



### UPCOMING DATES:

*For more information consult Chalkable or your school calendar.*

- 12/1:** Report Cards posted for Grades K-3
- 12/4:** Advisory Reports posted Grades 4-8
- 12/5:** PTG Meeting @ 4:45 Room 101
- 12/7:** Parent/Advisor Conferences Grades 4-8 @ 4:00-8:00PM
- 12/9:** SSAT test date at SRS
- 12/12:** Capitol Center for the Arts Grade 4 @ 10:00AM
- 12/13:** Band and Chorus Concert 6:00 PM
- 12/15:** Winter Celebrations PreK-Grade 4
- 12/18 – 12/22:** Vacation Camp Grades 1-8
- 12/25 & 12/26:** Holiday Break SRS Closed
- 12/27 – 12/29:** Vacation Camp Grades 1-8
- 1/1/18:** SRS Closed
- 1/2/18:** Ski Day @ Loon Grades 5-8
- 1/2/18:** PTG Meeting @ 4:45 Room 101
- 1/4/18:** Ski Day @ Sunapee Grades K-4
- 1/6/18:** SSAT test date at SRS
- 1/15/18:** SRS Closed MLK Jr. Day
- 1/22/18 – 1/26/18:** Parent/Teacher Conferences Grades K-3

### NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

Look for the Saplings on Chalkable each month this year posted online at [www.shakerroadschool.org](http://www.shakerroadschool.org). A classroom will be featured with updates from special events, school trips, athletics and alumni. If you have any photos of sports or school performances that you would like to share, we would love to have a copy. Hope you enjoy the articles.

- EDITOR:** Patti Hicks
- COPY EDITOR:** Tad Curry
- PHOTOS:** Steve Bedell  
Mary Beth Burgess  
Bryan Laliberte  
Kim Stewart  
Nikki Stuppard

## Roots, Stems, Leaves... Oh My!



The first grade students turned into investigators as they examined plants and their needs to survive. Through magnifiers, the students were able to closely view the important parts of a plant. Dissecting marigolds helped the students to identify and to label all the parts of the plant, as well as to see exactly how each parts' job plays a role in its growth. After identifying the parts of a plant, the

students focused their research on how a plant survives. With the guidance from lead detective Mr. Douglas Hicks, the students planted three spider plants and placed them in three different environments. One receiving, water, food, air, sunlight and proper space. The other with just water and one with nothing. For a month, the investigators made observations and predictions about the outcome of the



experiment. Their predictions were correct. The plant that received everything looked green and healthy. The one receiving only water actually looked pretty good. It wasn't as green as the first plant but it was alive. The third plant, stinky and dead. The experiment proved that plants need air, food, water, sunlight and space.



Carving pumpkins for the annual Pumpkin Hayride allowed the detectives to explore the life cycle of a plant. Digging deep into the body of a pumpkin led to discussions of how plants change during their life cycle, beginning as a seed and growing into an adult plant. It was noted that even though each pumpkin began its life as a seed, each pumpkin grew to look very different in many ways. Just like us!

As you can see, the first graders have been very busy as detectives and are looking forward to beginning their journey with animals and their needs.



## Lego League

This year, nearly 30 students on five teams from Shaker Road School competed in the FIRST LEGO League competition. These teams worked at least twice a week between September and their Regional Qualifier events in November. Of the five teams, Team Gamma (a team of 7th grade students) and Team Delta (a team of 7th & 8th grade students) earned invitations to the State Championship Tournament in December for the chance to compete with the other top teams in the state. In addition to their invitations to the State Championship, Team Gamma won the 2nd Place Champion's Award and Team Delta won the 1st Place Robot Design award.



This year's competition theme was Hydro Dynamics. Along with building and programming a robot to autonomously complete mission challenges, the teams were challenged to design an innovative solution that improves the human water cycle. More than 32,000 teams in 88 nations competed in this challenge hoping to earn an invitation to the World Championship competition through their local Championship Tournaments.



This year's NH State Championship Tournament was held at Windham High School on December 3rd. After a full day of competition and presentations, Team Delta finished 21st and Team Gamma finished 22nd in the robot competition among the 49 teams. Great job students and coaches! This was Shaker Road School's 17th year competing in the FIRST LEGO League challenge. If you'd like more information on how the program works at Shaker Road School or are interested in helping coach a team, please let us know. We couldn't do what we do without our great students, their coaches, and incredibly supportive parents!

Submitted by: Alex Hicks



# Kindergarten Field Trip

The Kindergarten students went to visit the WMUR Studio and had tons of fun! Kevin Skarupa was our guide for a behind the scenes tour. The children had a chance to sit at the anchor desk, tour the mobile news truck, push buttons on the console in the control room and learn a lot about how the news is broadcast.

The highlight of the trip was the green screen used during the weather broadcast. We learned why Mr. Skarupa does not wear green during his weather broadcast. The Kindergartners were surprised to see some of their classmates disappear into the green screen. Everybody was wishing they had worn a green shirt that day!

We would like to say a special thank you to the Bator Family and Kevin Skarupa for making this visit possible. Mr. Skarupa will be visiting our classroom in March to help with the Kindergarten Science Fair project.

If you would like to see our Kindergarten TV Stars, follow this link to see them on WMUR.

<http://www.wmur.com/article/visit-shaker-road-school-in-concord/13785752>

Submitted by:  
Mary Beth Burgess



# HERONS SOCCER 2017



**U-15 GIRLS SOCCER** The transition this fall to a new, more competitive, soccer league surprised the U-15 Shaker Road School Girls Soccer Club (SRSC)...for but a moment. After dropping their first game 5-3, the girls went 6-1 for the rest of the regular season, earning a third seed in the playoffs. In the bitter cold and with darkness closing in, SRSC got its revenge for their opening loss by defeating Oyster River 3-1 and earned a trip to the championship game against Lakes Region United. In front of their parents, many teachers, and several friends who came to support them, the girls fought hard and defeated LRU by a single goal, 1-0. Scoring midway through the first half, SRSC controlled the midfield and relied on stellar defense and goaltending to preserve the victory.

New to the league, officials and opposing coaches and parents commented how impressed they were by our "club". "You play the game the right way," said the Oyster River coach. Mrs. Daniels and I were most impressed by how hard these girls worked together against much older and typically bigger opponents. To accommodate older 8th graders, we decided to put our middle school teams in a

U-15 year old division. Many teams played with half eighth and ninth graders. All but two of our girls played up one and two age divisions. As we say farewell to those 8th graders moving on, I turn my attention to a talented group of 6th and 7th graders who will rise up to compete for SRS's next championship!

Submitted by: Matthew Hicks



**U-15 BOYS SOCCER** It was a season of change and growth for the U-15 boys this year. The team played for the first time in the New Hampshire Soccer League, and was challenged every week on the field. With the league change came a change in personnel. Five of the team's 16 players were sixth graders who were transitioning into a bigger field and a new formation. This presented a challenge for the team, who were the youngest in their division, as they were up against much stronger opponents in unfamiliar territory.

Thanks to a few late additions, the team began to grow and show tremendous development late in the season. After a couple of lop-sided defeats to Hampstead and Hudson, the boys played to an impressive 4-3 loss to Pemi-Baker Rapids. The loss showed that there was signs of life in these young men, and demonstrated their hard work was paying off. Two weeks later, the boys bounced back from a 9-0 defeat to Bedford and enthusiastically claimed their first and only victory of the season with an 8-2 win over Oyster River.

The team finished in fifth place with a record of 1-7. There is much work to do in the years to come, yet the growth and progress the boys made throughout the season is a telling sign for the future.

Submitted by: Jay Lewis



**U-12 GIRLS SOCCER** This year, U12 soccer girls had a great season! Our record of 3-3-2 does little to show the drive and determination this team brought to games and practices alike. With the new league and age requirements, we had a very diverse group of athletes on the team this year. Many of the girls had yet to play 9 v. 9 on a larger field and with rules such as “off-sides” to adjust to. The sixth graders took on the challenge and brought experience to the game, leading the fourth and fifth graders during games and practices. Passing the ball and communication on the field were the focus and key to their growth as a team. The skills improvement was consistent throughout the season and it was evident each time they stepped on the field, whether to practice with a round of “dribbley-piggley” or taking on a new opponent for 60 minutes of play. Congratulations to all the teams and we are looking forward to next year’s outdoor soccer season!

Submitted by: Gillian Berry



**U-12 BOYS SOCCER** Although their team was small in numbers, the U-12 Boys didn’t play small while they were on the field! For the majority of the team, joining a new league meant a jump from playing on a small 5 v 5 field last year, to a larger 9 v 9 field this year. The boys welcomed these changes and quickly adjusted to the competition. During practices the boys worked on their technical skills, and playing together as a team. Their record of 3-2-3 earned them a fourth place finish in their division. Congratulations on a great season!



**U-10 COED SOCCER** This year we had two U-10 coed teams comprised of players from second through fourth grades. For



the majority of both teams, this was their first

experience in a competitive league. During practices both teams focused on learning the fundamentals of the game including dribbling, passing, movement of the ball, and working together as a team. As the season progressed so did their successes. Coaches and parents alike enjoyed watching these teams grow and develop throughout the season.

Submitted by: Nikki Stuppard and Stephanie Newbery

# Advisory of the Month

For this month's citizenship theme, **Empathy and Kindness**, Mrs. Linden's 8<sup>th</sup> grade advisory brainstormed ideas for how to implement this theme in all aspects of our lives rather than focusing on it for only one month during our advisory block. We came up with ten simple ideas to incorporate the theme into our daily lives and wanted to share our thoughts with you. Our goal is to inspire everyone on within our community to spread a little kindness.

**Do something good to help others:** Try to find ways to help others. This could be as simple as helping someone pick up a book or as big as volunteering at a soup kitchen. When you help another person out, it makes them feel thankful. They appreciate your thoughtfulness, which then makes you feel good. When you are kind by helping someone out, others notice. This may motivate them to help others as well.

**Provide support for others:** Providing support for people is another easy way to show empathy and kindness. When someone is feeling down, letting them know you're there for them goes a long way to help them feel better. You can provide emotional support by letting them know you're there if they want to talk. You can also provide physical support. For example, if someone is in a car crash and you see it, you should pull over to make sure they're all right. If a person needs help carrying a bag or moving something heavy, you could help them too. When a friend or someone you know accomplishes a goal like doing well on a test or scoring a goal in a game, it's important to support them too. Acknowledge their success and congratulate them. Knowing that someone's there to support you makes you feel safe and appreciated.

**Appreciate differences:** It is important to appreciate the differences between people, since no two people are exactly the same. People can have different opinions and will act differently. Don't criticize other people for not being the same as yourself, because you have no idea what they are going through. Learning about different people and not placing judgments on them really goes a long way to building healthy relationships. Appreciating these differences is one of the keys to demonstrating empathy and kindness.

**Ask questions, don't assume:** A lot of people assume things that aren't always true. When you're not sure about something, don't just assume you know how a person is feeling or why a person acted in a certain way. Ask a question instead. It could really change the way you see someone and help you avoid misunderstandings.

**Admit when you're wrong and acknowledge when someone else is right:** Admitting when you're wrong is very challenging for some people. Acknowledging that someone else is right is sometimes even harder. The simple task of saying, "I'm sorry. I was wrong," when there is a misunderstanding or mistake is an easy way to show kindness and to be a good example for others. Acknowledging that someone else is right is another way to spread kindness. Simply acknowledging that someone else is right goes a long way to improve that person's confidence.

**Practice giving sincere compliments and apologies:** When you compliment someone, you should be aware of your tone and body language. Avoid sounding sarcastic. Look the person in the eye and smile a genuine smile. Similar rules apply when you're apologizing. Speak clearly and explain why you're sorry. Simply saying sorry isn't enough. Explaining why you're sorry lets the other person know that you've thought about the situation and makes your apology more authentic.

**Be open minded:** You should be open minded to people who are different than you. Open mindedness means being able to value other people's ideas and beliefs. Everyone has a right to their opinion, and we should be open minded to hearing these opinions, even if we don't necessarily agree with them.

**Be aware of those around you:** Being aware of people around you is important. Not only can it get you out of awkward situations and prevent accidents, but it also shows people that you are about them. All you have to do is look back as you're walking through a door or look up as you walk down the street. If someone is following you through a door, hold it open for them. If you make eye contact with someone on the street, offer them a smile. It's a simple act, but it may brighten someone's day. Being aware of the differences in people's lives is also important. People have different interests and belief and, by keeping this in mind, you can avoid conflict.

**Use your manners:** You can start this at a young age, and it's a very simple thing to do. Unfortunately, as get older, we sometimes forget the simplest acts of kindness. When you ask for something, say please. When you get something, say thank you. It goes a long way in showing kindness. It doesn't take long before using manners becomes a habit.

**Hold the door:** Even though it's very simple, holding the door for someone else is an easy and effective way to show kindness. There will always be a time when your hands are full and you need to get through a closed door. Wouldn't it be easier if someone held the door for you?

Now that we've explained these tips, we hope you will choose to follow them in your everyday interactions. What begins as an opportunity to improve school life may lead to an even greater change in our world. Kindness begins with one person. In the wise words of Gandhi, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

Submitted by: Cathy Linden

# Sapling News Article from Pre-K 4



Here in Pre-K 4, we have been working hard on our letter formation, number counting and writing. We are half way through the alphabet, and up to number 10.

Each week we combine academic work within our choice times, using many different materials to write and form our letters or numbers. We use play dough to strengthen our hands, shaving cream on trays to write letters, and paper and pencils to write with. We make letter books filled with pictures and words starting with the letter of the week. We have been sharing these books in our classroom with each other.

We count all day, whether at the beginning when we line up, during our Academic choice time, at lunch when sitting down at our tables, or at the end of the day during story time. The students made their own number books, which they were very proud of. We had the pleasure of sharing these books with the Pre-K 3 class. Each book was read aloud by the student, and all of them were well received.

Submitted by: Frances Witte-Holland



The SRS PTG invites you to join us in Margaritaville on Saturday, February 3 for Socially Shaker 2018! This event is the largest PTG fundraiser of the year and includes a silent auction, raffle and a chance for families to socialize and enjoy an evening together. Proceeds from Socially Shaker will be used to enhance student's academic and cocurricular experiences. Last year, Socially Shaker was a tremendous success bringing together more than 120 families and raising thousands of dollars for the PTG. We are eager to host another wonderful event this year!

We hope that your family will consider supporting the PTG through a donation to Socially Shaker. Donations for the silent auction and raffle can come in many forms:

- Merchandise and Goods (electronics, sports equipment, gift baskets)
- Services offered (Estate Planning, Spa Services, Landscaping, etc.)
- Gift Certificates or vouchers

**All donors will be promoted the night of the event and all donations are tax-deductible. Donations can be dropped off in the main office anytime!**

Thank you for your support of Shaker Road School. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with Brooke Belanger ([bcbl04@gmail.com](mailto:bcbl04@gmail.com)) or Caitlin Connelly ([caitlin.connelly@shakerroadschool.org](mailto:caitlin.connelly@shakerroadschool.org)).