

# Python Post

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Issue 1  
August 20, 2013

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

## Aug./Sept. Calendar

**August 21-23:** Staff Professional Development

**August 26:** Teacher Prep Day

**August 27:** First Day of School, 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. (Kindergarten: 8 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. through Aug. 29, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Aug. 30 & Sept. 3)

**September 2:** No School (Labor Day)

**September 18:** School Board Meeting, CVS Library, 6 p.m.



### 2nd Annual HARVEST FESTIVAL October 5, 2013

Join us for a craft show from 9-2, a parade in the village at 10, pay-as-you-play Bingo at 1, and two cookoffs: dessert and chili/chowder! We'll also have a lunch booth, horseshoes, apple cider pressing, music, face painting, a bounce house, concessions, and more!  
**Community volunteers needed!**  
Call Sonya at 802-334-7940.

## Welcome back to CVS

Dear CVS Families,

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to our wonderful school. I hope you all had a relaxing, enjoyable summer.

We have quite a few changes in store for this school year! Turn the page to learn about three new staff members joining the school, as well as some exciting new developments: a revamped website, courses in foreign language and technology, and freshly painted floors and walls.

A couple of important policy reminders to keep our academic environment positive and healthy: please leave mobile electronics at home unless a teacher requests them for class. Also, we take a zero-tolerance approach to



*Mr. Baughman and his family*

bullying.

Whether you are new to CVS or returning as a familiar face, we encourage you to visit our school. Classes are in session from 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. Students are encouraged to be at school by 7:45.

Here's to a great year!

*Matthew B. Baughman*

## 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](mailto:cvsnewsletter@gmail.com).

**RESPECTFUL. RESPONSIBLE. READY TO LEARN.**

# New Faces



**Missy Souliere**  
Grades 5-8  
Math/Social Studies



## **FAMILY STATS**

Originally from Brownington, she now lives in Evansville with her husband and son. "I'm a familiar face."

## **WHY SHE ENJOYS TEACHING**

"I worked in insurance for six years, but I always wanted to be a teacher. I want students to feel good about themselves and be proud of their work. I just love working with kids."

## **WHY SHE'S GLAD TO BE AT CVS**

"The energy here. The effort that students and teachers put out to reach their goals. This is a great environment to work in; I student taught here, so [getting this job] is like coming full circle for me."

## **IN HER CLASSROOM**

A bulletin board lists class jobs: "Kids love helping." Additional enrichment projects are available for students to work on if they finish their class work early.

## **HOBBIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL**

"I like to be outdoors. We have a camp on Lake Willoughby and we like to go fishing and kayaking. I also love arts and crafts."

**Alicia Spates-Messier**  
Grades 5-8  
Language Arts/Technology



## **FAMILY STATS**

Originally from Newport, she and her husband have been living in New Hampshire with their daughter. "We've talked about coming back for years."

## **WHY SHE ENJOYS TEACHING**

"I love the creativity. I'm a type A personality but I have a creative edge! I like reading and writing and like to give kids lots of book choices."

## **WHY SHE'S GLAD TO BE AT CVS**

"I heard a lot of really good things about the school. People said, 'It's a great community--you'll love it here.'"

## **IN HER CLASSROOM**

An "Alpha Biography" project based on the book *Totally Joe* uses a read-aloud literature study to fuel students' personal writing. A "Poetry Breakfast" lets students showcase their published poetry.

## **HOBBIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL**

"I love going to the beach, being outside, walking and running, and spending time with family."

**Phillis Mosher**  
Grades K-8  
Guidance



## **FAMILY STATS**

She lives in Irasburg with her husband; they have a daughter, son, and two grandchildren.

## **WHY SHE ENJOYS GUIDANCE**

"I like working with kids; I like thinking that maybe I can help them ease some of the problems that are interfering with their ability to be educated."

## **WHY SHE'S GLAD TO BE AT CVS**

She's happy to come back for a year to help the school. "It's a magical place and always has been. I began working here 33 years ago, and I think Coventry as a community has a sense of pride in its school and therefore in its children. Also, I'm working with grandchildren of people I taught, so this is like family for me."

## **IN HER OFFICE**

"I'll listen to students. I will help them develop a sense of responsibility for their own actions, but first and foremost I will develop an honest relationship with them."

## **HOBBIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL**

Cooking, reading, and talking with her kids and grandkids.

# >>>>> **New Features**

## WEBSITE

We've revamped our website! A new design and updated content will give our school a vibrant, current online presence. You'll find a complete staff directory, links to important documents, weekly headlines (including, when the time comes, updated snow day information), a calendar, the newsletter, lunch menu, and more! **Check it out at <http://cvs.ncsuvt.org>.**

Students in Grades 5-8, as well as some elementary classes, will be studying French or Spanish through the Middlebury Interactive Languages Program! Classes are held online, with CVS teachers monitoring students' progress. Because this is the first online course we have offered at CVS, we know it will require patience and hard work; however, we also know that with commitment from parents, students, and staff, it is going to be a wonderful opportunity for students to expand their horizons. **Learn more at <http://www.middleburyinteractive.com>.**

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## FLOORS AND WALLS

After over sixteen years, it was time to replace the hallway floor tiles and the pink and blue wallpaper. Come in and look at the work that has been done-- you will feel as proud of it as we do! **Special thanks go to Marcia Daniels and Carpet Connection for their excellent work.**

The new technology program at CVS will have students solving problems with technology. Beginning in Grade 5, students will take part in a project-based technology class whose goal is to engage students in the same process of engineering used by professionals in the real world. There will be an emphasis on independent learning and high levels of personal responsibility as students build web pages and create animations and videos. The course will utilize the "Design Cycle" implemented in the International Baccalaureate program.

## TECHNOLOGY COURSES

## An update from the CVS School Board

The CVS School Board welcomes the beginning of another new school year. The principal, teachers, and staff have been busy over the summer months getting the school ready with some new looks for the hallway and some new ideas for enhancing what our students are learning.

Student learning is the core of what the Coventry Village

School is all about. Small schools often face challenges in providing the same level of instruction that larger schools can for their students. So we are extremely happy to see that for the first time foreign language and technology instruction will now be a regular part of the CVS curriculum.

This is a big step in the right direction for our school. It's nice to

be able to spruce up the hallway floors and walls, but it's even nicer to be sprucing up the curriculum, providing our kids with the tools they need to make it in an ever shrinking world.

**Board meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Coventry Village School library.**

# FunSpot!

## A recent glimpse into the Python Past



**Above:** In June, we said goodbye to our eighth grade class. Good luck, graduates!

**Left:** We wrapped up the 2012-13 school year with a sunny Field Day full of bubbles, balloons, and bouncy slides.

## Grades 7-8: Join the Green Avengers!



Last fall a team of 7th and 8th graders interested in learning about environmental Issues attended the Youth Environmental Summit held in Montpelier. They took workshops on the importance of reuse, recycling, water conservation and activism. They brought back lots of great information to share but also a lot of positive energy. They started an environmental club called the Green Avengers and met twice a month to plan events to promote environmental awareness and raise money to buy fruit trees for our school landscape. Some club members were also involved in gathering information about the possibility of solar panels for CVS. We're looking forward to seeing what the Green Avengers will start up this school year! ***Are you interested in joining the Green Avengers? Talk to Mrs. Dagesse!***

## PBIS, School Store Reward Good Behavior

One of the goals of giving Best Bucks and celebrating positive behavior is to reduce the number of office referrals and misbehavior so that more learning can happen. **Last year between September and June, CVS cut the number of office referrals given to students by half!** By May, we were averaging fewer than .9 office referrals per day, and we expect this year to be even better. Being respectful, responsible, and ready to learn will remain our focus this year as we model positive behavior in the classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, and playground. ***You can help at home by talking with your children about the school day and encouraging them to take personal responsibility for their behavior in all settings!***

### HOW IT WORKS

- Staff members notice students exemplifying positive behavior
- On a weekly basis, students who embody the school ideals of remaining respectful, responsible, and ready to learn receive a "Best Buck"
- "Best Bucks" can be redeemed for goods at the School Store