

Friday Notes

April 9, 2010

Peacham School

Sixth Grade Presentations

The sixth graders have been hard at work on their research projects. Family and friends are welcome to attend the presentations. The schedule is as follows

(presentations begin at 8:30AM):

April 27 – Allie – Horse Rescue

April 28 – James – “Things That Glow”

May 5 – Devin – Pulleys

Farms to School Grant Meeting

Reminder that there will be a Farms to School Grant meeting on Tuesday, April 13th from 6:30-8:00PM. There will be refreshments served. We hope to see you there.

NVRH Art Show

The upcoming NVRH art show that is showcasing area student's artwork. There will be ten Peacham students featured. The exhibition runs from April 5th – June 5th, with an opening reception on Thursday, April 15th from 5-6:30. All are welcome to attend.

Found

In the parking lot a pair of adult prescription glasses with red frames. Call Rossana at school if you know whom they belong to.

Peacham Panthers Tee Shirt and Sweatshirt Order

At school you may pick up a tee shirt and sweatshirt order form. This will be your last opportunity of the school year to order tee shirts and sweatshirts. Orders

are due by April 15th. **We need 7 more shirts to fill the order.** Payment must accompany the orders - checks can be made out to the Thelma White Scholarship Fund. All proceeds to benefit the Thelma White Scholarship Fund.

Willem Lange Article

Last month Vermont author Willem Lange visited our school and read a story to us. Attached is a commentary from him that aired on Vermont Public Radio in March. It is his praise of small rural Vermont schools.

Swim Program

Students in grades 1-6 just completed their 4-week swim program at St. Johnsbury Academy. Everyone had a great time and greatly improved their swimming skills. Thank you from all of us to the PTF for sponsoring this annual event.

Important Upcoming Dates

We have some great events coming soon. We want to make sure all of you are aware and can plan for them with plenty of notice.

- Tuesday, May 4th at 6pm our Spring Concert
- Friday, May 21st at 8:15am – Parents' Breakfast – To honor both parents instead of our Mother's Day Tea
- Saturday, June 5th Family Day

We will keep you updated as we have more information.

Upcoming Dates

April

4/9	Swim for Gym – Grades 1-6
4/12	School Board meeting 6:00PM at Peacham School
4/13	Farms to School Grant Meeting 6:30-8:00PM
4/15	Fairbanks Museum Visit-grades K-6
4/16	Activity/Movie Night 5:00-8:30 – Sponsored by Grades 5/6
4/19-4/23	School Vacation – School resumes Monday, April 26 th

4/27	Vermont Symphony Orchestra visit at 1:00PM
May	
5/1	Peacham Green Up Day
5/4	Spring Concert, 6PM at Peacham Congregational Church
5/8-5/9	Grades 5/6 overnight to New England Aquarium – Boston
5/10	School Board meeting 6:00PM at Peacham School
5/21	Parents Breakfast 8:15AM
5/27-5/28	Early Release – Noon Dismissal
5/28-5/30	6 th Grade trip to Great Escape
5/31	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL

Attachments

- Willem Lange interview

Vermont Public Radio - vpr.net

<http://www.vpr.net/episode/48151/>

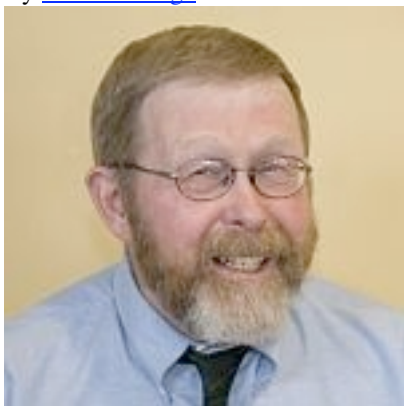
[Commentary Series](#)

7:55 a.m. and 5:55 p.m. Weekdays on VPR

Lange: Lament For Small Schools

Monday, 03/15/10 7:55am

By [Willem Lange](#)



(HOST) Commentator Willem Lange laments the likely demise of small rural schools.

(LANGE) I got hugged recently by a kindergartner. It wasn't that much of a hug. She was so tiny her

shoulders were about the height of my hips, and she was clutching a half-eaten cookie in one hand; so it was really just a one-armed squeeze. But it meant a lot.

I've made visits to three small Vermont schools this year, and found them to be moving experiences. I felt I was looking at the end of a unique rural phenomenon, one that's helped shape Vermont ever since the state led the nation in establishing public education.

Years ago, when I was traveling school to school, I found that, just walking into an entry hall, I could smell the morale of a place. I can't define it exactly, but there were happy and unhappy schools; welcoming and suspicious schools; schools in which I could talk only to the principal, and others where I could chat with anybody.

I've never walked into a small school without feeling energy emanating from the place like warmth from a space heater. It's noisy, but it's happy noise. And if someone raises two fingers in a V, everybody raises his own arm, closes his mouth, and looks to see who wants to make an announcement. There's an important difference - and a message - between being silenced by an authority figure and cooperating in creating your own chance to listen.

I got my hug in a school almost up on the edge of the Kingdom. I was blown away by the enthusiasm and happiness of the place. Seven grades, 53 students; it's one of those schools that planners are bound to target in the current push to consolidate in the name of efficiency.

The planners should not just crunch numbers; they should spend a day there. The teachers ran their classes with what looked to me like almost magical skill. We sat in the gym together. The sixth-graders looked incredibly young, and the kindergartners so much younger, I couldn't believe they could sit quietly. But they did. Later, when the cook and some volunteers fed everybody cornbread with warm maple syrup, the principal asked the sixth-graders to "buddy up" with the kindergartners. Each of them took a kindergartner under his wing, helped him through the chow line, and then sat down with him to snack. The sense of family was palpable.

I went with the youngest kids to their classroom. It was clearly for them a place where they did exciting things; where they formed a group that would be together for years; where they felt absolutely safe. They presented me a picture book they'd made, and we went through it page by page. (They're Abstract Impressionists.) We shared some cookies, and when it came time to leave, I got another round of hugs.

When Vermont decides schools like this are too costly, it will have given up something precious and utterly irretrievable.

This is Willem Lange in East Montpelier, and I gotta get back to work.