



HOME Warren Bulletin SCHOOL

Parents & Teachers -- working together for children.

April 13, 2010

Mother's Day Follies Raffle

Tickets for the annual *Mothers Day Follies* raffle are going on sale this week – brace yourself for a compelling sales job from a 5th or 6th grader near you!

New to this year's prize list is a chance to win 4 tickets to the August 23rd *Red Sox-Mariners game* at Fenway Park (\$360 value – thanks to the Delaney family for the donation!), as well as the usual something-for-everybody favorites – a *Sugarbush* season pass, a night at the *Pitcher Inn*, gift certificates to Valley restaurants, a season pass to *Ole's Ski Touring Center*, a *Mad River Glen Family Mad Card*, and 12 yards of black sta-mat donated by *Kingsbury Construction*. Tickets are \$5 each – you choose the prize basket. A maximum of 750 tickets are available, so your chances of winning are unusually good. Drawing takes place at the *Mothers Day Follies* show on Saturday, May 8th – you don't have to be present to win, but it's more fun if you do!

Follies Auditions

Get your act together, and show us your stuff at the three auditions for this year's *Follies show* -- Thursday, April 15, Tuesday April 27, and Thursday April 29. Not sure what you want to do? Come to an audition and we'll help you figure it out. All kids (and adults) are encouraged to participate.

Shed Needed

To support our gardening program we need a small shed to house tools and gardening equipment. Let us know if you have a small shed you be willing to donate (tax write-off?) or have lumber that could be used for this purpose.

Green Up Day

Saturday May 1 is Vermont's annual *Green Up Day*. Bags will be available at the East Warren Community Market. Drop off for filled bags will be at the Market, the corner of Plunkton and Brook roads, the bottom of School Road, at Top Gas, and the bottom of Lincoln Gap Road.

Rally the PTO Troops!

Warren parents -- please come to a short PTO meeting at 5:30, Thursday, April 29th in the school cafeteria (kids can play in the gym while we meet). We'll outline a fun, productive, creative plan for the Warren School PTO 2010-11. (April 29th is the Thursday after we return from school vacation.)

All Warren parents are encouraged to attend, *especially* parents of kids in P3, P4, Kindergarten & 1st grade – if your kids are just starting out or if you're new to the school, it's your turn to step up to the plate!

Four Winds Songbirds' Songs

The Four Winds topic this month is Songbirds Songs. Parent volunteers will lead the kids in fun activities like bird song bingo and a survey of all the birds they can hear while on a walk around the school! Concepts students will be exposed to during this month's activities include:

1. Each kind of bird has a unique song and call that it sings to attract a mate, establish territory, warn others of danger, and communicate about where food is located.
2. The time of year when birds sing is related to their reproductive cycle, which in turn is timed to coincide with the maximum food supply for the offspring.



Master storyteller Jim Weiss, our current artist in residence, has everyone's full attention at the opening assembly Monday morning with his rendition of Aesop's "The Tortoise and the Hare". Jim is working in the classrooms telling stories and helping kids learn some of the skills of narration. You won't want to miss his public presentation on this Thursday, 4/15, at 6:30!

3. Daily bird song cycles vary: Most birds sing early in the morning, triggered by the amount of available light and how well they can see the type of food they prefer.

These science skills will be honed during the activities:

- Actively listening to learn reasons why birds sing.
- Listening to and comparing the songs of some common birds.
- Learning about the variations in daily song cycles of different birds and discussing the relationship of singing time to light and food availability.
- Experiencing through role-play how birds use song.
- Surveying what kinds of songs are heard in different habitats.

If you are interested in volunteering for this fun program next year please contact Caitrin Noel at 496-4459 or Tara Hamilton at 496-3872.

En français *Mme Vèronique writes,*

The KG and Primary units have made their own passports, photos and all, to use when we travel to French speaking countries. We have "traveled" on our classroom airplane to Switzerland and France and we all have a flag "visa" to prove it!

Future trips will be to Madagascar and Montreal. We have started reading *Le Petit Prince* (The Little Prince) by Antoine de Saint Exupéry, one of the most widely read books in the world! We had fun making "poison" for the French April Fools Day ("Poisson D'Avril") and learned the story behind the French tradition of sticking paper fish on unsuspecting victims.

The Intermediate and Upper Units have been working on a collaborative project with the new school computers. They have been editing their mini-clips of themselves reading their "petites histoires" (little stories). From importing their "movie" to choosing backgrounds, transitions, creating translations and adding music they have come a long way. Dawn and I have been amazed at their learning curve. Using both French and the language of computers they are truly becoming trilingual.

They have also learned about the 24 hour clock in preparation for planning some travel using travel pamphlets from Switzerland and France.

I met with the Middle School French teachers last week and am happy to report that the Warren 6th graders are ready and well prepared to excel in the Middle School language programs. I encourage them all to continue a second language in their next stage of schooling. I will really miss this 6th grade group next year!

Merci! to the Intermediate unit families who are contributing items for our celebratory "fondue au chocolat". We appreciated the cut fruit and marshmallows last week and look forward to this Thursday!

A bientôt!

Physical Education Notes *Leigh Clark writes,*

- I have a limited number of helmets from last Fall. If your child needs one, see if I have one that will fit. The cost of a helmet is \$8.50.
- Now that we are coming into warmer weather students are out walking, biking and running. Please send in the a note with the mileage of any hikes, walks, jogs and biking so I can add the mileage to their Mileage Card.
- We will be finishing the Spring version of *Fitness-gram* with the mile run this week. All students are practicing small balls skills and games in PE classes: T-Ball and softball games are coming up.
- Primary Unit Swim program will have their water safety lesson on April 14th here at school. The first swim lesson will be at Sugarbush on Friday, April 30th. Students will need to bring their bathing suit and a towel to school on all swim days. Swim goggles are optional. No swim mask are allowed.

Prevent Child Abuse *Fran Blair writes,*

April is *Prevent Child Abuse* month. The State of Vermont defines Child Abuse as:

- Any physical injury to a child which has been caused by other than accidental means.
- Emotional maltreatment of a child defined as a pattern of malicious behavior which results in impaired psychological growth or development.
- Neglectful treatment of a child, including failure to provide food, shelter or health care.
- Risk of harm to a child, defined as danger that a child would be severely harmed by other than accidental means.
- Abandonment
- Sexual Abuse: consists of any act involving sexual molestation or exploitation of a child including but not limited to incest, rape, sodomy, lewd and lascivious conduct involving a child and child pornography. (By statute sexual abuse may be committed by anyone. All other types of abuse must be committed by "the person responsible for the child's welfare".)

Everyone has a sexuality, which begins developing before birth. Throughout life, one's sexuality is influenced by values, experiences, identity, feelings, and needs. It is also influenced by messages or pressures from the media, peers, and others. When one's sexuality does not fit into the norm they often become targets of sexual and other harassment.

Although sexual capacity is inborn, sexual behaviors are learned. Children learn sexual behavior from the world around them, including parents, peers and the media. The messages they receive are often incorrect, negative, and/or abusive. In order to develop healthy, compassionate sexual behavior children must receive positive, accurate and healthy messages.

What to tell children:

- Your body is your own. You have the right to privacy in dressing, bathing and sleeping.
- People touch each other in many ways, most touches are pleasant and OK. Some touches are not OK. If someone touches you and you feel uncomfortable you should talk to an adult you trust.
- No adult or other children should touch your private parts, although there are times when it is necessary for mom or dad, doctor or nurse to examine or touch you if you are sick or hurt.
- You have permission to say NO, move away and tell someone.

- If anyone touches you and says 'This is our secret', tell a grown-up you trust. This kind of secret is not OK.
- Tell children you will always believe what they tell you and you will do everything you can to keep them safe. It is not their fault and they shouldn't feel guilty.

Practice different scenarios with your child so they know how to respond in any type of situation.

Composters on Sale

You can buy a *Soilsaver* composter through the Mad River Resource Management Alliance for a reasonable price of \$45. Composters convert grass, leaves and table scraps into an abundant supply of rich garden soil. Soilsavers feature a large 85 gallon capacity, easy assembly, and a 10 year warranty. Assembled dimensions are 28" x 28" x 32"

MRRMA is also offering a kitchen compost carrier, a 1.8 gallon container to store food scraps until you bring them out to the composter for \$11.

If you want to place an order, pick up an order form from Laurie (or ask her to send one home) and submit it by May 27. You can pick up your order on May 29 at Waterbury *True Value Hardware* or the *Earth Wise Transfer Station* in Waitsfield.

Clay work with Mollie German

Grow your favorite flowers or herbs this summer in a planter made by your own hands! On Saturday, May 1, you can learn how to create a beautiful, sturdy, and functional planter that may be used indoors or out. Planters are created to last a lifetime if handled properly. Class is limited to 6 adults. Upstairs at the East Warren Schoolhouse, 9 am to noon.

Cost is \$55 (\$50 if you are a rootswork member) includes all materials and firing. Email Mollie at mbgerman@gmavt.net or call 496-2146 for more details.

Parent and Child Clay Classes

Talk, laugh, & learn with your child in the language of clay at the East Warren Schoolhouse on Tuesday evenings, 6:15- 7:15. The 6 week class starts May 4 and goes through June 8. \$65 for 6 week session (\$60 if you are a rootswork member) includes materials and firing for each parent & child)

To register email Mollie at mbgerman@gmavt.net or call 496-2146



Katelyn and Eleanor try out the swinging monkey bars on the new playground structure partially opened last week. The unit also includes a cargo net and coming soon (we hope!), two climbing ropes, a large shady sandbox, and a jungle bridge to the old tower.

Important Dates for your calendars:

4/12 - 4/16	Jim Weiss residency
4/15	Thurs Community Story Show 6:30 pm
4/17 - 4/25	April Vacation
4/26	Mon School Board, 6 pm
5/8	Sat Mothers Day Follies