



Home of the Otters!

TWO RIVERS COMMUNITY NEWS

FEBRUARY 25, 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR

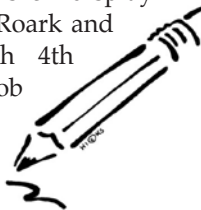
We are looking for 2 - 3 parent/ community members to participate on the calendar committee to set the school schedule for next year. If interested, please contact the office (828-262-5411). The committee will meet beginning in March for 1 - 3 meetings.

HELP US GET TO WASHINGTON, D.C.!

The eighth grade class is currently selling raffle tickets to help raise money for our big trip to Washington in April. The top prize is \$500 cash! You can purchase single tickets for \$1, or get 6 for \$5, or 13 tickets for \$10. This is a very important trip for our students, and we need help from our school community to make it happen. Come by Ms. Rachel's room or talk to any 8th grader if you would like to buy tickets. The final drawing will be April 4th, at the Boone Mall.

ART IN THE OFFICE

Congratulations to two more students whose work is on display in the office. Cora Roark and Emily Denny, both 4th graders, did a great job on their scale drawings. Please check out their work.



~ Ms. Kelly

Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education.

~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy

FAMILY FUN

Some of our Two Rivers families have started a nightly ritual of family reading time. During this time set aside for reading, the TV is turned off, no one plays video games, and the whole family, Mom and Dad included, settle down to read. It's important for children to see their parents reading and enjoying it. As we all know, children do as we do, not as we say!

Our teachers send books home with your children every day. For the younger grades, these books are the ones used in their guided reading lessons. The children have already studied these books with their teachers and are expected to read them again at home for fluency practice. Children love to show off their new skills in reading and they may enjoy reading the same book over and over. Older students study novels and non-fiction books with their teachers, but they may be assigned chapters to read independently at home.

Books read for pleasure and practice should be easy to read. This is not the time to make children sound out words. If you and your children want more books to read at home, we will be happy to help you choose appropriate levels for your child.

Also, research shows that reading aloud to children is the best way to build vocabulary. Picture books, novels, and non-fiction on topics your children are interested in can all be read aloud for part of family reading time.

If you would like helpful suggestions, specific to your family, for getting started with family reading time, please call or come by school and speak with me. Family reading time can become a relaxing part of your day that everyone looks forward to.

~ Joy Schlagal, Reading Specialist

AURA

Artists United
Reaching Out for
Academics

– an artful evening of fun, community and fund raising!

Friday, March 6th, 2009

Dragonfly
Theater

8:00, doors open at 7:00

Tickets \$10.00

Featured Artists:

RHYTHM'S CHILDREN, Soulful
Zen Rock

Act I

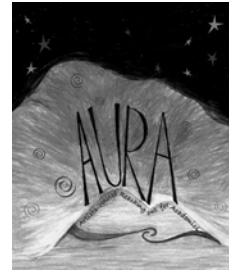
PROPHET MARGIN, Spoken word, dance, and progressive power pop featuring: Mar Startari-Stegall, Chris Winsor, Jared McQueen, Holly Roark and Kristen Kissik

ADRIAN DAW AND THE BLUE
FLUTE, Guitar and flute duet

RHONDA LORENCE AND CONNIE WOOLARD, Violin and dulcimer
Celtic rhythms

Act II

WORLD WIDE, World beat featuring: Sean Roberts, Jeff Dickens, Rudy Garceau, Ben McPharrin, Justin Butler and Nia Dickens



FEBRUARY AUTHOR NIGHT

The TRCS February author night is this Thursday, Feb. 26, from 5:30 to 6:30 at the Watauga Library. Please come join us to celebrate the work of our young authors.



7TH & 8TH GRADE NEWS

This week the 7th and 8th grade math students are being introduced to ALEKS, a web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system. ALEKS uses adaptive questioning to quickly and accurately determine exactly what a student knows and doesn't know in a course. ALEKS then instructs the student on the topics he or she is most ready to learn. As a student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses the student to ensure that topics learned are also retained. This opportunity will be used to supplement the daily instruction students are already receiving.

7th and 8th grade students have finished reading the novel *Tangerine*. We are now beginning a new, non-fiction story, entitled *The Radioactive Boy Scout*.

8th grade science students are beginning their study of chemistry! In addition to learning the difference between atoms, molecules and compounds, students will practice balancing equations, determine molecular weights and even perform an experiment or two! Each 8th grade student is required to research a chemical reaction that can be safely replicated in the classroom. The reaction must involve chemicals that can be found or purchased easily (ones that do not need to be purchased from a chemical supply company). They must create a title for their experiment, write the complete balanced equation for the reaction that takes place, and write the procedure. A complete list of the criteria has been sent home with your student. This assignment is due by Friday, March 13th

7th grade science students are continuing their study of the human body. We are currently finishing up the respiratory system and will next learn about the circulatory system and how it relates to the other systems we have studied so far. On a different note, the 7th graders have generously decided to begin selling Lowes Foods Cards in an effort to help the 8th graders go to Washington, D.C.. If you shop at Lowes Foods, please see a 7th grader or Mrs. Cronk to purchase a card. Since a \$100 card will buy you \$100 at Lowes and earn \$6 toward the trip, this is an easy way for you to make a difference!! Sales will begin in the car line after school this week.

Mrs. Cronk and Mrs. Rachel have created a new blog to help students and parents keep up with what's going on in their classes. We will NOT be posting every single assignment on this blog - students are still responsible for writing down all assignments in class! This is simply a way for them to supplement the instructions students are already receiving in class. The URL is: www.homeworketc.blogspot.com. We hope you find this helpful!

SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to Nate Fischer who places second in our regional spelling bee last Wednesday, February 18 at Salisbury Academy. Also, a hearty well-done to Karen Ehrhardt and George Koribanic for their strong showing and participation. We look forward to participating next year.



FITNESS CLASS

Two weeks ago the 5th-8th grade classes were given the task of designing their own 20 minute workouts for the whole week. They were allowed to use any of the exercises we have ever performed in class. Coming up with a wide array of exercises proved a simple endeavor; however, the most challenging aspect was when exactly to place which style of stretching.

We prefer to engage in dynamic stretching as a pre-workout and relaxed (static passive) stretching as our post-workout. The theory being that dynamic stretches readily prepare your body for vigorous movements by sufficiently warming up the entire body; conversely, relaxed stretches calm your body. Thus, we perform our relaxed stretches at the end of class. While relaxed stretches can offer flexibility gains, our main usage of them is as a means of body and breath awareness. All benefits from stretching are derived from the simple act of breathing. Ask any of these students and they can now give you a plethora of relaxed stretches.

THE JONES HOUSE ART SHOW

During the month of March, the artwork of Two Rivers students will be on display at the Jones House. All students in our school will have at least one piece on display.

The Jones House is the home of the Watauga Arts Council, a wonderful community partner helping us to enrich our arts education. The Jones House is located in downtown Boone, across from Boone Drug and next door to The Mast Store.

The reception for the art show is Friday March 6, from 6-8 pm. You may also visit the show during normal gallery hours Tues-Fri 12-5pm throughout the month.

**If anyone would like to bring finger food to add to the reception goodies, please let Ms. Kelly know by calling the school and leaving a message, or emailing mkellysheets@gmail.com.

