

Integrated Arts Academy

December 18, 2017

NEWSLETTER

Important Dates

- Dec. 19** Basement book sale for kids!
(Please donate any gently used book that your family is done with.)
- Dec. 23-Jan. 2** NO School!
- Jan. 3** School resumes
- Jan. 15/16** - NO School!

Next PTO Meeting January 4, 6-7:30

Come talk with State Senators Phil Baruth and Chris Pearson about education funding in VT. We meet in the school cafeteria. There's pizza and free childcare.

Friday Town Meeting Schedule

- Dec. 22** - School Sing-A-Long
- January 5** - New Year Video
- January 12** - Community Presentation
- January 19** - Magic Mailbox
- January 26** - Class presentation



All IAA Parents! Please join us for Coffee Connections

Every Monday morning at 8:30, following the Monday Morning Meeting. There will be coffee and conversation with other IAA parents in the cafeteria! Join us if you can!



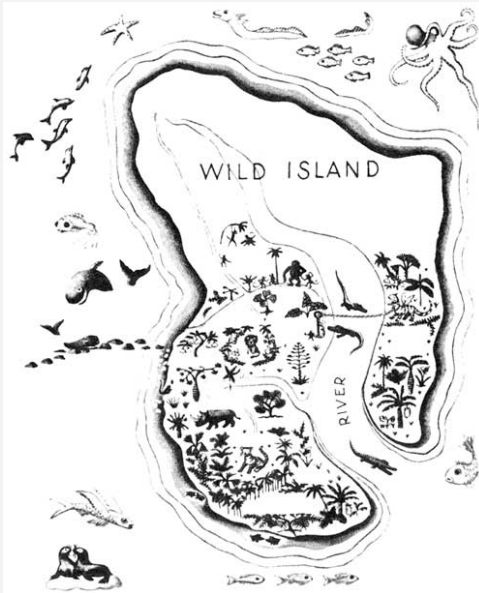
The last couple of Monday Morning Meetings have really focused on **kindness** and giving of oneself. Truthfully, most Monday Morning Meetings focus on these themes and we try to share it with the community in a creative and fun way. Lately, I've been striving to close the loop at Friday town meetings. I've been giving the students, "homework." Last week I asked students to think over the weekend about how they could be kind to someone. Just Friday, I asked students to think about what they could give to someone to make them feel happy and respected (it doesn't need to be an actual physical gift). Then we follow up in the hallways, during lessons or at circles in classes to continue the discussion throughout our week. The focus on kindness and giving is not lost on most of us during the holiday season.

What we try to do at IAA is carry the spirit of love, kindness and respect for oneself and others throughout the year. It is important we teach these skills not as lesson plans, but as life skills. For these are the skills that will really matter when these students, our children, become adults. How we handle instilling the importance of this on our children now, will determine how they prioritize the importance of sharing and teaching these skills to their community and to their children many years from now.

Have a wonderful holiday season and may the spirit of **kindness and love** shine brightly on each of you.

Artfully,
Mr. Bobby

Second Grade



The Second Grade just finished up an exciting Integrated Arts unit combining drama and math! We imagined that we journeyed to Wild Island (from the "My Father's Dragon" book) with Ms. Jenny. There we learned how to act, look, and behave like scientists. We learned that math word problems have real-world connections. Through our time on the island, we learned how to take apart, examine, solve, and create addition and subtraction word problems. We look forward to collaborating with Mr. Myregaard next month for another math unit! We will also begin examining informational text features and we will write nonfiction reports. These second graders are really soaring as 2017 winds to a close! We can't wait to see what heights they achieve in 2018!

Mr. Leal and Mr. Adam



It's cold outside!

Please send your child to school with **warm hats, mittens, coats and boots.**

Congratulations to the BED Calendar Winners!!!



Congratulations **Neave, Nolan, Rose and Bjorn** for having their art included in the 2018 Burlington Electric Energy Calendar! All the art is focused on the theme of Energy Conservation and all of Burlington's six elementary schools participate. They got to celebrate with a special pizza party with the mayor and Champ!

Fifth Grade

Our 5th graders are trying to finish off 2017 with some positive momentum to carry us into the new year. We have recently completed an Integrated Arts unit of study where we focused on multiplication and animation creations. Some of these projects will even be shared during our school wide assemblies! We will soon begin our next unit of study in IA that will focus on dance and concepts of division. As the winter seems to settle in we have plenty of snow and cold temperatures to deal with during supervised play. It is important that students bundle up with their jackets, boots, hats and gloves so that they can have a better experience while outdoors. After the vacation we will begin having a special learning options block on Friday afternoons where students will have an opportunity to engage in special interest activities. More information coming soon! Thanks for your support and we hope you enjoy your time with your family and friends over the vacation.

Mr. Whitman and Ms. B

P.E.

We have just wrapped up our Speed Stacking unit with K-3 and Fitness Testing with 4-5. We still have a limited supply of Speed Stacks for sale in my office and a few timing mats left. They are both \$20 and some of the money is returned to the PE department to be used to purchase cool new equipment. I held a Speedstack Tournament for those interested in 1st-4th grade during recess. The participants were timed in the 3-3-3, 3-6-3, and Cycle. I will announce results next week and everyone earned a prize for participating! We learn about setting goals, practicing and working on goals over time. With perseverance and hard work, we can reach them. These same work habits are important in fitness testing. Fitness Testing is completed twice a year in 4th and 5th grade. This coming spring the Vermont Agency of Education has determined that 4th grade Fitnessgram tests will be collected for all Vermont school children. This is new and demonstrates how important are physical well being is important to learning. More information to come on this new development. Please consider getting 60 minutes of physical activity with your family over the holiday break and stay safe!

Ms. Vierling

Fourth Grade

Mathematical Songwriting

Students just finished up a unit integrating multiplication fluency facts and song lyric writing. We used rhythm, beat and rhyme to drill our multiplication tables. Check out a sample of one of the songs below:

**Double double is fun
Double double get it done
Double double is no
trouble
Double double double
double**

**One 2 3 4
double two and you get 4
Double 4 and you get 8
Double 8 and 16's great.**



2018 Artist Residency

Stay tuned for more details about our upcoming Artist Residency featuring the art of shadow puppets. After the whole school viewing of *Pilobolus: Shadowland* at the Flynn Center on February 9th, the IAA will be hosting [Puppetkabob](#) for a ten day residency in grades K-5. We'll kick off the residency with a performance by **Puppetkabob** at the Friday Town Meeting on February 9th and culminate the residency with a student shadow puppet performance on Friday, February 23rd. Thank you to the Vermont Arts Council and to the IAA PTO for their generosity in making this happen. In the meantime, think about how fun **SHADOWPUPPETS** are!



If you would like to volunteer or help out during the residency please let Ms. Judy know.

School Counseling

According to John Gottman, family therapist and researcher, engaging in more positive than negative communication has many benefits. The Magic Ratio says that relationships in general, in which there are five positive interactions to one negative interaction, are characterized by stability. This formula has been used to accurately predict rates of marital divorce and workplace success .

It can also be applied to parenting. Specifically, parents who use this ratio as a guide with their children support their kids' social and emotional success. While the negative is important, the preponderance of positive statements and interactions help children internalize beliefs that they are worthy of being loved and important members of their family and greater communities.

So how do we aim for this Magic Ratio? First of all, reading this information is a great reminder for us all to be more positive with our kids. Also, noticing the quality of our comments helps us be more aware of what our children are doing well and reinforcing their positive behaviors.

Parenting and educating can be difficult but no one gives us more opportunities for joy, self-reflection and growth than our amazing kids.

Ms. Meredith

Health



Tips to help keep your child healthy

Children get sick when germs and viruses get into their bodies. Being outside in the cold weather does not make them get sick. The opposite is true; going out for fresh air helps limit the contact with indoor germs that are "captured" by keeping doors and windows closed during the winter. Children normally get 7-10 "colds" per year. Per District policy, all elementary students will have outdoor recess unless the temperature falls below zero degrees; wind chill makes it below zero degrees or other weather condition as determined by the Principal. As referenced in the parent/student handbook, a doctor's note is needed to be excused from recess. Please make sure you children come to school each day with the clothing that they need. They will go outside for fresh air and activity.

These tips apply to adults as well as children!

- One of the most effective ways to protect yourself is by hand-washing. This is simple and easy but often overlooked. Warm running

Health cont...

- water and plain soap are the most effective way to remove the germs. If water is not available, hand sanitizers could be used, but this is not as effective as the soap and water.
- Catch your cough and sneezes, in your elbow or shoulder
- Clean your hands after coughing or sneezing
- Keep your hands off your face, eyes, nose and mouth
- Keep your fingers, pencils and other objects out of your mouth
- Stay home if you are sick, you cannot learn when you don't feel well and you will spread the virus and get others sick.
- Do not share personal items (drinks, cups, combs, cell phones, etc.)
- Use a tissue if needed and throw away immediately then wash your hands

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS THAT MAKE YOU AND OTHERS SICK

Nurse Mongeon



Integrated Arts Academy • Snapshots

IAA 3rd graders making a difference!



Fill the Bowl was a success!

The 3rd graders raised close to \$2000 to be given to our newest American families. Thank you to:

Burlington City Arts, Joan Watson, Erik Rehman, Chubby Muffin, American Flatbread, August First, Great Harvest, Barrio Bakery, Sugar Snap, Nunyan's and City Market.

If you would like to donate to our Fundraiser, please see Ms. G.

We are taking donations until Wednesday, December 20.