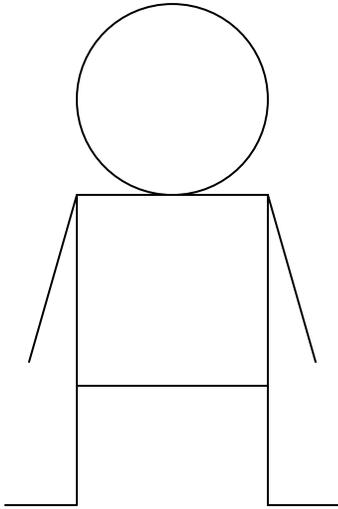




Kindergarten News



Piermont Village School
September 3, 2010



Introducing...Mat Man®

Kindergartners are using the Handwriting Without Tears® writing program. This program begins by looking at the shapes in letters. Last week your children worked with this simple figure in our classroom and then brought the Mat Man® shapes home to assemble. This simple activity helps your children notice and work with lines and curves to build a simple picture of a person. We've spent time talking about the shapes and details of different animals and I'm already noticing more details in your child's drawings.

Kindergartners as Beginning Readers

We begin our school year with lots of activities using our names. These activities help us get to know each other and help us begin to recognize and read words that are useful and important to us. As children work with activities that use their names I can observe what they already know about letter names, letter sounds the order of letters in words, and how they write letters. This information helps me know what to teach your child next.

I also introduce the words Yes and No early in the school year. Kindergartners learn quickly to recognize and read these words when they sign up for snack milk and answer simple

questions on our morning message. As they recognize these words and use their names in reading and writing activities during these early weeks of school, they can already be thinking of themselves as real readers and writers!



Billy worked on a design of curved, straight, and slanted lines when we looked at the shapes of lines this week. This helps us look carefully at the shapes of letters in our handwriting.

Calendar

Thursday, September 16: Bus Evacuation Drill

Next Week:

- **Math:** Counting, Numbers 0—9,

Sorting

- **Language Arts:** Letter Knowledge, Letter Writing, Rhyme
- **Science:** Moths and Butterflies
- **Social Studies:** “Me”

each morning and until about 4 – 4:30 PM most afternoons. We have voice mail so you may leave a phone message or e-mail me at edohrman@sau23.org

You can always reach me at school to talk about concerns. I'm usually here by about 7 – 7:15 AM



Kindergarten News



Piermont Village School
September 17, 2010

Bread and Butter

(Our First Bundle Cooking Day)

We celebrated the 10th day of school this week with our very first “bundle” cooking day. Each day we add a straw to our straw count to record the number of days we’ve been in school. When we get ten straws, we bundle them together and move the bundle from the ones’ place to the tens’ place on our counting chart. Then we celebrate Bundle Day by cooking. Our Bundle Day cooking helps us make choices, take turns, read, count, measure, and learn about food that’s good for us. The end results? We get to eat what we cook! Yum!



Jaelyn, above, takes a bite of the bread and butter we make on our first Bundle Cooking day after Camden, below, took his turn shaking the cream into butter.

Sharing Days

(Also Known As Show and Tell!)

Starting Monday, September 20, your child will have one day each week as his/her special “show and tell” day. All Kindergartners will have the chance to do a “quick share” every Friday. Our schedule is listed below. Kindergartners look forward to sharing their special “treasures” or news from home with their classmates. Talking about an object or an event that’s special to them strengthens their language development, and helps them organize their thinking as they present their ideas. They learn to listen carefully to what other children want to know and decide how to respond thoughtfully. As we appreciate each other’s sharing we also build a strong caring community in our classroom. There’s so much going on in these “show and tell” times! Please do try to help your child choose a variety of things to show and talk about. Toys are always very special, but don’t forget that pictures, favorite books, and news or objects from a fun experience also provide wonderful sharing opportunities. Our sharing days:

Monday: Billy
Tuesday: Camden
Wednesday: Jaelyn
Thursday: Ms. Eileen
Friday: All—Quick Share





Kindergartners were invited by Abby Metcalf to visit the pumpkin patch at the Plant Pantry this week. Here Jean Underhill helps us look closely at all the different kinds of pumpkins and squash, and see how they grew from blossoms to BIG pumpkins! Thanks Jean and Abby!

Calendar

Wednesday, September 22: Bus Evacuation Drill
(Rescheduled)
Nature Study
Thursday, September 23: SCHOOL PICTURES

1, 2, Buckle My Shoe...What's the Big Deal about Rhyming, Anyway?

Those nursery rhymes and songs we chant and sing with our children are more than simply fun. They give children the opportunity to play with the sounds of words. Being able to take apart AND work with sounds in words is called "*Phonemic Awareness*." Research shows that when a child is aware of the sounds in words, he or she is more likely to be a good reader. Rhyme is one way children learn to notice and manipulate these sounds. We've been reading lots of songs, poems, and books this week that play with rhyming words. In the coming weeks we'll help you support your child's learning of this important skill that helps build good reading behaviors.

Next Week:

- **Math:** Numbers 1-9, Volume, Graphs, Patterns
- **Language Arts:** Letter Knowledge, Letter Writing, Rhyme
- **Science:** Thinking Like a Scientist
- **Social Studies:** "Me"

You can always reach me at school to talk about concerns. I'm usually here by about 7 – 7:15 AM each morning and until about 4 – 4:30 PM most afternoons. We have voice mail so you can also leave a phone message, or e-mail me at edohrman@sau23.org

Have a nice weekend!



Kindergarten News



Piermont Village School
January 28, 2011

Nature Study: Skulls and Diet



The puppet show that starts our Nature Study lessons is a favorite part of these monthly workshops for our Kindergartners and Pre-Kindergartners. Jaelyn (above center) and Logan (below right) watch as we began to learn more about predators and prey and what we could discover by looking closely at their skulls and teeth.



Each Monday and Wednesday, Mrs. Prindeville, our talented PVS music teacher, leads our happy ventures into dancing, singing, and learning about musical instruments. Here, Mike takes his turn learning how to hold and move a bow across the violin strings.

100th Day of School! HOMEWORK!

It always sneaks up on us. February 2nd will be our 100th day of school! Traditionally we plan recognition of this day with several activities that help develop an understanding of the concepts of quantity, counting by ones and tens, grouping, and place value, among other things. To help build our understanding and our counting skills, we have HOMEWORK! Please help your child assemble 100 items for our 100 Museum. The collection can be simple or more involved: a bag of 100 objects (pennies, Cheerios, rice, noodles, buttons, etc.), pictures made with 100 items, hats or shirts with 100 stickers, etc. Use your imagination, spend time together, and enjoy the counting! Collections can be brought in any time up to the morning of Wednesday, February 2nd.

Calendar

Monday, February 7: 100th Day of School
Thursday, February 10: Science Fair

♪ ♪ **WE Make Music** ♪ ♪

Our Version of “Twister”

We played our own version of the Twister game this week using teen numbers. Jaelyn and Colleen spin and call out the numbers as Montgomery and Billy help Camden reach and touch the right ones. S-T-R-E-T-C-H, Camden!



Science Fair

Our all-school Science Fair will be held Thursday, February 10th. This is a school-wide display of research projects presented by students at each grade level. The scope and sequence of research skill development and the variety of research topics is wonderfully diverse and a source of pride for the participants. Come join us and see what our young scientists have been studying!

We'll celebrate this holiday with activities and an exchange of Valentines the week of February 14. Please be thinking about helping your child make Valentine greetings for others in our classroom. This is a great opportunity for use of those small muscles to cut, fold, paste, color, and write, with plenty of time to work on them slowly over the next few weeks. Names of the children in our classroom are: Billy, Camden C., Camden D., Colleen, Jaelyn, Logan, Mike, and Montgomery.

Next Week:

- **Math:** *Counting, Shapes, Patterns, Measurement*
- **Language Arts:** *Letter Knowledge (Letter Forms, Names, and Sounds), Word Families and Rhyme, First and Last Letters in Words, Color Words*
- **Science:** *The 5 Senses, Water*

Pre-Kindergartners will focus on skills in areas shown in italic.

Lost and Found: *A pair of gray sweatpants were left on the floor by our crates. No child has recognized them. Please let me know if they belong to you.*

You can always reach me to ask questions or talk about concerns. I'm usually here by 7:15 a.m. and until about 4:00 p.m. You can call school, leave a phone message, or reach me by e-mail at edohrman@sau23.org

Have a great weekend!



Valentine's Day



Kindergarten News



Piermont Village School
December 3, 2010

The Mayflower Compact— Kindergarten Style



Last Thursday Kindergartners reenacted the journey of the Mayflower and the founding of Plymouth Colony. Here Pilgrims Jaelyn and Billy, sign our version of the Mayflower Compact, agreeing to follow our classroom rules.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thanks for taking the time for conferences this week. It's important to me to listen to your comments and to share our thinking about your children's progress and challenges.



Nature Study: Adaptations, Predators and Prey



Nature Study this week supported our learning about the adaptations of an animal's body that help it in its role as the hunting predator or the hunted prey. Here, Mike and Logan joined Grade ½ students Sarah and Sable as they act out the roles of fish and shark.

Dramatic Play and the Young Child

We act out a lot in our Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten! But our acting is planned and purposeful, and it's an important part of child development that supports social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development.

Interacting with other children, the young child has to agree on roles and a topic, and cooperate to act out different situations. Research shows that children who participate in dramatic play demonstrate more empathy toward others because they have "walked in someone else's shoes." They can use small and large motor skills to create and use costumes and move in their selected roles. In pretend play children also make pictures in their heads about past experiences and imaginary situations. They use background experience and new learning to create these images. They also select and manipulate familiar oral language to explain what they are doing and ask and answer questions, and they can use new vocabulary they have learned to enhance their roles.

There's so much going on in our dramatic play, including having fun!

Calendar

Monday, December 6: Community Meeting
Friday, December 10: Bundle Day Cooking
Extra Winter term P.E.

Next Week:

- **Math:** *Number Identification*, Number Writing, Functions (Addition and Subtraction), Graphs
- **Language Arts:** *Letter Knowledge* (Letter Forms, Names, and Sounds), Hearing Sounds in Sequence
- **Science:** The Sense of Taste

Pre-Kindergartners will focus on skills in areas shown in italic.

Please Note: Beginning this week we have an extra P.E. Class every Friday for the length of this Trimester. Please remember to send or have your child wear sneakers on Tuesdays AND Fridays! Thanks!

You can always reach me to ask questions or talk about concerns. I'm usually here by 7:15 a.m. and until about 4:00 p.m. You can call school, leave a phone message, or reach me by e-mail at edohrman@sau23.org

Have a relaxing weekend!



Kindergarten News



Piermont Village School
February 11, 2011

Button-in-a-Bottle Toss

And the Survey Says...

We just finished our school-wide survey, which posed the question: Do you like cats or dogs best? Our question came up after reading a book by Steve Jenkins. This author's favorite topic is animals and he's written and illustrated many of his books to answer questions that his children have asked. One of his books, DOGS AND CATS, DOGS AND CATS, informed us that the cat is the world's favorite animal. We surveyed our own classroom and found we agreed: most of us like cats. But we wondered if most people in our whole school would agree. So off we went on Wednesday morning to survey students and staff, using our new understanding of tally marks to collect "data". Then we counted and checked the tallies. The results: Most Piermont Village School students and staff like DOGS best!



Mystery Box

Guessing the contents of our mystery box has been great fun using just our sense of hearing. Now in addition to the shaking/listening, we'll add a verbal CLUE to help us guess the contents. Directions are inside the box so you can help your child when it's his or her turn. Watch us as we learn to be critical thinkers!

Science Fair

We had great fun at the Science Fair sharing some of the learning and activities we've done this year. It's especially nice when we can observe the interesting work of students in upper grades. This is where WE'RE heading.

Calendar

Wednesday, February 16: Nature Study



We learned about tally marks this week and practiced using them with our toss game. Here, Jaelyn tosses while Camden records the "out" tallies and Montgomery records the "in" tallies.

Valentines Day Celebration



Our "low-key" Valentine's Celebration is on Tuesday, February 15th. Valentines may be brought in on Monday or Tuesday. Thanks!

Next Week:

- **Math:** *Counting by 1s and 5s, Graphs Measurement, Attributes*
- **Language Arts:** *Letter Knowledge (Letter Forms, Names, and Sounds), Word Families and Rhyme (continued), High Frequency Words, Number Words*
- **Science:** *The 5 Senses, Water, Air*
Pre-K will focus on skills in areas in italic.

You can always reach me to ask questions or talk about concerns. I'm usually here by 7:15 a.m. and until about 4:00 p.m. You can call school, leave a phone message, or reach me by e-mail at edohrman@sau23.org

Enjoy your weekend!



Kindergarten News



Piermont Village School
February 18, 2011

All School Play...Oliver Twist

When we return from our winter break on February 28th, PVS students, including our Pre-Kindergartners and Kindergartners, will be immersed in rehearsals for our all-school play. All that week, Grade 1-8 students will learn songs and speaking parts for the Friday and Saturday production of *Oliver Twist*. Pre-Kindergartners and Kindergartners will be practicing their song that introduces the play. Performances are on both Friday evening and Saturday afternoon at the end of that week. Pre-Kindergartners will attend on their regular schedule that week, but we have **SCHOOL ON SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH FOR ALL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PRE-KINDERGARTNERS!** Please let me know if your child cannot participate in the Friday evening or Saturday school day and performance. Thanks!



Our Nature Study topic this month was Bird Bodies. Here Logan and Billy examine a variety of feathers.

Calendar

Monday, February 21—Friday, February 25:
NO SCHOOL, Winter Break

Monday, February 28—SATURDAY, March 5:
PLAY PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCES

Monday, February 21: Bundle Day Cooking

After Vacation:

- **Math:** *Counting by 1s and 5s, Graphs, Measurement, Number Grid, Coins*
- **Language Arts:** *Letter Knowledge (Letter Forms, Names, and Sounds), Word Families and Rhyme (continued), High Frequency Words, Hearing and Substituting Sounds*

Pre-K will focus on skills in areas in italic.

Valentines Day Thanks!



Our heart-felt thanks to Lori Davidson and Kristen Hogan for the yummy snacks, decorations, and goodie bags they contributed to our Valentine's Day Celebration. We were festive and well fed with your contributions!

You can always reach me to ask questions or talk about concerns. I'm usually here by 7:15 a.m. and until about 4:00 p.m. You can call school, leave a phone message, or reach me by e-mail at edohrman@sau23.org

Enjoy the winter break!



Kindergarten News



Piermont Village School
March 4, 2011

Oliver Twist, Twist, Twist, couldn't do this, this, this...

All this week Children's Stage Adventures, Inc. guided PVS grade 1—8 students in rehearsals of *Oliver Twist*. On Thursday Pre-K/K joined Grade 1/2 in a Creative Dramatics workshop lead by Rob Gray and Lara Minute. We laughed and learned that acting is FUN! All we need is imagination and our bodies to enjoy this creative art.



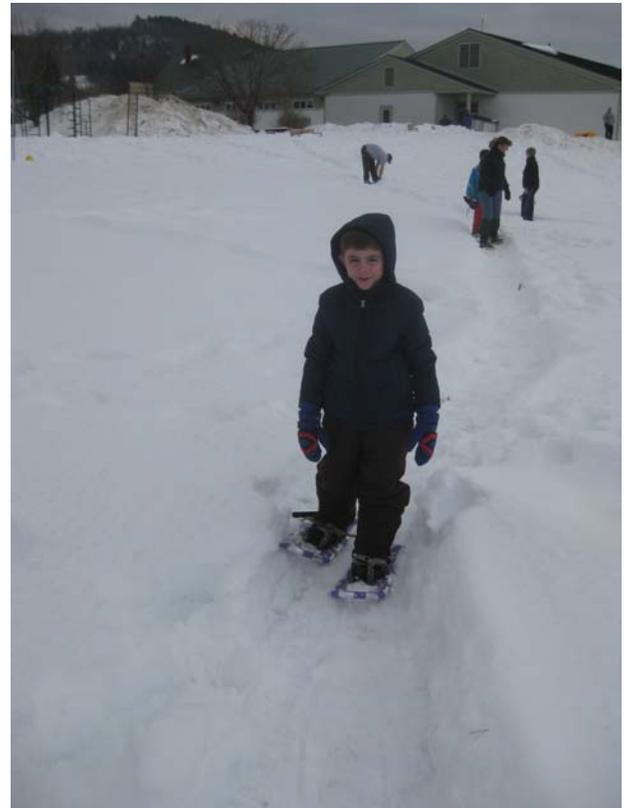
Above, Rob Gray demonstrates mime in a skit about eating ice cream. Below, budding actors and actress Mike, Montgomery, Camden C., Colleen, and Billy try miming grapes that grow and wilt. What fun!



Next Week: *We're playing catch-up in some areas due to our snow day and our Creative Dramatics workshop this past week!*

- **Math:** *Counting by 1s and 5s, Graphs, Number Grid, Introduction to the Nickel*
- **Language Arts:** *Letter Knowledge (Letter Forms, Names, and Sounds), Word Families and Rhyme (continued), High Frequency Words, Hearing Sounds in Sequence*
- **Science:** *Body Image (Animals)*
Pre-K will focus on skills in areas in italic.

Winter Carnival



What fun trying something new! Billy discovered and thoroughly enjoyed snowshoeing during our Winter Carnival the Friday before vacation.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are being held on Thursday, March 10 to discuss the progress your child has made during our second trimester. Mrs. Jackson has arranged your conference time if you have children in more than one grade level. For parents with children in Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten only, a conference time is shown on the attached. Please let me know if this time is not convenient for you—we can arrange another time that is more suitable. Thanks!

Calendar

Thursday, March 10, 2010: Parent-Teacher Conferences

You can always reach me to ask questions or talk about concerns. I'm usually here by 7:15 a.m. and until about 4:00 p.m. You can call school, leave a phone message, or reach me by e-mail at edohrman@sau23.or

