

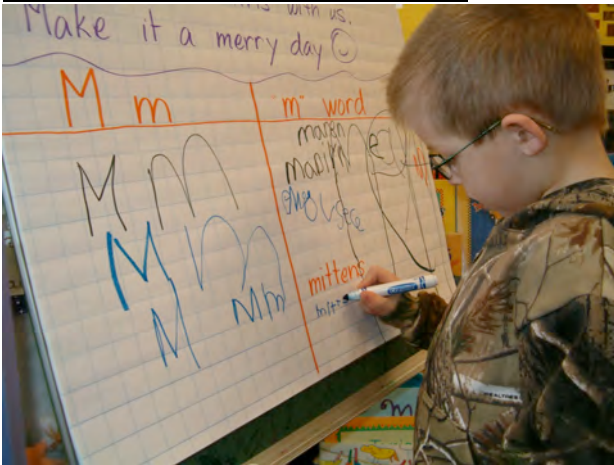
THE PANTHER PRESS

Peacham School

February 2009

Volume 2 Number 2

NEWS AROUND SCHOOL



Recently the Pre-K/K celebrated «M» week with Mary Ellen's fresh baked muffins. Hunter carefully copies «mittens» on the Morning Meeting Chart.

Mini-REAL Begins!

by Michael, Emily and Bayley
Mini-REAL began at Peacham School on February 2 after a week of training. The training was actually really fun and we learned a lot about the jobs that we were going to be doing. Students went to visit the Town Clerk's office in Peacham, the Passumpsic Bank, Marty's First Stop, Joe's Pond Country Store in Danville, and Catamount Arts and the Welcome Center in St. Johnsbury.

The Town Clerk Training Field Trip

For Mini-REAL training this year teachers decided to have each department visit a business in the area to see how to work. The Town Clerk group went to the Peacham town offices in the village. We asked Bruce Lafferty some questions about the responsibilities he has and stuff like that.

He manages town records and has the combination to the town vault where everything is stored. Our Town Clerk's office includes police officers Quintin and Michael, Town Clerk Lydia and her assistant Dylan, and advisor Mrs. Chase.



Store owners Mycah and Calvin write a business plan for their loan application.

Open for Business

The week of February 2 you could feel the excitement in the building as businesses opened their doors and started greeting customers. The town recreation center, The Panther Putt, had 16 customers in the first two days to play mini-golf, watch a short film, or bowl.

The café this year has the best food in town. We are serving up a Hawaiian style menu with fruit smoothies, fruit kabobs, and scrambled eggs with fruit salsa. The waitstaff includes Bayley, Haleigh, Savannah, and Halie. Rachel is the CEO. Bayley says, «Working in the café is BEA, Busy, Exciting and Awesome!»



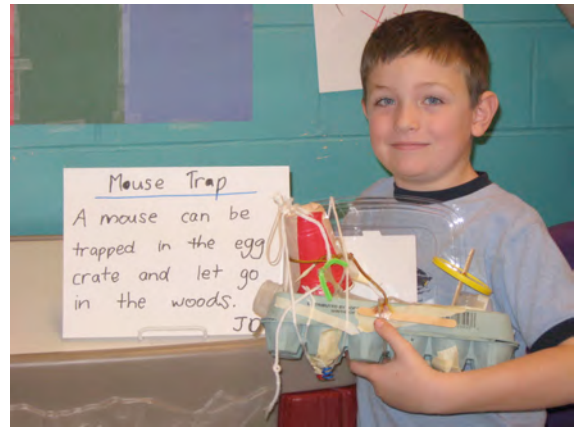
Bank employees Lily, Emily, Devin and Jason practice making deposits and cashing checks.

The bank is a very important part of Mini-REAL. Emily, Jason and Lily are tellers at the bank. Devin is the loan officer. Patrick is the bank president. At Foreign Exchange you can get for every U.S. dollar 2 Mini-REAL dollars. At the bank we have Mini-REAL bank books and after we write what we need to write in them, we put them in a basket and they go over to the permanent record files. We have the permanent files so that if a customer loses his or her bank book, we know how much each person has in his or her account. We are not supposed to tell anyone except the customer that information.

We have had a lot of customers since we started. People are coming in and depositing money from their businesses and cashing their paychecks so we have been busy. Things are going pretty well at the bank, and a couple of people have told us the bank service is really good.

Peacham Students Recognized at Fairbanks Museum Inventors' Fair

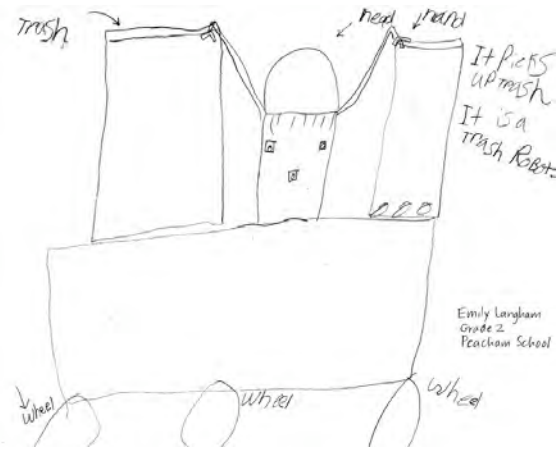
Peacham students JD, Logan, Averill and Emily designed inventions that were recognized at the Fairbanks Museum Inventors' Fair on February 6. The winners received gift certificates to the museum store and family passes. The theme of the contest was «Keep Our Planet Healthy and Clean.» Congratulations to all the students who participated!



JD won for his humane mouse trap invention.



Get exercise and save on gas driving Logan's car.

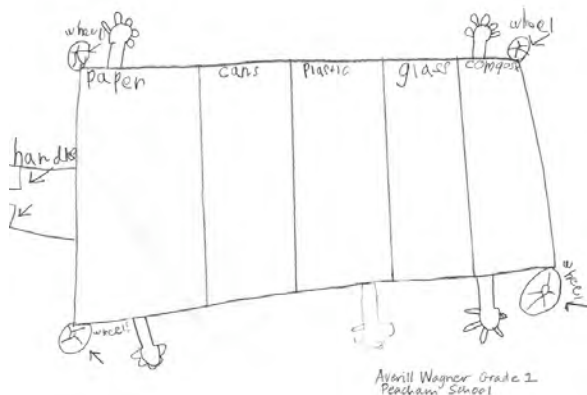


Emily's invention, a trash robot, won in the second grade category.

Trash Robot by Emily

The trash robot works just like a robot in space with a remote control. The robot picks up the trash on my road, Green Bay Loop, with its hands and dumps it into the two trashcans on either side. It solves the

problem of trash on the road. It helps our Earth, so our Earth can stay clean.



Averill designed a cart to organize recycling.

The Recycling Bin by Averill

The recycling bin has two handles and four wheels so I can push it to people's houses. There's going to be four robot hands by the wheels. They pick up the garbage, compost, grass, paper, cans, and plastic. I would make a lot of them so we don't always have to put things in the garbage. If you put more in the garbage it could overflow or fall out of the bag. That hurts Mother Earth. Littering is not good for the environment.

Rockin' Instruments with Mrs. Nolan

by Bayley and Jackie

Ms. Nolan is our new music teacher at Peacham School. This year has been great. She is enjoying her job and getting along with all the kids plus setting good goals for them.

The music is rockin' through the halls on Tuesdays with Bayley and Rachel on clarinet; Michael and Haleigh on xylophone; Emily, Lydia and Keith on flute; Donnie, Jackie and Mycah on saxophone; Patrick and Austin on trumpet; and James and Devin on drums.

Jackie asked Mrs. Nolan some questions about her work and music:

Q: What other work have you done besides Peacham School?

A: I play in the Northeast Kingdom Community Orchestra. I also do the Capitol City Flute Camp.

Q: What is your favorite song?

A: My Favorite song is Bach Sonata.

Q: What do you like to do outside of work?

A: I like to take care of my family, swim in the pool in the summer and do flowers in the spring.

Q: What is your first impression of Peacham School?

A: It is very warm and friendly and the kids are nice.

Skiing 2009 by Michael

This year we have had a lot of fun skiing so far. We have been three times to Burke Mountain, and we will go one more time. We have four different levels of lessons this year. They are Red, Sherburne Green, J-Bar Green, and Blue. The instructors are really nice and they teach us some cool stuff. There is a new terrain park on Bunker Hill that has rails and jumps. We've all learned some new techniques and it's been fun.

PERSONAL LEARNING PLANS

By Nene

Nature Trail Update

Peacham School has received a grant from the Vermont Rural Partnership to develop an integrated science and literature program as part of the revitalization of our Peacham School Nature Trail.

Primary students will focus on writing, telling, and reading animal stories that will be "published" on the trail. An Orford, New Hampshire storyteller, Simon Brooks, will perform at school on June 3. This special program is being sponsored by the Peacham Library and all are welcome to attend.

Third and fourth graders are building owl nesting boxes, and bat and bird houses in April. This will complement a study of owls for Grades 3-6 that includes an owling evening with Charlie Browne, Peacham resident and director of the Fairbanks Museum.

Trail renovation was identified by the Friends of Peacham School as a priority this year. Several students also selected the nature trail as a focus for their personal learning plans. They will be working with this group on rebuilding boardwalks, signs and observation platforms. We are planning an afternoon work party on Green Up Day, May 2. Parents and community members are welcome. Look for more details in the News and Notes, or call school for more information if you would like to get involved.

Making Pottery with Rod Reis

On December 8, Mrs. Brisco's third and fourth graders traveled to St. Johnsbury to make pots with Academy art teacher Rod Reis in his studio classroom. Haleigh had selected making pottery for her personal learning plan. Happily, all the students in her class had a chance to use the wheel and make one or two pieces. They painted them back at school and Rod fired them for the students. Thank you, Mr. Reis, for giving students a chance to visit your studio and get their hands in the clay.

Building Robots

William has been building Lego constructions that demonstrate how levers, pulleys and gears work. He is now designing his own Lego robots using some of what he has learned.



Red Sox History

Tim is studying the history of the Red Sox and learning about what was going on with

the team when his dad and grandpa were boys.



This is the photo we ran last issue of community member Don Davis and School Board Chair JoAnne Post enjoying the Harvest Luncheon on October 29.

In Memory of Don Davis by Keith

Don Davis was very nice and open-minded to everyone he met. He let hunters who wanted to, hunt on his land, including my dad and me. He was always friendly when we went caroling in December. This year we got to sing to the cows and calves. He took good care of his animals. He had one of the top herds in Vermont at one time. His animals always seemed happy to me.

Community Member Memories

by Jackie

I spoke to our bus driver, Dave Machell, about Don Davis. "He was a conscientious farmer. He was dedicated to his animals. He is a person who will be sadly missed by the community because of his local involvement."

My dad remembers his Vermont sense of humor and the way he always looked you in the eye. My mom enjoyed talking with him about the different issues in Peacham. "What I valued the most was that our conversations always remained civil, even if we didn't hold the same opinion."

My little brother, Tim, summed it all up. "He was a good man. He was very nice. He will always stay in our hearts."

PLEASE WRITE TO US!

*We welcome your comments, letters and ideas.
Give them to Nene at school, or send them to The
Panther Press, Peacham School, PO Box 271,
Peacham, VT 05862 or info@peachamschool.org.
This newspaper is also available at our website at
peachamschool.org.*

*Editors for this issue are Jackie, Keith, Bayley,
Michael and Emily, with help from Nene Riley,
librarian and extension teacher.*