

# Python Post

Volume 2  
Issue 2  
September 27, 2013

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

## October Calendar

**October 1:** Grades 2-4 Field Trip to Rooty's Apple Orchard, 8:30-11 a.m.  
Home Soccer Game vs. Irasburg, 3:45-5 p.m.

**October 5:** Harvest Festival, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (see page 4 for details)

**October 8:** Home Soccer Game vs. St. Paul's, 3:45-5 p.m.

**October 10:** Home Soccer Game vs. Orleans, 3:45-5 p.m.

**October 11:** Parents' Club Meeting in the CVS Library, 6:30 p.m.

**October 16:** Half-Day; 12:30 dismissal  
School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

**October 17-18:** NO SCHOOL

**October 22:** Home Soccer Game vs. Albany, 3:45-5 p.m.

**October 25:** End of First Quarter (report cards will be distributed during parent conferences in November)

## Outdoor Classroom at CVS



Coventry students love to bring nature into their learning; the herb garden at the back of the school has become the center of an outside classroom. Last spring, students in fifth through eighth grades, along with Siskin members, built benches and bluebird boxes to encircle this area. Several fruit trees, donated by Coventry Gives Back and Green Avenger students, were planted along the bank. In this picture, Ana and David (herb garden designers) observe a black swallowtail caterpillar found as they weeded the herb garden. There's no end to what can be accomplished with teamwork and some creative thinking!

*Contributed by Mrs. Irene Dagesse*

## 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: [cvnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:cvnewsletter@gmail.com).

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

## Meet the Coaches

**Dan Prue and  
Jana Lovejoy**  
New Soccer Coaches



### **SOCCER/COACHING BACKGROUND**

*Dan:* Coached youth groups for the past thirteen years; also played soccer as a child

*Jana:* Played soccer beginning in elementary school through college; still holds the record for most goals scored at her high school

### **FAVORITE THING ABOUT COACHING**

*Dan:* "I love getting to know the kids--their strengths and weaknesses, their personalities."

*Jana:* "During the first practice I told the kids I'd lost my heart for soccer in college and I wanted them to help me get it back. I also like to support my community."

### **GOALS FOR THE SEASON**

*Dan:* Help players work as a team both on and off the field, do well in school, and develop a sense of self-worth.

*Jana:* Have fun and help players understand the game of soccer so they're not intimidated by it when they get to high school or college.

### **HOW THINGS ARE GOING SO FAR**

*Dan:* "They're already working really well as a team."

*Jana:* "Everyone came into the season with great attitudes."

## Meet the Staff

**Laura Emery**  
Nurse



**Home state:** Georgia

**Connection to Vermont:** Her husband's a native Vermonter; they moved back here, after living near Lake Tahoe in California, to be closer to family

**Family stats:** Husband Andy is a physical therapist; daughter Ila is seven months old

**Previous jobs:** Worked as a surgical nurse and as an outdoor educator leading snow skiing and whitewater rafting expeditions for people with disabilities. She and her husband met while doing Wilderness Education in Colorado.

**On becoming a school nurse:** "It's been a lot of fun so far; I look forward to getting to know the kids and families. In the hospital, you meet your patients for such a short time."

**Hobbies:** Any outdoor activity--skiing, hiking, being around water--and "hanging out with my little family."

**What she thinks of Vermont:** "I've really been looking forward to living closer to family. People keep asking about winter, but I think I'll be fine--I used to live in Breckenridge (Colorado)!"

**Now that she lives in Vermont, she might take up:** Ice fishing!

## Bonjour! CVS students study French



CVS is excited to offer foreign language classes this year through the Middlebury Interactive Languages Program. The online program simulates immersion and is supported by a CVS teacher.

Third grade students are really excited about learning French. The program had students creating avatars, and instilled motivation by allowing students to earn "money" based on performance and spend it at a virtual store.

Students work at their own pace and review lessons as needed. After just a week, the students were able to answer simple questions like "Are you une fille or un garçon?" without help!

**Contributed by Mrs. Jennifer Montgomery; photo by Mrs. Jaime Comtois**

## Phys. Ed. Corner

We had impressive results for the push-up test in P.E. Class.

### **BOYS**

1. Logan Gerrow-60
2. Aidan Garipey-50
3. Jesse Gerrow-40
4. Tyrell Dowland-40

### **GIRLS**

1. Addie Petit-40
2. Rosa Mohrmann-32
3. Baylee Messier-25
4. Kylie Wright-25.

**Contributed by Ms. Marcelle Poulin**



# Recipes for a Great School Year

*From Mrs. Comtois' Fourth Grade Students*

## Logan Cota's Recipe

### **Ingredients:**

15 packages of fun  
16 pounds of manners  
10 scoops of helping others  
10 cups of friends  
40 sprinkles of good sportsmanship

### **Directions:**

First get a bowl and sprinkle in a lot of manners, and a big pinch of good sportsmanship. Then get cups of friends and 10 scoops of helping others. Add 15 packages of fun!

## Jeremiah Stacy's Recipe

### **Ingredients:**

3 cups of kind words  
1 can of learning  
9 ounces of participation  
6 packages of following the directions  
5 tablespoons of honesty

### **Directions:**

First put in 3 cups of kind words. Mix with 5 tablespoons of honesty in a bowl. Mix 6 packages of following the directions with 1 can of learning. Mix in 9 ounces of participation. Put it in the oven for 175 days!

## NECAP Testing for students in Grades 3-8

*The New England Common Assessment Program testing will take place at CVS on October 1-3 (Grades 3-8, Math and Reading) and October 8-10 (Grades 4 and 8 only, Writing) Read more about the test at <http://education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/necap/>*

## Effort made to improve math scores

Under No Child Left Behind, all students in the U.S. are supposed to be proficient in math and reading by 2014, and each school has been given building-specific progress goals to achieve on a yearly basis; these goals are collectively referred to as Annual Yearly Progress (AYP).

The 2012-13 school year marked the first year that the Coventry Village School did not make AYP in mathematics (though we did make it in reading).

To raise math achievement, we are conducting further assessments and have changed our schedule to allow a daily period designated to provide extra help and enrichment for students. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

*Contributed by Mr. Matthew Baughman, Principal*

# School Board Notes: *The Common Core*

There has been much talk lately about a new set of education standards that our kids will be measuring up to starting next year. For the past 14 years all Vermont school children have been taught using a common set of grade-level standards called the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). Students were taught the required content, and they were then tested every year to see if the standards were being met.

The new set of standards are called the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which are ready to be rolled out starting in September 2014. They will be centered on math, language arts and reading

just as the NECAP standards were. The new standards are defined as "the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education so that they graduate from high school able to succeed in college and career." The CCSS are not a federal mandate, nor are they a state or national curriculum. They are a set of guidelines defining what it is we want our students to know when they learn a subject. It is up to the individual school districts to define how they will teach the subject matter. Some people would say that sounds pretty much like all the other educational standards that have been tried over the years. Testing to see how well our

kids are doing, however, is going to be a totally different ballgame. The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) has developed online adaptive testing systems which will be the cornerstone of the assessment program.

Over the decades school standards have come and gone and our schools adapt. CCSS is the latest in line. Go to the CCSS website at <http://www.corestandards.org/> and try out some of the questions our kids will be expected to know starting next year. Then go to the SBAC website at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/> and take a practice test. Tell us what you think.

*-Contributed by the CVS Board*



# News from the CVS Library

We have new books available for check-out in the library! Some of our new selections include how-to-draw books, sports fiction by Tim Green, and the state nominees for the DCF (Dorothy Canfield Fisher) Book Award. I'm thrilled with how many of the DCF books have already been checked out and can't wait to hear which one will be this year's favorite.

Students have been learning and reviewing proper library behavior as well as the best ways to care for their library books. Please help your child find a safe place to keep library books in your house. This will not only keep the books safe from younger children or pets but also help with remembering exactly where the books are come library day.

Students are also learning how to search for books in the library. We have reviewed where different genres and resources are



located in the library. We are also learning how to use the computerized catalog to search for books. Don't forget that you are able to access the catalog right from home if you have Internet.

The catalog can be found on the school library website at <http://www.coventryvillageschool-library.weebly.com>; you can link to that page from the school website. You can also find out which day is library day for your child. Happy reading!

*Submitted by Mrs. Carol Rowell,  
Librarian*

# Join the CVS Parents' Club!

Did you know that CVS has a Parents' Club? The Parents' Club is an organized group of volunteers that meets the first Thursday of every month. Group members are the driving force behind school fundraisers that enable the children of CVS to attend field trips; they are also responsible for the playground, help support after-school and athletic programs, and so much more.

Only a handful of volunteers work hard to make all of this happen. More volunteers are NEEDED!

If you would like to join the CVS Parents' Club and help support your child's school, **please consider attending the club's next regular meeting on Thursday, October 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.**

If you would like more information, contact Kelley Collins, President, at the school at 754-6464 or send an email to [coventry-parentsclub@yahoo.com](mailto:coventry-parentsclub@yahoo.com). There is also a Parents' Club Facebook page. "Like" it to see what's going on!

*Contributed by Mrs. Sonya Brasseur*

## Have you checked out the new website?



Weekly news stories, an updated calendar, important documents and links, and more!

<http://cvs.ncsuvt.org>



**The Coventry Village School's  
Second Annual  
HARVEST FESTIVAL  
October 5, 2013**

*9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Coventry Village School*

**9 a.m. Craft Show • 10 a.m. Parade in Village • 1 p.m. Bingo**

- Turkey and Biscuit Luncheon (\$8)
- Roller Derby Demonstration
- Roasted Corn Booth
- Horseshoes
- Apple Cider Pressing
- Dessert Bake-Off
- Chili/Chowder Cook-Off
- Music/DJ
- Concession Stand
- Face Painting
- Bounce House/Slide (weather permitting)
- Fun activities for all ages

**Contest entries for the dessert and chili/chowder bake-offs should be turned in to the school kitchen by 11 a.m.**

**If you are interested in entering the parade or craft show, please contact Sonya Brasseur at 802-334-7940.**