

Python Post

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

January Calendar

January 2: School resumes

January 9: Tour of Lake Region Union High School, 9:10 a.m. (see pg. 2).
CVS Parents' Club Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

January 10: End of Quarter 2

January 15: Parent Forum, 7:10-7:50 a.m. School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

January 17: NO SCHOOL (School Level Professional Development)

January 20: NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday)

We have electronic locks on our doors!

Security at CVS has been strengthened with the addition of electronic locks on the interior front doors. You may walk into the entryway, but will then have to be buzzed in to enter school (office staff, not students, will let you in). **All other exterior doors will be locked by 8 a.m.**

Spreading holiday cheer



The Coventry Village School Student Council has recently purchased gifts for three area children. They chose kids from the NEKCA tree at Price Chopper, and spent their hard-earned money buying gifts for these children in hopes of spreading a little holiday cheer to those less fortunate in our area!

Contributed by Alicia Spates-Messier, Language Arts Teacher

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.

Lake Region Union High School Tours and Information Sessions

Interested in attending Lake Region Union High School? Join us for a tour and information session in January.

TOUR

January 9: Interested students will be picked up at 9:10 a.m. at CVS and bussed to LRUHS; we'll return by lunchtime.

INFORMATIONAL SESSION

Parents may attend any of these meetings from 6:30-8 p.m.

January 8: Barton Elementary School

January 14: Irasburg Village School

January 21: Glover School

January 28: Orleans Elementary School

Please speak with Mrs. Mosher if you're interested in the tour!

Hoop Shoot

Sage Lovejoy, Jordan Driver, and David Gratton recently participated in the "Elks Hoop Shoot" held at NCUHS.



Jordan received 3rd place, and David 1st. David, with an impressive 18/25 free throw record, will continue to the next level of competition on January 4th. Thanks Sage, Jordan, and David for participating!

*Contributed by Marcelle Poulin,
Phys. Ed. Teacher*

Meet the Student

Cole
Grade 6



What he was doing just before this interview: Running up and down the gym, shooting hoops!

Favorite sport: Soccer. "I like to move my feet."

Positions played: "I usually do halfback or forward."

Role model: "My dad played soccer and was great at it. I want to be as good as him."

What he likes about sports: Teamwork and competition. "I like getting to play with other people, and against other people."

Which does he prefer, practices or games? "Games!"

Other hobbies: Reading.

The last book he read: *House of Hades* by Rick Riordan, a book he got as a reward for being one of CVS' top three readers this summer. "I think it was really suspenseful."

Favorite subject in school: Social Studies. "I like learning about historical events."

Most interesting historical subject he's studied: The 300 Spartans who, led by King Leonidas I, held off the Persian army, a million men strong, for seven days at the historic Battle at Thermopylae in 480 B.C. "They were so confident."

What he loves about CVS: The teachers. "They're really kind."

Meet the Staff

Kathy Taplin
Kindergarten Teacher



Years at CVS: 9

First teaching job: At the Jay School, where she taught K-3 in one classroom. "I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, and I had a dream of teaching in a one-room schoolhouse. That was the hardest job I ever did!"

What she loves about teaching Kindergarten: The growth. "They come in as babies and when you see them leave...so much growth happens, it's exciting to watch."

On the Kindergarten transition: "It's an exciting time for parents. There's a lot of letting go."

What she does outside of school: "Family is top priority for me, absolutely, positively." Her son lives in Barton, VT and her daughter in Georgia, VT. "I hear from them every day. My daughter says, 'It's my right, as your daughter, to call you whenever I want!'"

Favorite hobby: Photography. "I take a lot of pictures--I make gifts with them."

What she loves about CVS: The staff. "This is a great place to work. We all have the same vision. We want kids to feel successful and have self-confidence. And I think they do. Kids know we care for them."

Learning French at CVS

Bonjour! Je m'appelle Mrs. Souliere! The sixth graders at the Coventry Village School are learning many words, phrases and proper pronunciation of *Francais!* The students are engulfed in the self-paced independent learning program through the Middlebury Interactive Language Program that enables them to write, speak and apply what they are learning in a number of ways.



For example, the *tableau d'affichage* (bulletin board) outside of the classroom displays posters of the colors and numbers in French and English. Students are gaining more knowledge of the language with each interaction. A great decision by the Coventry Village School community to provide our students with a great experience! *Très Bien!*

Contributed by Missy Souliere, Math/Social Studies Teacher

Student council breakfast benefits American Cancer Society

The CVS Student Council hosted a Holiday Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 14th. Close to 100 people attended the breakfast, even in below zero temperatures, and the Student Council collected \$650. All of the money has been donated to the American Cancer Society.

Thanks to all of the community members who joined us for the festive morning of pancakes, Santa and crafts! It was a great success!

Contributed by Alicia Spates-Messier, Language Arts Teacher



What are we thankful for?

The holiday season is a time to be thankful! During Thanksgiving, fourth graders wrote about the things they're thankful for.

Carter: I am thankful for my family.

Brooke-lyn: I am thankful for being able to celebrate holidays like Thanksgiving.

Isabelle: I am thankful for my family.

Natasha: I am thankful for my shelter.

Bailee: I am thankful for my family.

Landon: I am thankful for food, family, friends, toys, and my parents.

Savannah: I am thankful for the Indians because if they didn't help the pilgrims at their Thanksgiving we would not have Thanksgiving now.

Jeremiah: I am thankful for how kind people are on Thanksgiving.

Sage: I am thankful for my family.

Robbie: I am thankful for my mom.

Averi: I am thankful for having a good family.

Mrs. Comtois: I am thankful for my son, Gus.

Contributed by Mrs. Jaime Comtois, Grade 4 Teacher

News from the Library

The month of December has flown by in the library! Students in grades K-2 are combining an author study of Jan Brett (one of my favorite authors/illustrators) with an exploration into how Christmas is celebrated around the world. We have been viewing celebrations on youtube and using a website that lets us hear Christmas greetings from many different countries. Here's a link to the site for those of you who would like to learn how to say Merry Christmas in Chinese or any other language! <http://www.holidays.net/christmas/voices.htm>

Students in grades 3 and 4 are finishing up the Reading is an Investment program that is sponsored by the Vermont Treasury Department. They will be finishing their reading logs soon and I'll be mailing the logs into the Treasury Dept. by the end of February. All students in grades K-6 are participating in this program. Students in grades K-2 have brought their reading logs home to complete, while students in grades 3-6 are keeping theirs at school. All completed logs will be entered into



a drawing through the Treasury Dept. for a \$250.00 college savings bond. Please let me know if you do not want your child to be entered into the drawing or if you need a new reading log.

The upper grades have been using the DCF prezzi to preview this year's DCF nominees. The prezzi aids the students with deciding which of the 30 nominees they want to read first. In order to vote for their favorite DCF book in the spring a student needs to have read at least 5 of the nominees. We also have 10 of this year's nominees available in audio format! Enjoy your holidays and keep reading!!!

**Contributed by Carol Rowell,
Librarian**

Bringing joy to Bel-Aire

Students in Mrs. Sonya Brasseur's "Homemade Holiday Cheer" After-School Program recently brought the holiday decorations they made in the class, along with cookies, to the Bel-Aire Nursing Home in Newport.

While decorating they sang carols, and also went to the rooms of some residents to sing to them and spread some holiday cheer.

The students who participated were Aleea, Shawna, Ash-Lynn, Saige, and Sierra.

Sierra's mother Renee, who also contributed photos, said the trip was a wonderful experience! Thanks to all for participating.

**Contributed by Sara Eastman,
After-School Coordinator**



Saige gives a Bel-Aire resident a homemade Christmas card.

School Board Notes: *The parental role*

Educating our children is a collaborative effort. Teachers have the attention of your child for a few hours every day. But on the average, school age children spend 70% of their waking hours outside of the school. At home, parents can make a big difference in their child's educational success by becoming involved in their school work. Surveys show that 86% of the public believe that support

from parents is the most important way to improve schools. Yet studies also show that the lack of parental involvement is currently one of the biggest problems facing public schools.

Getting involved with your child's learning activities is the most effective form of parental involvement you can make, and the earlier in your child's schooling that it begins the more powerful

the effects. Simply showing them that you have expectations about their homework can lead to better results. By participating in school activities, talking to your child's teachers, attending meetings, or advocating and volunteering, you will have a positive effect on your child's education.

We encourage you to become as involved as possible with your child's learning!