

Soaring Through Times

Soar Learning Center
St. Albans Bay, Vermont



\$1.25

November 5th-13th, 2012

Where eagles and news fly...

Deep Fried Turkey

At Soar Learning Center, our gym teacher, Donny LaFleur, deep fries the turkey for our Thanksgiving feast. He thinks that it is a good idea to have this Thanksgiving feast to show that we have a family-type environment. Claire Thompson, our vocational coordinator, contacts all the classrooms to see what they want to contribute and then she finds a time for them to be in the kitchen. She makes a list for Price Chopper and one for Costco's, and she goes shopping at both stores. The main parts of the meal are cooked on Thursday but the side dishes and desserts get made all week.

The gym must be set up before the feast too. To make this feast happen, all of the classrooms, cooking club, and staff must participate. It's a whole community process. This all started three years ago when Mrs. Taylor and Claire were talking about how to make this school more of a community. This deep fried turkey feast is on Thursday the 15th of November. It will be in the gym while Donny will be cooking outside. The best part is that there are leftovers for Friday.

Here's the food that the staff and students cooked for the Thanksgiving Feast



High School Clubs

Every Friday from 9-11:15, the high school students and staff do different activities from their normal schedule. One group is making a go-cart as part of a mechanics club. Ms. Mock leads this group, and they also fix used bicycles and donate them to those in need. Mrs. Sicard does a group focused on life fitness skills. This group goes to Fitness Zone, a gym in St. Albans. Both staff and students participate in this club to help expose students to healthy choices. Mr. Brown leads a carpentry club. They've been working on different skills and resolving peer conflict. They've built rustic benches, a ladder for our sugar house, a storage unit, and a work table for the class. Ms. Lusk's group has been doing various art projects, such as painting, murals, music, origami, animation, and making t-shirts. Each club works on skills that will benefit students and our community in the future.

Editorial:



Due to my love of food, I decided to interview those who currently participate in the one and only Soar Learning Center Cooking Club. Those who participate are mostly 9 – 12th graders. While participating they are able to receive high school credits, and those on step three or higher are able to receive free lunches. Their club starts at 8:00 and ends at 9:00, except on Fridays when it ends at 12:00. As it became more popular, the club officially became a class. The lunches made go to many places including the Back to School Program, the elementary school, and the Family Center. Sometimes the food also goes to the Town Hall and the City Hall. My overall opinion of the cooking club is that they are amazing in both their food and their ability to work together.

The Cooking Club

-Signed M&M

Elementary Clubs

The elementary classrooms participate in club activities every other Friday. For November and December, students will either be in school doing crafts related to holidays or visiting Care Partners. All of the elementary students and staff will be there. This is to celebrate the holidays and to do things for other people. When students are here doing crafts, they are in the gym. When the students visit Care Partners, the students travel into the community. Care Partners is an adult facility where clients can



spend their days playing games, doing activities, and be in the company of others. Care Partners used to share our school building and since they've moved to a different space, it's been great to keep this connection.

A School Field Trip to a Local Farm

Seventh grade teacher, Mrs. Cota, took her reading class to a local farm after reading a book about a girl growing up on a farm. Mrs. Cota said, "we visited Jim and Jill Torrey's farm to compare farming in 1956 and today". They also did it "for hands on, real-life learning". The kids got to help around the farm and experience what it is like to work on a farm. The farm trip was the best thing for experiencing what it is like on a farm.

The reading class left on Wednesday, November 7th, at 8:30 am and came back around 10:00 am. The 6-8th grade reading class was excited to go and extremely excited when they got back. Jim and Jill Torrey's farm really helped them write their journals after comparing the book and the local farm trip. They hope to go back sometime soon.



Mrs. Young's Haunted Woods

Mrs. Young and her eighth graders prepared a haunted woods walk for the rest of the middle school and the lower elementary grades. The haunted woods had to be delayed a week because of Superstorm Sandy. They were trying to scare people and entertain the students for Halloween. They prepared for a whole month before they were ready. Some of the work like cutting, painting, gluing, and building was done in their classroom and the hallway. Then they put all their decorations into the woods.

The story behind the haunted walk, was that long ago, kids were playing catch and the ball bounced into the woods. The kids went looking for the ball and never came out. The teacher keeps looking for them, still today. The site even became a crime scene. Eighth graders working in the haunted woods said it was "fun, hilarious, and interesting". They had to hide in itchy grass and also adapt their plan to scare, each time a new group came through.



Becoming Green

Soar Learning Center is looking into composting this year and growing more of their own fruits and vegetables. Over the past 2 years we have done a small garden, but not having to eat all processed food would be nice. Composting is taking organic waste and decomposing it back into soil. It also helps keep waste out of landfills and gets people to use the 3 R's: reduce, reuse and recycle. Right now there are 3 high school classes helping with the composting, but we would like all of the school to participate in it.



Mr. Brown's composting box

Homemade composting bottles



A Seventh grader reads with one of the students in the K-4 class



Soar Learning Center is hosting a school winter concert at 10:30 in the gymnasium, on December 21st, 2012. Right now they are preparing their acts and rehearsing them. The show is open to students' families and the NCSS community. There will be a bell choir, a vocal duet, and much more. Most students are excited about the concert and the school thinks that it is a festive way to close the year.

Reading Buddies

On Fridays when students do not have clubs, one of the middle school reading classes gets children's books from the library. They then go and read to the younger children in the K-4 class.

One eighth grader enjoys this time because it's fun to read to them and they are interesting. Both students and staff look forward to this time.

