



High Meadow Newsletter

Newsletter #2
Week of 10/02/06

PO Box 552, Stone Ridge, NY 12484 PHONE 845.687.4855 FAX 845.687.5151 EMAIL CONTACT@HIGHMEADOWSCHOOL.ORG

High Meadow School Calendar

Mon. Oct. 9th
Columbus Day
No School

Sun. Oct. 22nd Open House, Book Fair, Holiday Craft Fair
10a.m.-4p.m.

Tues. Oct. 24th Parent's Night Pre-K – 4th Grades
7p.m.

Thurs. Oct. 26th Parent's Night 6th-8th Grades
7p.m.

REMINDER:
Between the hours of 8:30 to 5:00 no vehicles should be driving through the paved area directly in front of the school with the exception of school buses.



Read the last page for News from Michelle!!!

Boxtops for Education

I am collecting these for High them on the bulletin boards.



Meadow this year. There will be an envelope for

Thanks,
Joan

Required School Forms Must Be Turned in A.S.A.P.

HMS requires the following forms each school year. If you have not provided the school with all of the following four forms, please do so right away. Thanks!

- Emergency Treatment Authorization
- Family Physician Report
- Alternate Pick-Up Form
- Parent Co-op Volunteer Form

Please send an email to contact@highmeadowschool.org to request copies of these forms or just stop by the office! Thank you....

Book Club News!

The 7th/8th Grade Book Club is reading The Education of Little Tree. We will be meeting the week of Oct. 16th (exact date to be announced) at the Pizza Place. Please read the book and join us! Any questions, see Barbara. Thanks and see you there!

The Book Fair is Just Around the Corner!

This year's fundraiser is combined with amazing fun filled events such as, Literary Week, Open House and the Harvest Festival. We will also have four times the amount of books we have had in the past, so get ready for some great early holiday shopping!

We are looking for some borrowed items or donations:

Potted Mums

Corn Stalks

Pumpkins, gourds, etc.

Fall/Harvest Tablecloths (prints and solids)



If you have any of these items please drop them off by the morning of Thursday Oct. 19th with your name on it. You will be able to take them home any time after the Harvest Festival on Sunday Oct. 22nd.

Please contact Marcy P. at 246-1041 or Lauren L. at 256-9580 or email contact@highmeadowschool.org with questions or just to let us know you can lend a hand with the above items!

Thanks for your support!!

Pre K

We've had a wonderful two weeks filled with firsts. We've had art with Tracy, resulting in lovely Autumn inspired pieces. (Please come see them in the classroom and the hall. The children are quite proud.) We've been learning fun songs with Debbie. I understand some of them have made it home already. I've gotten reports of children singing about Matilda the gorilla. And we've had fun and games during gym with Jim. I'm amazed how quickly and easily the children accept each teacher who comes into the room to add something fun to the day.

Our "leader of the day" has taken off nicely. Each child has proud to share something of themselves, and the audience has been polite and attentive. I'd like to remind you that on your child's second day as leader, I am requesting a favorite book to be brought from home. We will be sure to read it during circle time.

I haven't received permission slips from everyone for our apple picking trip next Wednesday, the 11th. Please get them in as soon as possible, and let me know if you can drive (we still need drivers).

K

The kindergarten welcomes James McNally and his mom Aileen to our community.

Over the last two weeks we have been working on our compost bin. We tore black and white newspaper into shredding, added a lot of leaves just a bit of dirt and then stirred it all up with enough water to dampen. We've been learning which food scraps can be added to our bin as good food for our worms and eagerly started adding: grapes, apple cores & pieces of crackers. The arrival of the worms was not as imminent as we had hoped suggesting the side porch might be a better holding spot as the children discovered fruit flies in our mix. "Where do those fruit Flies come from? Several of us wondered. Pushing us into our first spontaneous science discovery probe.

We have finished our family album dictations and they hang in our classroom. Please come in, they are well worth the trip. Also in language arts we have immersed ourselves in rhyming books, practiced breaking our names into syllables and learned one of the sounds that each letter makes. In math we have been exploring Cuisinaire Rods and Unifix Cubes.

We look forward to our apple-picking trip on Wednesday.

1st Grade

The first grade class has been hard at work. The classroom is buzzing with questions, comments and observations of how words are spelled and pronounced.

This is a particularly curious and observant class.

We have had a lot of excitement observing the changes of the monarch caterpillars brought in by Amy Weiss. Thus far we have had one complete metamorphosis. We let our butterfly free last Friday. We found out that monarch butterflies migrate all the way to Mexico. We still have one monarch chrysalis and 5 painted lady caterpillars in various sizes. Next week we will do a felting project illustrating the stages of a butterfly.

We are just finishing up our first project, A Book About Me. The kids will be bringing these booklets home this week. The kids also performed their first poem, Good Morning at gathering last week. The did really well!

2nd

We've had a great time with our apple unit. We've explored the concept of Tall Tale and historical fact regarding the stories of John Chapman; we've used our senses to study adjectives, and used these to create WANTED posters for our apple characters. The children have also made Apple Head creatures in art, (which is a fun, long process), and used halved apples to make beautiful apple prints. We've estimated how many seeds are in individual apples, and will continue by challenging one legend of Johnny Appleseed, in which he simply scattered seeds and trees grew within minutes. (Maybe our local Orchard Man can give us more insight as to how apple orchards are grown.) The children are doing quite well and are settling in to our daily schedules. Have a great weekend everyone.



3rd Grade

Hello, third grade families! First of all, I want to thank all of you for helping to make our field trip to Mohonk such a success! After delaying our departure time a bit, we ended up spending only a few minutes in the rain and then getting to enjoy a beautiful misty mountain day together. When we returned to school, we spoke about the life experiences of the children who lived up at the Trapps at that time, and how they didn't get to go somewhere else when it was raining. I really believe that the weather ultimately worked in our favor to help create an authentic experience for our children. By the way, they were terrific – enthusiastic, participatory, curious...it was so much fun to spend a mountain day with them!

In school, we are beginning to learn about the history of the people who have lived in our area, and are reading a book called Owl's Journey that traces various communities through time. I have asked all of our children to look for a special (small) rock to bring to class, hopefully one that in some way resembles an animal of significance to them. Thanks.

Finally, Claire has generously offered to help supplement our class snack budget by placing an order with her buying club so that we can get some of our staples in bulk. Even though Reta is an excellent conscientious shopper, this class wants much more snack than our budget can provide. If you are able to contribute \$10 to help to pay for this order, please send it in marked "snack". Thank you all very much, Jackie

4th Grade

What a wonderful first class trip to Sam's Point! The children were so excited and well behaved that we were able to experience all that this site has to offer. We introduced topographical map study by looking at landforms that were apparent in the landscape: valley, mountains and lakes. We also discussed the various inhabitants and foliage of the area. There was dialogue about the indigenous peoples who lived in this sacred place. Thank you so much to Amy, Robert and Lauren for making this possible.

The children will be finishing their chapter book assignment this Wednesday. I hope this was an enjoyable activity as we will have a written component to enrich this reading next week. Please remind your child to return the book to class.

Our next moon observation is this weekend. Your child may choose any night before Tuesday, Oct. 3 to complete this assignment. Again, each child is to sketch the moon and write three sentences about the night in their special moon pad. The full moon is on Saturday but any night from Thursday to Monday will be fine. Thank you for your help for this homework. We are finishing our Native American stories this week. The children are learning to write three complete, perfect paragraphs with illustrations. It is very hard work. The class is fine tuning their grammar skills in order to accomplish this task.

Our science unit is quite exciting! Birds have finally found our window bird feeder and are eating! There have been 5 butterflies born and released at this time. Our study of significant insects facts is fascinating and hanging in our classroom. I hope you find a moment to read it. We are anxiously waiting for our ants to arrive in the mail.

5/6A has completed their family trees and accompanying "song-tellings". These family histories are compelling and funny. I thank all of the family members who contributed their time and recollections. Please look for the exhibition of the students work soon. In the past week the students have jumped onto the humanities timeline. Using research, note taking and artistic skills we are constructing a timeline of our ancient ancestors as a reference point to deepen our understanding of human adaptation and subsequent progress in the prehistoric world.

In math we've been working on a variety of problems. These have involved number lines, mini-computers, the binary abacus, multiplication tables and measurement. In science the parts and functions of the cell are being explored as we head toward our study of genetics and inherited traits.

We are reading ourselves for Frost Valley next week, permission slips have been coming and our anticipation is accumulating. Call with any questions or concerns you may have. Have a great week!

5/6 B - We've had such a nice continuation of school, and have learned a great deal about each other. It is a vital process to enjoying a cohesive class. We have been constructing our Early Man mobiles which are in the process of being hung up in the classroom. It will be wonderful to see this timeline emerge and to make inferences from it. In Literature, we are comparing and contrasting the books we are reading. The students are interested not only in their own book, but the others that are being read, and the students truly desire to read each other's books as they go through the year. Both books give us interesting views on Africa. In 6th grade math, we have finished our week of sociometric percentages. We created "True for You" circles where one person stepped in to reveal something that was true for them (ex. "I like cats"). All those who agreed took a step into the circle. We looked at that number in the circle vs. the entire class and derived a fraction. We then learned how to algebraically transform this number into a percent. WOW! This week we are learning many ways to accomplish long division examples. Thank you so much to Corina and Huston for sweeping the leaves off the deck and the steps today! P.S. - Please make sure that ALL forms and monies are handed in this week for our Frost Valley field trip. The trip leaves on Thursday, October 12th and returns on Friday, October 13th. Betty

7/8 Grades

7/8) Humanities: Students are working on the changing ideas of chaos, how chaos to one culture may be organized for another, and are working on their creative projects on Chaos and Order. Students are doing a great job with **The Forest People**, getting deeply into the question: *What is culture and how is it shaped by geography?*

The Eighth Grade is grappling with intense questions of human behavior through our readings in **The Martian Chronicles**. Our latest question is, why is it so hard for humans to act preventatively in the world?

The Seventh Grade are discussing problems with subjectivity in **Search for Delicious**, and how important it is for us to accept that we all may have different views, and how hard it is to reach consensus.

7/8th Math/Science: Students are working on the beginnings of MathA, with a focus on linear equations and an algebra refresher. In Geology plenty of field work and readings have helped us to understand the timeline of the formations of the local landscapes.

In the Art Room...

Pre-K has already painted and collaged while learning about 'smooth' and 'crinkled'.

1st – 6th created self-portraits, which will be saved each year for them until they leave the school.

3rd – 4th are in the middle of their initial clay lesson learning about shaping by the slab method. 4th grade will be embarking on a bird sculpture soon, which dovetails (appropriate word, eh?) with a classroom research project.

5th – 6th is starting on a curriculum related project as well. In class they are studying ancient Egypt and Africa so we will be exploring mask images by way of subtractive sculptural techniques (a.k.a carving) in wood and foam.

Art Wish List – Clean small plastic water bottles and tubes.

Notes from Michelle...

Hello, everyone! I would like to take this opportunity to discuss some of the resources in your Parent Handbook that might slip past your attention.

As birthday season is clearly upon us, I would like to invite you to check out the Social Etiquette page at the end of the Code of Conduct. These pointers help us all to live in harmony, while honoring the choices we make regarding playdates and parties.

It is also very important that you have an understanding of how we deal with conflict. For this information, please check out the Affective and Civic Education part of the Social Studies curriculum. This really gives you insight into the philosophy and mechanisms behind how we educate our students for citizenship in a democracy.

For those of you who still feel a little stumped by how to spend your parent co-op hours, or the history of that aspect of our community, check out the **Fundraising...Why we do it section**.

A note on Lantern Walk! This is a magical event geared to our Pre-K – 1st graders. It takes a Herculean effort to make it happen, but it is really worth it. If you have received a call from your class parent to volunteer, please find a way to do so. We can not run this event without our corps of volunteers!

Finally, coming up on the 24th and 26th are Back to School nights. This is an opportunity to participate in a typical classroom activity, and to learn the educational approach that High Meadow takes from experience. This is truly a John Deweyan night. To learn more about John Dewey, the father of progressive education, check out www.johndeweyproject.org.

'Til then, have a great couple of weeks!

