

Friday, February 24, 2017

School Notes and Athletics

Mr. Bagnato, Principal



skiers on the new middle school ski team

I wish everyone a great February Break! While the snow is quickly melting, I hope folks can find some time to enjoy the outdoors. We will return to school on Wednesday, March 8th.

On Tuesday, March 7th the Strafford School Board will present during Town Meeting. ***There are two school board positions up for election and only one current school board member is running.*** I would encourage anyone interested in these vital positions to talk with a school board member or call me.

Winter Carnival is planned for March 10th and 11th. Please click [here](#) to see the presentation I shared with students today. It includes dress up days and schedules. If you are interested in signing up for dinner on Friday, March 10th, please do so by calling Gret or completing this [order form](#). All orders must be completed by Wednesday, March 8th.

During Town Meeting, I plan to share parts of the Newton School Report Card. You can view this by clicking [here](#). Also, if you would like to examine more testing data, you can click [here](#).

Athletics and Upcoming Events:

The Winter Sports Banquet was held this past Wednesday.

During the event we celebrated six basketball teams and the

middle school cross country skiing team. There were 52 students participating on these teams. There were also over 75 students participating in the Lion's Club Ski/Snowboard Program and SNAP cross country ski programs. Huge thanks to all the coaches and organizers who make these opportunities possible.



7/8 Girls Basketball Team

This spring the Lion's Club will sponsor baseball for students 5 years and older. If you have not signed up please get in contact with Brent Cadwell or Mike Swift. Typically, Newton School students also join Thetford Academy teams (track, softball, baseball, etc.). If you are interested in these opportunities contact TA or me.

Kindergarten News

Ms. Kicza



Thank you Turtle Fur! Kindergarten forest day has beautiful new neck warmers to keep us toasty warm for the rest of winter thanks to a donation from the Turtle Fur company in Morrisville, Vermont!



Kindergarten enjoyed snowshoeing on a beautiful, sunny morning this week. We traveled through the upper fields, had morning meeting in the field, ate snack in the trees, and went to the pond to see what it's like this time of year. Later indoors we made a map of where we'd been throughout the morning.

[FOREST K BLOG](#)

1-2 News

Ms. Longcore & Mrs. Robinson

On Wednesday, Gret came to talk to first and second graders about the hot lunch program. The kids learned how much thought and work goes into planning healthy meals for students. We did not know that Gret accounts for the nutritional values of each meal, though we did know she cares about it! The kids have noticed how delicious and healthy their choices are this year. Another neat idea Gret has brought to us are fresh fruit baskets in each classroom. Every day there are plums, blood oranges, star fruits, nectarines, and more. These have been so popular, and we thank Gret for coming to talk to us and providing us with such great choices.

Have a safe and happy vacation!

3-5 News

Ms. Cote, Mrs. Hill & Mr. Walker

On Friday the 4th graders went down to the Strafford Creative Preschool to read and play with their buddies. Each student read to one or two preschoolers and then the whole group went outside to the Tennis Courts. On the Tennis Courts the students built snow and ice sculptures. After building the students used liquid watercolors to paint their sculptures. Everyone was engaged, collaborative, and respectful while playing with the preschoolers. The 4th graders were very patient and responsible role models. When we

returned to school the 4th grade class talked about how to take their experiences with the preschoolers and apply it to their experiences in their 4th grade classes with their peers.

5th graders journeyed to the HOOD today and 3rd graders remained on campus to read with the kindergarten students. Everyone is looking forward to a great vacation break and returning with renewed energy.

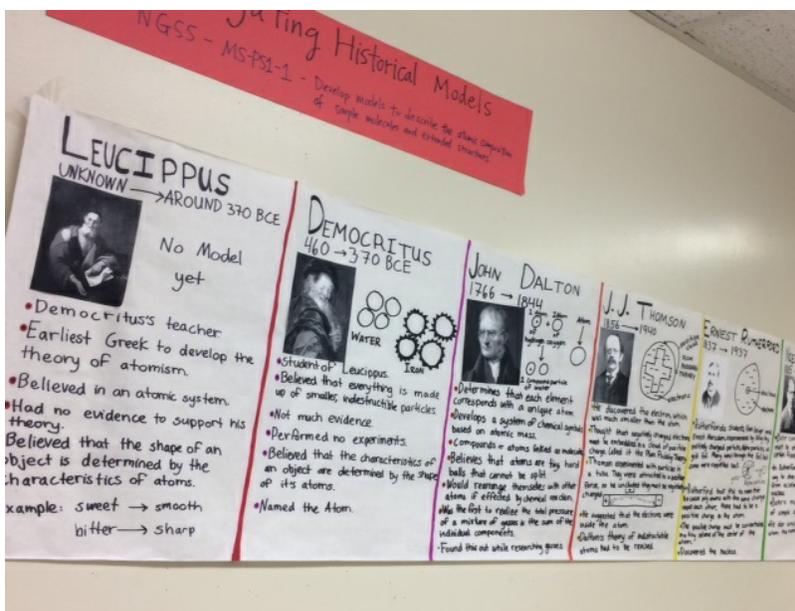


Middle School News

Ms. Kanoff, Ms. Tieff, Mrs. White

The seventh and eighth graders have been studying the evolution of the atomic model and how science builds on past research and experimentation. Starting with Greek philosopher Democritus and his teacher Leucippus, the students researched how much our ideas of the structure of the atom has changed.

Xia Gillespie shows her understanding in a timeline format:



Library & Technology News

Ms. Simone Pyle

We read the Red Clover Award nominated book *Raindrops Roll*, by April Pulley Sayre, back in the fall. Inspired by the beautiful photographs and poetic observations of the natural world, grades 1-4 went outside and took their own photographs. Using PicCollage, they added text to their images.

Their work has been compiled into two flipbooks for all to enjoy! Visit [the library blog](#) to see them all!

Our technology elective, called *Your Digital World*, has been looking at all the ways our data is mined for commercial purposes, from discount store cards that track your purchases, to computer clicks that turn into ads that are targeted to the user. We'll continue to discuss how important it is to be aware of how our digital data is used, and the ways we can work to protect ourselves.

Health News

Nurse Ellen

A **friendly** reminder if your child has been vomiting or has a fever of over 100.0 degrees your student **must** be fever free or without vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school. This helps prevent transmission of illness.

We continue to see students with an upper respiratory illness and a significant cough as well as a stomach bug. A friendly reminder that having your children get extra rest and staying well hydrated helps children get better sooner. Please call Nurse Ellen if your child is diagnosed with a bacterial infection and started on antibiotics.

We are in our fifth week of the Passport to Winter Fun.

Fun - fun - fun with snow - snow - snow.

Encourage your children to draw a picture of the activity they do each day and don't forget the programs they can participate in as they reach the indicated milestones. Have fun.

[Local Resources for Families Information](#)

Hot Lunch News

Ms. Gret Hewes

This week the star fruit was featured in our Fruit Salad on Monday and took center stage at the fruit table during our lunch on Wednesday.

Star Fruit or Averrhoa Carambola has its origins from trees native to the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Nepal, and like climates.



Rich in vitamin C and antioxidants this low-calorie fruit is a special tasty treat. Star Fruit is used in Brazilian folk medicine as an expectorant and to suppress a cough.



Exciting news from our Fresh Fruits and Veggie Program! We have been able to put fruit baskets in all of our classrooms. After break we will be featuring different fruits every week.

I am looking for ideas for some fun and different fruits to introduce to the kids over the next quarter. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas of fruits and/or veggies you would like to see the kids trying. My email address is ghewes@newtonschool.org

Art News

Ms. Janet Cathey

In Kindergarten art, we read Mouse Paint. Students learned how to draw mice, and then used q-tips as "mouse paws" as they played in color puddles.

1/2 students are experiencing printmaking. They were inspired by Inuit printmakers, who carve images familiar to them into stone, then roll ink over the surface, and print on paper. Students carved animal images into

styrofoam sheets, rolled ink over them, and printed them on paper.

3/4/5 and now 6th grade students have sewn stuffy monsters. Next up: interactive and group art.

7/8 students in the Design Thinking in Art elective have begun their individual design projects. Some examples are: Designing sets for the upcoming middle school play, designing a new hybrid sport, designing an equestrian cross-country course.

One Planet News

Ms. Kiersten Harlow

Have a great vacation and remember session three starts after break!

PTA News

Mrs. Amy Donohue & Ms. Shannon Varley

The PTA is gearing up for two of it's BIGGEST events of the year, Town Meeting Lunch and Winter Carnival and we need your help!!!

Town Meeting Lunch Fundraiser - March 7th

Town Meeting Lunch is one of three big fundraisers we have that allow us to fund projects such as the artist-in-residence, field trips, plays, and enrichment activities that the school budget doesn't cover. Many volunteers are needed on the day of town meeting, especially for cleanup and the week before making phone calls soliciting food donations. Making phone calls is an easy way to contribute to this fundraiser without ever leaving your home! We need 8 callers, so please consider helping in this way if you can't help the day of Town Meeting.

You can sign up [HERE](#). [Shannon Varley](#) will provide instructions for calling, please provide your email on the sign-up sheet.

Winter Carnival - March 10th-11th

Winter Carnival is a fun annual tradition for everyone to get outside before the winter season comes to an end and we hope everyone can participate this year!!!

NEW SCHEDULE THIS YEAR!!! - We will kick off events starting Friday, March 10th after school at Harrington Hill. There will NOT be Strafford Lions Club Ski Program that day but there will be a make-up day at the end of the season. We will have sledding, ski and snowboard races 1:00-4:00 at Harrington Hill with movie night to follow. One Planet will be joining us. The remaining events will be on Saturday 12:00-3:00 at Varney Field with Dinner and Awards at 5:00 and Bonfire at 7:00 at Varney Field. More details and a complete schedule, including a volunteer signup sheet, will be sent home soon as we are still adding events. Please contact [Hilary Linehan](#) or [Amy Donohue](#) with questions.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

[The Sharon Academy Arts Day](#)

[Earn-A-Bike](#)

[Winter Break Camps](#)

[2018 Paris France, Switzerland, The Alps and Germany](#)

[Revels Kids 2017/Revels Kids 2017 Traditions of Zimbabwe](#)

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