



Integrated Arts Academy

January 27, 2014

NEWSLETTER

Important Dates

- Jan. 31** Friday Town Meeting
- Feb. 3** Monday Morning Meeting
Parent Coffee Connection
Magnet School Open House
8:15-10:15 am
- Feb. 4** **Magnet School Open House**
5:30 -7:00 pm
- Feb. 7** Movie Night
5:30-7:00 pm
After School Families
Friday Town Meeting 2:15 pm
UVM Dance Recital
- Feb. 10** Monday Morning Meeting
Parent Coffee Connection
- Feb. 14** Friday Town Meeting 2:15 pm
♥ Video Presentation
- Feb. 16** **Community Arts Day**
and Silent Auction
2:00-4:00 pm
- Feb. 17** Monday Morning Meeting
Parent Coffee Connection
- Feb. 21** Friday Town Meeting 2:15 pm
Magical Mailbox -
Who's Your SuperHero?
- Feb. 24-March 5 NO SCHOOL!**

Next PTO Meeting

Wednesday, February 5

6:00 pm

Pizza (at 5:45) and childcare available

Topic: Homework



IAA Fifth Graders Perform at Echo on Martin Luther King Day

A message from the principal

Many cool things going on here over the last week.

On Monday, some fifth grade students performed *We Shall Overcome* at ECHO for an MLK event. It was very well received and the Mr. Myregaard was asked to make it an annual event. Look for even more students to participate in the future. We were honored to be included.

Last Tuesday was the annual IAA staff winter retreat. It was a powerful and fun day. We built community and discussed how, in taking care of each other, we can extend a caring and nurturing environment to our students. We did some work on deeper understanding of the Common Core and, of course, we ended the day with some great art activities. Four groups of staff presented to each other some stunning visual art, dances, drama and song. We worked with four exemplary teaching artists; Rebecca McGregor, Susan Palmer, Amity Baker, and Gowri Savor.

Friday we had a visit from world renowned violinist, Soovin Kim. He spoke with the school community about the process of learning the violin. He also played some beautiful pieces for us. Soovin was here supporting the ONE Strings program at IAA. Along with Soovin, Jody Woos from the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival, Rosina Carrizano and Jeff Domoto from the VT Youth Orchestra, and our awesome strings instructor, Kathleen Kono also joined us. These organizations are making it possible for IAA students to have strings instruction. The highlight of the performance was when **IAA students** were up on stage playing for Soovin and the IAA community. The week ended with Soovin playing Happy Birthday to the best Planning Room person in the world, our very own Ms. Audrey.

This is one cool school.

Artfully,

Music News



Third Graders Contra Dance in Music

January has started off with a bang in the music room! We have been really enjoying contra dancing! We have been dancing the **Kindergarten Reel** (with Mr M on accordion!), **The Chimes of Dunkirk, Galopede, and Alabama Gal**. It has been a good way to work up a nice sweat with lots of smiles :). There is usually a contra dance every weekend in the Burlington area, and I have included links to some of those resources on my IAA Music website (iaamusic.weebly.com). 3rd, 4th, and 5th-graders have been working hard preparing for our annual Integrated Arts Night here at the IAA on January 16th. Also, about ten 5th-graders are scheduled to sing a song on MLK Day at the ECHO Center on the waterfront in Burlington. Exciting! Don't forget to check-in regularly on the IAA Music room website and blog, where I post pictures and information about what the students are doing here at the IAA!

Mr. Myregaard

5th Grade News

We have recently begun our next integrated arts unit of study with our drama coach, Joan Robinson. Students are discovering the different perspectives of various groups of people who lived during the colonial time period. We are focussing our drama skills to effectively communicate the issues and concerns people faced during the colonial times and the events leading up to the revolutionary war. The Drama skills we are developing are: appropriate use of **lines, voice, tone & maintaining character**.

Students are getting excited for our next learning adventure with *Starbase!* During February and March students will have the opportunity to experience several **hands on science and team building activities**. We will be going in depth with concepts in *physics and states of matter* as we build our rockets and conduct several **scientific experiments**. We are studying **geometry** in math and we are currently learning about finding the area of quadrilaterals. Students are encouraged to access **Dreambox and Raz Kids** from home or the Boys and Girls Club to help strengthen their independent reading and math skills.

A big thank you goes out to Bonnie Acker who helped our students combine math concepts of measurement, estimating and percentages while we created our own healthy snacks! During this month we will have two visits from our school based doctor. Dr. Lori will help lead health discussions on the topics of disease prevention awareness and human reproduction. Thank you for your support and please let us know if you have any questions or concerns!

Mr. Whitman and Ms. B

Kindergarten News

The kindergarten teams will be beginning their winter assessments in literacy and math this month. This information will assist us in forming groups to best educate your child. While we are assessing, the students will be learning how to go to literacy stations. The children will be taught to use the center and the tools correctly and then how to tidy it up for the next group. The activity centers will focus on fine motor skills (weaving, stitching, clay snakes and bowls, cutting, putting nuts and bolts together and buttoning / zipping), listening skills, story center, reading alone and with a partner, writing in our journals and small teacher led reading groups. These stations will teach skills needed for reading and writing as well as encouraging the children to grow their independent skills for first grade.

Creating a routine of sharing a nightly story with your child is a great way to increase their vocabulary and knowledge.

Here is a link to a bedtime story site: http://www.bedtime.com/html/short_stories.html

Ms. Emily & Ms. Maggie



Celebrate the Arts

with IAA's Free
**Community Arts Day
and Silent Auction**
Sunday, February 16
from 2 to 4 p.m.

This year, in conjunction with the silent auction, we will be having a FREE Community Arts Day. Kids in grades K-5 can take a free workshop at the school with our arts partners—the Flynn Center, Burlington City Arts, Very Merry Theatre, wingspan Painting Studio, Jeh Kulu Dance and Drum Theater, and Davis Studio. IAA students can preregister – forms will be going home in folder the week of 2/3.

While the kids are enjoying the workshops, the parents can enjoy baked goods and musical entertainment while bidding on great auction items – already donated are ski resort tickets (Mad River Glen ski lifts and Jay Peak Pump House), museum passes, tickets to shows at the Flynn Center, Burton youth jackets and backpacks, dining gift certificates, jewelry, Kids City gift certificate, and architectural and interior design services. We are seeking donations from parents and staff, and also volunteers to help the day of the auction

– please check out the attached form to see how you can help!

This is one of the PTO's major fundraising events of the year, and the proceeds go towards supporting the mission of arts integration in many ways, such as the funding the artists-in-residence program and tickets to the Flynn Center. If you have questions about the:

~Silent Auction, please contact **Tracey McVetty** at fibonacci13@gmail.com

~Community Arts Day workshops, contact **Tracey Dengler** at traceydgilbert@gmail.com.

Thanks in advance for your support!

Library News



Library Explore stations are in full swing! Students are invited to explore their interests at various stations around the library, for instance, creating watercolors in the style of our focus illustrators; discovering electrical circuits and non-fiction texts with LittleBits electronics and Snapkits; creating computer code with Scratch, and more.

January means the Book Award season begins in earnest! National book awards winners and Honor books will be announced on January 27th: the Newbery Medal for Distinguished Literature, the Caldecott Medal for Illustration, the Geisel Award (named after Dr. Seuss), and the Coretta Scott King Awards for Literature and Illustration. Through the Fall, we've been exploring past award winners (*Creepy Carrots* by Aaron Reynolds and Peter Brown was a big hit!) through a variety of lenses.

library news continued...

The Vermont Red Clover Award promotes the reading and discussion of the best of contemporary picture books, focusing on the art of illustration. Each year over 20,000 Vermont students read, or have read to them, the ten nominated books. Students in grades K-4 are sharing this year's nominees, focusing on the illustrator's role of telling and extending the story through their artwork. We'll be voting in early spring for our IAA winners, and waiting eagerly to see if we can predict the state-wide winners.

Grades 4-5 have been discovering Vermont's Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award books. Students in grades 4-8 are invited to read their choice from the master list of 30 titles. Students who opt to read/hear at least 5 from this year's list are eligible to vote for their favorite, and participate in our DCF celebration. More information about the award and access to the state DCF Book Blog are available online at <http://iaalibrary.weebly.com/dcf-book-award.html>. Copies of the books are available of our DCF display in the library; come "check it out!"

Mrs. Walters & Ms. Amy

Grade 3 News

During our integrated arts block the third grade has just finished compiling a geometry movement dictionary. Students explored different geometrical terms through the use of their bodies. They defined words with dance moves and then linked the moves together to create movement phrases that will be on display at the Integrated Arts Night. It is fun to see students using their movements during math lessons to deepen their understanding of geometry. In our next integrated arts session we will be working with Mr. Myreggard. Together we will continue to explore math, only this time we will focus on fractions and its link to musical composition.

Mr. Wallace, Mrs. Greve, Mr. Mike

Integrated Arts Academy • Snapshots

IAA Staff Learning Together



“This seems like a group of people invested in their work in education at the heart level. IAA feels like a safe environment for all”

- IAA Teacher

