



The bird houses put out by the third graders have been hugely successful. Check out the Tree Swallows who settled right into their new home! In the above photo students walk in the Children and the Arts parade, and in the photo to the right, students pose for a whole school picture as they sit in the shape of a bear paw. It's been an exciting year.



## Pierce School News

### Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

June has been a busy month for the staff and students at Pierce School...

*On June 2nd Leslie MacGregor, the Director of Bennington's Dodge library, treated Pierce School students to a fun-filled afternoon of contra dancing. Near the end of each school year, Leslie plans a special activity for the students of Pierce School. As part of this special activity, Leslie talks with the students about the library's summer reading program. This summer's reading program ("Ready, Set, Read!") focuses on health and fitness. There will be five weeks of activities that include field trips and story times. Patrons of all ages are encouraged to participate. This is a wonderful program that we highly recommend to families.*

*On June 3rd we traveled to Hancock to visit the Harris Center for Conservation Education for our end of year, all school field trip. In the morning students stayed with their grade-level peers and participated in a hands-on lesson that aligned to our science curriculum. Kindergarteners explored their five senses. First graders went ponding. Second graders investigated wild flowers and pollinators, Third graders went birding. Fourth graders searched the local landscape for signs of mammal habitats. After a wonderful picnic lunch, students were able to choose from a selection of afternoon activities, including creating nature sculptures, building forts, going on an adventure hike, designing fairy and gnome houses, and sketching wildflowers. It was a great day!*

*On June 6th we celebrated the retirement of Mrs. McClure. Students, staff, family members, and community members gathered together in the Pierce School library to wish Mrs. McClure much happiness as she moves on to her next adventure. Mrs. McClure will be missed (really missed!), but we wish her the very best that life has to offer.*

On a related note, it is with great pleasure that we introduce to you Pierce School's new second grade teacher for the 2016-2017 school year—Alexcina Smith. Ms. Smith spent most of the 2015-2016 school year as a student teacher in Ms. Sutton's third grade classroom. During her student teaching, Ms. Smith demonstrated many of the qualities that we look for when hiring a new teacher. Not only did Ms. Smith design and implement engaging lessons and units, she also focused on building strong relationships with the students, staff, and families of Pierce School. Ms. Smith took advantage of every available opportunity to get involved in (and enrich) the Pierce School community. She attended staff meetings, served on school committees, attended after school and evening events for families, and much, much more. Ms. Smith has wanted to be a teacher since she was little, and we are thrilled that she will begin her teaching career with us here at Pierce School!

Sincerely,

*Ann Allwarden*



Pierce School students enjoy contra dancing (above) and their day at Harris Center (below).



## Pierce School

Volume 3, Issue 6

June 13, 2016

### Mark your calendars:

#### June 13

4th Grade Celebration @ 6:00pm

Registration for the Dodge Library's Summer Reading Program Opens

#### June 15

Last Day of School

Volunteer Assembly @ 11:10am

Report Cards Sent Home

## Cornucopia: News from the Garden

The first graders have been hard at work in the garden, and their hard work is paying off. The plants in the school garden are popping! As a result, first graders were able to sample the sweet pea shoots they had planted.

The first graders have continued to add new plants to their garden. With trowels in hand, they trenched potatoes, and then they dug in broccoli, chives, cilantro and more!

These hands-on gardening experiences have been paired with a variety of engaging lessons, including a lesson that focused on becoming Soil Explorers. The students delved into sample trays of soil



with forceps and magnifying lenses, and they turned up all kinds of evidence of what makes soil, from bits of leaves and bark, to stones and gravel, to living creatures like worms and centipedes. By the time they were done, they had a whole recipe for making healthy soil.

### HELP NEEDED

If you would like to join in the fun (and enjoy fresh produce grown by first graders!), please sign up to be a summer Garden Steward and help shepherd the students' garden through the warmer summer months.

