

## ***The Newton School Newsletter***

**Thursday, November 9, 2016**

### **School Notes and Athletics**

**Mr. Bagnato, Principal**

Whatever your political views I am sure a good deal of folks are glad that the election is over. Following the national and local elections was time consuming and emotionally draining for many. The school was affected by the results, but I would like to applaud our students for being respectful. Students were reminded that although our politicians can be divisive, our community values respect, collaboration and responsibility. Mrs. White taught a unit on our elective process and students studied candidates policies. My hope is that our students develop into engaged citizens of our democracy and become involved in what is important to them.

The eighth graders hosted our annual Veterans Day assembly on Wednesday. This gathering outlines the history and meaning of this day. The importance that our veterans and their service has in our hearts was conveyed. The chance our students have to say thank you to the Veterans is an important tradition that we hold dear at Newton.

#### **Activities and Athletics**

We will have basketball teams for girls and boys at the 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8 levels. If your child is planning on playing and you have not let me know, please do. Basketball will start the Monday after Thanksgiving.

### **K News**

**Ms. Kicza**

Kindergarten heard the book *The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade*, about a little girl who pays "super extra special attention" to the small events around her, especially at school. After noticing many small unkind acts, she has enough and declares it's time to stop! She helps her schoolmates and teachers act kind and notice how all the small kindnesses add up and make a big difference. The students discussed the book in partners. Then they each drew and wrote about themselves doing small good deeds that could make our school a better place.

**[KINDERGARTEN FOREST DAY BLOG](#)**

## ***1-2 News***

Ms. Longcore & Mrs. Robinson

After much discussion about what an opinion is, and taking notes on facts about milk and chocolate milk, the first and second graders wrote a group opinion writing piece to Gret expressing their ideas about whether there should be both chocolate and regular milk in the cafeteria. They cited great facts to back up their opinions. The consensus is yes, we like both kinds of milk!

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## ***3-5 News***

Ms. Cote, Mrs. Hill & Mr. Walker

This short four-day week has seen lots of activities and learning. The 3rd and 4th graders worked with Cat planting seeds for our grow lab. They also processed the dry black beans and removed popcorn kernels from the ears of corn. Some of the 5th graders helped put our gardens to rest. In the near future, students will be getting some of the harvested items ready to sell in the upcoming craft fair.



**3rd Grade Hood Trip Visits:**

**4th & 5th Grade Hood Trip Visits:**

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## ***Middle School***

Ms. Kanoff, Ms. Tieff, Mrs. White

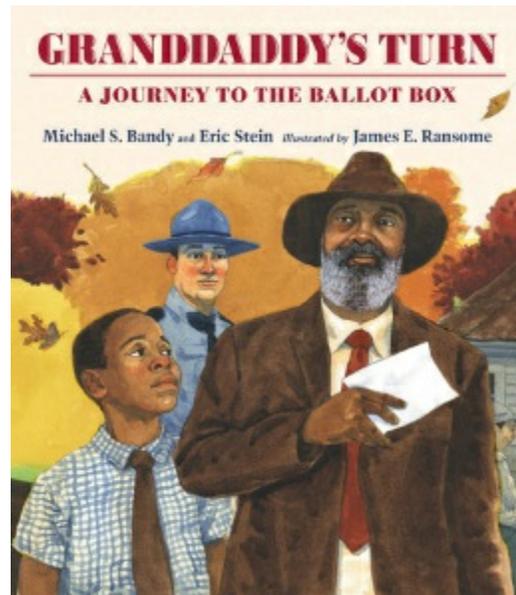
**NYC Trip Go Fund Me Page**

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# Library & Technology News

Ms. Simone Pyle

With election week upon us, it seemed a great time to read our Red Clover Award Nominee *Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box*, a book based on the author's own experience with voter discrimination in the pre-civil rights South. Grades K-4 talked about this week's election, the voting process, and the importance of having your voice be heard. They will be doing some voting of their own later in the year, when they vote for their favorite Red Clover Book!



We are experiencing some overlap with grade 5 library and technology classes, as we delve into the topic of the organization of information, looking at the Dewey Decimal System and making a website.

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## Health News

Nurse Ellen

We have had 6 cases of pneumonia diagnosed in 4 weeks. This is very unusual. I typically see at most 1 case of pneumonia/winter. There is also a viral illness going around school, which is causing fevers, headache and a cough.

Pneumonia is usually not easily communicated from one person to another person. People who are more prone to pneumonia are: the young, elderly and those with a recent viral infection (this seems to be what's happening here).

First of all, I do not want parents and students to be scared. We will get on top of this. Other schools are seeing similar illness. South Royalton and Chelsea have each had 2 cases of pneumonia. South Royalton has also had 2 cases of pertussis pneumonia (whooping cough). We have one case of strep throat in K-2.

What we are doing at school:

As per the Vermont Dept. of Health the school is:

- Doing thorough cleaning, daily.
- Asking students to use water bottles, they can fill them at the drinking fountains.
- No sharing food or beverages.
- Reminding students of good hygiene when they are sick.
- As students are sick, making an individualized plan for their academics. The priority is getting kids better. Case by case accommodations are being developed.
- Dr. McWilliams is at school on November 14th.

What can parents do:

-Parents, please keep your children home when they are sick and let the school know what their symptoms are.

-If your child has persistent fever and a cough please take your child to the pediatrician.

-If your child gets a fever over 100.0 please remember that your child shouldn't return to school until he/she has been fever free for 24 hours.

-Call Nurse Ellen if you have questions or worries.

-The Vermont Dept. of Health encourages all students and parents to get their flu shots.

If you have any questions please ask.

Nurse Ellen

Please get immunization records/exemption forms to Nurse Ellen IF you have received a written request. We are still missing records on some kindergarteners and some 7th graders.

Parents are required by Vermont State Law to provide the school with this information.

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## ***PTA News***

*Amy Donohue/Shannon Varley*

The Newton School PTA, in cooperation with Clausen's Greenhouse, is excited to host our annual poinsettia fundraiser.

Orders may be placed for poinsettias in a dizzying array of colors and sizes and all proceeds directly benefit programming at the Newton School.

Orders must be paid and submitted by Friday November 18.

Poinsettias will be delivered to the Newton School Library on Wednesday, November 30.

Year after year, Clausen's has delivered poinsettias that are fuller and more brilliant in color than the plants you may see at local discount stores. Please consider buying poinsettias for your home, office, church or as a gift. The Newton teachers, students and parents will thank you!

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## Announcements and Upcoming Events

[7th grader Anya Traudt in \*The Little Prince\* at BarnArts, Nov. 11-13](#)

[Seven Stars Art Center](#)

[Family Fridays at Seven Stars](#)

[Fifth Grade Passport for Skiing](#)

[Pico Ski Pass for \\$89 \(VT students only\)](#)

[Tunbridge Craft Fair](#)

[HOLLY JOLLY INFORMATION and APPLICATION](#)

**Greg Bagnato, Principal**

243 Vermont Route 132

South Strafford, VT 05070

Phone: 802-765-4351/Fax: 802-765-4785

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**Stay Connected**



"The strength of the team  
is each individual member.  
The strength of each  
member is the team."

- Phil Jackson