



High Meadow Newsletter

Newsletter #1
Week of 9/24/07

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High Meadow School Calendar

Fri. Oct. 5th NO RONDOUT BUSSING in the P.M.!!!

Sat Oct. 6th 10-3pm. (fun) WORK DAY!

Mon. Oct 8th Columbus Day! No School!

Thurs. and Fri. Oct. 18th and 19th, 8:30 a.m.-9a.m. or after school between 3 and 5p.m. and Oct 21st 11a.m.-3p.m. BOOKFAIR!!

Coat Drive!

Time for Our Annual Coat Drive for Agribusiness Child Development Center in New Paltz. Most of the clients are migrant workers who are in desperate need of warm outer clothing. Please donate clean, presentable jackets and coats of all sizes (children through adults). No other clothing should be left at this time. Coats can be left in Barbara's 3rd Grade room. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Calling All Parents Who Wish to Work Off Some of Their Hours!

WORK/BEAUTIFICATION DAY! Saturday Oct. 6th 10-3pm. Please let Barbara (3rd Grade) know of you are interested in working off 5 hours and having a whooping good time as well!



"The Book Fair is coming! The Book Fair is coming!"

It's that time again to curl up in our Book-Nook with a favorite book and your favorite child. There will be a large selection of Scholastic books, some Local Author books and this year, used books!

Join us in the Performing Arts Center before school starts (8:30-9a.m.) Thursday and Friday October 18th and 19th, or after school between 3 and 5p.m. There will be yummy treats to nosh on in the morning along with coffee, tea and juice so you can make the most of your opportunity to share a beloved book, have a few literary conversations and do some early holiday shopping! The possibilities are endless!

Be sure to attend the Grand Finale as well! On Sunday, October 21st 11a.m.-3p.m., the book fair continues in conjunction with High Meadow's Open House. There will be warm food, crafts and great books to delight your senses!

Going to see friends this weekend? E-mail or phone family??? Ask if they would like to donate their gently used books to a place where they would be loved and appreciated...High Meadow's Book Fair!

Getting them to us is as easy as 1-2-3... drop them off in the box marked, "Used Books" in the Main Office and we will do the rest!

P.S. While your visiting friends or chatting on the phone, don't forget to mention when this great book event is happening: October 21st in the High Meadow Performing Arts Center from 11-3.

More to come soon...

Work/Beautification Day- Saturday Oct. 6th 10-3pm. Please visit your local nursery and buy a tree, bush or perennial plant (trees are on sale now) or donate one of your own if you can for our campus. Thanks!



Attention Craftspeople and Nature Lovers!

The Harvest Festival Open House is coming soon... Sunday Oct. 21st! I'm looking for creative parents from all grades who would like to lead a fall oriented nature craft. This event is for HM kids and possible newcomers to the school. It's a nice way to put in some fundraising hours and share your talents as well. Please call Leslie A. @ 845-687-4284 for more info. a.s.a.p. Thanks!

DESK NEEDED! AnnMarie in the Second Grade is looking for an adult size desk or table for her classroom. We can arrange for P.U. Thank you.

Lost Keys! There's a boat on the key ring... Please sail it into Alicia's office and leave it with her. Thanks!

Bikers Corner

Join High Meadow Families and Local Community Members for Sunday 10a.m. bike rides. This WEEKLY EVENT will be fun for the family! Meet at the High Meadow parking lot for a 20-25 mile ride. See You There!



Since the Book Fair is just around the corner... (Oct. 18th, 19th and the 21st)

We are looking for some borrowed items or donations:

- Potted Mums
- Corn Stalks
- Pumpkins, Gourds, etc.
- Hay Bails

If you have any of these items please drop them off by the morning of Wednesday, October 17th with your name on it. You will be able to take them home any time after the Open House on Sunday Oct. 21st.

Please contact Amy W. at 687-2101 with any questions



or if you would like to lend a hand with the above items!

Thanks for your support!

Donate your Gently Used Books to the High Meadow's Book Fair!

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More to come soon...

Notes from Michelle...

Welcome! This year has begun with a lovely calm, with the first couple of short weeks offering the opportunity to ease into the year. We entered with all the space we need completed and the kinks generally worked out, with new staff members who are hard working, creative, and caring, and new families who have brought good energy and enthusiasm. Now we have completed the first full week of school and the real work has begun.

Last week we had our Apple Ceremony at Gathering. In this ceremony the teachers present their new students, and I present the new teachers with an apple. This is a simple and delicious offering from nature to acknowledge and welcome our new community members into the fold. Debbie Lan came to sing with us, and the new space rang with good feeling. Gatherings this year will be incorporating more class presentations with each class scheduled to share something about their work once a month. Debbie will be using her volunteer time to come in once a month for singing. And then once a month, the upper school (5-8) and lower school (PK-4) will have separate gatherings for more intimate age-based kinds of presentations and activities. Through this students learn about what the school is learning as a whole, become confident public speakers, and continue to build the sense of community that High Meadow strives to have.

Parent/Teacher conferences are available all year. If you or your child have questions or concerns, or if you just want to check in, call or make a date with your child's teacher.

A great event is coming up...Lantern Walk! This is the night that we create an enchanting experience for children in grades PK through Third at HMS. Fairies and other magical creatures and beings come out to entertain and inspire our children and stories ignite the imagination. If you would like to be involved please call me and I will pass on the message to Mr. Tippy.

A note about parking, entry and exit: We may enter the campus from Albright Lane or our driveway, but must only exit from our driveway. Parking is in our parking lot only. If you are here for the day, I ask that you not park by the basketball hoop.

HMS is a Tobacco Free Zone: Please remember the Parking lot is included in the campus, so please extinguish/discard cigarettes or cigars before driving in. Thanks!

Thanks to those of you who have generously offered your time for lunch parenting. This is a great way to use volunteer hours, to stay connected, and to help with the smooth working of our days. If you are willing to help in classes other than your child's please let us know, as there are still a few spots we could fill:

Extra help for Cindy in Pre-K/K lunch
Wednesday and Thursday in 4th and 5/6

With my time completely devoted to administering, I am far more available to staff, students, and you! Every time someone walks into my office these days, they are astonished to find that I am here...or nearby. Please feel free to come in for any reason.

One parent has...Dr. Simone R. and her family joined our school this year and she has jumped right into the culture of volunteerism with good energy and ideas. Here are two that I would like to present to you:

The First HMS School wide Yearbook: In the pages of this newsletter you will find a description of the yearbook and how you can become involved. This is great for those of you who would rather fulfill your volunteer requirements on your own time. Just keep in touch with your child's teacher as to classroom events and take pictures. The layout page is provided for you in this newsletter as well.

Con't...

Michelle's notes cont...

The second effort has to do with the work Simone does with therapeutic grade Essential Oils and Products. She works with a multi-level networking company, which some of you already know about, called Young Living. These organic and clean products include essential oils, oral hygiene, household/school cleaning products, and nutritional supplements that have been credited with improving health, putting cancer into remission, improving learning disabilities, longevity, educational issues and environmental support. Before school started, Simone donated an organic and safe antibacterial cleaner and soaps which were used in the cleaning of the lower school. Hand soap has been put into some of the bathrooms. High Meadow School now has its own account and as more parents and teachers became involved Simone placed those people under the school account. From this day forward, High Meadow will always receive the total commissions from the orders placed by High Meadow staff, families, and friends. In response to parent and teacher interest, Simone is offering to provide consultations and workshops at no charge to the High Meadow Family. Here are the first three dates for these informational sessions, the first of which will enable you to take advantage of a start-up special from Young Living:

Sunday, September 30 at 10:00 AM
Wednesday, October 3 from 9-10
Monday, October 15, @ 3:00 - 4

For more information email Simone directly at simone@bodyoftruth.com.

That's it for now. Happy Autumn!

Pre-K

Before I report on the happenings in the classroom, I'd like to introduce and say welcome to the following Pre-K children and their families: Baila, her parents Jackie and Craig, and her sister Corina; Clara and her parents Jennifer and Aaron; Ella, her parents Elena and Reuben, and her sister Anna; Emily, her parents Simone and Steven, and her brothers Alden and Liam; Luella, her parents Ryan and Garret, and her brother Fionn; Ramona, her parents Vanessa and Jamie, and her siblings Delia and Isaac!

As we start this PreK journey together, I'm amazed to see how brave and open these children are. Though they have not been in school very long, the children are already growing comfortable with each other and with the classroom. The dress up clothes are being put to good use as the children take turns becoming princesses, mothers, big sisters, fathers and baby sitters. Blocks have become cat beds and candy bars. Art supplies are being explored. We've had a couple of all class orchestra performances, and there's no telling who will burst into song next. Snack time is slow and sweet as the girls and I savor the food (Cindy makes such good snacks!) and tell each other stories about our families and our pets. "I miss Mommy" moments are shorter as concerned friends approach with "Do you want to play?" I feel sure this school year holds wonders!

We had a great time on our first field trip! The summer-like weather coupled with the abundant fruit made our apple picking adventure a success. (Thank you Jamie, Ryan, And Simone for driving and carrying the heavy bags of apples.) Back in the classroom we attempted to make apple crisp. The children carefully measured and mixed the honey from Clara's bees along with butter, cinnamon and a few other tasty items. Unfortunately, someone (that's me) forgot a key ingredient (the flour) and the treat was not very crisp. I seemed to be the only one who noticed, so I guess that was a success too!

K-

As another kindergarten year unfolds I feel excited about the time before us, the discoveries, friendships, delights and caring that come with getting to know and spend time with your children. I am constantly struck with the joy and uniqueness each child brings to our days.

In language arts we have introduced the "Describing Hierarchy" as a means for developing oral language. Focusing on our upcoming Apple picking trip we named, identified the category (fruits, red things, things that are round) discussed the function (things we eat) and attributes of apples. We have begun working on letter recognition and identifying rhyme. Also in Language arts we have started working on our family album pictures which are a natural pairing of art and language arts.

In math we have worked on order and comparing size through the retelling of the story of The Ginger bread man.

The children have now been introduced to each of our arts classes: Dance on Monday, Music on Tuesday, Art on Wednesday, and Physical Education on Thursday. We have joined in the whole school Gathering on Thursday followed by reading partners. Our children are paired with the fourth graders for this very sweet book sharing time.

We welcome you all to a wonderful year!

1st Grade

Welcome! We have had a great start to this new year. We have been hard at work and at play; both very important pieces of development. The weather has been absolutely beautiful so the kids have had ample opportunity to explore the outdoors.

We have started the year working on two projects. One is writing a "Book About Me."

This first writing project has the children exploring aspects of themselves; this writing process entails copying the beginning of a sentence from the board and then finishing it with their personal response. We work with the children individually as they phonetically sound out their words. We are also working on the life cycle of a butterfly booklet. Con't...

1st Con't...

The second project we are working on is the life cycle of a butterfly. We began the unit with a visitor from Rainbow Farms, which is a local butterfly farm in Dutchess County. Amor, our instructor, brought us Monarch eggs, caterpillars and butterflies. We have been very excited watching the growth from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis. We are now anxiously awaiting the hatching of our chrysalises. We are also participating in a migration research project. We will be tagging our butterflies and hope that they get counted upon their arrival to Mexico. We are also working with Elena LaDue Ullman, dance teacher extraordinaire, who is designing a series of dance pieces to coincide with our life cycle studies this year.

Our trip to Forsyth Park has been cancelled. We will be going to Saunderkills Farms instead, on Oct 19, for pumpkin picking. There is a \$6.00 charge. For those of you who have already paid \$3.00 for our cancelled trip just send in an additional \$3.00. Thanks.

2nd Grade

Hello Second grade Parents!! What a busy two weeks we've had. The children are settling in and internalizing our daily/weekly routines quite well. Great job with the homework folders, by the way!

We began the year with a brief piece on tolerance and identifying individual's unique and different joys and needs. We explored these concepts through stories, reflective conversation and journal writing. This is a topic we'll return and develop constantly throughout the year, especially in regards to individual learning styles.

We are also spending class time getting to know one of my favorite American heroes, the kind, eccentric and gentle John Chapman. We're listening to his story from several different sources, and deepening our comprehension through writing and drawing. This topic is a fantastic introduction to early American pioneer life and our nation's westward expansion. Why were apples so helpful to these young Americans? (Ask the nearest second grader to tell you why!)

For writing practice we are using our senses to find as many descriptive words, or adjectives, we can find, creating Super Apple Sentences. We also practiced the usage of commas when writing things in a series. Check out our beautiful apple still life's and poems to see the results of their efforts.

Regarding homework- please let me know right away if any aspect of the homework is overly stressful to you or your child. This includes the format of the homework sheets, the content, or even the utilizing of the folder. The more feedback I get the better. Leaving notes on the homework itself is a great means. Also, please leave the folder home and return only when all the completed homework, forms, etc. are contained within. Thank you.

P.S. Please consider driving for our upcoming field trips to Hurds apple orchard and pumpkin picking at Saunderskill. (You'll have to leave a copy of your license in the office if you want to be a driver.)

3rd grade

What a wonderful group of children, every single one! I am very excited about the coming year. Last Tuesday we were honored to have Victoria Christgau explore our social interactions with a workshop on the Four Agreements. She presented the building blocks of mutual respect, kindness and appreciation of our differences. These principles will enhance our classroom behaviors as well as instill tolerance and compassion throughout the school year. When children are emotional safe only then can ultimate learning take place. Helping our children to have open hearts and open minds only creates a more peaceful world. I ask you to join me in this endeavor. It is indeed hard work.

Special Dates:

This **Wednesday, September 26** field trip to Mohonk Preserve to study habitats with Betty Boomer

Tuesday October 9, field trip to Huguenot Street Houses to begin our study of early New York settlers

Thursday, October 18 first book report assignment due (info to be sent home).

Our classroom is alive with tiny creatures. No! not what you fear! Our ladybugs have arrived! We have begun an in depth scientific study complete with illustrations and observations. The unit will culminate with original poetry on these exquisite insects. Take a moment to come into our room and read our significant facts about insects. This was our first attempt at research. It was very successful.

We have also begun our year long project about New York State by introducing the Hudson River. Please know any family trips throughout this glorious state will only enrich the educational experience for your child. I look forward to the adventures ahead.

Blessed be, Barbara

4th Grade

We have so much going on that it's hard to know where to begin. First of all, I'd like to thank the many generous families who donated beloved cds to our music library. We have been enjoying them in the morning before meeting. It is so nice to start the day with some great music!

By Friday, I hope to have news regarding our potential overnight to the Albany Museum. As soon as I hear, I'll fill you in. Last week, I sent home a letter that outlined the expectations for spelling homework for the year, and asked that it be kept. If you need another copy of the letter, please send a note to school ASAP, and I'll send you another copy. There are parts of both books that we do not use. This week, our spelling test was on Thursday, due to our field trip today.

I hope by now that you have all heard about the science experiment that we did last Friday. We had such a great time learning that not all water is the same. Ask your child for details about salinity and temperature and their effect upon the mass of water.

Con't...

4th con't...

Our lice situation appears to be under control, but please continue to check your children nightly. We checked everyone Monday morning and it looked good, but nits take up to 10 days to show up after contact. The nape of the neck is the first place they appear, so please check daily. Yuck. Hope you're all enjoying this beautiful weather. Jackie

5th/6th

The year is off and running fairly smoothly already, and we've done so much in such a short time. Here are some of the highlights:

- On Sept. 11th, the students created tissue paper flowers which were delivered to 8 different firehouses in the area, to honor their commitment to our community. Flowers were delivered to West Hurley, Tillson, Cottekill, Rosendale, Stone Ridge, High Falls and Bloomington Fire Departments. In two of the locals, firemen were on duty and were very thrilled that our school should thank them.

- This past Friday, Planned Parenthood worked their magic, helping to make the children comfortable while talking with them about their changing bodies. I can only attest to the conversation that the girls had, but it was such an honor to discuss the varied topics that came up.

- Homework - I know that many of the students are concerned about the amount of homework that they are getting. Fifth graders are expected to do approximately 50 minutes of homework per night, 60 minutes for 6th grade. This means that should they get homework in 4 subjects, they should do about 10 - 15 minutes worth in each subject. If some work takes only a few minutes, then the remaining time should be put towards the rest of the homework. So far, while most students have accomplished their work at home, there have been the few who, for varied reasons, have had difficulty even getting started. In every case, they have been able to accomplish their homework during a mere one-half hour during lunch time. Success with homework hinges on a few easy steps. 1) Be encouraging 2) Set a timer for the 10 - 15 minutes, then let the student take a break... breaking a task into do-able pieces makes success seem attainable 3) Make sure that homework is NOT left for the end of the night or the morning. This sets up anxiety for many students at a time when they are least able to handle it. All students exchanged phone numbers with at least one other students who will serve as their homework buddy. If a student has difficulty, encourage them to call their "buddy". If you are not sure what the homework is, I have a site on-line which I update daily (at approx. 4:30) where I list the homework due at least for my classes. The site is: schoolnotes.com. The students type in the zip code of the school - 12484, click on my name or High Meadow School (I'm the only one on this site so far), and they will see the homework on my virtual purple paper. There is also a place for the students to test themselves with flashcards pertinent to the lessons we are learning, and a place for interesting and safe web-sites that the students may want to visit.

This coming week, we will begin with our lessons and experiments on Sound and Space - a 7 week course that will tie in our work with Debbie Lan and Chris Bowman.

The 6th graders will begin their algebra work, and 5th will continue with place value and expanded and standard notation. Betty

5/6 Lit/La the students are researching a god or goddess as part of our study of Ancient Greece. As a class they will create a family tree which we will reference throughout our studies. They have also begun work on the timeline detailing events, people and movements that influenced Ancient Greek culture. -Allyson

7th/8th News will arrive Monday, hot off the presses. Sorry for the delay, DeWitt is experiencing technical difficulties!