

## SCHROON LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2011

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Holiday greetings to all from the Superintendent!

I enjoyed our recent “blast of winter” and the lovely, clean white blanket of snow that covered our town recently. It truly looked like a winter wonderland. This is the perfect time to remind everyone to dress appropriately for school. Please make sure to wear mittens and hats to school each day, especially our little ones. If you walk to school or have to wait outside for the bus, wearing boots and warm socks would be wise. Cold and flu season is upon us as well. We will be taking extra care to disinfect our school building surfaces more frequently throughout the winter. Parents, please be certain to have your child(ren) stay home if they are throwing up or have a fever. Just a friendly reminder, in order for any student to be administered medication, including cough drops, an *Authorization for Administration of Medication in School* form must be on file with the school nurse. No medications, cough drops, sunblock, etc. will be administered unless the form is complete and on file. You may contact Ms. Kelly, School Nurse, if your child is sick or if you need a copy of the authorization form. She may be reached at 532-7164 x3495 or [skelly@schroonschool.org](mailto:skelly@schroonschool.org).

Our fall parent-teacher conferences were a success. If you were unable to meet with a teacher, please feel free to contact the main office to set up a conference, if desired. Strengthening the connection between home and school is an important part of helping your child gain success in school. Dr. Joyce Epstein, Director for the Center for School, Family, and Community Partnerships at Johns Hopkins University, identifies six types of parent involvement schools should consider:

- **Parenting** – helping families create home environments that encourage children to be successful students (parent workshops, lending libraries)
- **Communicating** – implementing effective ways to communicate with parents about a child’s progress and general school information (newsletters, report cards, conferences)
- **Volunteering** – recruiting and organizing parent volunteers in school settings
- **Learning At Home** – providing parents with information and ideas for helping children with curriculum-related activities at home (parent handbooks, curriculum information, suggested home activities)
- **Decision Making** – including parents in school decisions (school improvement teams, parent-teacher associations, individual educational planning team meetings)
- **Collaborating with Community** – identifying resources and services from the

community to strengthen both school and family practices (counseling services, referral to community agencies)

If you would like additional information about any of the above topics or have suggestions on how our school could improve in the areas mentioned above, please contact me at 532-7164 or [bfinnerty@schroonschool.org](mailto:bfinnerty@schroonschool.org). I am very interested in strengthening our relationship with parents and our school community at large.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming Holiday Concert on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Likewise, our school will be participating in the Chamber of Commerce “First Night” celebration on December 31<sup>st</sup> so please consider bringing your entire family. We will be sending additional information home with students later this month.

May your holiday be merry and bright,  
Bonnie Finnerty, Superintendent

### **Pre-K and Kindergarten**

Pre-K and Kindergarten had a wonderful month of giving in November.

We attended the Veteran's Day assembly on November 10th in the school auditorium. We were proud to present the Veteran's with patriotic wreaths. We were also proud to begin the Pledge of Allegiance for the assembly!

We met our new community friend Mary Beth and her helpers Torri and McKenzie. Mary Beth will be visiting our classroom every other week to join in on our English Language Arts program.

Our school theme is titled GROWING this year. As we are growing greener with recycling, pre-k and kindergarten students decorated paper bags for the Schroon Lake Stewart's Ice-cream shop, to encourage patrons to chose paper over plastic!

Students were busy making Thanksgiving cards for the Schroon Lake Senior Citizen's Center. Our school tables were decorated with Mayflower boats the students made as well.

One of our favorite activities for the month of November was the making of real butter. We discussed how the cream turned from a liquid to a solid. We pretended to be Pilgrim children and we shook the cream around the circle many times as it changed from cream to whipped cream and then butter! It was yummy on crackers!

We are looking forward to our first concert on December 8th in the school auditorium. We hope you can come and see us shine!

Mrs. Gereau

### First Grade Holiday Wishes

As the holidays are quickly approaching, many of the first graders have holiday wishes. They were asked to share one.

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| I am wishing for a Play Station 3.  | Shaun Flateau       |
| I am hoping for a Monster High doll.                                      | Morgan Russo        |
| I am wishing for a carburetor set.  | Caleb Tierney       |
| I am wishing for clothes for my American Girl doll.                       | Lauren Peace        |
| I want a bug kit.   | Paul Provancha      |
| I am wishing that Uncle Josh will come home.                              | Gabryelle DeZalia   |
| I am wishing for Super Mario Brothers for my Dsi.                         | Quintin Sprague     |
| I am hoping that we have a good family Christmas.                         | Ashley Beecher      |
| I hope I get another dog.   | Patrick Scoville    |
| I am wishing for a teddy bear.  | Madison Anauo       |
| I am hoping to spend time with Maddie and for a tent that goes on my bed. | Aradia Talarico     |
| I am wishing for a Boom Box.  | Saige Shaughnessy   |
| I am hoping for a Monster High Doll.                                      | Sydney Wilson       |
| I am hoping for earrings and that I get to see my family for Christmas.   | Izabella Slyman     |
| I am wishing for a dollhouse.   | Carissa Nightingale |
| I am wishing for video games.   | Sierra Gregson      |
| I want an X-box. I've always wanted one.                                  | Nikolas Marnell     |
| I am hoping for a remote control car.                                     | Wilden Bruce        |
| I want a scooter.   | Clayton Fish        |

I am hoping for a Transformer bumblebee. Blaise Bearor

I am wishing for a pony that can be in the house that I can sit on.  
Julia LaPerle

I am hoping for a snowboard. Isaiah Armstrong

Happy Holidays from First Grade! Mrs. Harrison

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News**

The second graders have been very busy during the month of November. After reading about communities in our Social Studies book, the second grade decided to take on the task of building a replica of our community of Schroon Lake. Here is what we did:

First, we collected all sorts of boxes for the buildings, from cereal boxes for larger buildings to pop-tart boxes for smaller buildings. Then, with the help of Ms. Rosecrans, we were able to wrap the buildings in construction paper that matched their real color and we began adding lots of details to the buildings, like windows, doors, porches, railings etc. We used construction paper for some details and we colored other details onto the buildings. Next, Mr. Jenks helped us move a cafeteria table into our classroom to use as a base for our community. Mrs. Rose helped wrap the table in black paper for the blacktop roads. Mrs. Tyrrell helped us paint the sidewalks and Mrs. Shaughnessy added the yellow lines on the main road, and the cross walks. As we finished a building we placed it in the correct location in our community. It wasn't long before our community was really beginning to look like Schroon Lake. Once all the buildings were completed, our classroom helper, Mrs. Durkee, helped us write about each building and what goes on inside the building. Then, we moved the cafeteria table into the hallway and taped our buildings down. Some final touches were added to our community like trees, and lamp posts and matchbox cars. So far everyone has really enjoyed viewing our replica of Schroon Lake. It will remain on display for parent teacher conferences. A big thank you to all the people that helped us through this project!

This is what the second graders liked about building the community of Schroon Lake:

Rachael Jaros- I liked painting the sidewalks with Mrs. Tyrrell.

Holly Gregory- I like working with Ms. Rosecrans in the art room. She helped us wrap our boxes in construction paper and add detail.

Thadeus Dick- I liked looking at our community when it was done. I liked seeing the trees on the street-side.

Ethan Fariss-I liked making the Timberwolf. I liked the color of the Timberwolf and all the details on the building.

Owen Anauo- I liked looking at the community when it was all done. I like the trees, and the lights and all the buildings on the street.

Shelbie Rice-I liked adding the detail to the buildings. The railings were hard to make.

Joelle Barrows-I liked looking at the community when it was finished. It looked so realistic.

Yanden Cleveland- I liked building it. Everyone had different things to do and everyone had their own buildings. It was fun.

Mrs. Shaughnessy- I liked working with the students as we worked on each of the buildings. It was fun to watch their expressions as we completed the community. It really came to life for them! They really worked hard and the finished project is fantastic! Mrs. Shaughnessy

### **3rd Grade Rocks**

The 3rd Grade had a wonderful November. We finished up our study of North America with the country Mexico. The class explored the land, animals, and culture of the people there. We learned some Spanish with the help from our aide, Mrs. Tyrrell. The students made clay people to simulate the clothing that is worn in their hot climate. We also looked at the rock that Mexico is famous for, the geode. Geodes are gas bubbles that formed underneath volcanoes there. There are mined by heavy machinery and then sent all over the world for people to sell. They are then cut by diamond bladed saws and polished. People use them for decorations in their homes. The class looked at many different ones to realize that no two geodes are alike and you can't tell what is inside of them until you cut them open. The inside depends on how much heat and pressure it got and what minerals were in the water where the geode formed. Mexico was a fun place to study.

Our new adventure led us to the continent of South America where we studied Brazil. We ventured deep into the largest rain forest in the world to see the many layers that make it up. Spin took us to see the interesting plants and animals that live in the different layers. We explored the second largest river in the world, the Amazon River. It winds its way through Brazil and neighboring countries. It is a major source of transportation and water for the people and animals that live there. We learned that many valuable things that we use everyday come from the rain forest. Medicines, spices, cocoa, coffee, fruits, and nuts are only a few materials that are exported all over the world from the rain forest of South America. We also looked at three main minerals that come from Brazil. Amethyst, the February birthstone, is found in Brazil and is used in purple jewelry and decorations all over the world. Citrine is shade of brown to orange and is also a member of the quartz family. Brazilian agate is a banded colored mineral that is carved into figurines and wind chimes. Brazil had a lot of unique surprises waiting to be discovered.

In math we continue our exploration of multiplication and will be using our facts to solve problems. Please practice multiplication facts at home that include, 0,1,2,3,4,5,10, and 11. We will continue learning more facts, see how they are used in real life, and see how they relate to division.

Our reading this month centered around our study of the five classes of vertebrates; mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. We explored these animals as we traveled around North and South America. The students used reading strategies to find information in the text and writing skills to answer questions. We will continue to work on these skills in December, the parts of speech, and our vocabulary development. The class also sent our pen pals turkeys this month to wish them a Happy Thanksgiving.

Congratulations to Malena, Jacklyn, and Nirma for being our Students Of the Week. It has been a lot of fun learning about each student and their family!!

I am sending home a reading incentive from Great Escape that will allow your child to earn one free ticket to the park for reading 6 hours between now and February break. It is a great program to participate in. Please keep reading for Book-It. Make sure you are filling out your charts and they are handed in on time. Congratulations to the whole 3rd Grade for completing your October Book-It goals!! You Rock!!

Happy Holidays, Mrs. Dunkley

### **The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The Fourth Grade is a great place to be lately.

First, we built a Statue of Liberty in our classroom for a contest ending November 30th. We are proud of how she looks, and we have learned quite a bit of her history through books from here and from Mrs. Walp. She is made of all recycled materials, and lots of tape and paint. She can live in fourth grade since we study New York State history.

As far as history goes, we've just finished acting out the Dutch colonization of what is now New York, and the establishment of the fur trade. We'll be putting our regular lessons on hold to learn about colonial Christmas celebrations.

In science, we will be making bread and rootbeer as well as using an early Christmas gift, a Mentos rocket. Before the holidays, it's always good to do experiments to replicate at home with supervision. We are continuing to read books at a crazy rate, and I'll be starting a new read aloud titled, Soup On Ice. Our writing will be focused on a holiday project, so no one can peek yet.

The end of the first quarter came quickly, and I look forward to meeting with parents to discuss your 4th grader. Keep your eyes open for green papers that have family tasks. The completion of these tasks is important and will have everyone at home working together.

As always, thank you for your support and time spent with your child. Mrs. Gath

### **Fifth Grade with Mr. Humphrey**

The fifth grade students are working diligently to expand their brains before the holidays. In social studies students researched the Maya, Aztec, and Anasazi civilizations of long ago. Then students wrote reports comparing the cultures and ways of life of these ancient peoples. Next on the agenda are the Native Americans of North America! In science students are about half way through a unit on Renewable and Nonrenewable resources. Many students found coal formation very interesting. Special thanks to Danielle for bringing in a piece of Anthracite to share with the class. We will soon be learning about the different gemstones that can be found in the Adirondacks.

Congratulations to Brett, Harrison, Alysen, and Lillian for earning a free pizza for reading at least twenty minutes for twenty days in November! I look forward to adding more names to this list next month.

### **November in Music**

#### **Ms. Masiello**

In addition to our concert preparation, students in Kindergarten have been learning their letters in song and via the Smart Board. First and second grade have studied rhythm patterns incorporated in a Thanksgiving feast. Fourth graders have been learning to respect the earth Native American style. Fifth Grade has picked up the Virginia reel and Country Line dance. Sixth Grade is continuing to learn about many composers of all time periods.

We are very excited about our Winter Concerts! Elementary will be performing "North Pole Exposure" on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Auditorium. Student Council will be sponsoring a Coat Drive at this concert. Bring a coat to swap or just donate.

The Junior/Senior High School concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 7PM. The Chorus will be performing a famous French Carol "Pat-a-Pan", "Hanukah Night," "Zat U Santa Claus?", and many more.

Wishing you and yours a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!!

## **WINTER HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT**

December 15, 2011

The winter high school concert is scheduled for December 15 at 7PM. All the preparation we've been doing since September leads up to this performance. It's going to be great!

Students should arrive at 6:30PM. Chorus students will report to the chorus room and band students will report to the band room. Students in both groups should report to the band room first. Participation in this concert is mandatory and attendance will be taken.

Concert dress will be holiday spirited black, white, and red. NO JEANS! NO SNEAKERS!

Thank you everyone for your hard work. Let's make this a concert to remember!

Musically Yours,

Ms. Masiello & Mr. Banewicz

Dear Schroon Lake Community,

Looking for a great school spirit Christmas gift? Why not buy a Wildcat Beanie Hat from the Freshmen class? All orders will be filled before the Christmas break ready for wrapping and gift giving.

If interested please fill out the order form below and send payment and order form in a sealed envelope back to school. All orders will be given to Mrs. Shaughnessy, the class advisor.



**Wildcat Beanie Hat Sale**

**Sponsored by the Class of 2015**

**Order Form:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of hats being ordered** \_\_\_\_\_

**X 15.00 per hat**

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**All money is due at time of order!!**

**Checks payable to the Class of 2015. Thank you for your order!**

**Receipt: Wildcat Beanie Hat Sale by Class of 2015 Nov. 2011**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of hats ordered** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seller's name** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHROON LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
**FIRST QUARTER 2011– 2012**

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors** – Amelia Botterbusch, Brandi Busick, Sarah DesRosier, Matthew Filler, Matt Goodrow, Jon Lough, William Lowe, Tiffany Messing, Austin Patore, Kate Rose, Matthew Savarie **Honors-** Samantha Bessey, Anthony DeVita, Jessica Grey, Lee Hall, Uriah Harvey, Michael Murdock, Rebecca Pecor, Melanie Philip, Samantha Thatcher, Ian Williams

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors** – Mitchell Beers, Holly Bruce, Daniel Maisonville, Clare Whitney, Lucas Wilson, Nathan Wilson **Honors** – Danielle Barror, Brianna DeZalia, Gabrielle Harvey

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors** – Shannon Garland, Rhiannon Hoffman, Desiree Lanoue, Justin Lough, Ian Lowe, Caleb Maisonville, Tyler Swarthout, Abigail Wisser **Honors** – Kianna Fiore, Sam Foote, Megan Hall, Robert Rose, Alexis Subra, Grant Thatcher, Abigail Veverka

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors** – Joelle Kowalka, Joseph Maisonville, Tanner Stone **Honors** – Moriah Armstrong, Morgan Thatcher, Abigail Welch, Molly Wisser

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors** – Katie Botterbusch, Julia Bouchard, Jordan Finnerty, Joseph Foote, Natalia Stout **Honors** – Austin Armstrong, Kaycee Bauer, Ruth Jabout

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors** – Julianna Finnerty, Brandon Hall, Ashlyn Lough, Tiffany Nolan, Cheyenne Parker **Honors** – Kerstin Decker, Alexis DeZalia, McKayla Vanderwalker, Levi Williams

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors** – Alora Bearor, Abigail Belrose, Jordan DeZalia, Aaron Jaros, Mickael Stout, Megan Wilson, Ben Wisser, Emily Maisonville

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors-** Alysen Bruce, Khaleah Cleveland, Harrison Gereau, Brett Herrick, Courtney Lebel, Cole Plumstead, Danielle Ramierez, Lillian Slyman, Barry Wilson **Honors-** Noah Armstrong, Kali Dugan, Dustin Gregory, Corbin Jung, Malakie Nolan, Lidia Vickery