Assistance Program (EAP)

Southwestern Community Services is scheduling appointments for the Energy Assistance Program. The EAP program is designed to help applicants obtain a discount on their monthly electric bill. This program is available for all customers no matter what utility services their home.

For more information regarding this program or to make an appointment call: 352-7512 Ext. 4122 or 4224.



Fall Mountain Regional School District does not and will not discriminate in any of its educational programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sex orientation, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability.

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