



# Integrated Arts Academy

September 30, 2013

# NEWSLETTER

## Important Dates

- Oct. 2** PTO Meeting  
6:00 pm **Wednesday**
- Oct. 4** **Friday** Town Meeting  
2:15 pm  
**Magic Mailbox!**
- Oct. 7** **Monday** Morning Meeting  
8:10 am  
Parent Coffee Connections  
8:30 am
- Oct. 8** **Picture Day!**  
**Tuesday**
- Oct. 11** **Friday** Town Meeting  
2:15 pm  
UVM Hula Hoop Troop  
STEP and Grade 1-  
Butterfly Dance
- Oct. 14** **Monday** Morning Meeting  
8:10 am  
Parent Coffee Connections  
8:30 am
- Oct. 17** **Early Release Day!**  
11:30 am  
**Parent Conferences**
- Oct. 18** **NO SCHOOL!**  
**Parent Conferences**

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## PTO

The next PTO Meeting is  
**Wednesday,**  
**October 2 at 6:00 pm.**

Childcare is provided.  
Pizza dinner for \$1.00 per slice.

Come join us!



## A message from the principal

What a great start to the week we had. Soovin Kim, world renowned violinist performed and talked about the amount of hard work and perseverance it takes to accomplish goals. This was a kick-off to our school strings program. Last year only our fourth graders had 8 weeks of lessons, 2 times a week. This year both fourth and fifth grades will have 20 weeks of lessons. Our goal in the next couple years, is to offer some type of strings program to all our students.

Speaking of perseverance and accomplishing goals, I can't say enough about the teaching staff at IAA. The growth and commitment they have shown in using the arts as a method to teach and learn has been awesome. Our new teachers are fitting in nicely as well. They are diving write in and bringing many ideas and talents to enhancing how we teach through the arts at IAA. This was especially noticed at our Wednesday Professional Development with the Flynn center. We focused on our schoolwide trip to Step Afrika! on October 31. We were generating ways to connect this and other Flynn performances to the curriculum and content. The best part of the day is when we did some freestyle dancing and each and every teacher took the risk and shared their dance moves with the group. I am sure not many other places in the city had such laughter and fun while learning. This is a special place, for both students and adults.

Artfully,  
Mr. Bobby

## Kindergarten



We have been so busy in kindergarten! We have learned so many letters and have become letter detectives, looking all around the classroom, our homes, and the neighborhood for letters we recognize. It is so much fun!

We went on our first community walks and made tons of observations. Now that fall is here we will start to look for signs of fall on our next community walk. Hopefully we can find some natural materials to bring into our nature museums.

We love patterns! We are noticing patterns, creating patterns, and continuing patterns. We have tried to make different shapes with our bodies and we even put those into patterns! We are also working on writing our first names with all lowercase letters (except for the first letter) – please ask your child to practice at home!

We continue to explore the artist Vincent Van Gogh. This week we have been busy creating and printing our very own sunflowers. In drama we have been exploring nursery rhymes with Ms. Joan, and we are getting so good at acting them out.

**Ms. Maggie and Ms. Emily**

**Move It! Move It!**  
**October 17th**

## Fun Run

The IAA Move It! Move It! Program is hosting our first **Fun Run**. The Run will take place on October 17 during the morning. Students, parents, and community members are encouraged to participate in this fun event. Stay tuned for further information or email Ms. V. at [dvierlin@bsdvt.org](mailto:dvierlin@bsdvt.org) if you would like to know more or volunteer. Come on everyone, let's get moving!



## NECAP

**Our NECAP testing begins October 1 through October 23. Testing is for grades 3, 4, and 5 only. Family support is HUGE during this time. A good night sleep, a conversation about how the NECAP testing is going, extra hugs, and breakfast in the morning are all key factors in getting the best results. During this time families that allow time for students to discuss how things are going allow students to feel the support from home. Words of encouragement go a long way. Remember, being positive and giving support to your**

## Music

All grades have been busy in music class learning new songs, singing games, and playing instrumental accompaniments. Ask the 4th graders what a “Rondo” is!

I have been especially lucky to be in the 3rd grade classrooms four times each week during our “Integrated Arts” “co-teaching” times. Our focus has been on “community”. We explored community in terms of two musically-related concepts: harmony and dissonance. We reflected on how music that was in “harmony” (together) or “dissonance” (chaos) made us feel. Then we created both “harmonic” and “dissonant” music, and wrote a song for Friday Town Meeting about our “harmonic” community! It was fun!

Next co-teaching rotation I look forward to working in the 4th grades with Sra Bangoura and Mr T. We will be connecting music and writing. Remember, you can always keep up to date with the music room at the IAA by going to Mr M's IAA music classroom website:

[iaamusic.weebly.com](http://iaamusic.weebly.com)

**Mr. Myregard**



## Library Learning Center

Our library classroom welcomes readers and researchers throughout the day for a variety of information needs. Students may visit our library to borrow materials appropriate to class assignments and to support personal interests and independent learning. The mission of the library is to ensure that students and staff are effective users and communicators of ideas and information. Simply put, we want to help our students: **“Think, Create, Share, and Grow.”** Miss Amy (library assistant extraordinaire!) and I are both enthusiastic about our new library layout and are eager to help students find just the right books to get them excited about the world of reading as well. We strive to create an inviting learning environment that inspires and honors curiosity, creativity, and collaboration.

During library time, students may explore the world through books; extend their thinking through literacy-related art projects and movement; connect with information, families, other students and experts around the world using online tools, such as skype, our library blog, twitter, voicethread (practicing safe and appropriate use of social media); and more. In partnership with students and staff, we recognize reading as a "window to the world," a foundation for students to become skilled in multiple literacies. Families are welcome to borrow materials as well as students, just stop by the library to sign up for a library card. Please come "check us out"...

Also, our partners at the Fletcher Free Library have a new, free after school program, "Creative Tuesdays", just getting started. Make art out of recycled materials! No preregistration necessary, but kids under 10 with an adult helper. Find out more at : <http://tinyurl.com/fflcreativetuesdays>

## Third Grade

At the time of this writing we will have completed our first co-teaching round with Mr. Myreggard. Our work will have culminated in a Friday Town Meeting presentation of songs we developed about the importance of community and how we can choose to help our communities live in harmony. Our next co-teaching adventure will be with Joan Robinson, our drama coach. We will be exploring how theater can help deepen our reading comprehension skills. We will be using drama activities to strengthen our ability to infer, visualize, make connections and retell stories!

This year the third graders will be taking the **NECAP** (New England Common Assessment Program), starting on Tuesday, October 1st. They will be working on six sections, three reading and three math, completing one per day. These are challenging assessments that will require focus and determination. Students can show respect for themselves by getting a good nights sleep, and being ready for the challenging work of the day. This will be the final year for this assessment. Next year we will be completing another standardized assessment called the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium).

**Mr. Mike, Mrs. Greve, Mr. Wallace**



Mr. Mike's class in the Library/Learning Center



IAA teaching staff **Moves it!** at our staff workshop.

## Move It! Move It!

Our weekly moving program now has 137 students and 30 adults participating. In total we have "moved" 2,748 miles using only 15-20 minutes 3 times a week, weather permitting. Many adults are also participating on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. We start at 7:45 and end at 8:05. Come and join us! Everyone can participate and there is no fee or registration necessary. The laps start at the corner of the playground behind the shed. Once you make a lap, you get a "Move It! Move It!" popsicle stick. When you collect 12 sticks/laps, you've done 1 mile. We announce last lap at 8:05 and then everyone stops and tells one of the adults (holding the clipboards) how many laps they've earned. This information is put into a computer spreadsheet and totals are compiled each day. At Friday town meetings, students are recognized and earn prizes for meeting certain milestones.

- ➔ 1 mile/12 laps earns a **special pencil**
  - ➔ 5 miles/60 laps earns a blue "Move It! Move It!" **wristband**
  - ➔ 10 miles/120 laps earns a red "Move It! Move It!" **water bottle**
  - ➔ 25 miles/**Move it! Move it!** T-shirt designed by James Kolchalka
  - ➔ 50 miles/**Pedometer** and **playground ball**....special dance
  - ➔ 75 miles/**Ben & Jerry's ice cream** with a teacher
  - ➔ 100 miles/1200 laps earns their **name on a plaque** to be posted in the gym
- Let's get out and Move it! Move it!*

# Integrated Arts Academy • Snapshots Kindergarten Sunflower Prints



“If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere.”

