



DECEMBER HAPPENINGS



- December 3 PTO Meeting 6:00
- December 8 Grades 1 and 2 decorate the tree at the Bennington Historical Society
- December 13 Town of Bennington Public Forum Meeting 6:30 in Multipurpose Room
- December 14 Community Supper 5:30
- December 15 Assembly at 2:40 ~ Reporters grades K, 2nd and 4th
- December 19 Winter Wonderland: All School Field Trip to the Barbara C. Harris Center- Games, Trail Nature Hike / Activity, Pizza Making, Cookie Decorating, and Lunch.(Snow date: December 20) Menu: Pizza, veggies and dip, water or juice. Student decorated cookies come back to Pierce to be eaten.
- December 20 PTO Yard Sale for students (Snow date December 21) Donations of gently used items are being accepted. No stuffed animals, clothes or electronics.

December 22, 2017~January 1, 2018 Holiday Recess- Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday



Happy New Year 2018

Specials - 12/4-12/8 PE (sneakers) 12/11-12/15 Library/Media 12/18-12/21 Health 1/2/18- 1/5/18 PE (sneakers)

Principal's Note:

Dear Families,

Did you know that the Conval School District is hiring short term substitute teachers? If you are looking for a job, have a high school degree, and are 21 years old or older, I encourage you to go to the district website and apply for the job as we are in high need. <https://www.applitrack.com/cvsd/onlineapp/default.aspx>

Still on the fence? Here are the top 5 reasons to apply today.

- 1- Every day is an adventure! When you get a call, you never know where you'll end up or what you'll be doing.
- 2- It's flexible! You can pick and choose when and where you work.
- 3- No matter what you teach, you will always learn something new yourself.
- 4- You have the opportunity to change the lives of young children for the better.
- 5- No one goes into education to get rich, but you will get paid because it is a respected and important job.

At AES and Pierce, we refer to our substitutes as "Guest Teachers". It is a perfect job for stay-at home parents, retirees, and recent college grads. We welcome new guest teachers to become a part of our team. If you are interested and would like more information, please feel free to contact me or the office administrative assistants.

Stephanie Syre-Hager; Principal :)



December is always an action-packed month at school filled with fun educational activities. I wanted to alert you to an international event happening during the week of December 4th. It's called HOUR OF CODE, and it is meant to interest students in computer science. Popular coding tutorials and exercises can be found at the website code.org. I encourage you to take a look during December, and you might find some fun and educational snow day activities online. Speaking of snow, please remember to dress students appropriately for the weather, outdoor recess, and field trips. I have a funny feeling that the next four weeks are going to fly by. Enjoy your month ahead! --Stephanie ~



2nd Grade Happenings

As the month of November comes to an end, we welcome December with coats, mittens, and the hopes for snow. Despite all of this excitement, second graders remain hard at work. Students will be involved in a literacy and social studies unit that compliments this holiday season. With "winter" as a common theme for literature shared in the classroom, students will have plenty of inspiration for their writing and artwork! In math, second graders will practice collecting data and creating a graph, specifically to track the weather in Bennington this month. We wonder when our first snow storm will be. Students are eager to share kindness and cheer this month. Happy December! Ms. Ali Smith; Grade 2 Teacher

What does the school counselor do?

Robin Gregg, School Counselor, Antrim Elementary School and Pierce School

Adapted from longer article in ASCA (American School Counselor Association) newsletter, *ASCA Aspects* October 2017

School counselors provide services to students, families, school staff members and the community in the following areas:

Direct Services with Students—these are in-person interactions between school counselors and students, including:

1. **School Counseling Core Curriculum**—Using curricula such as *Second Step*, *MindUp*, *The Zones of Regulation*, *Social Thinking* and *Skillstreaming*, school counselors provide **all students** in the school with regular, developmentally appropriate **classroom counseling lessons**. School counselors also provide **targeted small group lessons** focused on particular skills and issues.
2. **Individual Student Planning**—School counselors meet with students individually and in small groups to help students develop goals, plan strategies, and promote positive academic and social/emotional growth and learning.
3. **Responsive Services**—School counselors work with other school staff members to meet students' immediate needs and concerns, using individual counseling, small groups, and crisis response.

Indirect Services for Students—These activities include referrals to other school staff members and community resources, consultation and collaboration with parents, teachers, and other educators, among other responsibilities.

For more information about school counselors and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA):

www.schoolcounselor.org



Winter Wonderland 2017

Where: Barbara C. Harris Center Greenfield, NH 603-547-3400

When: Tuesday, December 19th (snow date Wednesday, December 20th)

Because outdoor activities are planned as part of this trip, children should arrive at school no later than 8:40 wearing their winter gear: boots, snow pants, warm jacket, hat and gloves. Additionally, each child will need to bring a *pair of sneakers* with them for the inside activities at the BC Harris Center.

Designated Volunteers who have signed up to chaperone are asked to arrive by 9:00. Since we are asking our volunteers to help with activities we are not able to accommodate siblings for this event. Please plan for both the inside and the outside activities.

While the PTO is providing the lunch for each Pierce student, chaperones are asked to send in \$5.00 to cover the cost of their meal. (If paying by check, make payable to the Pierce School PTO.) Thank you.

FYI: Please note that the Contocook Valley District Field Trip /Extracurricular Activity Medical Release form has been reconfigured. While a requirement for every trip, most will only need to fill out the first side of the form and sign there. The second side provides space for information in the event that a student requires medication during the field trip.



The Storyteller

Kathie Morrocco, Pierce School Reading Specialist/Title I Project Manager

The Benefits of Reading Aloud

Here it comes....."Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr"! As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, that chilly weather is here, reminding us that curling up with a good book is a really good idea! Additionally, it holds excellent benefits for our children and promotes warm and wonderful family time!

The benefits of reading aloud cannot be denied. The following link from Scholastic makes note that listening to stories read aloud is a very enjoyable adventure that can be shared and discussed with your children to motivate them to read more! <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/developing-reading-skills/literacy-benefits-listening>. Audio books and read-a-louds promote reading fluency, enrich vocabulary and engage your child's multi-sensory experiences. How great is that?!

Listed below are some amazing reading websites that I would like to share with you. Please enjoy these with your children on the days or evenings that are chilly or cold as you snuggle into a good book together! Have fun -*Kathie Morrocco*

<https://www.storyjumper.com/book/search> (Books to read loud)

<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/> (International Children's Digital Library)

<http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/> (Online Collection of stories and poems for audio)



Under the direction of Mr. Parshall (Music Residency), two 4th grade Pierce students practice what they have learned on the guitar during their MUZART special with Mrs. Storro.



BIKING CLUB

by AJ and Cooper

In October, Mrs. Germain and Ms. Smith offered three weeks of biking club to 3rd and 4th graders. At biking club, we started at the school then went to Alberto's parking lot. Then we went towards the old train trestle to a little trail which leads to the train tracks. We rode behind the Paper Mill and the baseball field. At the baseball field there was jump we could go off. We went back to the trail to Bible Hill Road. We then turned around to head back to school to get picked up by our parents. Biking Club was awesome and will be offered again in the spring.



Sewing Club By Adeline Regis

Sewing Club is for 3rd and 4th graders who like making projects, and for people who are CREATIVE!!! Sewing Club is run by Mrs. Sysyn who taught for many years at Pierce School. She volunteers her time and brings all the materials for our projects.

Even though sewing is more of a sitting down project, it is AMAZING to see the ending results. So if you missed signing up this fall, there will be another Sewing Club next spring.