



# Swift River Current

Newsletter of Swift River School  
Serving the communities of New Salem and Wendell  
[www.swiftriverschool.org](http://www.swiftriverschool.org)

Volume 32, Issue 2

Friday May 6, 2022

**Thursday, May 19:** Preschool Fishway/Unity Park Field Trip  
**Friday, May 20:** Grade 6 Living History Museum at 1:30  
**Thursday, May 26:** Grades 1 and 5 Ecotarium Field Trip  
**Friday, May 27:** Mahar Student Support Transition Meetings  
**Monday, May 30:** Memorial Day Observance (no school)  
**Wednesday, June 1:** PK and Kindergarten Open House  
**Thursday, June 2:** School Committee Meeting (virtual)  
**Saturday, June 4:** Wendell Town Meeting at 10:00  
**Monday, June 6:** Grade 6 Mahar Visit  
**Monday, June 6-Friday, June 10:** BOGO Book Fair!  
**Thursday, June 9:** Grades 3 and 4 NE Aquarium Field Trip  
**Friday, June 10:** Talent Show at 1:30  
**Monday, June 13:** Field Day  
**Tuesday, June 14:** Field Day Rain Date  
**Wednesday, June 15:** Spring Concert at 10:30  
**Monday, June 20:** Juneteenth Observance (no school)  
**Tuesday, June 21:** Prospective Last Day of School

we hope you will be able to join us! Field Day will be held on Monday, June 13, with a rain date of Tuesday, June 14. We welcome any parent volunteers and/or spectators to join us for this event. Please call the office to reserve your picnic lunch if you will be able to participate or attend. We are also excited to bring back the Spring Concert! This year Mr. Cortina will host the concert on Wednesday, June 15 at 10:30 AM in the gym, and we are looking forward to sharing this musical experience with all of our students. The PK, K, Grade 1 and 2 students will not be performing this year due to earlier covid restrictions, however next year they will all be performing in an evening concert.

We will be hosting a summer program in July for students entering the four-year-old program of Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grade 1. Using funds received through the ESSER III grant, we will be offering these students this extra boost to help prepare them for their upcoming grades. Please be on the lookout for a flier coming home soon. We will also be offering tutoring for students from mid-July to mid-August. Paige Smith, third grade teacher, will be reaching out to families via email to discuss schedules with the families of any students who are selected for participation.

In the meantime, I hope all of you are enjoying the warming weather, and I wish you all a fun weekend!

Fondly,  
Kelley

## NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we have only 30 days left of this school year! There were moments when I felt like time was standing still, but for the majority of the year I feel like we have been running a marathon. I'm relieved to say we seem to be out of the woods with the covid rates we were seeing here, and that the bump we saw in March has settled way down. Fortunately, we have been able to move back outside for lunch, PE, and many other activities.

The calendar is filling up with field trips and events. This year's Talent Show will be live on Friday, June 10, at 1:30 PM. Please be on the lookout for sign-up sheets coming home from Mr. Cortina. We can't wait to see our talented students return to the stage, and

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.

## Fun in the Garden with Kindergarten

Recently, Kindergarten spent their regularly-scheduled Wednesday in the Woods in the Swift River garden! Kindergarten families joined in to help clean out flower beds and plant a tea garden. While raking up leaves under the picnic tables, one family even found a spotted salamander!

Kindergartners have been enjoying herbal tea on their adventures during Wednesday in the Woods so they decided to grow their own! With help from families, they planted herbs like Mountain Mint, Chocolate Mint, Yarrow, Bee Balm, Lemon Balm, Anise Hyssop, and Chamomile. As the herbs grow, Kindergarten will dehydrate the leaves and flowers to brew tea in their Kelly Kettle. Kindergarteners also planted wildflowers to attract pollinators to keep the plants healthy!

A special thank you goes out to all the Kindergarten families who joined in or who sent in supplies for our garden beds!



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

These announcements and events are not school-sponsored.

Again, we need 12 students to sign up in order to move forward! Participants must be between 6-12 years old. We look forward to hearing from you!

### Potential New After School Program

We are hoping to start a new Wednesday after school program for the 2022-2023 school year. If 12 students ages 6-12 sign up, Wolf Tree Programs LLC will work to offer a new program at Swift River School!

Wolf Tree youth programs are designed to create a supportive atmosphere for kids to grow, play, learn, and deepen their connection to nature. Kids are encouraged to follow their interests and explore the natural world through their senses. Combining outdoor skills, free play, and a long-term mentoring model, the youth programs provide a safe space for kids to be themselves and develop a deeper connection with the natural world. The common thread through all Wolf Tree programs is spending time outside and working with others in a way that values the natural styles and strengths of each member.

Program content will include:

- Naturalist knowledge (such as plant and animal identification)
- Ancestral skills (such as fire-making, crafts, and finding edible wild foods and medicines)
- Games and play
- Storytelling
- Wandering and exploring the land
- Forming positive group dynamics
- Positive role-modeling

This program would run from 1:00 – 5:00 PM on Wednesday afternoons in the woods behind the school. The session would run from September to June, with a break from mid-December to March, when the weather is coldest.

The cost is estimated to be between \$450 – \$550 (offered on a sliding scale) for roughly 30 program days.

This program would be modeled after the Wolf Tree Wild Coyotes after school program at Leverett Elementary School. Read more about their program at: <http://www.wolftreema.com/wildcoyotes/>.

If you are interested please contact Anna Seeger at [anna@seeger.ws](mailto:anna@seeger.ws) or by phone at 413-768-0060. Our daughter, Robyn, has participated in several Wolf Tree programs and has had a wonderful experience with them. We are excited to hopefully bring this program to Swift River School.

**Apply by May 20th for:**

**Solidarity Farmshares: A New, Free program**

Forty North Quabbin households will receive over \$100 of farm fresh veggies plus a container garden kit and recipes!

**Please read this page fully, then complete the application, next page.**

**What is this program?**

Solidarity Farmshares is a new program of Seeds of Solidarity Farm and Education Center in Orange MA. This opportunity is for low to moderate income households in the North Quabbin, funded through a grant.\* It provides 40 households with \$100 in “veggie bucks” coupons to use at the Seeds of Solidarity farmstand at 165 Chestnut Hill Road in Orange, from June through November, at your convenience. Seeds of Solidarity specializes in tasty, organic salad and cooking greens, plus other vegetables. Each household will also receive a container garden kit, recipe booklet, shopping bag, and at the end of program in late fall, an abundant bag of fall veggies and other harvest items.

**How does it work?**

Fill out and submit the application by May 20<sup>th</sup> (you must meet the income guidelines, chart next page). We can accept 40 North Quabbin households. We will notify you by May 27<sup>th</sup> of acceptance.

You must also be able to stop by during one of two program welcome dates at Seeds of Solidarity. Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> between 1-4PM OR Saturday June 11 between 2-5PM.

At the program welcome you will receive a booklet of “veggie bucks” for the first portion (valued at \$50) that you can use to redeem at the Seeds of Solidarity Farmstand at your convenience.

You will also make and take a container garden kit at the program welcome, and meet the Seeds of Solidarity staff and farmers. Kids are welcome.

There will be another date scheduled for August (date tbd) when you can pick up the second veggie bucks booklet (valued at \$50) and enjoy some farm snacks, then come back for a final harvest bag of goodies in late fall!



If you are aware of other families in the North Quabbin that may be interested and eligible, please feel free to share a copy of this application with them. It is also available to download at [www.seedsofsolidarity.org](http://www.seedsofsolidarity.org).

Seeds of Solidarity offers a range of free and low cost workshops over the summer months that may interest you as well, to learn about gardening, wellness, and other topics. [www.seedsofsolidarity.org](http://www.seedsofsolidarity.org)

If you have any questions at all, please contact Deb Habib at Seeds of Solidarity: [deb@seedsofsolidarity.org](mailto:deb@seedsofsolidarity.org) or 978-544-7564 (leave your number for a call back).

*\*This program is offered by Seeds of Solidarity Education Center and funded through a CDBG CARES Act grant through The Community Foundation of North Central MA and United Way of North Central MA.*

**NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED PROGRAM**

**Apply by May 20th for:  
Solidarity Farmshares: A New, Free program  
Forty North Quabbin households will receive over \$100 of farm fresh veggies  
plus a container garden kit and recipes!**

Please read the cover sheet before applying. Then fill out this page and email to [deb@seedsofsolidarity.org](mailto:deb@seedsofsolidarity.org) or send to Seeds of Solidarity, 165 Chestnut Hill Road, Orange MA 01364. You can also take a photo of your application and email it. We will let you know by May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (street, town): \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the best ways to reach you: call text email

**Eligibility:** This program is for low or moderate income, based on the household size below. We will not ask you for additional paperwork, this is just for eligibility purposes and is confidential.

# of People in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Up to	17,700	20,200	22,750	26,500	31,040	35,580	40,120	44,660
Up to	29,450	33,650	37,850	42,050	45,450	48,800	52,150	55,550
Up to	47,150	53,850	60,600	67,300	72,700	78,100	83,500	88,850

How many people in your household? \_\_\_\_\_ Which income level is your household? \_\_\_\_\_

What interests you most about this opportunity? How did you hear about it?

**The Community Development Block Grant that funds this program asks that we gather some information so they know how funds benefit our community members. Please indicate if any members of your family that will benefit from the food and program are: (check as many as you need).**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White/European American      | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American/First Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Hispanic   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian American      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other racial/cultural (self-identify as you wish) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A person with a disability   | <input type="checkbox"/> someone over 60 years old                               |

Check if your head of household is a single parent: \_\_\_\_\_ and of what gender? \_\_\_\_\_ (female, male, non-binary)

**Commitment:** By completing this application, I confirm that I live in the North Quabbin and am low or moderate income. I read and agree to the program details on the cover page including attending one of the program welcome dates below. I realize spots are limited, and can fully commit to program participation if selected.

If selected, I can come during this program welcome slot at Seeds of Solidarity Farm (165 Chestnut Hill Road, Orange) to meet the staff, pick up my veggie bucks booklet and make and take home a container garden!

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> between 1-4PM. Or \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> between 2-5PM

Your signature or name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

We welcome your questions about the program and participation: contact [deb@seedsofsolidarity.org](mailto:deb@seedsofsolidarity.org)

NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED PROGRAM

Union #28 Community Network for Children



# CNC Programs

## MAY 2022



**REGISTRATION LINK! <https://bitly.co/94V1>**

CNC Programs are currently in-person! Register to join us. Times and locations are available through the registration link. Please contact CNC if you have any questions, CNC 413-422-0170 call/text or [budine@erving.com](mailto:budine@erving.com)



QR Code to REGISTER

### WEEKLY PROGRAMS

- **Tales & Tunes on MONDAYS with Katie at 10:00am at the Shutesbury Town Hall**  
May 2, 9, 16, 23  
Supported in collaboration with the M.N. Spear Memorial Library.
- **Tales & Tunes on TUESDAYS with Katie at 10:00am at the New Salem Library**  
May 3, 10, 17, 24  
Supported in collaboration with the New Salem Library.
- **Mother Goose On the Loose on WEDNESDAYS with Kay Lyons at 10:00am at the Wendell Library**  
May 4, 11, 18, 25  
Supported in collaboration with the Wendell Library
- **Playground Playdate on THURSDAYS at 9:30 at the Wendell Library Playground**  
May 5, 12, 19, 26  
Supported in collaboration with the Wendell Library
- **Story Time with Julie on FRIDAYS at 10:00am at the Shutesbury Town Hall**  
May 6, 13, 20, 27  
Brought to you by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library
- **NEW Weekly StoryWalks: Erving Public Library and Leverett Library**
- **New Session of Ready Rosie**  
Begins the week of May 5th. Check your email box for an invite if your child is 3-4 years of age and lives in Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury or Wendell.

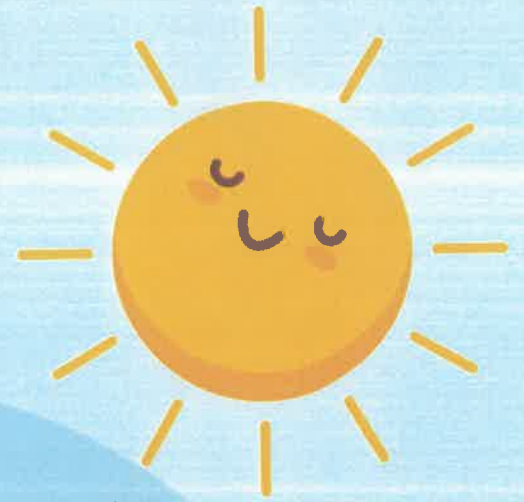


### OTHER PROGRAMS: Registration Required

- **\*Families in Nature, Wednesday, April 27th at 10:00am with the Hitchcock Center "Root Children" in Erving**
- **Save the date! Saturday, May 21, OPEN HOUSE at the CNC Children's Closet 10-1pm**

The Union #28 Community Network for Children 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, and donations from the Community. \*These programs are funded in part by Local Cultural Councils in New Salem and Erving, programs of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.





*Dresses-shorts-sandals*



# **CNC Children's Clothing Closet OPEN HOURS**

**Saturday, MAY 21, 2022**

**10:00am-1:00pm**

**4 Montague Rd, Leverett**

**@ the Dixon House**

**Everyone welcome!**

**OUTSIDE - CANCELLED IF RAINING**



*Sun hats-shorts-t-shirts*

**Come for FREE clothes. Warm weather clothing donations accepted- must be clean and in good condition.**

**Open to all with young children, Newborn-Elementary Age.**

**Questions? contact [budine@erving.com](mailto:budine@erving.com) /413-422-0170 call/text**

**Thank you to the First Congregational Church of Leverett**

**for space and assistance**



The Community Network for Children Program is funded in part through the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, community donations and the Union#28 Schools.

