

**Please attend the FMRSD  
Annual Meeting on Thursday  
February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM  
At Fall Mountain High School**

Copies of the 2009 Annual  
Report are available in the  
Office.

*Vilas Times*

January 2009



**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.**

**Title IX Coordinator, 504 Coordinator, and English Language Learners Coordinator  
Lorraine Landry, M. Ed., Assistant  
Superintendent SAU60, PO Box 600, 159 East  
Street, Charlestown, NH 03603 (603) 826-  
7756**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**FMRSD Annual Meeting - Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup>  
6:30PM at the high school**  
**Math Meet at Newport- Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup>  
Semi-Formal/Masquerade Ball - Saturday  
February 14 - Vilas Gym**  
**School Vacation - February 16 - 20**  
**FMRSD All-District Concert - Thursday February 26  
7PM at the high school**  
**NAEP Testing - Grade 8 - Wednesday February 25**

**Dr. Woods - Principal**  
Dear Parents and Students,

The NECAP scores show that our teachers and students are working very hard. The Alstead Attendance Area made substantial gains in reading, mathematics, and writing.

Vilas Middle School gained 5% in reading (65% to 70%), 6% in mathematics (60% to 66%), and 30% in writing (36% to 66%). Our eighth grade gained 14 points in reading (from 58% to 72%), 27 points in mathematics (from 60% to 87%), and 31 points in writing (36% to 67%).

Alstead Primary School gained 6% in reading (54% to 60%), 17% in mathematics (39% to 56%), and 21% in writing (19% to 40%).

Sarah Porter School gained 9% in reading (70% to 79%) and 11% in mathematics (60% to 71%).

Acworth Central School gained 5% in the percentage of Level 4 students in reading (10% to 15%) and dropped 15% in the percentage of Level 1 students in reading (30% to 15%).

We will continue to work diligently toward your children's success. We thank you for all of your encouragement and support. We could not have accomplished our goals without your assistance at school and at home.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Woods

**Mrs. Massicotte -6, 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math and Math Team**  
The 6-1 math class finished a unit on data and statistics in October. We have learned about mean, median and mode and outliers. Graphing line plots, line graphs, bar graphs, and analyzing circle graphs have been studied in this unit. We have also learned about scatterplots and factors that can misrepresent the data on a graph. Our second unit of study was reviewing arithmetic operations, estimating and learning about exponents and order of operations which are necessary for algebraic expressions and equations. Decimal work comprises our third unit.

In September the seventh grade math classes learned about the language of algebra: formulas, variables and inequalities. We have also worked on various methods of solving problems such as: guessing and checking, finding a pattern, making a list or table, using a model, and eliminating possibilities. Our second unit of study was a review of decimals, factoring, fraction/decimal conversions and scientific notation. Fraction review is ongoing through the months of November and December. Dynamath Magazine is assigned monthly as independent work.

The eighth grade class has also worked on problem solving strategies. We have finished a unit on data analysis and learned about different ways to display data such as box and whisker plots, histograms, bar and line plots. Our second unit of study encompassed a review of integers. The eighth grade is now working on the language of algebra including formulas, variables, equations and inequalities. Scholastic Math Magazine is assigned twice a month for independent work on problem solving. Calculators may be used as the focus is on reading and interpreting which strategies and procedures are required in order to solve real life math problems.

The algebra class has studied connections to algebra including: exponents, equations, inequalities, verbal and algebraic models for problem solving, integers, the distributive property, matrices, ratios and rates. We are working on linear equations and graphing, utilizing different procedures for solving real world applications.

All math classes practiced and reviewed for the Map and NECAP exams which were held during October. I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of doing our best work for these tests. We have two more MAP tests this year. Please encourage your child to complete all assignments for math class. This practice will help cement the concepts taught in class. The GLE'S (grade level expectations) for 6th, 7th and 8th grade are rigorous and cover a wide range of math topics: numbers and operations, geometry, algebra and functions, statistics and probability.

In addition, there are a few students who need to master the multiplication tables. Having this secure foundation is essential in order to advance in the study of mathematics. Please help your child find the time to practice at home.

As always, I am available for tutoring before school (8am) and seventh period daily. Please encourage your child to take advantage of this extra help. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call the school and we can make an appointment.

### **Math Team News**

The Vilas Math Team worked hard, practicing for our second meet which should have been held December 11<sup>th</sup> in Lebanon, New Hampshire. The meet was cancelled due to bad weather and we took the tests at our school. Categories included integers, scientific notation and exponents, combinations and permutations and divisibility and primes. Team members who competed at this meet were Alexis Savage, Vicky Walker, Rose Leone, Hannah Yoerger, Shawn Taylor, Rob Franklin, Chris Henry and Evelyn Honey. We will not have the results of this second meet for a while, but I will be sure to let you know in an upcoming newsletter.

Our first meet was held October 30, 2009 in Woodstock, Vermont. Vilas placed second overall in team standings out of 12 teams! Rob Franklin tied for third place in individual scores with a total of 25 out of 30 points. Alexis Savage had the second highest score of 22 points for our team. Categories included arithmetic fractions, order of operations, percents and word problems. Team members who participated in this meet were: Heidi Miller, Alexis Savage, Blaine Lessard, Jaqi LaChapelle, Shawn Taylor, Rob Franklin, and Chris Henry.

Team members include: Jaqi LaChapelle, Hannah Yoerger, Vicky Walker, Heidi Miller, Alexis Savage, Blaine Lessard, Shawn Taylor, Rob Franklin, Chris Henry, and alternates Rachel Therrien and Evelyn Honey. Only eight members (4-8<sup>th</sup> graders and 4-7<sup>th</sup> graders) can compete at each meet so we will take turns throughout the year in order to give everyone a chance to compete at one of the four meets.

Our new members have ordered team shirts to promote team spirit and unity. Vilas rocks!

### **Señor Schilb - Foreign Language**

¡Hola! My name is Señor Schilb. I am the new Spanish teacher. I am very happy to be in the Fall Mountain Regional School District. This second trimester has brought me to Vilas where I have enjoyed meeting my new students, some of which I will have over a three-year period. In the past, students were taught Spanish along with other languages. I will only be teaching Spanish, so we will be able to focus more in dept on the actual language and culture.

Up to this point, my sixth, seventh and eight grade students have been learning the same materials. We started with identifying all the countries (and territories) in the world where Spanish is spoken as their first language. Students had to identify these places on a map. We then made piñatas in class during the week before the holiday break. These two topics focused more on the culture of the class. When we returned from break, we started the language portion of the class. Students learned the Spanish alphabet. Learning the sounds of each letter in Spanish is very important for learning how to pronounce words in Spanish. Students are currently learning how to greet each other, say goodbye and use courtesy words in Spanish. They are forming skits which are being video recorded so students see and hear how they sound in Spanish.

Over the next six weeks, students will learn an array of vocabulary words on topics such as numbers and clothing, to telling time and weather/seasons. The eighth grade will focus on verbs and their conjugation in Spanish.

### **Mr. Meek - 6, 7 & 8th Grade Social Studies**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade US History:

The year began with the rise of early peoples changing their civilizations from hunter-gatherers to an agricultural community. From there we moved on to the studying of different Native American groups throughout the North and South American continents focusing on their cultural adaptations to their specific environmental areas. Moving on from there we studied the social changes in Europe that caused European explorers to look west and their accidental discovery of "new" lands and people. We are just finishing our latest topic of the rise of economic rivalry focusing on the establishment of colonies such as Roanoke, Jamestown, and Plymouth which have been topics of discussion within the classroom. We are currently on our way down the road to revolution which will lead us to the second half of our year.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade World Geography:

We started this year with the basic building blocks of geography. Map skills such as reading and making maps have been employed by our students on a regular basis and will be a central feature of the projects to come. Geography terms and physical features and landforms have also been discussed within our classes so that an understanding of such things can be utilized in our projects. Our first project dealt with the continent of Europe and the social changes that lead to the Cold War Conflict between Russia and the United States. Moving on with the year we are underway in Africa and the geo-political issues at hand within the countries of the different geographic regions focusing on the specific vegetation and wild life. We will continue by focusing on the other continents of the world finishing with North America, which will flow nicely into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum of US History.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade World History:

Introducing the topic of World History to our 6<sup>th</sup> graders was done by explaining how humans change from basic survival as hunter-gatherer societies to thriving within agrarian communities. We then move onto how this change allows for the rise and spread of different cultures and civilizations. Starting with early river civilizations such as the Mesopotamian Empires, the Harappan Empire, the Shang Kingdom, and the more familiar Egyptians. Ancient world tension and chaos led us to the formation of city-states and later military empires, which begin our study of the Greeks and eventually the Roman Civilization. We are currently finishing our unit on Greek Myths dealing with the Gods and Goddesses moving on to the first basic history/myths of Greece, which is the Trojan War.

#### **Mr. Harrison - 6, 7 & 8th Grade Science**

There has been quite an adjustment period for the 6th grade, having a schedule that fully integrates them into the middle school and having a science program that is very similar to that of the 7th and 8th grade. They have made steady progress since August. We are in the middle of an Earth Science unit, at the beginning of which we focused on how the earth's surface is formed and altered. During one class period in the fall we took a mini field trip to the gorge just down the road to look at the affects of glacial meltwater. Now we are focusing more on how the earth's interior affects the movement of continents and earthquake and volcanic activity. Part of our study involves the understanding of heat transfer by conduction, convection and radiation. We have focused particularly on convection currents, and through a recent series of labs, students explored density.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade is currently studying chemical changes and the periodic table. This is after finishing a unit on cells and cell functions. A recent lab explored the different factors that affect the rate of a chemical reaction. In this lab we used vinegar (a weak acid) and magnesium and we varied the concentration, the surface area and the temperature of the reactants to observe any differences in reaction time. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade is also taking part in a program through The Cornell Lab of Ornithology called Project Feeder Watch. This is a citizen science project in which the students identify and count bird species on the school grounds and add that data to that of others from all over the country. For the third year in a row, our students will incubate Atlantic Salmon eggs, raise the fry and release them in the Cold River. The eggs arrive in January.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade is currently studying genetics after completing a unit on weather. During the weather unit we took regular outdoor readings on air pressure, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and cloud type. We used this data to predict the weather and we also compared our readings to those of weather stations from around the world. The unit culminated with students producing a power point severe weather report. The students are now working on a project on genetic disorders, in which they will produce a three-fold informational pamphlet. The final part of this unit will be a study of evolution.

#### **Ms. Ferland - 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English**

Grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> are all very busy working on perfecting their writing skills. Creating really effective pieces of writing has been the main focus of the year so far. The students have written several pieces including narratives, autobiographical pieces and some creative

writings. Their skills are improving, and we have several strong writers emerging.

In addition to writing, the classes have been studying literature. We are examining all aspects of literature, but we are most specifically focusing on interacting with the text. It is not enough to just read the words. We also have to search for the authors' messages. We discuss the intent of the author. We talk about the words used and why. We have really learned about figurative language and have experienced the impact that figurative language has on the reader. As well as learning about imagery, similes and metaphors, we are also revisiting idioms. Idioms have proven to be one of the least understood expressions so far.

So far the year has been very productive. I look forward to the second half of the year as the students learn to roll with the punches of higher expectations. Hopefully the students will continue to put their shoulders to the wheel and persevere. (Sorry, couldn't resist...)

#### **Mrs. Ferreira - 6, 7 & 8th Grade Language Arts**

Mrs. Ferreira - 6, 7, & 8th Grade English  
The emphasis in all of my classes has been focused on creative writing. We are working very hard, and our effort is beginning to pay off. Students are learning how important a good beginning is to draw you into a piece of writing. We are learning about transitional words, and the importance of proper sequencing when writing. Along with creative writing the students have read several interesting chapter books. We discuss the books, answer literal and inferential questions and learn about the different genres. Vocabulary lessons and word review are directly correlated to the chapter books.

The sixth and eighth grade students have just finished a fun 'Who am I project'. Please stop by Vilas and see if you can find your child. In addition to our 'Who am I projects' the students have been working on poetry. They are busy reading and writing their own poems. Please stop by and read the wonderful 'What if poems that the students have written. Both projects are displayed in the hallway as you enter the building.

7-1 Prior to Christmas break the students read the book, *A Christmas Carol* written by: Charles Dickens. They discussed and reviewed the elements of fantasy writing and realistic fiction, then completed a book project. Next they tackled poetry by reading *The Raven and Other Favorite Poems* written by: Edgar Allan Poe. They are completing a fun poetry project, and have written several of their own poems. Currently, they are reading: *The Diary of Anne Frank* and discovering what life was like for a Jewish family during WWII.

#### **What if Poems**

Green frogs are cool  
That is the reason I stay in school

Some day I'll grow up and be a tourist  
I'll visit the Amazon rainforest  
There will be much for me to see  
I will see all the animals with glee  
I will climb a tree, and see what to see near the canopy  
There will be a fee  
As you can see

Stay in School  
Remember your mind is your greatest tool!!

by: Tim Wunch

What if I do not wake up?  
What if I fail my test make up?  
What if football practice gets canceled today?  
What if my coach moves far away?  
What if I get into a fight?  
What if I hit a kid with all my might?  
What if I get suspended from school?  
What if my friends think I'm a fool?  
what if I get smacked?  
What if I wear a crazy hat  
What if my snowmobile gets stolen?  
What if it starts snowing?  
Now those are only some of the What ifs I think about when I  
lay in bed,  
And trust me those are only some of the what ifs in my head.

by: Zachary Wilmott

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### Life

As I walk through the dark doomed corridors,  
The object of many evil horrors,  
I remember those who destroy the poor,  
Because they have knowledge of ancient lore,  
They do not realize they are dead men walking,  
And so the evil keep on talking,  
The anger spreads like fire,  
The tension growing higher,  
For now I must persist,  
Defending who have missed,  
For years upon years,  
A smile from ear to ear.

by: Shawn Taylor

### Mrs. Evensen - Band and Chorus Director

The Fall Mountain Middle School All-District Concert will be held at the high school on Thursday February 26 at 7:00 PM. On Wednesday February 25, several Vilas Band students will go to the high school for a rehearsal with several Walpole and Charlestown bandsmen from 8:40 - 10:30 AM to prepare for the concert. The following day, February 26, several Vilas Choral students will go to the high school for a rehearsal with several Walpole and Charlestown choral students from 8:40 - 10:30 AM to prepare for that same concert.

### Mrs. Reynolds - Visual Arts

Ancient art has been the focus of 6th grade artists. Students designed cartouches using hieroglyphic characters to spell their names. The cartouches were created using metal tooling techniques. Now they're learning about symmetry while creating their own Greek vases.

7th grade artists practiced observation drawing using their shoes as models. The students used the patterns on the bottoms of their shoes to inspire the abstract backgrounds for their drawings. Students are now in the process of "drawing with scissors" and creating collages based on the work of Henri Matisse.

In 8th grade art, students learned about the work of portrait artist Chuck Close. They tried some of the same techniques he uses to create their own self-portraits with amazing results. Abstraction has been the focus of the current unit. Students are finding new ways to express themselves using abstract visual elements with wonderful results.

### Mrs. Abbott - Guidance

Eighth Grade Orientation will be held at Fall Mountain Regional High School on Tuesday March 17. A meeting with the High School Counselors at Vilas, to plan next years courses, will be scheduled for the following week. More information will be sent home as we get closer to the date.

### Mr. Hicks - PE/Athletic Director

The boys A basketball team is currently 10-5 with a couple of games left in the regular season and have earned the number 3 seed in the upcoming CVJHL Tournament to be held in Charlestown from Feb 9 - 13.

The boys B team is currently 6 - 3 with a couple of games remaining on the schedule.

Both Boys teams had great seasons. The A team is coached by John Putnam and the B team is coached by Ben Pierce.

The girls basketball team is currently 4 - 11 with a couple games remaining in the regular season. They earned the # 5 seed in the CVJHL Tournament to be held in Charlestown as well from Feb 9 - 13. The girls played hard all season and improve tremendously as the season progressed. They are coached by Julie Parrott.

The Spirit squad re-emerged on the scene this year and were very good. They are coached by Stacey Elliott and Heidi Plummer. The girls worked together very well and formed a very solid squad. Their season was highlighted by being invited to a Fall Mountain Varsity Girls game on Jan 29, where they performed a few cheers along with the varsity squad from the high school.

Casey Todd, The Athletic Director at the high school, instituted a future wildcat night for both boys and girls. The girls night was Jan 29. The teams in grades 3 - 8 were invited to attend the game in their team uniform, get into the game free and receive a Fall Mountain Pride T-Shirt. There were also halftime festivities for the kids to be on the court. A great time was had by all, including the fans. The boys night for the future wildcat night is Wednesday February 11th at 7:00. Wear your jersey and get in free and get a new t-shirt. Come watch the game and help support our student athletes and the athletic programs. See you there...

Great job by Casey Todd getting the interest sparked at the younger levels.....

### SEE PAGE 5 CVJHL FOR TOURNAMENT INFO.

### Mrs. Holmes - Library Assistant

When I returned from a 2 month medical leave of absence, I was greeted with a wonderful Welcome Back from the students and staff of Vilas. There was a huge banner draped across the trophy cage in the lobby that all the students signed. The library was decorated with crepe paper streamers and more welcome back signs above the door and on the door to the Library Media Center. Inside I found a huge card with a page for each grade and one for the staff

with notes of good wishes This was organized by the Student Council. Thank you for all your hard work. It was deeply appreciated.

**Erika Crowe - K-8 Library/ Media Specialist**

As the new K-8 Library Media Specialist for the district, I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome! I am always available for any suggestions or ideas you may have regarding the library at Vilas Middle School. My desk is located in the library at Charlestown Primary School and I can be reached by phone at 826-3694, extension 106 or by email at [ecrowe@sau60.org](mailto:ecrowe@sau60.org).

Since Vilas Middle School has students from different grade levels, I would like to remind parents that the library contains a range of books on topics and subjects that are for various age and reading levels. It is our policy to mark any books that have been designated for grade seven or higher as "young adult" books. We choose these books with middle school aged readers in mind, and do not generally purchase books chosen for high school aged readers. Regardless, if you would not like your child to be reading these books, please send us a signed note indicating this. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Holmes or myself.

I also urge parents to keep books, magazines, newspapers, and encyclopedias around the house and use them as much as possible. It has been shown that children who are exposed to reading materials at home scored higher on national student achievement assessments than children without access to these materials at home. The more your children are exposed to reading materials, the better readers they will become!

Two important book award votes are coming up in April! **The Great Stone Face Book Award** is a yearly book contest for children in grades 4 through 6 sponsored by the Children's Librarians of New Hampshire. Each year a committee chooses a group of twenty-five recently published books that New Hampshire students will vote on. The vote takes place in April during National Library Week. This year, it will be the week of April 12<sup>th</sup>. The winner of the vote will be announced in May.

**The Isinglass Teen Read** is also a yearly book contest, created for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Young adults nominate the books and a group of New Hampshire librarians read and choose twenty for the contest. Votes for this contest are due in late April and the winner will also be announced in May.

These awards are a great way to get your children interested in reading! Encourage your child to start reading now so he or she can finish as many as possible before votes are due in April. The school library has all of these books just waiting to be read and voted on!

For more information on the Great Stone Face Award, including a list of the books, please visit: <http://www.dover.lib.nh.us/Childrens%27Room/childrenpages/GSF.htm>

A list of books and more information on the Isinglass Teen Read can be found here: <http://home.metrocast.net/~blibrary/teenindex.htm>

Thank you and I'm looking forward to a great year!

Erika Crowe  
K-8 Library Media Specialist  
826-3694 Ext.  
[ecrowe@sau60.org](mailto:ecrowe@sau60.org)

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**CVJHL TOURNAMENT**  
2009

- Who: Boys and Girls CVL Teams  
Where: Charlestown Middle School  
When: Monday February 9 - Thursday February 12  
(Snow date is Friday February 13th)
- Admission: \$2.00 -- Adults  
\$1.00 -- Children
- Refreshments: Will be available to purchase
- Highlights:
- 1) Bill Kibbee Memorial Foul Shooting Awards (given to one boy and one girl)
  - 2) Hank Rogers Memorial Sportsmanship Awards (given to one boys team and one girls team)
  - 3) Six All-Tournament Selections  
(Boys and Girls)
  - 4) Runner-Up Plaques (Boys and Girls)
  - 5) Championship Plaques (Boys and Girls)
  - 6) Individual Championship awards

This event is a single elimination tournament. The pairings have been set along with specified game times. Please be advised that game times are approximate (Please see attached sheet for times and dates). The CVL middle school members would like to remind all spectators that sportsmanship is an imperative piece of all athletic events. Remember, you not only represent yourselves, but also your child's school, community and most importantly your children. Let's be positive role models for our youth to follow. Thank you for your effort and cooperation in making this tournament an enjoyable experience for all

Pairings and Game Times  
at Charlestown Middle School

Monday February 9:

- |        |      |       |                             |
|--------|------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Game 1 | 3:45 | Girls | Green Mtn vs. BF (7)        |
| Game 2 | 5:00 | Girls | Vilas vs. BF (8)            |
| Game 3 | 6:15 | Boys  | Vilas vs. Bellows Falls (7) |
| Game 4 | 7:30 | Boys  | Charlestown vs. Green Mtn.  |

Tuesday February 10:

- |        |      |       |                                |
|--------|------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Game 5 | 3:45 | Girls | Leland & Gray vs Winner Game 1 |
| Game 6 | 5:00 | Girls | Charlestown vs Winner Game 2   |
| Game 7 | 6:15 | Boys  | BF (8) vs. Winner Game 3       |
| Game 8 | 7:30 | Boys  | Leland & Gray vs Winner Game 4 |

Wednesday February 11 (Consolation & Finals) Girls:

- |         |      |       |                                |
|---------|------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Game 9  | 5:30 | Girls | Loser Game 5 vs Loser Game 6   |
| Game 10 | 7:00 | Girls | Winner Game 5 vs Winner Game 6 |

Thursday February 12 (Consolation & Finals) Boys:

- |         |      |      |                                 |
|---------|------|------|---------------------------------|
| Game 11 | 5:30 | Boys | Loser Game 7 vs. Loser Game 8   |
| Game 12 | 7:00 | Boys | Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8 |

Friday February 13: (Snow Date)

\*\*In the event of a snow day, all games will be bumped one day (Example: Tuesday Snow day = The scheduled Tuesday games will be played at the same time on Wednesday).

