

Python Post

Volume 2
Issue 7

February 28, 2014

<http://cvs.ncsuvt.org>

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

March Calendar

March 3-7: NO SCHOOL. Enjoy your winter vacation! See you at the Community Center for Town Meeting Day on March 4th.

March 13: Jay Peak Ski Day, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. CVS Parents' Club Meeting, 6:30-8 p.m. in CVS Library

March 19: School Board Meeting, 6 p.m. in CVS Library

March 21: NO SCHOOL. SU Level Professional Development.

March 27: Jay Peak Ski Day, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (the last of the season!)

3 great reasons to join Parents' Club

- 1. Involvement.** Become an active member in your school community!
- 2. Ownership.** Help determine which events and fundraisers are the best fit.
- 3. Fun.** President Kelley Collins loves to see "the smiles on kids' faces."

Learn more on Page 3.

Hope to see you on March 13th!

Building TarPuls in Grade 4



Isabelle and Averi test soil samples for building a TarPul. They need to determine which soil forms the best base for keeping the bridge in place.

In Nepal, many rural villagers rely on TarPuls (wire bridges) to cross dangerous rivers. Each TarPul must have a firm foundation in soil on either side of the river bank. A cable car is then suspended from the overhanging wire, enabling people to cross even when rivers are flooded during monsoon season and passage would be otherwise impossible.

At CVS, fourth grade students tested soil samples to determine what kind of soil would erode less quickly and provide the best base for a TarPul. Students then built smaller versions of TarPuls and tested how well they could handle weight based on what kind of soil combinations they used.

*Contributed by Jaime Comtois,
Grade 4 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.

Thanks from the Coventry Town Foundation

The Coventry Town Foundation would like to send a BIG THANK-YOU to all the students in Mrs. Grayson's and Mrs. Comtois' classes for their help in preparing for our seed distribution!

The fourth graders graciously placed seed labels on nearly 800 sandwich bags. Then, the 5th through 8th graders separated each type of seeds into 60 individual bags.

This activity included weighing, measuring, estimating and calculating as well as working efficiently as a team.

The Coventry Town Foundation's distribution will take place on March 4th during town meeting and March 15th during dog registration. **On both days Coventry residents can pick up FREE SEEDS at the town hall.**

Once again, THANK YOU Coventry students for your community service!

The school would like to add: thank YOU, Coventry Town Foundation, for the free seeds!!



Meet the Student

Carter
Grade 4



Favorite food: Corndogs.

Favorite hobby: Playing Minecraft. "It's wicked fun."

The appeal of Minecraft: Survival. "You have to collect materials and build houses. You need different tools to mine different ores. You need a stone pickaxe for iron and a wooden pickaxe for coal."

How he upgraded: "I started with the free version. My dad bought me the full version on the computer when I won a bet that I wouldn't play video games for two weeks."

Hobby #2: Legos. "I have a giant tub. My favorite sets are the Ninja-go ones."

Favorite books: The Percy Jackson series. "I've read every single one." The Narnia series too; he's on Book 2.

Favorite movie: World War Z. "I want to see the new Spiderman movie."

Music he listens to: Imagine Dragons and Skrillex.

On learning to snowboard this year: "At first I could only do one stop. Now I can do both. I can go wicked fast and turn really easily."

What he likes about CVS: "A lot of my friends go here. It's a really good school. We get to have people come here, like the YES Theater Group, and a Tae Kwon Do teacher. I got a free month pass for Tae Kwon Do and I'm going to use it."

Meet the Staff

Kelley Collins
Paraprofessional, Custodian, 8th Grade Advisor



Years at CVS: 12

She has 3 jobs at school, but also serves as: Parents' Club President

Lives with: Husband, three sons, a bull, chickens, six dogs, two cats, and eight rabbits. "We have a very small farm."

On raising her own meat: "I don't like store meat anymore."

Favorite hobby: Ice fishing. "I think it's because my whole family does it. We all go together and we always have a great time. I don't like the cold, but we have a shanty and a woodstove."

On living in Coventry: "We're a close community. My neighbors all look out for one another, and if someone needs anything, we're not afraid to knock on a door and ask."

What you might not know about her: "I like Nascar. I'd love to drive one of those cars someday. But I'd have to drive; I wouldn't want to be a passenger. I've got to be in control."

Core values: "I love to give and that's what I've instilled in my children. We like to help. I love to see smiles on faces; that's why I do what I do."

What she loves about CVS: The kids and the staff. "I think the staff is like a family. We're very close; I feel like I could go to them anytime."

Spotlight: CVS Parents' Club

Kelley Collins loves the kids at her school-- so much that she continues to serve as Parents' Club President even though her boys are grown.

"I love seeing smiles on the kids' faces," she says. When students raise money for field trips, Kelley notes, "they feel so good about themselves, and proud. The trip means so much more to them."

Helping all students participate in school activities is the ultimate goal for Parents' Club. "The last thing we want is to have parents pull money out of their pockets," says Kelley. "We don't like kids to not be able to do anything school-related because of money."

When it comes to fundrais-

ing, Kelley values effort. "'If I see your child is trying, we will get that child there,'" she says. The club also enjoys receiving field trip proposals and funding requests from parents. "There's never been a time we've said no."

Parents' Club has helped:

- Fund K-8 field trips
- Pay for the school's "Foundation" status, which enables it to offer extremely reduced Jay Peak fees
- Purchase and maintain playground equipment
- Assist community members in need
- Teachers acquire materials: recently, a shelving unit for robotics
- Create a D.C. fundraising incentive: if students raise \$600, they get a \$150 rebate for spending money

Q: What is the time commitment to join Parents' Club?

A: ONE 1.5-hour meeting per month (1st Thurs., 6:30-8 p.m., CVS Library)

CVS FUNDRAISING fact!



Dollars move with classes.

Fundraising dollars raised by all grades *used to* go into one big pot to fund the 8th Grade Washington, D.C. trip. **That isn't true anymore.**

Now, when your Kindergarten raises money, that money goes into a Kindergarten **class fund, which follows the students all the way through to 8th Grade.** In 7th and 8th Grades, money raised starts to be divided by student.

This way, when students enter middle school, they won't have to cram all of their D.C. fundraising into a year or two. **It gives students a head start.**

CAT OR DOG? FOURTH GRADERS DISCUSS.

Training

Cats are quiet instead of barking. You don't have to teach cats how to sit or to teach cats to go outside to go to the bathroom.

Cleaning

Cats clean themselves so you don't have to give them a bath. You don't have to brush cats. If you had a dog you have to brush them. If you had a dog you would have to give it a bath.

Noise

Cats purr and don't make a lot of noise, but dogs bark and growl and make a lot of noise. Dogs will bark if someone knocked at the door, and if someone knocks on your door cats won't make any noise.

by Landon Hamilton, Grade 4



Companionship

My dog is my friend. I talk to my dog and I sometimes tell her secrets. Sometimes when I am sad, I cuddle with her.

Grooming

You have to wash them and maybe comb them but they are still good pets. Cats wash

themselves. You have to clean cats' litter boxes and you don't have to clean up dog messes.

Exercise

Dogs need exercise. You need to at least walk them two times a day. When you walk dogs you get exercise too.

Safety

If I got lost, my dog would find me. And if there was a fire then she would bark. If there are strangers at my house the dog will bark too. They can protect you if people are hurting you.

by Bailee Guyette, Grade 4

Owning a cat or dog is a big responsibility, but there are many benefits. A cat or dog might just be the perfect pet for you!

Knitting projects at CVS

Third Grade teacher Jennifer Montgomery introduced knitting as a classroom activity, with great success; here's the story, in her words.

I had a student who brought his knitting in and explained that his father had taught him to knit. My other students wanted to know how to do it, mostly my boys. I did not know how to knit but Mrs. Dagesse did, so she helped organize some middle school kids to come in and teach us all to knit. Last year I was given a grant from the website *donorschoose.org* and we purchased totes, yarn and needles for our knitting project.

Once the students have learned the basics they can knit anytime. In the past I have had students knitting before or after school, at snack or choice time and during indoor recess. I have also allowed students to knit while watching a movie as long as they didn't need to write things down. When students are done with their class work, they'll ask: "Can I knit?" I say, "Of course!"

The past two years we made cat toys for the Frontier Animal Society. Some students have made more personal items like scarves and small knitted items for their family. Carson Gray recently made a bracelet for his mom. Students find knitting relaxing; Julia Desrochers told me, "I love knitting because it takes my nerves away."

Most of the students choose to make a project and give it someone they love instead of keeping for themselves. I think that knitting, and thinking of others, are great life-long skills.



1...2...3...



Parenting can be a trying experience. One great tool that we all have to make our conversations with our children go more smoothly is to take **three deep breaths**.

Deep breathing has been clinically proven to **help calm us down** as well as to **give extra energy to our brains** (not to mention buying a little time before we react).

Three deep breaths, in for a count of 5 and out for a count of 6, can mean the difference between an argument with your child and a meaningful conversation. Students here at Coventry are practicing the technique and finding success with it. **Once you master the technique, you and your family will be glad you did.** Guaranteed!

*Contributed by Phillis Mosher,
Guidance Counselor*

School Board Notes: *Goodbye to Mr. Mohrmann*

Writing the Board Notes is the job that goes to the Board secretary, Mark Mohrmann. That's me. I asked the Board if anyone else wanted to write the Notes this month, and they basically said no, you write them, and by the way tell everyone you're leaving. So here it is. I will be retiring as a school director at Town Meeting this year.

After 12 years on the Board I can honestly say that this is a special group of people you have elected. A few of the names have changed over the years, but all of them, past and current members, understood the importance of coming together as a group to do what is best for our kids. Even when we disagreed with decisions that were made, we spoke our mind, maybe even voted against a certain idea or plan, and then moved on, without any rancor, or dissension. Individuals on the Board have always put the best interests of the school and the kids ahead of their own ideas and feelings. Having that consensus on a school board these days is pretty rare I think, and you should be proud of the way that your elected directors have conducted themselves.

We've made mistakes in the past. And you've gotten mightily angry with us at times. But the mistakes we made were mistakes of ignorance, or misplaced attention, or not enough hours in the day to get things right, never willful mismanagement or neglect. By working together and putting aside our differences we've moved ahead, learning from our mistakes, and doing our best to provide a good education for our kids. I hope that whomever you elect to fill my position will continue the excellent work that the Board has done. Thank you for your support.