

Volume 1, Issue 1
Fall 2009

PANTHER PRESS



News from the Peacham School

• On the Web at: www.peachamschool.org/

Fall Highlights:

• **Fall Foliage Day:**
This year we sold over 135 lunches of soup, quiche, salad, and desert. The money raised from this event helps support the ski and swimming program.



Allow me to introduce myself. I am Mark Peabody and I have been given the opportunity to be the principal of your school. I am really looking forward to getting to know and work with all of you in the coming school year. I am happy to meet with you to discuss how the school can best meet the needs of children of Peacham. Please feel free to give me a call and set up an appointment. Prior to coming to the Peacham School, I worked as a special education administrator in Littleton and a special education evaluator at the White Mountains School District. I have experience working with assistive technology to adapt curriculum for students with special needs. I began my career in education teaching outdoor natural sciences in Maryland. I live in Peacham on a small farm where my wife, stepson and I raise sheep, goats, chickens and golden retrievers.



• **Hike for Hunger:** On October 29 the school did its' annual Hike for Hunger to collect food for those in need

• **Thanks for Giving Concert November 24th 5:30 to 6:30 at the Peacham Congregational Church:** We will host a pie sale during this event and take orders for holiday pies available for pick-up at the school December 22nd.

The Nature Trail Association

On the nature trail Peacham students worked on dissolved oxygen testing with Stevens School 8th graders (left) and fixed one of the bridges on the trail (right).



Sarah Parker's Pre-k/Kindergarten
 Welcome to the pre-school/kindergarten classroom! Children enter this multiage setting as three year olds, and move on after kindergarten, ready and confident for first grade and beyond. Our work at this level is to nurture each child's mind, body, social and emotional growth, as well as beginning to

build the basics in reading, writing, math and science. We strive to create a secure, predictable environment, where children feel safe and respected.



Kathy Crum's 1st/2nd grade classroom is a very busy place. The class has started to read with the PreK/K class on Friday mornings. It is a great opportunity for the 1st/2nd grade students to use their reading skills to read to someone younger. In early October, after attending a training on Writing Across the Curriculum, I

to practice and refine their writing skills. They did a great job on the books and many of the illustrations are very detailed. The children are very



began to look at my writing program in a different way. I am having the children make books



excited to be able to write books of their own and I am also enjoying this new approach to writing.

Janice Brisco's 3rd and 4th grade: This fall we learned about schooling in the past. We experienced first hand what school would be like for a child in the 1830s. We traveled to Deerfield, MA



to spend the day in a one-room schoolhouse. The children wrote on slates, read from a New England Primer, learned to play recess games of the past, recited sayings and wrote with ink and a quill pen.



We spent a morning with Lorna Quimby visiting numerous schoolhouses in Peacham. At each stop, Lorna told the students the name of the school and a story or piece of information particular to that school. While at the Green Bay School, Dart Thalman invited the students in. The students were excited to see the inside and learn about this schoolhouse. The students were thankful for the opportunity to see the schoolhouses and learn about schooling in the past in their own town.



Dawanna Chase's 5th and 6th Grade: Students complete units of study from Everyday Mathematics, in addition to hands-on, real-life applications of mathematics.



Students participate in Literature Circles, where they choose a book and read and discuss literature. There are roles within Literature Circles that support students in using a variety of comprehension strategies to understand the book, and they rotate roles within the group. Students also participate in Reader's Theater, which is a fun way to improve oral reading skills, reading expression and fluency. Students write in a variety of ways throughout the school



of writing strategies. Social Studies and Science: Units of study involve hands-on connection to our community and beyond. Technology is integrated across the curriculum including computers, digital cameras, video cameras, the Internet, and presentation tools such as PowerPoint and IMovie. This year fifth and sixth grade students will be learning how to use technology according to the criteria in the Vermont Technology Standards.



News from Nene Riley: As part of the Peacham School Action Plan to implement an integrated curriculum that meets the needs of all learners, we have also begun a new program on Thursday afternoons called "Panther Passions." This program involves a series of multi-age enrichment clusters providing numerous opportunities to integrate literacy, science and social studies, as well as developing best practices in writing, the focus of our district professional development. In September, students in grades K-6 chose workshops from among four topics related to our fall school-wide theme, "Peacham Past and Present."

- The Peacham Junior Historical Society
- The Artisan's Guild and Pottery Workshop
- The Culinary Institute
- The Nature Trail Association

We have had wonderful community participation in these efforts: Lorna Quimby took the Junior Historical Society on tours of old cellar holes and one room school houses; local basket maker Sandy Lazerick taught students in the Artisan's Guild how to make baskets; and Stevens School

eighth graders did water sample analysis with the Nature Trail Association. We also harvested



vegetables from our garden for dying cloth and making Colonial recipes with help from Alice .

In the Kitchen our food service director, **Alice Ruffner** continues to serve wholesome home made meals that meets the high standards of our school wellness policy established in 2006. Alice is skilled at finding local products including meat, eggs and veggies from local farms and our own garden. We are very fortunate to have Alice with us, and her love of cooking comes through in every meal she serves our children and staff. Come on down for breakfast or lunch sometime, let us know you are coming so we can be sure to make enough.

Nurse Ruth Vaal continues to help keep our students healthy. She will be running our H1N1 flu vaccine clinic this year.

Diana Webster our guidance counselor helps our students grow emotionally and deal with the issues of growing up today.

Cheryl Stevenson assists in our pre-K K classroom and keeps the building clean and running smoothly.

Rosanna Burke has proven to be an invaluable administrative assistant in running the day to day operations of the school.

Suzanne Rohdes is our technology consultant who keeps our computers and network running smoothly.

Dave Machell our bus driver continues to transport our children safely to and from school everyday.

Gina Ostrander our PE teacher keeps everyone fit and healthy through a variety of games and sports. Gina also focuses on sportsmanship, teamwork, and life long fitness.

Lian Brehm our art teacher helps develop and bring forth the creativity in all of us. Lian will hold an art show in the spring to display our students' creativity.