
October 22, 2020

Mustang News

Alburghschool.org

Welcome to the 2020 - 2021 School Year! We look forward to another exciting year. Keep up to date on school events by following us on Facebook, the school webpage and Front Porch Forum.

Mustang News October 22, 2020

Hello ACEC Community! Happy Fall!
There is a lot going on at school these days! We will hold our first schoolwide PBIS Celebration on October 29th and 30th. You will find information in the Mustang News from your student(s)'s teachers regarding what this will look like for your student(s) in their class(es). We are excited to paint pumpkins, drink cider and eat cookies made by Stacey Gould. We are hoping for good weather. If you are a 100% remote family, please contact your child(ren)'s teacher regarding what this will look like for your student(s). We are asking that all ACEC community members on 10/29 and 10/30 wear orange and black if in person. There will be no costumes at school. The faculty and staff thought this was a way to bring Halloween into school during the COVID pandemic.

Our first annual Flu Clinic was held at ACEC on 10/19 and 10/20. The clinic provided flu vaccinations for over 60 students, parents/guardians, and community members.

Thank you, Ms. Kim Fitzgerald, and Northern Tier Health Center for setting this up for our community.

Students in kindergarten are back 4 days per week. This has been successful. Grades 1 and 2 start 4 days per week on Monday, October 26th. We are all excited to have the primary back and look forward to moving forward with our intermediate grades.

We have heard from Governor Scott that COVID-19 fatigue is being observed in many Vermonters. This is a difficult time for all of us. We need to be vigilant and continue to practice social distancing, wearing masks, washing our hands, and staying home when we are sick. These measures will continue to allow us to be successful at ACEC. We need to remember COVID-19 does not discriminate.

All faculty and staff are committed in supporting our students in academic success. If you are feeling overwhelmed with academic demands, please call your student(s)'s teacher or



Upcoming Events

School Picture Re-Take
Day

November 17th

NO SCHOOL
November 23rd
Parent/Teacher
Conferences

November 24 – 27
Thanksgiving Break

myself and we will do our best in helping to come up with a solution. As we say at school "collaboration + communication + flexibility = ACEC Success. We also need to remember to BREATHE.

I am so proud of our students, faculty/staff, and parents/guardians for their positive participation in the new school procedures and protocols.

We are Alburgh Strong! Take care and be well.

Ms. Beth

Classroom News

PreK News:

Hello Everyone! Welcome to our first full week back to school in some time. For the children and yourself this may make the week seem longer, and the children may come home more tired than they had over the last two weeks as they are trying to get back into a routine. As the weather begins to change, I want to encourage children to start to bring extra layers, rain jackets and boots if possible so that we can continue to be outside as much as possible given the weather. Given that flu season is coming upon us if your child shows any symptoms, runny nose, fever, cough, nausea etc. please keep them home as they will be asked to be sent home by the nurse if they show any symptoms here at school. Please look out in children's backpacks as some of you are being sent home health packets that either need to be updated or filled out for the first time. Miss Beth will also be creating a letter to send to you all regarding what the future of the program looks like in Covid. Next Thursday and Friday (Oct 29th and 30th) the school will be having a whole school wide PBIS celebration. Small pumpkins have been collected for students to paint here at school to take home. On that Thursday and Friday, the school will be wearing Halloween attire colors. This could be anything from wearing orange and black, wearing a mask with a halloween theme, wearing a shirt with skeletons, cats, or witches ect. Please keep in mind that whatever your child chooses to wear that day that it is comfortable and will keep them warm, as it is starting to cool down. Have a great rest of your week! Kira

Kindergarten Happenings....



Happy Halloween Kinder families!

It has been wonderful to have students back in the building 4 days a week! Our kindergarten friends are settling in very nicely and are so happy to be learning together!

In literacy, we are continuing to work on letter identification, sounds and rhyming. This week we learned all about syllables and were able to identify if a word had 1,2, or 3 parts by clapping it out.

During our read aloud we talk a lot about the front of the book and the back of the book. We look at the text or print in the story. We make sure the book is not upside down when

reading and that we always start on the left and read to the right. Kindergarten students had a lot of fun re-telling the events in the story Brown Bear, Brown Bear by making sequencing hats!

In math, we continue to practice counting 1-10 and writing numbers. We just finished up our unit on shapes and have had lots of fun making shapes with different manipulatives. We also introduced subitizing to the students. They have loved working with 5 frames and 10 frames.
Mrs. Ladd

Primary News

****To celebrate Halloween we are encouraging students to wear Halloween attire, no costumes, but feel free to wear orange and/or black, or a Halloween-themed shirt!****

We have had an exciting start to the year!

This fall we have been so fortunate to partner with preservice teachers from the University of Vermont. The preservice teachers are all juniors and seniors in UVM's educator preparatory programs.

The students are working remotely with some small groups of second graders and are doing reading and math enrichment. We are so happy to have their support, and our students are loving their time with the UVM interns!

Mrs. Giroux's first and second graders readers are jumping into reading! They are practicing Read to Self and are enjoying reading independently. Our readers are building up their reading stamina! Ask your young readers to act out Read to Self guidelines to help themselves stay focused while reading independently. Two Read to Self guidelines families can help their young readers practice at home are:

I stay in one place.

I read the whole time!

Help your reader find a cozy spot at home to enjoy a book, it will help build their reading muscles!

Ms. Butts' writers are busy at work in Writing Workshop.

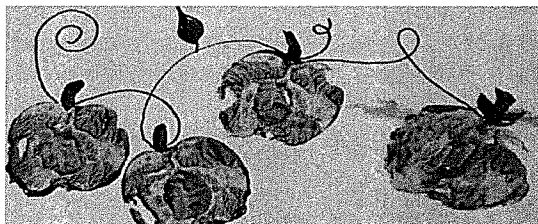
Our writers are exploring "I like" stories and practicing letter formation, using sight words and also saying words slowly to help themselves hear the sounds and write the words. You can encourage your writer at home by pointing out the different kinds of writing we see everywhere around us. Noticing the writing in grocery lists, stop signs and menus, help our developing writers sharpen their writing skills!

Miss Burke's first and second mathematicians are working hard! First graders are working hard on counting and we have started a mini unit on greater than, less than, and equal to. Our number alligator who likes to eat whichever number is greater! We will be working on addition and subtraction within 20 once all the students are back.

Second graders are continuing to work on mastering place value! We have started centers where students can play games with friends. It looks a little different than usual; each student

has their own manipulatives and game boards, but they are able to play with a friend. We will be working on addition and subtraction within 100 once all the students are back.

Intermediate:



Writing/Science - Mr. Herz

In writing, students have been focused on editing recently. Each grade is learning how change, add, to, or correct punctuation, and spelling in their writing. In addition, to editing, we also are writing narrative stories in school based on student chosen main characters, settings, and plots.

In science, third graders are learning design strategies used to help during a natural disaster (e.g. boards on windows). Fourth graders are examining layers of the Earth, and how deepest layers to surface layers start a story of Earth's history. In fifth grade, science students are learning about the four spheres (bio-, hydro-, atmos-, geo-) and how they interact.

Math with Mrs. Barrett

Grade 5 students are working on adding and subtracting with powers of ten. Grade 4 students are learning how to use place value discs to create large numbers and to add and subtract with carry over. 3rd grade students are working on repeated adding with the goal of multiplying and dividing numbers. They are grouping objects and creating arrays. All students should be working on Dreambox for at least 20 minutes a day or a total of 5 completed lessons. If students are struggling with math, please have them contact me to schedule a time for math support. I am available in the early mornings and on Wednesdays until 3:30pm.

sbarrett@gisu.org

Reading ~ Ms. Dobson

Students have been working hard reading narratives the last few weeks. The stories were strategically chosen to incorporate some of the C3 (social studies) standards and targets. Third grade has been reading about Vermont, learning about geography and some of the history around Vermont's 1st inhabitants. Fourth & fifth grade students have been learning about our local history and about the Revolutionary War. All grades have been working daily with the Lexia program, our district's online reading program which calibrates each child's specific needs **at their level**, offering activities in reading comprehension, phonics, and spelling.

Math Intervention Support Services

In Math Intervention, Ms. Brunet has been working on establishing student appointments via Google Meet on their remote days. Please make sure your child is logged on to Google

Meet using their link they were given, and they are on time. Also, if you are having difficulty, please send me an email or have your child(children) send me a note on the Google Math Intervention Classroom. swellsbrunet@gisu.org You can also call me or text me at (802) 395-1880 during school hours.

Literacy Intervention - Mrs. Ehle

After two wonderful weeks of subbing for the reading teacher, Ms. Dobson, I am excited to get back to my regular intervention schedule! Ms. Dobson and I will be assessing students on their phonics skills as well as their fluency, comprehension, and general reading levels in the next two weeks. Please make sure your students are well rested when they come to school, and that they read when they are at home during their remote learning days! Practice creates progress! You can contact me via email at mehle@gisu.org, or by calling/texting me at 802-395-1837.

Guidance Class - Ms. Cramer

This month Guidance is in fifth grade where we are working on naming and managing our feelings. The students are coming up with a signal to give their brain time to think when strong emotions set in. They are practicing naming their feelings and using tools to calm their bodies. Next month will be the third grade's turn!

Middle School Social Studies.

6th Grade:

The 6th graders are continuing our practice of locating the 50 states and capitals (some are on to Europe.) But our focus right now is the American Revolution. Currently we are looking at the causes of the war and why many of the American colonists wanted to break away and form a new nation based on democracy (a RADICAL idea at the time.) This juxtaposes nicely with discussions about the upcoming election.

7th Grade:

In 7th grade the students are learning about the American Civil War. For the past few weeks we have been discussing the causes of the war and the stress it was placing on the two sections of the country. Now we have started studying the actual fighting, it's horrific results, and impact on the psyche of the people in both parts of the country.

8th Grade:

We are currently delving into the Great Depression and its terrible impact on the American people, society, and culture of that era. At first, we contrast it to the "Roaring Twenties," then take a steady roll into the all encompassing economic and psychological morass that inflicted the entire nation (and world) for close to a dozen years. Only to be ended by the world being dragged into WWII - a direct result of the Great Depression.

MS Science

6th Grade Science

The 6th grade is studying cells. We have been examining the similarities and differences between plant and animal cells. We have also started examining plant and animal cell organelles and their functions. We will be starting an introduction to the human body in a couple of weeks.

7th Grade Science

The 7th grade is working on an ecology unit. We have been studying how energy flows through an ecosystem, producers and consumers, and food chains and webs. We are getting into how resources can influence the populations of different organisms in a community.

8th Grade Science

The 8th grade is working on a similar unit on ecology that goes a little more in depth with how resources influence the population in a community. We have discussed topics like limiting factors and carrying capacity.

Middle School Math Happenings

As quick as October came, it has gone. At times it feels like we aren't going places in middle school math because of the lack of time in the classroom, but we are. In 6th grade math, we are still learning about ratios. In learning about ratios, we have also seen the need to refresh other skills like multiplication, division, subtraction, and addition. We have learned and practiced topics like simplifying, reducing, scaling, proportions, equivalent, and so much more. Currently, both 6th grade cohorts are $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through Ratios. I plan to do some work with fractions and division after we finish before Thanksgiving break.

In 7th grade math, we too are almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through proportions. Last year's work with fractions and ratios built the foundation for what we needed this year. We still have some more work left with graphing proportions, equations with proportions, and cross multiplying to find missing parts of proportions. Between now and Thanksgiving, I plan on having the students do some work with linear equations and inequalities to practice solving for variables and working with graphs, something we did not get a lot of practice with last year.

Finally, in 8th grade math, after a slow start into the world of functions, we are making some progress. Currently we are working with linear functions, or equations of lines. This means learning about things like input and output, dependent and independent, coordinates, origin, axis, slope, rate of change, rate, constant of proportionality, y-intercept, and decoding word problems and the language that's used in them. We hope to have linear and nonlinear equations, or functions, wrapped up by Thanksgiving break.

Please remember to have your child check in on remote days to make sure they are keeping up with schoolwork. As always, students can go live with teachers for extra help Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 7:30-8:30 and also from 2:50-3:30. On

Wednesdays each teacher has a set time, math being from 11:00-12:00, but we can work in other times throughout the day as needed. Until Thanksgiving, I am also willing to work with kids after school until 3:45 as needed.

Middle School ELA

6th graders began their Greek Mythology unit by analyzing the Greek creation myth, and creating a family tree for the titans, gods and goddesses. Currently, students are working on a small research project for a Greek god, goddess or monster. This will prepare them to understand the references made in our next book, Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. Throughout the trimester, we will continue to practice supporting our thinking with evidence, and writing objective summaries of different texts.

In 7th grade, students invented their own utopias in small groups. Some patterns that showed up: kids thought societies would work best if everyone had their basic needs met, but also if you could kick people out who were acting in ways that were harmful to the group. There were some great discussions on human nature, and whether creating a utopia is possible. All this prepares students to begin reading The Giver by Lois Lowry later this week, a story about what people might sacrifice to create a utopia.

In 8th grade, students have been working on a "create-a-setting" project, choosing from a menu of options for place and time in history, and using imagery and realistic details to "reveal" the setting without naming it. There are a lot of very creative writers in 8th grade! I can't wait to see more of what they dream up.



Art News Mrs. Aubin Google Voice: (802)395-1874

This month second graders have been creating nighttime works of art. They have looked at books that take place at night and then used a variety of materials on black paper to make them look like it is nighttime in their work. We also have done some self-guided painting and drawing.

Eighth grade has been learning how to navigate and complete assignments through Google Classroom. They have also been learning how to attach images of work before turning in assignments to show evidence. Through their weekly remote assignments, students have explored several museums virtually then completed small works based on artworks in the museum. They are also working on a color wheel, using only the primary colors to create all 12 colors of the wheel.

Reminder:

Emails will be sent to students who have missing work throughout the month to try to stay on top of assignments. I highly encourage parents to accept Google Classroom & Class Dojo invites so you can be aware of what is being asked of your child(ren). Please email me (saubin@gisu.org) if you didn't get an invite and would like to be included.

Remote work & all pictures of work should be submitted through the assignment (both in Class Dojo and Google Classroom) in order to keep things organized.

Looking Ahead:

November Art Classes (beginning Nov.2)

First Grade "Orange" Group

Fourth Grade

Sixth Grade "A" Cohort

PE Classes: Please have your child check their physical education google classroom or class dojo for assignments on a regular basis. All K-8 students are taking physical education either on-line or in-person.

Those currently having PE in-person are hybrid: 1st Orange, 4th, and 6th M. These three groups will receive no new on-line assignments in October but should check for any past due assignments that can still be completed. All other K-8 students currently complete their activities through google classroom or class dojo.

This month we are working on health and fitness topics that students can use to stay active and healthy for a lifetime. We are learning about the heart, food groups, and how to relax and manage emotions with breathing and movement. Older students are also learning about high intensity interval training (HIIT).

The school library still isn't open to students, but I've been trying to make up to it with classroom visits! With primary students coming back four days a week I'll be going downstairs to do regular library classes. I've consulted with other school librarians in the supervisory union and across the state to ensure any book check out procedures are safe and COVID-19 compliant. As always, remember you can request a book via email (mbellavance@gisu.org) or use the SORA app to access free ebooks and audiobooks. And please check under your couch for any books that are still signed out from last year! Many items are still out from the sudden shut down in March.

Thank you and be well!

Ms. Bellavance

MUSTANG MUSIC NEWS

PreK, 1st grade purple, 3rd grade and 7th grade have been excelling in music this month. We have been singing outside, practicing 'barrel drumming', practicing rhythmic fluency, composing music, listening and learning about the music of Stevie Wonder. Also, a big shout out to band/instrumental students that are taking remote lessons with me and showing great improvement during these different circumstances.

I'm looking forward to working with Kindergarten, 2nd grade, 5th grade, and 6th grade in November! We will continue our outdoor drumming as winter approaches - warm clothes will be much appreciated.

Best wishes, Mr. Bjella

School Picture Re-Take Day

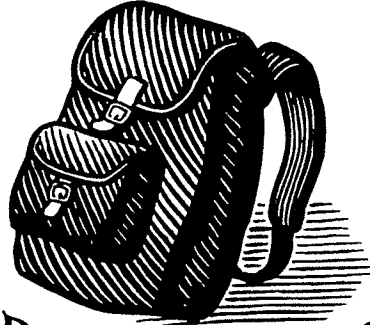
November 17, 2020 from 8:30 – 12:00

If you need your child's photo taken again, please remember to return the original photo packet.

This is for Cohort A, B and fully remote students



The Vermont Foodbank



BackPack Program

Dear Parents,

Your child has been invited to participate in a new program called the **BackPack Program**. This program is a partnership between the Alburgh School and The Vermont Foodbank.

The **BackPack Program** will provide a bag of non-perishable food to your child each Friday for him or her to eat over the weekend. The food will be placed in your child's backpack/locker or distributed from the nurses office at the end of the day and it is not intended to be opened until your child is home. The program is scheduled to begin *November 12th* and will continue throughout the school year.

We hope that you will tell us how this program is working out for you. We ask that you complete a brief survey once per year to help us evaluate food choices and determine if this program is helpful to you and your child. Please feel free to contact us at any time with any thoughts or suggestions that you might have.

To enroll your child in the program, please fill out the enclosed sheet and return it to your child's teacher/office. Please call the office (796-3573) with any questions you have and we look forward to a great year!



The Vermont Foodbank
BackPack Program

Enrollment Form

Name of Child: _____ Age: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

Yes, please enroll my child in the BackPack Program!

Signature

Date

Please list any food allergies your child has:

Please list other children in the house under the age of 18 years.

Name

Age

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

No, please do not enroll my child in the BackPack Program for the following reason _____

Signature

Date

Please let us know any questions or comments:

Please return this form by November 6, 2020