



The Raider Review

Stowe Middle School Publication
Volume III, Issue 4
December 2015

Principal's Corner

Dear Stowe Middle School Families,

December is such an exciting time in the middle school. The action in the classroom is fast-paced and our students are gearing up to finish projects, papers, and more! When our students come back in 2016, they will once again refocus on the Personal Learning Plan, a student's website to articulate their academic goals and progress. We look forward to sharing more with you on this project in January.

As a general reminder our second quarter ends December 23rd and the third quarter begins January 4th. Parents are always welcome to checkout their student's grades and progress online through Parent Portal. If you have general questions about how to access Parent Portal, feel free to call the office or email our tech team at stowetech@lssvvt.org. Our first Friday Program, is January 8th and hopefully, we will have snow on the ground! On January 13th, our next installment of the Leadership Speaking Series welcomes Stowe Police Chief Don Hull. Chief Hull will bring a message to our students around digital (technology) footprint, social media, harassment, bullying and other things that might impact a student's emotional safety.

Finally, I would also like to extend a huge thank you to our sixth grade parents who broke all fundraising records for fruit and wreath sales. The group's captains were Kirsten Cardenas and Sandy Huber. We are excited to say that after student deposits and fundraising there is no additional cost this year to our 6th grade students for their 7th grade Nature's Classroom trip! Congratulations, sixth grade!

Enjoy the latest installment in this series called the "Raider Review." If you're interested in regular updates or to see other things happening at our school be sure to check out and subscribe to the principal's [blog](#).



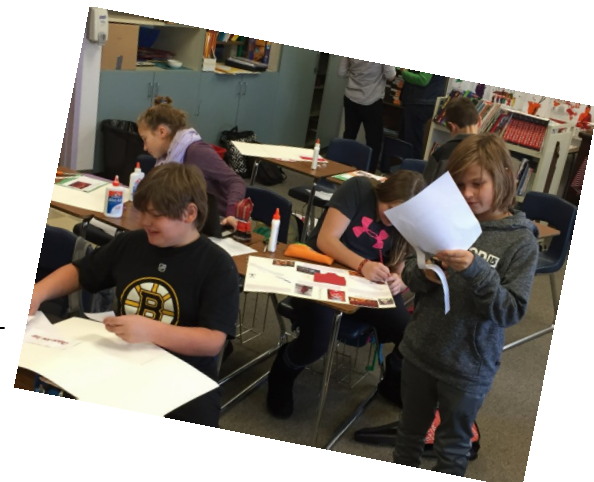
Dan Morrison, M.Ed.
SMS Principal
dan.morrison@lssvvt.org

CONSTRUCT
EXPRESS
ACT

Stowe Middle School

Sampling of Curriculum

6th Grade Social Studies: Sixth grade social studies students recently completed their study of China. The unit focused on philosophies, belief systems, and holidays. Some highlights from this unit were deciphering primary source materials like The Analects of Confucius, and the Han Feizi. Students especially enjoyed learning about Taoism with the help of Winnie the Pooh and his friends. Ask your favorite sixth grader which Winnie the Pooh character they most identify with. Learning about Chinese holidays was very timely as we enter an important



holiday season in our own culture. Students made many connections between Chinese celebration traditions and their own celebrations. Students gained insight to an important culture and are excited to move on to Ancient Greece.

7th Grade Math: Seventh grade students are completing a unit on similarity. Concepts covered include similar figures, ratios, proportions, graphing on the coordinate plane, and scale drawings. Students are investigating the concept of similarity by creating characters on graph paper and then creating mathematical rules to change the size and shape of their characters.

NOTE: All 7th graders will be participating in a district science assessment at the end of January.

From Seed to Pesto! *By: SMS 7th grade students Makenna Lund, Savannah Rolfe, and Olivia Carey*

This year in 7th grade science class with Mr. Grogan, we have been doing experiments with Italian basil, thai basil, parsley, and dill. We wanted to find out which organic fertilizer the plants grew better in. For our experiments, we used potting mix, worm castings from worms “farmed” in our classroom, and compost. Each pair of students had three plants which each had different soils. We watered, measured, and recorded the progress our plants were making. In our notebooks, we counted the leaves and measured the height of our plants. Then, we made observations about the plants and their condition. Some plants had whiteflies and we had to spray hydrogen peroxide on the leaves to get rid of them. Some of our plants grew over a foot and stayed healthy, unlike others that turned yellow and died. Preliminary results of our experiment told us that both compost and worm castings work great.

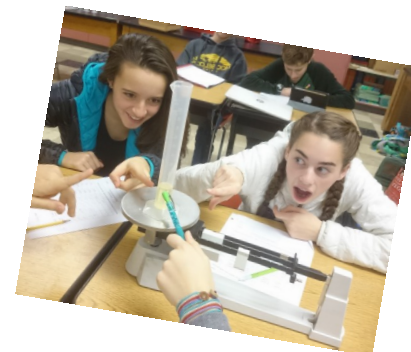
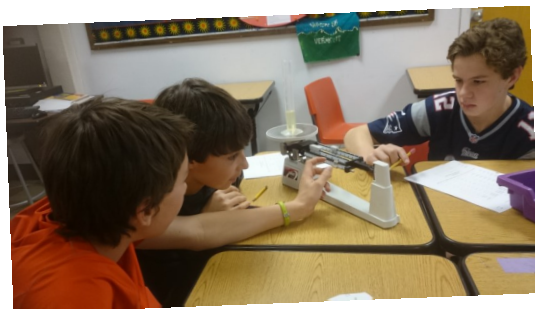
Two weeks ago, our school chef, Steve Truso, came into our classroom and showed us how to make fresh pesto with our basil plants that survived. We cut off the leaves, washed them, and blended them together with olive oil, cheese, garlic, and salt. Each person got a dish that they could put their fresh pesto in to take home. The results were delicious and we learned all about analyzing and conducting an experiment. Thank you to all the teachers and chefs who made this fun activity possible for us!



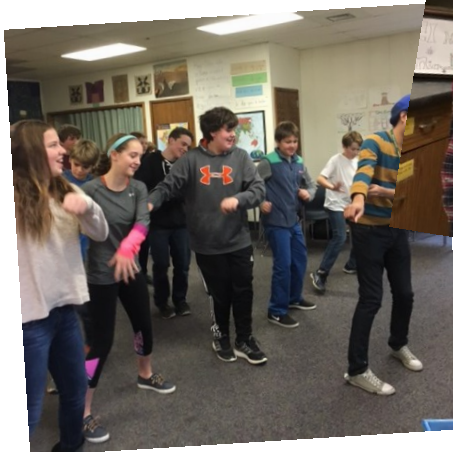
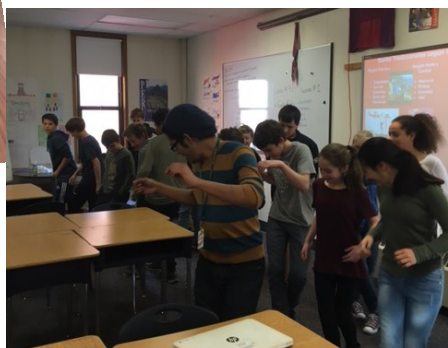
8th Grade Science: Students in 8th grade are studying Matter and an introduction to Chemistry. We will be focusing on properties of matter such as density, volume, mass, and weight. From there we will explore the Periodic Table, including the history of scientists who have contributed to our current understanding of the elements and atomic structure. Students will have regular lab activities and develop their lab skills during this time. This work will give students a solid

foundation for high school chemistry.

Spanish: International Volunteer, and Delegation Coordinator of Planting Hope, Yasser Hernandez Perez, visited middle school Spanish classes in December. Stowe Middle/High school has collaborated with Planting Hope over the past 8 years sending 4 delegations of teachers and students to Nicaragua on PH’s service learning trips. Yasser shared Nicaragua’s rich culture, including folkloric dance and traditional dishes, with our students. His presentation included the geography of Nicaragua and the educational projects Planting Hope carries out in Matagalpa, Nicaragua. In addition, students had



a chance to practice their Spanish as they interacted with Yasser during various activities while he was visiting classes. Yasser's visit was well received.



PE: This quarter is quickly coming to a close, and we are finishing out with a bang! The joint pickle ball tournament with Tech Ed and Design is a hit! We will be starting out the New Year with some team building activities and an invasion game, depending on the weather. Hope you all get outside and play this break!

Schoolwide

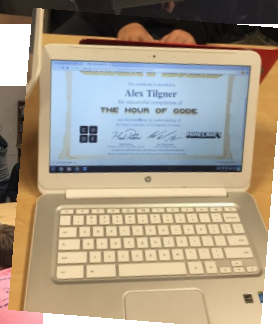
Idle-Free Schools: A group of 7th and 8th graders who are interested in making a difference in their home and larger community are conducting a vehicle idling study this year. To see their data to date, please click [here](#). Vermont is an Idle-Free state; UPS has already implemented a no-idling policy. *Did you know that just 10 seconds of idling wastes more fuel than shutting off and restarting your engine?*

Warm Up Tips for the Winter:

- Modern fuel-injected engines do not need long warm up times. Excessive idling causes engine wear, creating carbon soot buildup and shortening the life of engine oil, spark plugs and exhaust system. Many vehicle owner's manuals advise limiting idling.
- The Dept. of Energy states, *"The best way to warm up a vehicle is to drive it. No more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days is needed."* Driving gently is the best way to warm up, allowing the transmission, bearings, catalytic converter, steering, tires, etc. to warm up with the engine; they don't warm up when idling. Clear off snow and ice before starting.
- If colder than 10 degrees, let it idle for one-three minutes as oil is thicker in extreme cold; defrosting must be adequate before driving; for infants and frail elderly, allow a few minutes of warm up.

Middle School Basketball: There are 30 7th and 8th grade boys playing on the middle school basketball team, the Running Raiders! Come cheer them on at upcoming games. The schedule is posted online.

Hour of Code: ALL middle level students participated in the worldwide Hour of Code event on Wednesday, December 9th. The grassroots campaign goal is for tens of millions of students throughout the world to try an Hour of Code (visit code.org/learn). It's a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code" and show that anyone can learn the basics to be a maker, a creator, an innovator.



Tim Waite, our Middle & High School Design Technology Educator is our event coordinator. We believe at the middle level it's important to participate in this event to help provide every student the opportunity to learn computer science. Research shows students who participate increase their ability to problem solve, logic skills, and creativity.

Code Educator Teams

- Mrs. Zide (Art), Mr. Meyer (LSSU-Tech)
- Ms. Harney (PE), Mr. Morrison (Principal)
- Mr. Minkoff (Tech), Mr. Gagnon (Music)
- Mr. Waite (Design, Technology, and STEM).

Lost and Found: Please check both the HS tables between the auditorium and cafeteria and the MS Lobby's Lost and Found before you leave for the holiday break! Even if you don't think you've lost anything, you might be surprised. It will all be gone by the time you return in January!

Permission to stay at Mountain: Many students have not returned these! Permission slips to stay at the mountain on Friday Program afternoons must be returned before the winter break to stay on the first week, NO EXCEPTIONS. If you need another copy, stop by the office.

Upcoming Events and Calendar *(A full 2015-16 school calendar can be found on the [website](#).)*

December 23rd:	GeoBee / Quarter 2 ends
December 24th:	December recess starts
January 4th:	SSD Board meeting, 6pm, SES / Quarter 3 begins
January 7th:	Friday Program Assembly, 9am
January 8th:	First Friday Program afternoon!
January 15th:	Friday Program
January 18th:	No School, Professional Development / SSD Board Meeting, 6pm
January 22nd:	Friday Program
January 28th:	SMHS Winter Concert, 7pm
January 29th:	Friday Program