



Toy Town Elementary Newsletter

Nurse's Office

With Fall being here and children playing outside in piles of leaves and taking hikes in the woods, I would like to pass on this information from the CDC regarding ticks.

1. Wear appropriate clothing such as a long sleeve shirt and pants, tuck socks into pants and wear shoes or boots.
2. Conduct a full body tick check after activities outdoors especially if in the woods or playing in leaves.
3. Check pets also if they have been outdoors
4. Shower as soon as possible after being outdoors.

For further information on ticks visit the Center For Disease Control Website. <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks>

Always seek professional help from your family physician if your child may have been bitten by a tick and is feeling ill or has a rash.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help in our school. We would like to have adults to help with recess and lunch supervision, as well as, to run small group instruction. You don't have to commit to every day. If you are interested, please visit the Toy Town office. You will also need to have a CORI check.

Mrs. Chambers Wampanoag Way of Life

The third grade class of Mrs. Chambers has been studying the Wampanoag way of life in the early 1600s. We learned that a Wampanoag family would live in a wetu during the Spring and Summer. The frame would be built from flexible saplings and covered in grass mats or birch bark. A door of animal skin would be hung and a smoke hole would let the smoke from the family's fire out.

We were challenged with building a wetu. We were given a variety of materials to choose from (pipe cleaners, straws, paper bags, construction paper, toothpicks, etc) and began to build. We think any Wampanoag would be proud to call our wetus home!



Mrs. McDonald's Class Harvard Forest Project

Students in Fifth Grade are collecting data for the Harvard University Forest's Schoolyard Ecology Program. Data is being collected on our hemlock trees. In the United States, Eastern Hemlock trees are being invaded and destroyed by an insect called the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

The Adelgid has been found on hemlock trees in the surrounding towns of Gardner, Ashburnham, and Westminster. It has not been found on our Winchendon hemlock trees yet!

In the fall, the students measure the new growth of our hemlock trees. In the Spring, they look for signs of the woolly adelgid. This data is sent in to Harvard Forest along with the data from other participating schools in New England. Dr. David Orwig is the supervising Researcher at Harvard Forest that we work with.



Upcoming Dates

Nov. 18 – Popcorn Friday

Nov. 23 – Half Day Dismissal at 11:15
No Lunch

Nov. 24 - 25 – No School

Nov. 30 – Picture Retakes

Dec. 1 – End of First Trimester

Dec. 2 – Polar Express Holiday Express Shopping and
movie Extravaganza at Memorial 6:00 pm
Museum of Science Visit Gr. 5

Dec. 9 - Report Cards

Dec. 13 – Caroling at Broadview

Dec. 14 – Band Chorus Caroling Concert

Dec. 15 – Band/Chorus Caroling at Senior Center

Music Department

Greetings! I'm Sam Vendt, the music teacher at Toy Town Elementary. Last year, the 5th grade chorus walked across the street to the Old Murdock Senior Center and sang for a lovely group of community members. This year, we're taking the show on the road.

The 5th Grade Chorus will be performing at Broadview Assisted Living on December 13th, at 10:00 am. I teach my students that music making and music appreciation are lifelong sources of joy. By singing for members of our community, we not only get to see that joy firsthand, but we get to share our gifts with others! I also stress the importance of singing traditional music, as it allows singers of different generations to connect through music. The Chorus is currently hard at work preparing a series of holiday rounds and carols. Some are new, and some are traditional. After singing our arrangements, we will invite the audience to join and sing some traditional favorites. I am looking forward to this event, and I hope that it will be a positive experience for the students and our community.