

# Python Post

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<http://cvs.ncsuvt.org>

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

## May Calendar

**May 1:** CVS Parents' Club Meeting,  
6:30-7:30 p.m. in CVS Library

**May 9:** Parent Forum and Coffee,  
7:15-8:00 a.m. in CVS Library

**May 5:** Spring Musical Concert,  
6:30-8:00 p.m. in CVS Gym

**May 13-15:** NECAP Testing (Sci-  
ence) for Grades 4 and 8. The test  
is administered in the morning.

**May 21:** School Board Meeting,  
6:00 p.m. in CVS Library

**May 26:** NO SCHOOL. Happy Me-  
morial Day!

**May 28:** High School Transition Activ-  
ity for Grade 8 students, held at the  
Coutts-Moriarty Camp.

### What does NECAP mean?

Learn more about the New England  
Common Assessment Program here:

[http://education.vermont.gov/  
assessment/necap](http://education.vermont.gov/assessment/necap)

## Spring Concert: May 5th, 6:30 p.m.



Coventry students have been working hard to prepare for our spring concert. We will be "Exploring the Outdoors" through a variety of songs, poems, and artwork. Hear two Lullabies and a March from our bands. Come watch "Robins in the Rain", go "Puddle Jumping", and grow a garden "Inch by Inch" with Kindergarten through Second Grade. Take a hike to the woods where the "Green Grass Grows all Around" with Third and Fourth grade, and imagine a better world with our final song, "One Day." We hope to see you at the show!

*Contributed by Anna Shelow, Music 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](mailto:cvsnewsletter@gmail.com).

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

# Alternatives to Spanking

For those of us who are struggling with ways to raise our children without resorting to striking them, here are a few suggestions gathered from current and past research:

- 1. Take a couple of deep breaths** so that you can approach the situation more calmly. Often, hitting a child is a reaction rather than a decision.
- 2. Take a time out.** You can explain that you don't want to react out of anger so you are going to do something else while you decide how you can best help your child to learn that his or her behavior is not acceptable.
- 3. Give your child a time out.** It is recommended that time outs be given 1 minute per year for the age of your child. And remember, a firm direction is as efficient as hollering or shouting and has the added advantage of modeling self-control.
- 4. Keep in mind that respect and fear are not the same thing.** In fact, as adults, the people we fear are usually not the people we respect. Hopefully, we raise children who respect us as firm, loving teachers and guides as they learn to become responsible, caring young members of society.

A few websites that might be helpful are: [www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org), [www.stophitting.org](http://www.stophitting.org), [www.actagainstviolence.org](http://www.actagainstviolence.org)

*Contributed by Phillis Mosher,  
Guidance Counselor*

## Meet the Student

**Kaylee**  
Grade 5



**Favorite thing to do:** Hang out with friends. "We listen to music and do homework together."

**A recent assignment:** Poetry for Mrs. Spates-Messier's Language Arts class. "We had to write three types of poems: I chose an Emotion poem, a Riddle, and a Two-Word Poem. The Two-Word Poem has ten lines with two words per line."

**What she liked about the assignment:** "It was creative."

**Favorite Book:** *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. "I like everything about it. The main character is different from everyone else; on the cover, he doesn't have a face. That's so we can wonder about him."

**Favorite subject in school:** Social Studies.

**Currently studying:** The Roman Empire. "It's pretty neat because we get to learn about what happened back then and how it fell."

**Also likes:** Helping her grandmother on her farm, which is right next door. "My favorite thing to do is feed the baby calves."

**Kaylee's Riddle (guess what it is!)**  
*I come in many different sizes and colors.*

*When you see me, you will want to run away.*

*I have big teeth.*

*I live in the woods.*

*I eat meat and fish.*

## Meet the Staff

**Irene Dagesse**  
Enrichment Coordinator



**What she enjoys doing outside of school:** Working and playing with other people's children! "They're so creative and fun. We love to hike in the woods, look at pond life, build with legos...what I learn from kids is exceptional."

**On working with older children:** "I work in the area they're interested in." Her method-- designing research around an area of interest, pursuing in-depth study, and arranging for a presentation in front of an audience-- is modeled off of her previous work as a 4-H Leader.

**Another hobby she enjoys:** Bee-keeping. "You can read all the books you want, but there's always something new going on. There's a lot of good science and problem solving involved."

**Recent craft project:** Wooden candlesticks for Christmas presents. "My husband and I like to do woodworking together."

**Favorite thing about being a (new) grandmother:** "Watching my son and daughter-in-law fall in love with their baby."

**Why she enjoys her job:** "I love the variety of working with different aged kids and doing hands-on projects and research."

**The best thing about working at CVS:** The staff. "Working with that level of dedication and love of kids is inspiring."

# Fourth Grade Report: Samuel de Champlain

The fourth grade has been researching Samuel de Champlain as part of our Vermont History Unit.

**One of our fourth grade historians, Brooke-Lyn Columbia, wrote the following report on this well-known explorer. Thanks, Brooke-Lyn!**

Do you know who explored Lake Champlain? Samuel de Champlain explored and named Lake Champlain on July 30th, 1609. Lake Champlain is Vermont's largest lake. It is 120 miles long and up to 12 miles wide. Samuel de Champlain was a famous explorer.

In 1599, Samuel de Champlain explored islands in the Atlantic Ocean. He painted pictures and wrote about what he saw. He did this because he was an artist.

On March 15, 1603, Samuel goes to New France. New France is now called Canada. It took him two months to get to Canada. He liked the Native Americans because as soon as he met them he liked them. He explored the St. Lawrence River. While he was there he drew pictures and took notes.

While Samuel was in New Brunswick he helped the people he was traveling with. They built a fur-trad-

ing post. A fur-trading post is like a store. While they were there the Native Americans traded with the French. They traded beaver fur, fox fur, and other furs for the metal tools and wool blankets. During their first winter, 35 out of 79 men died. They died because they had very little food and it was cold.

In 1605, in Port Royal the Native Americans help Samuel and the other men with him survive their second winter. In 1606, Samuel creates "The Order Of Good Cheer". It was a club. In the club the men had to cook a meal. It kept them happy, busy, and full.

In 1608, Samuel and other men go to Quebec to build another fur-trading post. While they were there they meet the Native Americans who have invented canoes and snowshoes. The Native Americans helped them fight the Iroquois. Samuel had guns and the Native Americans hadn't even seen guns before.

Samuel and the men he's with travel back and forth to France and New France several times. Everytime he goes to France he brings back tools, farm animals, and people. The Native Americans Samuel is with still are helping him fight. In 1615, Samuel is helping the Native Amer-



icans fight the Iroquois and he gets injured. The Native Americans help him.

In 1628, in Quebec, ships are taken over by the English pirates. The English want the French to leave Quebec. Afterwards, they finally agree and leave.

In 1633, Samuel returns to Quebec. He dies December 25, 1635. He was 55 when he died. He was the "Father Of New France" because he helped build new towns, and explored new land.

**Contributed by Jaime Comtois,  
Grade 4 Teacher;  
report by Brooke-Lyn Columbia,  
Grade 4 Student**

## A few of Mr. B.'s jokes from his Morning Announcements:

1. What kind of bird can carry the most weight?
2. What is the biggest ant in the world?
3. What happened when the lion ate the clown?

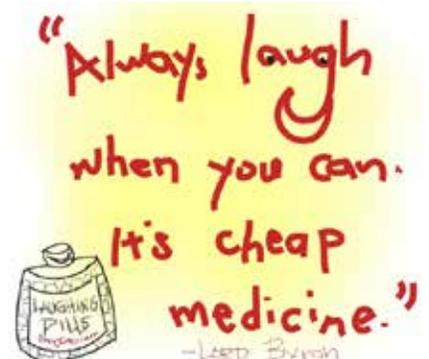
**Answers: 1. The crane 2. An elephant 3. He felt funny**

Knock Knock!  
Who's there?  
Cash.  
Cash who?  
I knew you were a nut!

### Why joke?

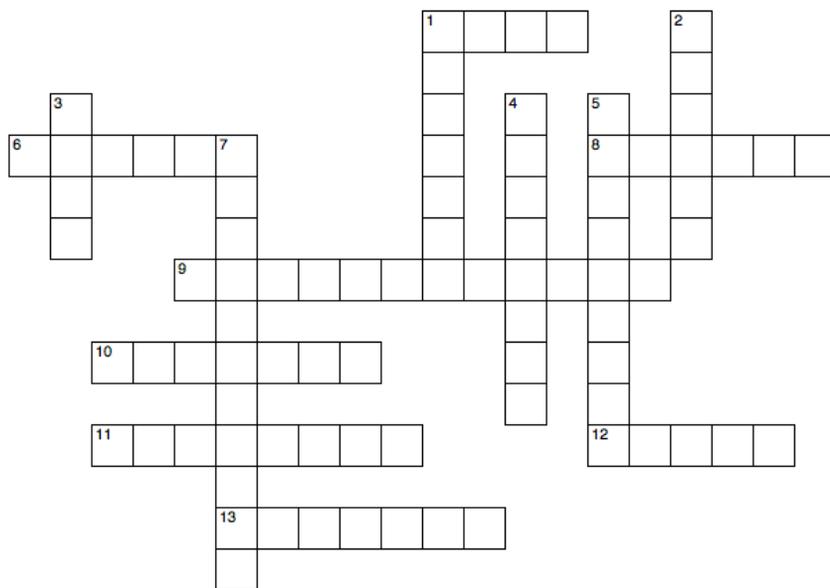
Mr. B. answers:

"Kids like it; I like it. I think it helps to create a positive culture and feeling in the school. Even though school can be challenging, it can also be fun."



# Coventry Crossword Puzzle

You'll find the answers to the clues in this month's newsletter!



## ACROSS

1. Mrs. Dagesse's house is buzzing because she keeps \_\_\_\_.
6. Kaylee's favorite book
8. One of the songs you'll hear at the concert: "\_\_\_\_ in the Rain"
9. What Mrs. Dagesse made for Christmas
10. Meeting on May 1: The \_\_\_\_' Club
11. The biggest ant in the world, according to Mr. B.'s joke
12. Testing taking place May 13-15
13. Activity student council members did with Kindergartners

## DOWN

1. Instead of spanking, take deep \_\_\_\_.
2. Town where Samuel de Champlain died
3. What Mr. B. includes in every Friday Morning Announcement
4. Date of spring concert (spell number)
5. Student author of the Samuel de Champlain report (2 words)
7. What Kaylee's studying in her favorite class (2 words)

## Student council members share the joy of reading

Members of the student council recently read stories with Kindergarten students. Students pictured are, clockwise from top left: Anna and Madison, Manisha and Leo, Tyrell and Carl, and Josh and Aiddian.

*Contributed by Jennifer Montgomery, Grade 3 Teacher*

