



Swift River Current

Newsletter of Swift River School
Serving the communities of New Salem and Wendell
www.swiftriverschool.org

Volume 33, Issue 5

Friday, December 23: Winter Concert at 10:00 AM
Friday, December 23: Early Release at 1:05 PM
Fri., Dec. 26-Mon., Jan. 2: Holiday Recess (no school)
Tuesday, January 3: Return to School
Thursday, January 26: Schoolwide Trip to see the UMass Minutewomen at the Mullins Center!

NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Families,

Winter is upon us and many of our students are not ready for the snow and cold weather! Please help your students have a successful outdoor experience by sending them in with labeled winter jackets, snow pants, snow boots, hats, and mittens or gloves every day. If your family is in need of winter gear, please be sure to visit the Winter Clothing Swap in the hallway by the Health Office now through the start of Holiday Break. If you don't find the items you need there, please check in with the Health Office.

We look forward to seeing families at the Winter Concert at 10:00 AM next Friday, December 23. All of the students have been diligently working with Mr. Cortina to prepare a very festive experience for all! We are very much looking forward to seeing these exciting performances. While the weather forecast for next week might require a change of schedule, we will keep an eye on how things progress, and notify families as soon as any changes are made, if any changes are necessary.

We are also keeping an eye on the forecast for tomorrow, and the school could certainly use a snow day just for the numbers of students and staff who are currently experiencing illness at Swift River. Please

Thursday, December 15, 2022

keep in mind that the germ count is high right now and masking up is an advisable way to avoid the spread of illness (especially right before the holidays)!

In advance, we wish all of our families a very happy holiday season together!

Fondly,
Kelley

A Reminder From Your OT

I have crossed paths with most of you in the 8 years I have been at Swift River. If I have not met you yet, my name is Rachel Vitello, and I am the school's occupational therapist. I wanted to drop a quick line on the importance of having a complete vision exam for your student. Did you know that as many as 1 in 4 students have an undetected vision problem that affects academic performance? Vision screening at school or at the doctor's office may not detect these challenges. Please consider having your student's vision assessed by an eye care professional (please see the attached flier on the last page of this issue of the Swift River Current). This is especially important if your student is having any challenges with reading, handwriting, or completing close work. These exams are typically covered by most insurance plans, but contact your insurance company for more details. There are also ways to get glasses at reduced cost (such as purchasing them from Walmart, Costo, et cetera)! I hope you have a wonderful winter break!

Take Care,
Rachel, OT

SEL with Mr. J

Recently, Grades 1, 2, and 3 read *Where Oliver Fits* by Cale Atkinson. Each class talked about how it is more important to be yourself than to change to fit in with others. They also discussed how, in their classrooms, everyone is different but everyone still fits in together and respects each other. The students then each decorated a puzzle piece to represent themselves that fit in with the pieces of their classmates to create a classroom puzzle. Below, our second graders display their classroom puzzle with each of their puzzle pieces!



Erving School Union #28 assures that all programs, activities, and employment opportunities are offered without regard to race, color, gender, gender identity, age, creed, homelessness, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

These announcements and events are not school-sponsored.

If anyone has events or announcements to post here, please email barilla@swiftriverschool.org!





Eye Exam Reminder

Has your child had an eye exam?

The *American Optometry Association* and *The American Academy of Ophthalmology* recommends the following schedule:

- First eye exam at 6 months to 1 year
 - AAO has a free program for this exam. Check Infantsee.org for providers in your area.
- Second exam at 3 years
- Annual exams from 6-18 years old.
 - As children grow, their vision changes. A child that was 20/20 last year might be having trouble this year.

Ideally, the exam would be done by an Optometrist (OD), but if you don't have access to this, any eye professional will do!

Make sure these eye exams include:

- Binocular vision exam
- Full dilation

Signs of difficulty with vision may include:

- Tilting head during reading
- Poorly spaced letters during writing
- Poor Attention
- Rubbing eyes
- Difficulty reading
- Headaches

Note to parents:

This isn't just to check if your child needs glasses. The most common visual problems that an optometrist may encounter are not included in the school or pediatrician's screening.

Swift River School Winter Clothing Swap



THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER ABOUT THE COLD WEATHER IS THAT
PREPARATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS!!!

PLEASE BRING ANY GENTLY USED, CLEAN WINTER CLOTHING TO THE SCHOOL TO DONATE SO WE CAN KEEP
THIS WOLF PACK WARM AND TOASTY WHILE THEY ARE OUT ON THE PROWL THIS WINTER.



IF THERE ARE ITEMS THAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR CHILD, PLEASE TAKE A PEEK AND TAKE WHAT YOU NEED.
EVERYTHING IS SET UP DOWN THE HALL (TO THE LEFT OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE). LEAVE ANY DONATIONS WITH
THE HEALTH OFFICE.

WE WILL LEAVE AVAILABLE ITEMS OUT 12/12-12/22/22.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR: SNOW PANTS, COATS, THERMAL LAYERS, BOOTS, HEAVY SOCKS/TIGHTS,
MITTENS/GLOVES, AND ALL THINGS WARM!

UNLOAD THE THINGS YOU DON'T USE; FIND NEW GEAR FOR YOUR KIDS! TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, ALL SURPLUS
WILL BE SAVED FOR SCHOOL EXTRAS & PLEASE ALWAYS REACH OUT IF YOU NEED HELP... WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!.

PLEASE, ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENTS TO CHECK LOST & FOUND (FREQUENTLY) FOR MISSING ITEMS. WE HAVE MANY THINGS THAT ARE HANGING
UNCLAIMED. PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL UNCLAIMED LOST AND FOUND ITEMS THAT ARE APPROPRIATE, WILL BE CLEANED AND ADDED TO OUR
COLLECTION AND/OR DONATED TO CHARITY AFTER THE HOLIDAY BREAK.

Winter concert 12/23 at 10:00

Plan on arriving early for seating!



Help support Nature's Classroom.

Visit the SRS Cafe before the show for coffee, baked goods, cocoa and goodies for sale. Courtesy of Team SRS.



SKI & RIDE

Enjoy winter by learning to play in its most wonderful asset, SNOW!

Skiing and snowboarding offer fresh air, breathtaking views, great exercise, excitement, camaraderie, and lots of fun. It is so easy to learn with our teachers. Our instructors love teaching and are all trained and/or certified ski & snowboard instructors and additionally certified First Aid and CPR.



**6 WEEKS PROGRAM AT BERKSHIRE EAST
Wednesday afternoons / Jan 4 to Feb 8**

Age 5 & 6 / Skiing

- 1 hour lesson & afternoons skiing with MH staff*
- \$289 lift & lesson / \$94 transport (leave from your school at early dismissal approx. 1-7pm)

Age 7 thru Grade 6 / Skiing

Grade 3-6 / Snowboarding

- 1 hour lesson & afternoons skiing with MH staff*
- \$407 lift & lesson / \$94 transport (leave from your school at early dismissal approx. 1-7pm)

* 2nd grade and younger will be with MH staff & 3-6th will be with parent chaperones during free skiing/riding.

CALL 413-253-1807 or email INFO@MORSEHILL.COM for information

This is not a school sponsored event.

131 WEST MAIN ST, STE 342
ORANGE, MA 01364



Your After School Makerspace

After School Arts & Engineering Immersion Program

Wednesdays 3-6pm

The Launchspace after-school immersion program provides a place for maker-minded kids ages 8-12 to be immersed in the powerful work of making. After homework help and a healthy snack, students will make use of our 13,000-square-foot makerspace to design and create their own unique projects.



Through the support of our community partners at Walmart we are thrilled to offer the month of January to all our students for \$100! Thank you Walmart for supporting youth!

FEATURED STUDIOS & ARTS

- ✓ Fiber Arts
- ✓ Painting
- ✓ Print Studio
- ✓ Leatherworking
- ✓ Photography
- ✓ Laser Cutting & Engraving
- ✓ 3D Printing
- ✓ Pottery
- ✓ Woodworking with handtools
- ✓ Cold Metalworking

**\$100
for the month
of January!**

Save Your Spot
with this QR Code



(978) 633-5131 | sid@launchspace-orange.com
Register here: <https://www.launchspace-orange.com>

THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM OF PICTURE BOOK ART

Bonding with Books: Literacy Workshops for Caregivers



Do you have a toddler or preschooler?

It's never too early to start reading with your child and preparing them to succeed in school. Connect with fellow caregivers and educators by attending this series of **FREE**, fun programs. Families will enjoy an interactive storytime led by Carle educators, followed by a workshop for adults and supervised play time for children. In addition to hands-on training, caregivers will receive free picture books and materials for supporting early learning at home!



New Salem Public Library
23 Main Street, New Salem
Mondays, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

February 6, 2023
March 13, 2023
April 10, 2023

Register with the Community Network for Children here:
<https://form.jotform.com/223384452656158>



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Bonding with Books is funded by a New Salem Academy grant and the Union #28 Community Network for Children (CNC) program. The CNC Program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Union #28 Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.



Community Network for Children Programs



QR CODE TO REGISTER

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://form.jotform.com/212215759871158>

December & January



SPECIAL

- **NEW! Erving Sunday Playtime** at the Erving Elementary School gym from 10:00-11:30am, on December 11 and January 22. Time to play as a family and friends! On December 11th we will have **special visitors from the Erving Police AND we are making special winter crafts**. Come join the fun! *Registration requested but not required.*
- **GREAT opportunity for a special family story time program called Bonding with Books with educators from the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.** *Save the dates: Mondays, February 6, March 13, and April 10. More info coming soon! Thank you to the New Salem Academy for grant funds to support this program!*
- **Sign up now** for our **NEW Parent Child + home visiting program** for families with children 18 months - 3 years of age and living in Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell. Contact Gillian for more information.

Weekly Programs

Registration is requested but not required.

- **TUESDAY- New Salem Tales & Tunes with Katie** at the New Salem Library 10:00-11:00am. Music, books and a bit of simple crafts or playtime. **January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14.** *Thank you to the New Salem Library for supporting this program!*
- **WEDNESDAY- Wendell Playgroup with Sylvia Wendell Library Playgroup-** 10:00- 11am **December 7, 14, 21 and January 4, 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15.** Free play, socialization and story time. Inside the library children's room. *Thank you to the Friends of the Wendell Free Library for supporting this program!*
- **WEDNESDAY- Leverett Library Playgroup on Wednesdays** at the Leverett Library- 10:30am . Playgroup for children and their grown-ups 0-5 years of age. Free play time with a short circle time and books to wrap up! **Begins on January 25, February 1, 8, 15.**
- **FRIDAY- Shutesbury Tales & Tunes with Katie at Shutesbury Elementary School -** 8:45-10:00am . Music, books and playtime! **December 2, 9, 16, 23, January TBD.** Thank you to the M.N. Spear Memorial Library and Shutesbury Elementary for supporting this program!

Weekly StoryWalks

- **Erving Public Library-** New book posted on Mondays
- **Leverett Library-** Posted on Thursdays on the trail behind the library.



CNC Children's Closet: 4 Montague Rd, Leverett

- Open Thursdays by *appointment* from Noon-4:00pm
- Free children's clothing, coats, hats, diapers, books and more!

CONTACT Gillian with questions at CNC 413-422-0170 call/text or budine@erving.com



The CNC Program is funded through the Union #28 schools and by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and Community Donations.