

Monthly Newsletter

WESTSHIRE
ELEMENTARY

September 20, 2024



PRINCIPAL - SARA ROSE

Welcome back to Westshire! What a great start to the year.

Cool nights, foggy mornings and warm sunny days can only mean one thing, school is getting into full swing and true fall is just around the corner. We've had a fantastic start to the year.

Students are settling right into the tried and true routines of building community and learning about their new classrooms and teachers. I say it all the time, we have the very best students at Westshire. They are already hard at work creating vibrant learning spaces with their peers and teachers. It's an absolute delight to walk in to their spaces and to feel the good energy.

Now that routines are taking shape and communities are flourishing, teachers and school staff are gathering baseline math and literacy data for each of our students. The data we receive from these assessments helps us to tailor instruction to the needs of each student.

While assessments provide a critical lens to student learning, we also believe in the fun of learning. No Westshire tradition fosters learning in the name of fun like the Tunbridge Fair trip. Thank you to all who attended and supported a magical day for our students.

Lastly, it's no secret that we've been working to round out our hiring for this school year. We are grateful to have found a handful of fabulous people who will be supporting us and filling open positions. My hope is that the hiring of this new crew will be complete by September 30th. I will announce these new members to our staff once everything is official. I'd also like to offer my deepest gratitude for the Westshire staff who have stepped up to support students during these transitions.

Thank you for your support in a great start to the new year! See you soon!

Sara Rose

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Welcome Back
to School!

"Project Block"

Upcoming
Dates

Meet our new
staff.

Essential Arts
News

Local
Happenings and
Resources



“Project Block”

A “new” and exciting curricular addition here at Westshire this year is our project block. Some of your students may have already come home sharing about this new piece of their almost daily schedule.

So what is “project block”? We are excited to be dusting off and increasing our skills with Project Based Learning this year. PBL has been an anchor that has taken some serious roots at the Academy for years and we are striving to grow the same culture for Deeper Learning at WES.



Projects are defined very specifically with 9 different design elements to include things such as a project launch, reflection, the help and expertise of community partners as well as authentic exhibition of student work. We have adapted our work from the High Tech High model.

Project time will bring integration for all subjects that students learn and can span across core content and essential arts. We are very excited to be bringing a PBL focus to the student day this year!



Upcoming Dates:

September:

9/25 Year of the Book Family Night

October:

10/4 No School, Teacher Inservice
 10/11 No School Teacher Inservice
 10/10 Bring Your Family to School
 10/16 All School Hike up Tucker Mtn.
 10/18 Fall Festival
 10/17 Flu Clinic
 10/27 Trunk or Treat
 10/29 Coffee w/Mrs. Rose

November:

11/11 Veteran's Day
 11/14 Harvest Lunch w/Veterans (?)
 11/26 Coffee w/Mrs. Rose
 11/27-29th Thanksgiving Recess



September 25th

Event News

Join us for our Year of the Book family night! Dinner served and stories told!

- Date: September 25, 2024
- Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- Location: Westshire Gym
- Families and Students welcome and encourage to attend.
- Dinner will be served
- Guest speaker on the importance of literacy, student activities
- Free book giveaways for students

We are so lucky to have the YOB grant of \$25,000 this year. There will be tons of fun events like this one. Help us get it started.

Staff Highlights: Welcome New Staff



Angelica Pellerin

Angelica has her B.S. in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education. She has been working in early childhood education a little over 15 years. In her free time she enjoys photography, hiking, reading, sugaring and baking sweet treats. Welcome Angelica.



Trevor Law

Trevor Law is our newest ATB staff member. Trevor, once a Vershire resident, has been all over the world, pursuing many interests. Trevor worked with the Nature Conservancy of Vermont, Habitat for Humanity Asia-Pacific in Bangkok, the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, and as an animal care volunteer at the Seacoast SPCA in Portsmouth NH. He recently returned to the Upper Valley after completing a residency in community-based services. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in social work at Fordham University. Welcome Trevor!



Nellie DeBlois

Nellie has worked with children for 30 years. She has a degree in Early Childhood education. She working with infants in language development the most. She finds helping with children the area is important. She has 2 grown children and is a nana for a 2 1/2-year-old granddaughter. Welcome, Nellie.



Maggie Weiss

Maggie is our pre-k and elementary speech language pathologist this school year. Services with Maggie will rotate between remote and in person every other week. Maggie lives in central Vermont and has raised her Children here. Her own children attended VT public schools as she is a firm believe in public education and is excited to foster growth in the communication skills of our students. Welcome Maggie.



Judy Ofchus

Judy comes to us with over 50 years in educational experience. Judy was a history teacher for the Vershire School and worked at the Vershire riding school for 50 years. She brings to her role as learning coach a belief in students, building relationships and a great sense of humor. Welcome Judy.



Kevin Doering

Kevin is an eclectic person with many academic, professional and personal interests. His interests include meteorology, environmental protection and reading! His interests led to careers that brought him to the EPA, the Department of Environmental Protection and eventually to teaching. Kevin is a UVEI graduate and has taught all levels from K to college. We are very excited to welcome him as our 4th and 5th grade guest teacher!



PHYS ED With Mrs. Claffin

Kindergarten and 1st grade students have kicked off the year in PE working on teamwork. Check out these pictures from an activity this week called Hungry Caterpillars. Students worked in small groups to move their hula hoop caterpillar around the gym to collect as many pieces of caterpillar food as possible. Each student had a turn being the leader, the "tummy", and the caboose.



VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS With Ms. Libby

Students at Westshire have been learning about the artist, Alma Thomas. Thomas was inspired by nature, space and the cosmos. After learning about her abstract, colorful, mosaic-like style, they took to the outdoors to glean inspiration to create an artwork inspired by her paintings.



LIBRARY With Mrs. Wise

For the past few weeks in the WES Library we have been focusing on book care and learning to choose a "Just Right" book. A Just Right book is one that is not too challenging, and not too easy. Learning to choose a Just Right book is an effective way to enhance reading skills, build comprehension, and improve fluency. Please engage with your student by discussing their reading selections and encouraging them to read every night. If you are able to read with them, that will be even better!



STEAM With Mrs. DeSimone

Kindergarten and 1st were working on digital citizenship lessons this week! Kindergarten learned the importance of finding balance between online and offline activities. 1st grade reviewed all of the digital citizen friends we met last year and how to be responsible and respectful by pausing and thinking when using technology.



Local Buzz: What's happening in the Upper Valley?



Rivendell Rec News:

Rec soccer has begun. If you have questions for the Rivendell Rec, feel free to reach out at the following email address:

rivendellrec@gmail.com



Thank you for your continued support!

Contacting Staff:

We believe that open communication between school and home is critical for the success of each child we serve. We'd love to work together as a team to support your child(ren) this year.

How to best reach teachers:

- Feel free to email and expect a return in about 24-48 hrs.
- Call the office to set up a time to speak with a teacher if a meeting is necessary.
- Please respect teacher time by always scheduling a meeting rather than popping in unannounced.
- If communication is urgent please connect with me, Sara Rose, school Principal, 802-333-4668 x4105

Let's work together to make it a great year!

Food Access:

Follow the links below for more information



Thetford Vermont



TOWN OF
WEST FAIRLEE Vermont

<p>WESTSHIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</p>	<p>802-333-4668</p>
<p>https://vtwestshirees.schoolinsites.com/</p>	<p>744 VT. Route 113 West Fairlee, VT 05043</p>