



# HOME Warren Bulletin SCHOOL

*Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, Self-Control*

May 5, 2008

## Whitney's Returning!

We're delighted to report that Whitney Jones will be returning as a teacher at the Warren School next year. She'll be taking the "expansion" position, although her exact teaching assignment has not yet been determined.

Whitney has been teaching in Moretown this year, following a very successful year as Gina's replacement teacher in the primary unit from the spring of 2005 through the 2006 school year. She graduated from the Warren School in 1994.

## Spring Follies

This Friday evening, it's the annual spring *Follies* show, with a delicious dinner – Lasagne, Vegetarian Penne, Salad, Red Hen Bread, Brownies -- served in our cafeteria between 5:30 and 7:00 pm, and the show starting at 7:00. Cost for the dinner and show is \$7 per adult and \$5 per child with a family cap of \$30. Tickets to the show only are \$4. Proceeds support Upper Unit trips, starting with this year's sixth grade trip to Cape Cod. This is a don't-miss event!

And don't forget to buy lots of raffle tickets to increase your chances of winning your choice of full season ski passes at Sugarbush or Mad River, a night at the Pitcher Inn, a \$500 gift certificate at the Mountainside Ski Shop, or \$200 worth of fine dining in the Valley.

The dress rehearsal for the show -- for all performers and stage crew -- takes place Thursday after school.

## Upper Unit Study Hall

Because of the Follies rehearsal on Thursday 5/8, there will be no Study Hall that afternoon.

## Science NECAPS

All fourth graders will take the Science NECAP test this month in three sessions, on May 14, 19, and 22. Katie Sullivan is in charge of test administration.

We hope you will make sure your 4<sup>th</sup> grader is in school on those days, alert and ready to shine on this statewide assessment. Make-up sessions will certainly be available, but they are hard to schedule and less than ideal for the child.

Contact Katie if you have any questions about the test or the schedule. Thanks in advance for helping to make this as non-disruptive as possible.

## Primary Unit Trip

The primary unit is going on a field trip to the Flynn Theater to see a Laura Ingalls Wilder play on May 13<sup>th</sup> -- everyone will need to bring a cold lunch that day.

## Playground Flatbread Sale

A new Playhouse for Preschoolers -- the first installation in the big playground renovation -- will be delivered during the week of May 19. The playhouse was designed by Christy Ketchel, and will be built by a Yestermorrow class.

We'll celebrate with a Flatbread Seconds Sale -- a delicious opportunity for you to support the playground project! Watch for details in the next Bulletin.

## Physical Education Notes: Leigh Clark writes...

The first Primary Swim Program went very well! I want to thank the parent volunteers -- you are a big help for the success of the program! One suggestion: students with long hair should bring a tie to keep the hair away from the eyes and mouth.

Please review the enclosed News Flash on "Bike Safety" and "How to fit your helmet" with your child. Think safety and wear a helmet whenever you are riding your bike.



*A Kamishibai woman, aka Yuko Cormier, visited our library to tell a dramatic story illustrated by the static pictures in the stage frame. Kamishibai is a traditional Japanese entertainment done by itinerant story tellers, who made their living by selling candy to the audience. Some of the students had a little trouble understanding the narrative in Japanese; fortunately Ellen was there to provide the English translation.*

## School Health Notes Fran Blair writes...

Now that the warm weather is here and all the 'wild-life' are appearing in the fields, we need to be aware of the possibility of Rabies. Rabies is caused by a virus. Any mammal can get rabies -- raccoons, coyotes, skunks, foxes, bats, dogs, cats and ferrets. Cattle and humans can also get rabies. You get rabies from the saliva of a rabid animal, usually from a bite. It is not spread through contact with urine, feces or blood of an infected animal.

The target of rabies is the nervous system. Signs of rabies in animals: change in an animal's behavior, general sickness, problems swallowing, increased drooling, aggression, wild animals that appear abnormally tame or sick, difficulty moving or paralysis.

It is important for children, if they are bitten by an animal, to tell an adult immediately. An adult should wash the wound well with soap and water for at least five minutes. The child needs to see a doctor as soon as possible for additional evaluation of the wound.

Your local animal control officer should also be contacted. If the animal that bit you is a pet (dog, cat or ferret), the animal may be watched for signs of rabies for about 10 days. If it is a wild animal, the animal control people will need to catch it and euthanize it to test its brain for rabies. If a human is bitten by an animal with rabies, the treatment is much simpler than 10 years ago. Today you are given one dose of immune globulin and five rabies shots over 28 day period. Ten years ago you got 26 shots in the stomach!

Ways to prevent Rabies: vaccinate your dog, cat, and ferret against rabies. Keep pets under supervision. Don't handle wild or stray animals. Call animal control if you see a wild animal acting strangely. If another animal bites your pet, handle the pet carefully so as not to get bitten and take it to the vets to have a vaccine booster.

Today, many states are vaccinating animals in the wild to try to reduce the spread of rabies. This is done by putting oral vaccines in a special bait and dropping it by airplane in areas where wildlife are likely to be. The wild animals eat the food with the vaccine in it.

## What about the Boys? Bobbi Rood writes,

With all of the attention on the needs of girls in our schools, researchers remind us that what is happening

to boys in our educational system is also important. In issues of gender equity, we must not leave boys out of the equation, because male students frequently have lower educational aspirations and are more likely to drop out of high school. They also have a suicide rate four times higher than females.

In *The Wonder Of Boys*, Michael Gurian challenges the research that found self esteem among female students to be lower than boys. He suggests that the ways that boys may not be part of our school curriculum. Boys, Gurian wrote, are "chemically, physiologically, and hormonally different and have different brain structures than girls". The way they solve problems and release tension may be hormonally related. Culture and society also play a part in defining the roles that boys have traditionally taken that prepare them for later adult tasks. Just as feminism has opened up possibilities for girls to challenge traditional roles and behavior, so too has it made possible to consider some of the issues involved in working with young men to reduce violence and challenge traditional norms. This type of thinking opens up space for women and men to work co-operatively with young people on issues of violence and gender.

David Denborough, a community organizer and gender justice activist, wrote in a 1995 article in the Dulwich Center Newsletter about "multiple masculinities". Predominant messages of masculinity include being in control, being responsible, excelling in sports and "being tough". "It seems reasonable to suggest" Denborough writes, "that such messages contribute to the incidence of interpersonal, structural, and even international violence prevalent in our society and, in the vast majority of instances, perpetrated by men."

Denborough goes on to point out that there are also contradictory messages about caring for others and standing up for others that allow boys to take different positions in different contexts. This may also open up the door to nurturing and empathetic behavior. There is a tension set up early on that makes it difficult to break out of the expectations that point to aggressive masculinity. Identity becomes a "political construction" that is influenced by race, gender, and economic inequalities.

Gurian suggests that we need to foster and celebrate boy's gender differences:

- Be clear and consistent about expectations and consequences of behavior.
- Ignore acting out when it is harmless.
- Don't ignore acting out when it is harmful.
- Give primary authority to a parental style of discipline that is non-violent and builds self-awareness and self-control.
- Explain clearly and with lots of communication what you expect and how you want him to act.
- Take away privileges as a primary means of teaching the cost of abusing privileges.
- Let youth help determine reasonable consequences for unreasonable behavior whenever possible and avoid positioning them as the problem.
- Never hit.
- Spend as much time as possible with younger adolescents doing what they like to do.
- Help youth find systematic structures in which to build their own self-discipline.
- Learn about and follow the different stages by which discipline works.
- Be consistent
- For every piece of freedom give a piece of responsibility.
- Always let them know you're there for them.

## PTO News

A reminder of the PTO will meet on Tuesday, May 6 at 5:30 in the cafeteria. On the agenda will be plans for helping with French and Art Night, Field Day and next year's fundraising plans.

Thanks to those of you who have sent in boxtops and Shaw's receipts. We have made \$325 and \$468 thus far this year from these two collections. If you've been meaning to start saving them this is just a reminder that these seemingly small items can really turn into decent contributions to the PTO.

## Computer Camp

The South Burlington School District will be offering a series of computer and technology camps again this summer for students who will be entering first grade through twelfth grade next fall. Most camps will run for 5 days, 3 hours each day. Students may register for one or more than one camp and may attend multiple sessions of some camps. Go to [www.sbschools.net](http://www.sbschools.net) and click on the Summer 2008 Computer and Technology Camps link.)

## MRVSA Spring Recreation Program

Mad River Valley Soccer Association invites children - preschoolers (age 5) thru grade 2 - to participate in our low-key spring recreation program where the emphasis is on skill development and fun. We encourage parents to participate, too. There are 4 sessions in the program - Sunday, May 18, June 1 and June 8 and Saturday, June 14 -- at the Waitsfield Elementary School Field. Preschoolers and kindergarteners should arrive at 12:45 to sign up for the 1 pm session. First and second graders should arrive at 1:45 to sign up for the 2 pm to 3 pm session. Kids must wear shin guards. Bring a ball if you have one. (#3 for pre-k, kindergarten, #4 for older kids). The cost for the 4 sessions is \$20. Checks should be made payable to MRVSA. If you have questions, contact Anne Greshin ([greshin@madriverv.com](mailto:greshin@madriverv.com)).

## "Spirituality of Parenting" Discussions

Susan McKnight of the Warren United Church invites parents and grandparents of all faiths to a workshop on supporting children's spiritual aspects.

The workshop grows out of a recent "Speaking of Faith" program on Vermont Public Radio that featured Sandy Sasso, a Jewish rabbi and children's author. She was speaking about the spirituality of parenting—tips for raising children to be more reflective and more than just consumers and competitors (which is mostly what our culture emphasizes).

The program discussion was wise, practical and compelling! So wise, practical and compelling in fact that the Warren and Waitsfield United Churches of Christ decided to share it with parents and grandparents in our churches and our community. . We have acquired a CD, transcripts and study guide and will be offering two different sessions to discuss the program and its ideas. One will be offered at the Warren Church on Wednesday, May 14 , 7:00-8:30 pm. The other will be at the Waitsfield Church on Tuesday, May 27th, 7:00-8:30 pm. This is for people of all faiths—or no particular faith and there is no preparation necessary; just come!

## Important Dates for your calendars:

5/9	Fri	<b>Spring Follies!</b> – Dinner and a show to benefit Upper Unit class trips.
5/14	Weds	Early Release Day (last one!)
5/13	Tues	School Board Meeting 7:15
5/21	Weds	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade transition mtg HUMS 6 pm
5/27-30		Sixth Grade trip to Cape Cod
6/4	Weds	Art Show & French Night
6/11	Weds	Spring Concert
6/18	Weds	Graduation
6/19	Thurs	Last Day of School, with BBQ and Field Day festivities.
6/24	Tues	Start of Summer Programs

## REPEAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### French Night

We are looking for cooks to help make French or Senegalese treats for the June 4 French and Art Evening. We are looking for finger type foods or dessert easily eaten. We also need some volunteers to help Heather set up the artwork and also for the reception francais. Please let Laurie know if you help in either way.