

The Newton School Newsletter

Mission: To develop each child's potential for academic success, engagement and overall well-being. Through this process, we will enrich each child's education with community involvement, collaboration and outreach.

Friday, January 26, 2018

School Notes and Athletics

Mr. Bagnato, Principal

This past week, the Newton School was featured in the [Wellborn Hub Newsletter](#). Please check out the article as it explains a lot of our outdoor education initiatives. On Tuesday, there was a taste test held in the cafeteria. The ingredients for this activity were from our own school gardens.

Next week, two teams of educators from outside supervisory unions will visit Newton to participate in an Integrated Field Review. The evaluators will be visiting classes and interviewing, students, teachers, parents, and administrators. The purpose of this evaluation is to give WRVSU commendations or recommendations regarding fulfilling the Vermont Educational Quality Standards (Academic Proficiency, Personalization,

On February 9th the Hot Lunch Program will be [offering dinner](#) to be picked up for \$5. Please call or e-mail Gret at ghewes@newton.school.org to reserve your dinner. You can also reserve your dinner by completing this [form](#).

School Events and Athletics:

- Monday, January 22nd:
 - 9:00 am Grades 3 and 4 will go to the Hood Museum for Art Start.
 - 5:00 pm 6-8 Girls Basketball Game vs TSA (Rosa Tyson Gym)
- Tuesday, January 23rd:
 - 11:30 am - Farm to School Taste Test (Parents Welcome)
 - 3:30 pm SNAP/MS Ski team at Strafford Nordic Center
 - 5:30 pm - 3-5 Girls Basketball game at Tunbridge.
- Wednesday, January 24th:
 - 5:00 pm - 6-8 Girls Basketball game at Thetford Academy
- Thursday, January 25th:
 - 3:30 pm MS Ski team at Strafford Nordic Center
 - 5:30 pm - 3-5 Girls Basketball Game vs Randolph (Rosa Tyson Gym)
- Friday, January 19th:
 - 9:00 am - 3-5 - *Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great* (Chandler)
 - 1:00 pm Lion's Club Downhill Ski and Snowboard Program at Dartmouth Skiway.

For school and athletic events, please visit the calendar on our [website](#).

Kindergarten News

Ms. Kicza

Kindergarten continued their learning about animals this week as they revisited the question "What do animals in Vermont do to survive winter?" They reviewed how animals migrate, hibernate, or adapt in some way. They discussed which animals do each, how it helps them survive, different adaptations, and which are predators and prey. They sorted into groups based on which animal they had and explained to the class what their animals do. Later they chose or made up a "perfect winter animal" and drew, wrote, and explained how this animal is perfect for winter.

1-2 News

Mrs. Longcore & Mrs. Robinson

First and second graders continued their animal organisms study this week. After hearing a fun book called "Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing Animal Habitats", pairs of students worked to solve puzzles with predators and their prey. Next, they began learning about animal adaptations. After another beautiful book about the Galapagos Islands, students used their imaginations to create a "super" animal from a mash up of animal's protective parts and features. The finished products will be quite amazing!



1st Grade Math Class

3/4 News

Ms. Catalano & Ms. Cote

This week found the 3/4 students busily learning about magnets and how they attract and repel. They also have been learning about how maple syrup has been produced over time. They enjoyed making connections to the sugaring operations their families and neighbors have. In Ms. Catalano's reading class, students have been reading together in book groups as well as whole class reading, *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech. A few of Ms. Cote's reading groups have finished their chapter books and have launched into new ones.

5th Grade News

There has been a lot going on in Alligator Alley this week. The week's theme has been about constructive criticism. We have been reading and discussing a quote by Frank A. Clark that says, "Criticism, like rain, should be gentle enough to nourish a person's growth without destroying his or her roots."

Our discussions around this topic have led to some great critiquing while looking at individual writing.

We have also been practicing our American Revolution play. Each student has been given multiple parts. It has been very fun practicing the play and learning about the Revolution at the same time. Parents, please look for scripts coming home. Any help you can give your child in learning his or her part would be awesome.

Lastly, we have had two trout eggs hatch already! Every day has been exciting watching these creatures.

Middle School News

Ms Kanoff, Ms. Tieff, and Mrs. White

SCIENCE NEWS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You may have heard your middle schooler talk about the "Genius Hour" project they have been introduced to in science class. The concept originated from Google's 80/20 principle-allowing engineers to spend 20% of their time on any project that might improve or develop the company. Gmail and Google News were created by developers using this concept during 20% of their time. The idea being that by allowing people to work on something they are interested in will ultimately lead to an increase in motivation and productivity.

In the classroom, the students will be given several Fridays over the course of the year during science to pursue their own learning (as long as the required science content has been completed).

The primary objectives of this project are:

- To explore a topic students are curious and passionate about.
- To create something to show their understanding of that topic.
- To be able to present what they learned to the world around them.
- To know that they would drive the work, but have some guidance from me in the process.

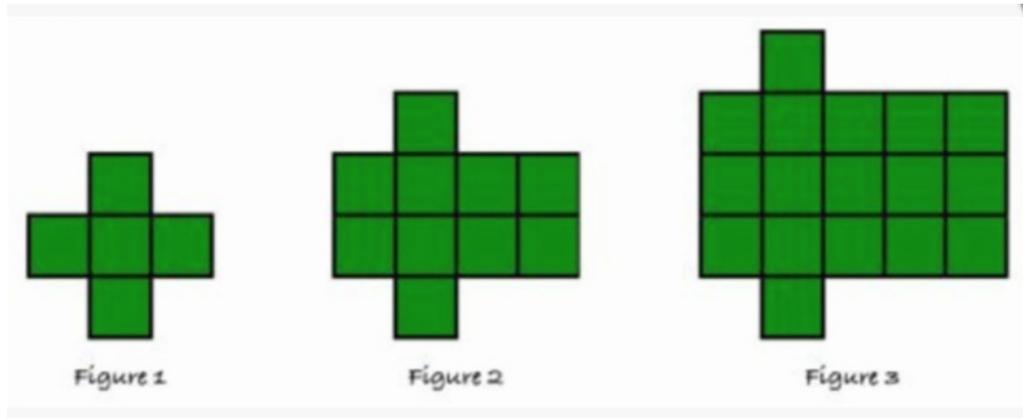
On Monday, May 7th, the middle schoolers will be presenting these projects at the Science Symposium at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) in Quechee, Vermont. More information will be given when available.

Parents are welcome to attend the symposium! It is still early yet, however;

If you are interested in being a chaperone, please let me know! I can be reached at: rtieff@newtonschool . Thank you!

MATH

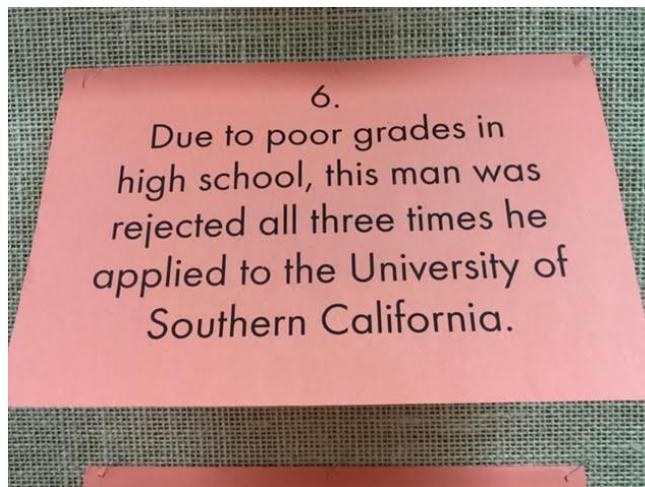
Math: This week's problem was selected by Anya Traudt. See if you and/or your child can develop a rule and/or equation for the following pattern:



Email your solutions to: anya.traudt@newtonschool.org

Movie Night: Just a gentle reminder to sign up to help out on Friday, February 9th. If you still need access to the Google doc, please email Ms. Kanoff (ikanoff@newtonschool.org). Thanks to those who have already offered to help.

Famous Failures: On the Bulletin Board located across from Mrs. White's room, Ms. Tieff created a collection of statements about people who are now famous but experienced failure. This, we hope, will promote growth mindset and perseverance in our students. See if you can figure out to whom this refers:



History and Writing: Students are working on their first research paper of the year. They are researching various Holocaust resistors and rescuers. The focus of the piece is to show how their person tackled the problem with the

way people were being treated and the effect they have on the global village today. Please ask your child to tell you about the person they are researching. Once the paper has been completed, they will make a graphic representation for their person as a part of the unfinished puzzle.

Library & Technology News

Ms. Simone Pyle

We have lots of new books coming into the library this winter! Keep track of our newest titles at the [library blog](#)...the list will be updated as new titles come in!

Due to scheduling conflicts and the change in parent-teacher conferences, there will not be a Scholastic Book Fair this spring. We hope to bring it back next year!

Counselor News

Mrs. Michelle Pringle

Winter Carnival dress-up day themes have been decided by MS Student Council! Theme days are as following, Monday is hat day, Tuesday is sports day, Wednesday is retro day, Thursday is pajama day, and Friday is Newton School spirit day. Stay tuned for contest information and the winning class prize!

Music News

Ms. Jessie Pierpont

Our Winter Concert will be held on **Thursday February 8th** for grades **K-6** starting at 5:30pm ending at approximately 6:15pm.

The performance will take place in Barrett Hall. If your student is participating in the concert please arrive a couple minutes early 5:20pm.

We ask that students dress appropriately as this is their representation of music that they have learned, however formal attire is not required.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at jpierpont@newtonschool.org. We look forward to seeing you at this event to showcase our Newton School students!

Sincerely,
Ms. Pierpont

Art News

Ms. Emily Girdwood

Art News

1/18 & 1/23

K: This week, I read the story *Iggy Peck, Architect* to the K kids. I brought in my block collection and the students worked collaboratively to create "Block City". K Kids made roads, rivers, and ponds with construction paper, built pools, buildings, towers, and drawbridges.



1/2: The Paper Dragon

We finished our story, *The Paper Dragon*, and discovered that the our hero (the artist) saved the day and that the strongest thing in the world is LOVE (not what they expected). 1/2 s added much to their paper puppets today (dragon eggs, wings, mouths with sharp teeth, arms, legs, wings). There was a quiet hum, and then an explosion of dragons as they all suddenly took form. It was awesome. I told many of them that they couldn't come home this week (not happy with me), but that we had a few more plans for next week. So, prepare yourself, "there be dragons".



3/4: Drawing Center

This week, we reviewed expectations around centers and I demo'd a few techniques about using chalk pastels while we looked at some illustrations from the book *Snowmen at Night*. We looked at how the artist used space and movement to create the story of the snowmen. We are working on routines around managing supplies and sharing work.



5: This week, we looked at the art of Jasper Johns. We noticed HOW he paints is part of the story. In particular, we looked Johns' map from 1961. I asked the students to explore the idea of layering painting and drawing materials, and we PAINTED. The students fingerpainted, found new tools to paint with, mixed, splattered, smudged, blended, sprayed, dripped, and spattered. We noticed that painting has feeling.



6: Dragon Eyes

This week, the art demo was about creating a close up of a dragon eye. I had several handouts about drawing options and I demonstrated color blending with analogous colors using oil pastels. The students decide what to work on, knowing that this is what Artists do...we come up with an idea and we wrestle with it until it works. At the end of class, the students write about their progress in their folders, and I write back to them with feedback: encouragement, questions, clarifications, and notes on what I observed. (Justin worked on his docking station and then decided that he wanted to start a dragon eye)



Drawing Elective:

Last week we watched the FORM video from KQED. This video talks about Form as an element of art and how artists use the illusion of 3D to add interest to their work. This week, Taj, Ben, and Ever (who have been studying linear perspective) were challenged to teach 1 and 2 point perspective to the rest of the group. They did a brief demo at the whiteboard, and then we had the other students start a drawing. They walked around and worked with the other students to make sure that everyone got the concepts. This is my new favorite way to teach perspective drawing. We talked a bit about how a good way to really understand something is to teach it.

(Ben's 2 pt perspective)



Health News

Ms. Kerri Juergens

Passport to Winter Fun!

There Passport to Winter Fun has started! The Passport is an engaging program that encourages children to be more active during the winter. For every 10, 20, and 30 days that your child is active for at least 1 hour, they can claim free passes from participating businesses! All students who complete 30 days of the Passport will receive a Polar Bear Achiever Prize and be entered into a Grand Prize Raffle (snowshoes, ski passes, an ipod, and more!). To be entered, make sure to fill in the back flap of your passport and hand it in to the school by March 16th!

Let's keep our kids healthy and active this winter!

More information can be found on the Upper Valley Trails Alliance website at: www.uvtrails.org Questions? Contact Laura Romig at laura.romig@uvtrails.org

[Passport to Winter Fun Poster](#)

[Passport to Winter Fun Incentives](#)

[2018 Winter Fun Grand Prize](#)

Hot Lunch News

Gret Hewes

News from the Lunch Room

On Tuesday, January 23rd, we held a Farm to School Taste Test for the

students and what a success! The students were very curious and it was so wonderful to see so many trying something new...and green.

We had Kale Pesto...the kale and garlic used in the pesto were harvested from our Newton gardens this fall.

Here's the recipe we used:

Easy Kale Pesto

1 cup extra virgin olive oil
3 cloves garlic
12 cups firmly packed chopped kale leaves
1 cup pine nuts (in the school recipe we substituted with garbonzo beans)
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
Salt to taste

1. Pour olive oil into the bowl of a food processor and add garlic; pulse until garlic is chopped, about 10 seconds. Add kale to olive oil mixture, working in batches if needed; pulse until evenly blended, about 20 seconds. Scrape down sides of bowl.
2. Stir pine nuts (or garbonzo beans) and Parmesan cheese into kale mixture and pulse until pesto is smooth; season with salt to your taste.

We served with crackers; pesto can be used for so many things: a spread for sandwiches, over pasta, as a pizza sauce, a dip, the possibilities are endless. Stayed tuned as we will be announcing the results in next week's Newton News!!

The Farm to School Program is always looking for volunteers. This committee has some wonderful plans for the future here at Newton and how exciting it will be to be a part of!

If you would like more info please contact me and as always 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



PTA News

Christine Bailey-Kellogg & Shannon Varley

Please join students, parents, and community members in celebrating Winter Carnival in the evening Friday, February 9th and all day Saturday, February 10th! This is one of the events that makes growing up in Strafford so special - please consider volunteering for this fun opportunity! Email Shannon at: shannonmvarley@yahoo.com or sign up directly on the google sign-up sheet: [2018 Winter Carnival](#)

Next PTA meeting

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, February 6th at 6:00pm** at the Newton School library. We hope to see you there!

One Planet News

Mrs. Kiersten Harlow

We had a great time last Friday making Rice Krispies treat creations with Gret! It was amazing to see what the kids had planned and created.

It has been a challenging week for outside recess time due to the icy conditions. We took out some amazing toys that often get forgotten about and the kids had a ball playing with them!



Announcements and Upcoming Events

[Girls Scout Informational Meeting](#)

[Vins Camp Information](#)

[Ravenswood Winterbreak Camp](#)

[Tumble Time For Tots](#)

[Boy Scout Information](#)

[Classes at Seven Starts Art Center](#)

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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