

Python Post

Volume 2
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October 25, 2013

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

November Calendar

November 7: Parent-Teacher Conferences, 3-7 p.m. in classrooms
CVS Parents' Club Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the school library

November 8: NO SCHOOL; see you at Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in classrooms

November 11: NO SCHOOL in honor of Veterans' Day

November 20: School Board Meeting, 6 p.m. in the school library

November 27: Early Dismissal (students released at 12:30 p.m.)

November 28-29: NO SCHOOL
Happy Thanksgiving!

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR PARENT CONFERENCES

On October 28th (Monday), please check the school's website under "Latest Headlines" to find a link for conference signup. If you don't have internet, call the school at 754-6464 and Mary Kay will sign you up!

CVS students learn fire safety



Kindergarten through second grade students at CVS learned about fire prevention and what to do in case of a fire at school or at home.

We topped off our study with an enriching field trip to the Newport City Fire Station. Fire Chief Jamie LeClair and Pedro Grondin led students on a tour of the fire vehicles, demonstrated the purpose and importance of a firefighter's uniform and brought them into the fire trailer, where students identified potential fire hazards and practiced making safe escapes to a designated meeting area. CVS is fire safe!

Contributed by Mrs. Julie Casey (Grade 2 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: cvnewsletter@gmail.com.

RESPECTFUL. RESPONSIBLE. READY TO LEARN.

Meet the Student Council

Grade 5: Isaac, Ana, Jake

Grade 6: Tyrell, Miles,
Cole, Corrinne

Grade 7: Logan

Grade 8: Manisha, Josh, Kylie

Teacher Leaders: Jaime Comtois (Grade 4),
Phillis Mosher (Guidance) and
Alicia Spates-Messier (Language Arts)



The Student Council members have been working hard on their initiatives for the 2013-2014 school year. They have begun running the school store for all students in grades K-8. CVS students earn Best Bucks from teachers and staff for being respectful, responsible, and ready to learn, and bring these “bucks” to spend at the store once per week.

Council members have also planned and executed their first fundraiser, “A Movie Night”, presenting *The Croods* tonight (Friday, October 25th at 6 p.m.; \$2 Donation)! At this event, they’ll collect donations at the door from all attendees and also manage a concession stand. They have some great fundraising ideas from spirit week festivities to dances and other community fundraisers. Stay tuned online and through the newsletter for more information about our upcoming events.

Contributed by Mrs. Alicia Spates-Messier (Language Arts Teacher)

Student Council Food Drive, November 4-11

Students are encouraged to bring non-perishable foods to school during our Food Drive. Classes will compete to collect the most items and the winning class will earn a prize!

Interdisciplinary learning in Grade 3

Third grade students blended reading with engineering and art during a recent study of *Hikaru’s Toy Troubles* by the Engineering is Elementary Team in association with The Boston Museum of Science.

The story is about a boy named Hikaru who saves his family’s toy business by using the engineering design process and magnets. He bases his project on the Maglev train system used in Japan and other parts of the world.

CVS third graders read the text as a read aloud and with partners using the QAR (Question Answer Relationship) strategy to predict what would happen next in the story. They had to use evidence from the text and what they know for their prediction.

Students also looked at Japan on a map and learned a little about the Japanese culture and a few words. The students also did an art project called *sumi-e*, a Japanese style of painting using black ink. Students will culminate their unit with Mrs. Dagesse by using the engineering design process to design a miniature Maglev train system.



Artwork by Hailey (Grade 3)

Article contributed by Mrs. Jennifer Montgomery (Grade 3 Teacher)

Library News: *Reading incentive programs*

The CVS students are doing a fantastic job of returning their library books on time! I have not had to send out one overdue notice yet this year!

Currently students are learning about the roles of authors and illustrators. We are having great discussions about what we would like to write a book about if we were authors. Topics for these books have ranged from ghosts to fire safety to snowmobiles!

Students in grades 5-8 are exploring this year's DCF book award nominees. They are viewing book trailers for the nominees as well as a prezi featuring all 30 of this year's selections.

Students need to read at least 5 of the nominees in order to vote for their favorite in the spring. Students also are able to come to the library on Mondays for DCF lunch. During this lunchtime we read and discuss this year's nominees.

We have also begun our annual Reading is an Investment program. This program is spon-



sored by the Vermont State Treasurer's Office. We are provided with three books about earning and saving money. Students then complete a reading log, which I submit to the Treasurer's office for entry into a drawing for a college savings bond.

Please visit the website links on the right for more information about our library and these special programs.

Contributed by Carol Rowell, Librarian

LIBRARY LINKS

Library Website

www.coventryvillageschoollibrary.weebly.com

DCF Book Award

<http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/cbec/dcf>

Reading is an Investment

<http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/financial-literacy/reading-is-an-investment>

School Board Notes: *Visitors welcome!*

This month's meeting was a good one for your School Board. We know that because the Board Chair had a big smile on his face when we were finished.

Most of the time, the five of us sit there with the principal, treasurer and bookkeeper. All by ourselves. We plow through the bills and the policy documents and the latest strategic planning initiative. Eight people trying to fill the big space in the library.

But this time it was different. We had company.

A sixth grader had come with her teacher to show us how the new online foreign language program was working. And her mom came too. As they were leaving, mom had a question about NECAP scores and we had a short informative talk about them.

After that we spoke with two Coventry residents who had come to the meeting with concerns about the safety of our school. We had another longer discussion about school safety and security and what steps can or

should be taken.

These unplanned discussions made the meeting last a little longer than we expected. But that's OK. Because what made this meeting so satisfying for your Board is that we had input from you, the Coventry School Community. We like it when you come and help fill up the space in the library. We value your input and we want to hear from you. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, November 20th at 6 p.m. in the school library. We hope to see you there.

Grades 2-4 take field trip to Rooty's Apple Orchard



TOP LEFT: Second grade
ABOVE: Isabelle (Grade 4)
LEFT: Fourth grade
Photos and student work contributed by Mrs. Jaime Comtois (Grade 4 Teacher)

At Rooty's Orchard we picked a lot of apples. Some were Honey Crisp and some were Macintosh. Both were really good. I ate two apples. The apple cider was super good. I love apples. I got a lot of apples. We got lots of apples, cider, and donuts. I picked apples with Robbie and Logan. I climbed a ladder and used an apple harvester. They were fun to use. Apple picking was our best field trip yet. We also got bags for our apples. I filled mine. I am going to give my mom my apples. That was super duper fun! **Carter (Grade 4)**

Today we went to Rooty's Apple Orchard. We went there for a field trip. My mom, Bailee, and I picked apples with a ladder or the apple picker. I got a lot of apples. I had fun picking apples.

After we got donuts. They were round donut balls. They were good! We also got apple cider. The apple cider was good. We also got to make apple cider. We tried it and it was yummy!!

I would like to make apple crisp with my apples because I love apple crisp. Around some of the apple trees we picked a whole bunch of apples that were on the ground. I almost twisted my ankle and fell.

My favorite kind of apples were the Honey Crisp apples. They were very sweet. They were very delicious. As you can see I like apple picking and the Honey Crisp apples.

From the principal: PBIS Data & Survey

CVS students are demonstrating improved behavior. This September, we averaged only .75 office referrals per day, as opposed to over 1.6 referrals per day last year! Research shows a connection between better behavior and better learning, so this is GREAT NEWS!

My apologies for the confusion with the Security Survey this week. I will send it out again next week on Wednesday at 7:00 pm to give everyone a chance to respond to it. We want to know what you think about security at CVS!

Matthew B. Baughman

Natasha (Grade 4)