

Python Post

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

Nov./Dec. Calendar

November 19-December 3: Rada Cutlery Fundraiser, Grades K-8

November 23: Turkey Bingo! Doors open at noon; Bingo starts at 1 p.m.

November 27: Early Dismissal, 12:30 p.m.

November 28-29: NO SCHOOL.
Happy Thanksgiving!

December 4: Parent Forum and Coffee, 7:10-7:50 a.m., CVS Library.

December 5: CVS Parents' Club Meeting, 6:30 p.m. All welcome!

December 14: Holiday Pancake Breakfast, 7:30-10 a.m.

December 18: CVS School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

December 20: Early Dismissal, 12:30 p.m.

December 23-January 1: NO SCHOOL. Happy Holidays!

Rewards for summer readers



This past summer I challenged students to keep track of how many minutes they read on a reading log. The top three readers with the most minutes read were Kaylee, Cole, and Kadin. Congrats to our summer readers! They each were able to spend time with me doing some online book shopping as a reward for their reading. There were lots of smiles to be found when their much-anticipated books arrived!

THE READING LIST: Kaylee chose *Ghoulfriends Forever*, *Goosebumps: Night of the Living Dummy*, and *The Volcano of Fire*. Cole chose *House of Hades*, *Bone: Quest for the Spark*, and *Legend*. Cole chose two *I Spy* books and *My Football Book*.

Contributed by Carol Rowell, Librarian

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.

Notes from the principal

SCHOOL SAFETY REPORT

The principal and school board would like to thank the community for its feedback regarding security at the school. Based on this feedback, we have decided to install electronic locks on the front doors of the school. We will keep the community updated regarding when the installation will happen.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS POLICY

This year, fifth and sixth grade girls will be allowed to play on the CVS Basketball Team.

However, this might not always be the case; preference is given to seventh and eighth graders, so each year we need to determine how many older students want to play basketball prior to opening the team to younger grades.

Therefore, next year, and as a reliable policy for the following years, we will let parents know by mid-October whether or not there are enough girls and boys from the seventh and eighth grades to play on the basketball teams, or whether or not we'll go to the fifth and sixth grades to recruit players.

PARENT FORUM AND COFFEE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 7:10-7:50 A.M.

Come and express concerns and questions, and converse with Mr. Baughman about school issues. This will be an open forum and anyone is invited. Please let Mr. Baughman know with an e-mail (matthew.baughman@ncsuvt.org) or call (802-754-6464) if you will be attending.

PBIS BEHAVIOR UPDATE

Office referrals per day, per month: September was .75, October was .48, and November was 1.17. We are really doing quite well when compared with last year's numbers.

SNOW DAY NOTIFICATIONS

On mornings when school is canceled, you will receive a SchoolReach message by 6:30 a.m., and a notice will also be posted under the "Latest Headlines" section of our website. You can also stay tuned to local radio stations VPR and MOO-92.

Matthew B. Baughman

HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST @ CVS!

Saturday, December 14th

7:30-10:00 a.m. in the CVS cafeteria

Pay by donation; cancer survivors dine for free! All proceeds benefit Relay for Life.

Mark your calendars and bring the whole family! There will be delicious food and fun holiday crafts. We have even heard that Santa is coming to visit around 9:00!

Organized by the CVS Student Council to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Tips for staying healthy this winter



As we approach the holidays, we are also entering the time of year when illness is on the rise. Some tips for staying healthy during the holidays include:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve every time you cough or sneeze. Do not cough or sneeze into your hands.
- Wash hands often and well with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- Keep yourself healthy with rest, exercise, and eating healthy foods.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others.

For additional information or tips, please visit Mrs. Emery in the School Nurse office or online at www.healthvermont.gov.

Have a happy and healthy holiday season!

*Contributed by Laura Emery,
School Nurse*

Student Council's Food Drive a Success



The CVS Student Council's November Food Drive recently collected over 750 items of food which will be donated to NEKCA to support local families. Each class at CVS participated in a friendly competition. The big winner, collecting over 180 cans, was Mrs. Comtois's fourth grade class. Mrs. Casey's second grade class was in second place with over 150 items and Mrs. Mason's first grade class had 145 items. Thank you to all of our CVS families that helped to support this great fundraiser!

Contributed by Alicia Spates-Messier, Language Arts Teacher

CVS students attend Youth Environmental Summit at Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier

Six CVS students were driven to Montpelier to attend the Youth Environmental Summit. The summit was organized by the 4-H Extension Service and supported by VPIRG. The six students were selected to attend by completing an application/interview process.

Students had a variety of environmental workshops to choose from but the overall focus was on youth activism.

They actively participated in the workshops and were highly engaged throughout the day. At one point two students approached their principal to outline ideas on how to save water bottles and reinforce conservation, requesting a time to meet with him to talk about grants.

This enthusiasm was caught



on tape by an Across the Fence reporter and has continued to grow. In less than a week the YES! team and several other 7th grade students have met to brainstorm ideas to promote environmental awareness and conservation.

Parent Survey Results

25 surveys were completed. Thank you, parents!

- 83%** agree that the school is safe.
- 92%** agree that the school is a caring place for children.
- 92%** agree that parents & guardians feel welcome at the school.
- 91%** agree that the school is a good place to learn.
- 83%** agree that discipline is fair at the school.
- 92%** agree that CVS students seem well-behaved.
- 88%** agree that the principal is knowledgeable about teaching and learning methods.
- 83%** agree that the principal deals with conflicts fairly.
- 87%** agree that the principal has an exciting vision for the school.

BACK ROW, FROM LEFT: Tim, Brett, Manisha, Logan

FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: Michael, Josh, Austin, and Quinn.

Contributed by Irene Dagesse, Enrichment Coordinator

K-2 students study bears with Siskin

Did you know there are eight types of bears?

Well, there are, and if you are curious what they are, just ask a student in Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade. Students in K-2 are studying these amazing mammals.

Recently, Paul and Beth from Siskin Ecological Adventures, a local educational science and adventure-based program, visited our school to enrich our study of bears.

Students spent the day sharing their knowledge and deepening their understanding of this species as they applied their investigative science skills. It was a fun-filled science day of examining bones, learning about habitats, doing a bear scavenger hunt, and much more.

The day culminated with a trip into the great outdoors to build bear dens! Wow, what a blast! We now have bear dens and owl nesting boxes in our outdoor classroom. Great work Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders!

**Contributed by Jennifer Mason,
Grade 1 Teacher**



TOP: Sierra examines a bear skull.

LEFT: Gabriel helps build a bear den.

ABOVE: Aiddian, Emma, and Carl touch a real black bear skin.

School Board Notes: *New utility shed*

It's hard to miss it as you drive by your school: a new utility shed is going up, a joint project between the Coventry Village School and the Town of Coventry. The new 20' by 20' building being built by Paul Cutting Construction will provide needed space for the storage of outdoor school supplies and equipment, as well as equipment needed when the school serves its other purpose as a Red Cross shelter.

In times of emergency, CVS is an officially designated Red Cross shelter. As such, it requires that appropriate equipment be readily available. The shed will house up to 50 sleeping cots for emergency use. For the school, we now have a place to store the sleds, skates, skis, helmets and snowshoes that used to pile up in the gymnasium, as well as building and grounds maintenance equipment. The shed is scheduled to be completed by mid-December.

