

Python Post

Volume 2
Issue 6

January 31, 2014

<http://cvs.ncsuvt.org>

The monthly newsletter of the **Coventry Village School**
348 Route 5, Coventry, Vermont 05825 (802) 754-6464

February Calendar

February 4: ALL ORDERS FOR LITTLE CAESAR'S FUNDRAISER DUE! This fundraiser supports school field trips. Orders delivered February 20th.

February 5: Special Board Meeting re: School Budget, 6:30 p.m. in CVS Library. Public welcome!

February 6: CVS Parents' Club Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in CVS Library

February 12: Parent Forum and Coffee, 7:20 a.m. in CVS Library

February 14: NO SCHOOL; SU Level Professional Development

February 19: CVS School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Public welcome!

February 26: Crazy Hat Day! \$1 Student Council Fundraiser (see pg. 3)

CVS IS HIRING!

We are seeking qualified candidates for the following positions: Middle School Math Teacher, Administrative Assistant (School Secretary), and Food Services Professional. Please visit our website for complete job descriptions and application details.

TRYing to teach, and succeeding



Kylie, Tim and Manisha joined fifty 8th-12th graders from across the state to attend a training at Lake Morey for TRY (Teens Reaching Youth) for the Environment. This training was a collaboration between VEEP (Vermont Energy Education Program) and the 4-H Extension Service, funded by a grant from State Farm. The students were taught the basics of Solar and Wind energy and then coached on how to present these lessons to K-3 students. Kylie, Tim and Manisha received certification and are now expected to complete 12 hours of teaching to at least 30 students.

When asked what they thought about the training, the three agreed that this hands-on, discovery method of learning is both challenging and fun. And that teaching is a lot harder than it looks!

Contributed by Irene Dagesse, Enrichment Coordinator

Python Post Subscriptions

CVS Parents/Guardians automatically receive a newsletter each month.

Community members may request a free subscription.

Newsletters are available in print or by e-mail: cvsnewsletter@gmail.com.

RESPECTFUL. RESPONSIBLE. READY TO LEARN.

Student Report: Snowflake Bentley

by Sage (Grade 4)

Have you ever heard the phrase, “no two snowflakes are alike?” This discovery was made in Jericho, VT, by Wilson Bentley, in 1885. Wilson Bentley, also known as “Snowflake” Bentley, was one of Vermont’s most famous Vermonters.

Snowflake Bentley loved snow more than anything in the world. He had an older brother Charlie. He loved nature. He would look at nature with his microscope at plants. His mother was his teacher for a long time. Instead of playing he would look through his microscope at plants. He studied all forms of moisture. He also kept weather reports. He would do helpful chores for his mother. When he was 17 he got his camera with a microscope.

Snowflake Bentley is famous. He was the first person to take pictures of snowflakes. He did

draw snowflakes for three years straight. At age 15 he drew 100 snow crystals! When he was 16 he spotted a camera with a microscope he yelled “That’s it! that’s it!” He wanted to be able to show people his snowflakes. He knew if he had a camera with a microscope he would be able to take pictures of snowflakes.

Snowflake Bentley is famous because he was the first person to take pictures of snowflakes. He used microphotography to take pictures which is taking pictures through a microscope. He was in a shed with no roof in the cold that his brother helped him build. Sometimes he couldn’t breathe because the snowflakes would melt. He would let people watch slideshows of his snowflakes. He made his own book with scientists who helped him.

Snowflake Bentley had a



book called Snow Crystals. It’s a picture book. He put a lot of other things like grasshoppers, ferns and other plants and some were covered with dew. There was 2,453 pictures of snowflakes in his book.

Snowflake Bentley was one of Vermont’s most famous Vermonters. The most interesting thing that I learned about Snowflake Bentley was that he learned to stick with it and he wouldn’t give up.

Library News: VHC Book of the Year and more!

The CVS library was thrilled to learn that our school has been chosen as a grant recipient for the Vermont Humanities Council’s (VHC) Book of the Year program.

The VHC chooses one book to be read statewide and this year’s selection, *Wonder* by RJ Palacio, is also a current DCF nominee. We were awarded 50 copies of the book and students in grades 4-8 will all be reading it. We have a few extra copies available for any parents or community members who would like to read it. Just stop in the library to request a copy.

Students in grades K-4 are

in the middle of reading all ten of this year’s Red Clover nominees. Once we have read all ten books, students will be voting for their favorite. One picture book will be declared the winner of Vermont’s Red Clover award in April.

Upper grade students have begun to use a virtual bookshelf site known as www.biblionasium.com. Students can add books they’ve read to their virtual shelves as well as write reviews of these books. They can also decide whether or not they want to share their bookshelves with their friends.

Winter is the perfect time to curl up with a great book! Did you know that the school library also has adult books available for check out? Please come visit and check out an armful of great reads!

**Contributed by Carol Rowell,
Librarian**



Wonder, a novel about a boy with a rare facial deformity, was #1 on the NYT Best Seller List and also chosen as the VHC’s Book of the Year.

School Board Notes: *Budget*

It's January of a new year, and for your School Board that means it's time for our annual school budget building marathon. It's an arduous, complex, time-consuming process. Extra meetings and lots of detail-oriented work are the order of the day (or rather months). We try our best to balance the needs of our kids with the burden of paying for it with our tax dollars. And sometimes mistakes happen.

Last year we held school expenditures to a 1.6% increase and you approved that budget at town meeting. When our tax bills arrived in the summer there was an unexpected increase because a mistake had been made in compiling our local revenue figures. We actually had less income to work with than we had been told was available to come up with a budget. Both the Board and our bookkeeper missed one of the details and we are sorry about that.

We are finishing up work now on the new budget. We have trimmed our working draft proposal down, and there is a good chance we will be able to present to you a level funded budget for the upcoming year. We are double checking the figures. We are asking questions. We want to make sure we have not missed any details this time around.

Hope for Gus: *Student Council holds fundraiser for Mrs. Amidon's grandson*

Student Council members Miles and Josh interviewed Mrs. Amidon to learn more about her 8-year-old grandson, Gus, and his muscular dystrophy.

Can you explain Gus' situation?

Gus has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. This means he can not grow strong muscles. It is the #1 genetic killer of children in the world.

When did they find out Gus had DMD? When he was 4 years old.

What does Gus like to do? He loves music and his iPad. He likes to read and play with his stuffed animals.

Does Gus have a lot of doctor's appointments? He has to go to Boston a lot.

Does Gus like sports? He likes to ski.

Can Gus be part of Make a Wish? No, he can not.



If you would like more information or would like to donate to the Hope for Gus Foundation, please visit www.hopeforgus.org.

Student Council will be hosting a fundraiser in February to benefit the Hope for Gus Foundation.

WHAT: Crazy Hat Day

WHEN: Wednesday, February 26

COST: \$1

Thanks in advance for your support!

**Contributed by Jaime Comtois,
Grade 4 Teacher**

Pajama Day raises \$220 for fire victims

The CVS student council held Pajama Day on Tuesday, January 21st. They raised \$220 for the CVS first grader and his family who lost their home in a fire.

Thank you to all who donated! Pajama wearers had to donate \$1, but many people donated more than that amount.

Need a computer?

CVS still has six PC computers available to donate to families who need one.



The computers are older, but functional for word processing and internet surfing. Please contact Mr. Baughman at matthew.baughman@ncsuvt.org or 802-754-6464 if you're interested in a computer!

Guidance Dept.: *February Events for Eighth Graders*

February 4: Lake Region Union High School students go to LRUHS for an all-day placement assessment

February 18: Chastity Urie, Lake Region counselor, will be at CVS at 11:00 a.m. to meet with LRUHS students in the library to give them handbooks and course information.

February 19: All Grade 8 students spend a day at the Career Center and NCUHS

February 25: LRUHS registration at CVS beginning at 1:00 p.m. A registration schedule will be sent home.

**Contributed by Philis Mosher,
Guidance Counselor**

To Infinity And Beyond in First Grade!

What do you call a crazy space man? An Astro-nut! Well, the first grade class is totally nuts about astronomy. These budding astronomers have engineered a rocket ship under the direction of CVS Art Teacher Mrs. McAllister, and the launch pad's location is the first grade classroom. We are stretching our imaginations as we travel through outer space and grapple with amazing facts about our universe and the science about how the earth relates to the sun, the moon, the stars and other planets.

Contributed by Jennifer Mason, Grade 1 Teacher

True or False?

One million earths would fit inside the sun.



✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Cole's mini-marshmallow model of Crux, or the Southern Cross, constellation.

▶▶▶▶
Spencer's model of the Big Dipper constellation made from mini-marshmallows and toothpicks!



▶▶▶▶
Sadie, Nickolas and Shanyce hard at work following diagrams to build star constellations.



Answer: **True!**



x 1,000,000 =

