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Little River News

Little River is Building an Addition!

Spread the word! After a month of hard work crunching numbers by the Parent Building Committee, the Little River Board approved the budget for the renovations and an addition that will add one new classroom, a large multi-purpose room, and two smaller rooms for one-on-one teaching.

After swelling enrollment filled our building, and

raising \$47,000 over the past year, the momentum is there to do this expansion that will also give us another full-time teacher. The Middles group will be spread out into two groups. We are particularly looking for more younger students in the age range of 5-7 years old to join the school.

Construction on the project is scheduled to begin at the end of May and will

be complete by mid-summer. We are currently working to raise the remaining \$24,000 needed for the project. The additional funds and more students will secure the extra teaching position.

This is a big step for our school and caps fourteen years of incremental growth. So spread the word and celebrate this milestone with us.

By Steve Molnar



Indigo, Logan, Elijah, & Braden enjoying an early spring afternoon

On Teaching Mathematics

As a math teacher at Little River, I have a very full toolbox. Some of these tools are commonplace, and some are more obscure. The first item that I pull out of my math class toolbox is the blackboard. Doing problems on the blackboard does a number of things for the class. It allows the students

to see problems in a large format, and it allows me to demonstrate how to solve the problems step-by-step. Further, working on the board often acts as a springboard for in-class discussions.

Another tool that I like to use to teach math is the

math notebook. The students are creating notebooks that serve as a great reference. As we learn new material, the students copy detailed notes from the blackboard, and then add that page to their notebooks. These notes

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- *8:1 Student/Teacher Ratio*
- *Hands-on Learning*
- *Individualized Curriculum*
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Visit our web site at www.littleriverschool.org

Seeking Two Teachers

Little River Community School has openings for a K-3 teacher and a grades 3-7 teacher starting the 2013/2014 school year. We are offering \$20,000 per year and benefits including free tuition for a teacher's child, a small health fund, a supportive environment, and a lot of academic freedom.

We are looking for teachers with at

least several years of experience working with children, preferably in an alternative education setting. Desirable qualities include: a passion for working with children, flexibility, ability to think on your feet, patience, long term interest in teaching, problem solving abilities, strong communication skills, reliability, a sense of humor, self-

motivation and self-confidence. Teacher certification is not required. For a complete description of the positions and an application, go to our website at www.littleriverschool.org. The deadline for applications is April 16.

On Teaching Mathematics (continued from page 1)

serve as a guide while they are doing their homework or as a review if they need a reminder.

Math manipulatives, like Cuisenaire Rods, are another instrument filling my tool kit. I use them regularly to demonstrate a new concept, check students' understanding, solve a problem, etc. Use of these manipulatives is not mandatory, nor is it something they will rely on forever. But, at this middle-grades stage, they are a very helpful tool for taking the mystery out of many mathematical concepts. For instance, in one of my groups while discussing ratios, some of the

students were struggling to understand how to change the numbers without altering the ratio. We brought out some manipulatives, and every student succeeded in creating the ratios we were working on!

The Internet is another great tool for math class. I often print homework pages from various websites, get ideas for lesson plans, and do my own research online. One of my students forgot his homework at school one day, so he got online with his mother and printed off another page covering the same content! What a great

tool!

Workbooks, worksheets, pencils, rulers, protractors, calculators, etc. are all great tools for studying mathematics. With a toolbox full of these tools along with our math notebooks, knowledge of manipulatives, etc., our Little River students are ready for great success in math!

By Kelly N. Burnham

Miguel's Music Class

Miguel, an Older at Little River, has been coming into the Youngers' classroom once each week to teach a lesson in music. So far, he's taught the kids about note values (including half and quarter notes) and how to read beats and rhythms. The kids have learned how to play "Hot Cross Buns" on the xylophone and "Mary had a Little Lamb" on the keyboard. Miguel brought in his guitar one day and the kids played various percussion instruments in a jam session that was impressively good! This is an excellent example of how students of varying ages teach one another!

By Emily Cambridge Carrier



Emily and the Youngers doing the "Egg in a Bottle" Experiment

Future Chemists!

Chemistry is our focus in science this year. The Olders are working hard to get a handle on balancing chemical reactions, calculating formula masses, understanding collision theory, and mastering the thrills of redox reactions. They recently designed and conducted a set of experiments to examine how different conditions affect the rate at

which Alka-Seltzer tablets dissolve. They determined that warm water is faster than cold, and crushed tablets dissolve faster than whole tablets, amongst other things.

The Middles have worked on self-paced units on electrochemistry and acid-base chemistry. In the electro chemistry unit they built batteries from a variety of materials and put a copper

coating on a quarter. During the acid-base unit they learned about pH and made a pH indicator out of cabbage juice. We also went outside and dissolved a soda can in hydrochloric acid to reveal the plastic lining inside the can.

We have many budding chemists here at Little River!

By Leon Sawyko



Leon, Myra and Tera making Maple Candy in the Olders' Chemistry Class

The Middles have been doing Rebus puzzles as a part of our math class warm-up. A Rebus is a group of words or letters that stands for a word or phrase. You need to look at the "picture" and figure out what word or words it represents.

Try your hand at the puzzle below:
(HINT: It is a famous woman)

oLr
elteltelteltelt
elteltelteltelt
elteltelteltelt

(Answer to Rebus puzzle on the back of this newsletter.)

Annie's Class

Annie's class is about nature and ecology. Her class is really fun and sometimes we go outdoors and play nature games. In a few games we learn about different animal habitats. Annie is very kind; she comes Thursdays at 9:30 – 10:00. We enjoy her class and

are very open minded to her teaching. Every so often we go down to our stream and do research. Annie helped us figure out that we have very clean water down at our stream. Recently she brought in seashells and we got to learn different types of shells.

By Arianna Whittaker, Antonio Twyman and Dharma Crabtree

Growing the School

The building addition is going forward and your contribution will fill in the gap to pay for the project. We are seeking to raise an additional \$24,000 by this summer to enable us to add another classroom and hire another teacher.

This will give our students a good learning environment and allow us to take on some new students.

Your contribution helps us to achieve this goal. Thank you.

I would like to make a contribution to the school.

___ \$25 ___ \$100
___ \$50 ___ other \$ ____

Or contribute monthly:

\$ ____ (please specify)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail your tax deductible contribution to: Little River Community School, 1227 CR 25, Canton, NY 13617.

Thank you!

Thank You!

We have a long list of people to thank this spring:

Annie Hooper, from SLU, for doing outdoor hands-on biology with the Youngers and Middles; **Lisa Reynolds**, for reading with the Youngers; **Marta Chew**, for reading with the Youngers; **Paul Hetzler**, for reading to the Youngers; and, **Esther Oey** for working with the Youngers.

Thank you to the following parents on the Auction Committee: **Jean Williams-Bergen**, **Freilin Stevens**, **Rich Stevens**, **Eric Whittaker**, **Rainbow Crabtree**, and **Paula Youmell**.

Thank you to the following parents on our Building Committee: **Hugo Attemann**, **Josh Crabtree**, **David Bradford**, and **Eric Whittaker**.

Thank you to all of the local businesses and artisans for their donations to our annual auction: **Total Image**; **Helen Kenny**; **Jay Schechter, MD**; **Shelby Connelly Fisher**; **Rob Klein**; **Paula**

Youmell; **Sergi's Pizzeria of Potsdam** and **Sergi's Pizzeria of Canton**; the **Red Button Bakery**, **Glow Skincare and Spa**; **Sugar Hill Farms**; **Susan Powers**; **Honey Dew Acres**; the **1844 House**; **Hurlbut's Maple**; **Jean Williams-Bergen**; the **St. Lawrence County Arts Council**; **Valerie Summer**; the **Partridge Café**; **Misty Hollow**; **Birdsfoot Farm**; the **Spicy Iguana**; **Stone Manor Diner**; **Pizza Hut**; **Kinney Drugs**; **TJ Toyota**; **Gretchen Koehler**; **Kathleen Buckley**; the **Potsdam Consumer Co-Op**; **Poulin Grain**; **Lowe's**; **Tim's Comic and Games**; **Deep Root Farm**; **Blackbird Café**; **Village Wines and Liquors**; **8 O'Clock Ranch**; **Evans and White Ace Hardware**; the **Brewer Bookstore**; **Wight and Patterson**; **Thai Cuisine**; **Jernabi**; **Price Chopper of Canton**; **Great Northern Printing**; **Northern Music and Video**; the **UPS Store**; the **Birch Bark Bookshop**; **Hot Tamali**; **Potsdam Agway**; **North Country Neighbors**; **Nature's Storehouse**; **St. Lawrence Nurseries**; **Bittersweet Farm**; and **Hilary Emerson Lay**.

The auction earned the school \$2300. Thank you to all who donated and placed bids!



Answer to Rebus Puzzle: Eleanor Roosevelt
Explanation: "L" in "or" on the first line.
Rows of "elt" in lines 2-4