

## Ticonderoga Elementary School Newsletter

September and October have been busy months for our students and our staff. Mrs. Hayes would like to thank all of the staff for their dedication and hard work in helping our students to get off to a great start for the year and in helping them to feel successful. We want our students to love school! The teachers and staff have made learning fun for our students while stressing the importance of doing their best and meeting the academic standards in each subject area.

In addition to being teachers, our teachers have been learners. So far this year, teachers have participated in professional development activities to help them to ready our students for the challenges of meeting the higher standards and preparing for our academic assessments. As well, they are involved in curriculum writing projects, with a focus on vocabulary and the writing process, and in utilizing technology. We are proud to announce that we have received some new technology. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades now have Chromebooks available for our students to use each day. Additionally, we are installing a second Computer Lab for teachers and students to utilize for class projects and interactive technology applications.

Mrs. Hayes would also like to thank the students for their positive attitudes and behavior. Student behavior is being recognized through our PBIS Program (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) in many ways. Students have been receiving purple or yellow Thumbs-Up Slips for being Safe, Responsible, or Respectful (our three virtues for the year) from teachers, bus drivers, and other staff members. From these slips we select at random a "Sentinel of the Day" and give the student selected special privileges and recognition throughout the day. At school assemblies, we recognize students with VIP seating and awards. And finally, at the end of the year we will be collecting all of the Thumbs Up Slips and randomly drawing for some large awards, such as an iPod, bicycle, gift cards and other items. Through generous donations from the PTO and other organizations, we are able to provide this.

Finally, we have had some wonderful community events so far this season. Our dependable Ticonderoga and Putnam Fire Fighters visited the school, training our students in fire safety and showing students the trucks and equipment. Also, we had a full house at our annual Grandparent's Breakfast on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Wonderful to meet the family members who provide so much support and love to our students!

We look forward to the upcoming Halloween events and wish you a safe experience. Here are some highlights of activities that we are currently working on in classrooms:

In Mrs. Dorsett's Pre-K Class, students are working on the letter Bb this week. They are making bats and painting pumpkins to decorate our classroom for Halloween. Students also continue to work on self-help skills.

In Mrs. Porters Young 5 Class, students are working on the letters Hh and Pp and relating them to the words Halloween, Harvest, and Pumpkins. Their Readiness Words are: I, a see. In Math, they are working on: recognizing numbers 1 to 10, patterns, and counting using a 1-to-1 correspondence.

In Mrs. Eggleston's Third Grade Class, students are studying the Human Body and Native American Regions and Cultures.

In the Fourth Grade Classes, students are working on Module 1 for ELA, a study of the Iroquois Indians. They began with work on the legend about the formation of the Iroquois confederacy and read some of their constitution. They also read a novel called *Eagle Song*, by Joseph Bruchac during this module.

In math, students are working on addition and subtraction properties, such as the commutative, and associative property, etc. They also review math vocabulary using the chrome books and the quizlet app.

In science, we are studying plants and animals with a focus on adaptations. And social studies will focus on the native people of New York State, beginning in November. On Friday, November 18th, we are having our annual Native American Festival in the auditorium, and we invite parents and elementary classes.

In writing, this quarter, we are working on personal narratives and Nancy's class is working on their literary analysis piece using the main character from the book, *Wonder*.

In Mrs. Graves' Fifth Grade Classes students are working on ELA using Wilson Reading Program and reading *Bridge to Terabithia*. In her Math Class she is working on division and rates.

In Mr. Chagnon's Music Classes (K-4), students are working on Halloween songs and covering topics such as singing staccato (short choppy notes) versus legato (smooth connected notes). They are using symbols like a fermata to create a dramatic effect. Fifth Grade students are also keeping with the Halloween theme and playing a piece of music in a minor key.

In Mrs. Fingland's Art Classes, students have been working on varieties of projects using different mediums. Some classes are using watercolors to create pictures. Some are sketching and adorning Egyptian masks. Some are making clay sculptures.

Some of the upcoming events include the following:

- 10/31 Halloween
- 11/3 School Pictures
- 11/11 Veteran's Day – No School

11/17 Beethoven's Wig Performance  
11/18 First Marking Period Ends  
11/21 Parent/Teacher Conferences – No School  
11/22 – 11/25 Thanksgiving Break – No School  
12/7 Kiwanis Club Senior Citizen Luncheon  
12/9 Early Dismissal, 11:00am  
12/13 Winter Concert, Grades 3-8, 6:30pm  
12/13-12/15 PTO Christmas Store