



## UPCOMING DATES:

For more information consult  
PowerSchool or your school calendar.

**11/11/2021**—  
Veteran's Day; School Open  
Academic Day

**11/16/2021**—  
Virtual Instrumental Recital  
5:30 & 7:00 PM

**11/24 through 11/26**—  
Thanksgiving Break  
SRS Closed

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

Look for the Saplings on PowerSchool 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

# The Return of SRS Traditions

by Dr. Matt

Late last week as I helped Student Government prepare for the annual middle school Halloween dance, I paused and realized October was nearly over. Compared to last year, this is a positive change. Since opening day, we have welcomed back soccer games, cross country meets, field trips, Back to School Night, dances, Halloween parties, and the Jack-O-Lantern Stroll. Though some these events have taken on a new look, just having them back has been wonderful. The feeling and morale on campus this fall has returned to normal for our community: happy and busy families. With the stress of last fall fading deeper into history, our school traditions that make Shaker Road School so special signals even better days ahead.

School traditions are an integral part of creating and maintaining a positive school climate, which in turn supports a feeling of belonging, contentment, and safety for all in the community. Last year we were forced to focus more on physical safety at the exclusion of traditions. We were aware of the challenges to the social and emotional well-being of students, faculty, and parents but could do little but make our best attempts at finding different ways to gather and celebrate. Even when successful, they often felt forced and fell short. If "absence makes the heart grow fonder," it is no wonder why we are all so happy this fall. As evidenced by lively (and LOUD) buses to field trips and games, the excitement to *finally* visit classrooms on Back-to-School Night, and the ear-to-ear smiles at the Jack-o-Lantern Stroll, WE NEED THIS. Not everything will return to normal until the pandemic is over, but signs are favorable. The winds have shifted, our traditions are returning, and my goodness how wonderful it is to see everyone again.

## Pre-K 4 Learns with Harvest Corn!

Jackie and Maria's Pre-K 4 class absorb all the learning they can during this season of color and earthly abundance. Having harvest corn as our material the children take away learning in all areas:

**Cognitive:** Children do science as they explore the physical world. Their curiosity and sensory exploration allow them to learn how corn kernels are attached to a corn cob. They ask questions and we talk about how corn began as a seed. We plant a corn kernel in a pot of dirt to see if we can grow corn!

**Physical Development:** The children develop their small muscle control and coordination as they use their index fingers and thumbs to pry kernels off of the cobs. They also develop dexterity as they hold the corn cob to stamp and paint.

**Creative Expression:** The children use the stripped-down corn cobs to stamp, roll and paint onto their paper. They use different fall colors to create designs and patterns.

**Social and Emotional Development:** Children exchange ideas at the table about how to pry off the corn kernels and tear off the husks.

**Language Development:** The children learn and say new vocabulary; Indian corn, harvest corn, flint corn, cob, husk, kernel. We are excited that some of these words begin with letters that we have been studying!

Who knew corn could be so fun!



Submitted by: Maria Lennon and Jackie



# Leadership Retreat

After a quick first week of school, the eighth grade set off to Camp Bernadette in Wolfeboro for the Leadership Retreat. The week was packed full of discussions and workshops about leadership, followership, types of power, conflict resolution, and building consensus.

Most of the lessons involved practical applications: ethical challenges like deciding who deserved a financial award or whether someone made the right choice in a “daily dilemma.” The most difficult challenges facing this group of students focused on listening to each member of the group in order to reach consensus.

Each challenge in the first two days helped or hindered the group in earning a trip to Wolfeboro for the afternoon. This group met those challenges head on and learned quickly from small failures, earning the trip into town with flying colors. We took advantage of the great weather to stroll around town sampling ice cream and candy and perhaps finding some end-of-season sales.

Of course, the week was not without a measure of fun beyond that: capture the flag, swimming, fishing, s’mores by the campfire, a movie, preparing meals, running the Hobart, improv games, and getting to know a different side of one’s classmates. We also survived a brief but brutal thunderstorm!

The group’s culminating activity was to develop their class goal for the year without any guidance from their teachers. The group came up with this goal: “To lead an inclusive school where individuality is encouraged and differences are accepted.” We think this perfectly captures their attitude as a class!



The Class of 2022 has demonstrated incredible team spirit, a cheerful attitude towards work, and a real sense of friendship so far. We cannot wait to see the great things they accomplish this year and beyond.

Submitted by Caitlin Connelly,  
Tad Curry, and Barbara Morrison



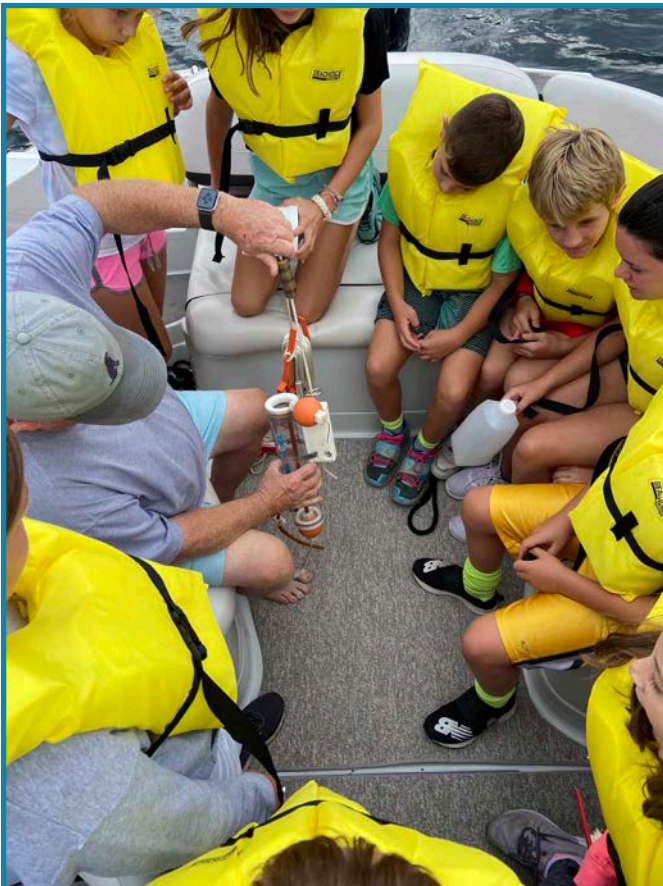
# Ecology School 2021



This was the first year that sixth graders got to experience the Lake Ecology trip to Lake Winnisquam in the fall. In recent years the trip was held in the spring for fifth grade students. We had an amazing three days exploring the lake and all it offers. Due to COVID concerns our students did three daytrips to the lake rather than the full overnight experience, but we managed to squeeze a lot of learning and fun into those three days. Students created their own Mini-Lake habitats by collecting water, vegetation, and other lake life to create aquariums that reflected the ecology of the lake. One student even netted a fairly large rock bass but decided to release it rather than make it part of her group's habitat! Students took a boat ride to discuss lake formation, topology, and history. They also discussed how we balance recreation, conservation, and economics. Another boat ride allowed students to gather a deep-water sample and observe the water clarity using the Secchi disk.



Back on land, students ran tests on the water samples they gathered for oxygen, Ph, and Nitrogen levels and compared the data to the deep-water samples they collected while in the boat. They also played a matching fish ID game in small groups. Students also observed as Mr. Hicks donned his waders to collect samples from the nearby pond. They then identified and tallied the number of the insects in the samples in order to draw conclusions about the water quality of the lake and neighboring pond. Back on campus, students identified and tallied the number of insects collected in water samples from our own ponds on campus and compared this data to the information they gathered from the lake and pond. Based on the data, it appears that Lake Winnisquam, the nearby pond, and our on-campus ponds are quite healthy!



In addition to all the educational activities, students also managed to fit in some swimming, kayaking/paddle boarding, and fishing. The weather was perfect, and the kids had a blast. We are so lucky to have these amazing resources so close to home. Fall Ecology School on Lake Winnisquam was a huge success.

**Submitted by:**  
Mrs. Linden,  
Mr. Hicks, and  
Mrs. Migdal





# AMC Trip

There may never be a better time to be in the White Mountains than mid-September. The seventh graders traveled to Pinkham Notch for the annual Appalachian Mountain Club trip. This was only the second time Shaker has hiked out of Pinkham Notch. Typically, we start the journey in Crawford Notch, on the Western side of Mount Washington, but launching from the Eastern side of “the big rock pile” allowed for exploration of Tuckerman Ravine, Glen Ellis Falls, and a stay at Carter Notch Hut with its amazing “ramparts” – or house-size boulders strewn like marbles on the valley floor.

The week began with a brief stop for maps (and Starbucks) in North Conway before arriving at Joe Dodge Lodge, our home for two nights. Almost immediately the magic of the mountains appeared in the form of a moose hanging out by our bus, and the students were hooked. We spent day one practicing hiking skills by visiting Hermit Lake Shelter in Tuckerman Ravine (about 5 miles hiking and 1,800’ of climbing). Despite the warm weather, the seventh graders worked hard, without complaining, and earned their hearty dinner followed by team-building games that lasted until well after dark.

On Day Two, we hiked to Glen Ellis Falls, where some of the intrepid students swam in the frigid water of the Ellis River. With the girls lasting more time in the icy water, they won their bet and the boys carried the backpacks on the return trip. On Day Three, we met our AMC instructors who taught the students how to properly discard all unnecessary clothing and gear (the great shake-down) before heading off to Carter Notch. Our fabulous guides taught students about conservation efforts, trail building and maintenance, and mountain science, and led them on trailside games designed to reinforce their lessons. Students spent time in Carter Notch exploring the ramparts, journaling, playing cards, and enjoying the beauty of the natural world in the mountains.

We lucked out on this trip. We had amazing weather, wonderful AMC instructors, and tons of fun. Thankfully we were finally able to continue this important Shaker tradition. It was the perfect way to begin a new year.

Submitted by: Matthew Hicks





## Fifth Graders Kid Governor Election

Over the past few weeks, fifth graders have taken a closer look at civic responsibility in their communities. Through the New Hampshire Kid Governor's civics program, students have taken part in lessons that teach the history and process of voting and what makes a good leader. In addition, students have identified and researched important community issues and developed campaign platforms and speeches. Upon completion of their speeches, eight students chose to run in the classroom election for our school's nominee for the next Kid Governor of NH. The nominee has since made a video sharing their platform and why they would be a strong candidate for the 2021-2022 Kid Governor election.



We are excited to announce that Isabelle Crevier has been elected as the SRS nominee for the 2021-2022 Kid Governor election. Her community issue is helping animals in shelters find safe and loving homes. She has created a campaign video explaining her three-point plan on this issue and why she would like to be the next Kid Governor. Her campaign video has been shared along with the other nominees from across New Hampshire for the state-wide election.



Finally, the students were able to participate in a Zoom call with Governor Sununu. Mr. Sununu explained his reasons for running for governor, his daily responsibilities, and how decisions are made for our state. The call was very engaging and interactive for the students, who were full of questions!

Submitted by: Becky Carter

## Grandparent's Day

This year our Grandparent's Day looked a little differently than it has in the past. We were excited to host a Zoom meeting for grandparents near and far to join their grandchildren in their classrooms. Each class had a different presentation to participate in and enjoy. The students were so excited to see their families on the screen and talk with them right from their own classroom. We were fortunate to have over 350 grandparents and grand friends join us that day. We hope that next year we will be able to host our event in person once again!



Submitted by: Patti Hicks





# HERONS SOCCER



## Seventh and Eighth Grade Soccer Team

The 7/8 Middle School Soccer Team had a terrific season. The team finished the season with a record of 8-1 and scored an amazing 49 goals and only allowing 13. The team worked hard throughout the season on defensive positioning, movement off the ball, attacking the net with purpose, and keeping positional shape. The team was thankful to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders who helped them throughout the season.

The team had an incredible tournament, as well, where they played Rundlett, Merrimack Valley, and Hillsboro in the A Division. The team won their first game versus Hillsboro 1-0 and would go on to tie their next two games 0-0. The tournament was decided based on goals allowed. Thanks to their tremendous defensive effort throughout the tournament, the team were crowned champions!

Mr. Matt and I couldn't be prouder of this group for all their hard work. Great season, everyone!

Submitted by: Jay Lewis and Mr. Matt



## Fifth and Sixth Grade Soccer

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade co-ed soccer team returned to the Merrimack Valley Soccer League this year to play in the 5/6 boys division. We started the season the first week of school; with one practice under our belt, we played hard in the first game and made room for improvement throughout the season. Our team was made up of a diverse group of athletes, and everyone brought determination and drive when they stepped onto the field.

During practices the players worked on creating space, communication, and making complete passes. We enjoyed playing a variety of games during practice that helped hone our specific soccer skills. A few favorites were 1v1 drills, Pirates of the Pug, and the juggling challenge.

After ending the season 9-1-0, the team ventured to New London on a warm fall afternoon for a tournament. The team played in four 25-minute back-to-back games. They came together to win the first the game and only gave up 3 goals throughout the rest of the tournament. SRS ended in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Congratulations to all the 5/6 soccer players. We are looking forward to next year!

Submitted by: Coach Newbery



## Girls 3/4 Soccer

The 3/4 girls' soccer team had a fun and successful season! Many members of our team had not played organized soccer since Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade but arrived at practice with enthusiasm and excitement!

With two practices each week, players quickly built their skills on the field and entered our games with confidence! Over the course of our 6-week season, our team learned that when they worked together, they were unstoppable! We ended our season with a 6-1 record, but more importantly, with a team of girls who built stronger friendships and learned the importance of hard work and cooperation!

Submitted by: Coach Connelly





## Boys 3/4 Soccer

The 3/4 boys' soccer team was a blast to coach this season! They worked hard at practice and played hard in every game. Over the course of the season, they came together, learning how to move the ball more effectively by spreading out and communicating with each other. Individually they all improved a great deal as well. Some worked on dribbling and ball control, while others focused on shooting, goal tending, and defensive skills. It was fun to watch them grow as players and enjoy playing soccer together as a team. Their record was impressive as well, with only one tie and zero losses, the boys were proud to call themselves "undefeated" this season.

Submitted by: Sammi Daniels



## Fall Golf

The fall golf season was busy and fun. Students from Kindergarten to eighth grade enjoyed playing and improving their golf game each week.

Students from K-2 played many exciting games that were used to teach the young golfers how to swing a club and hit the ball. The students from grades 3-8 came ready to play the six-hole course each day, having fun pairing up with friends and challenging each other to better their game. Some of the golfers played in a fun two-hole tournament at the end of the season.

The golf season ended with all the golfers asking when spring golf starts. That's a hole-in-one season for sure! Thank you to Mrs. Morrison and the teaches who helped the K-2 golfers have fun and learn the game!

Thank you, golfers!

Submitted by: Peter Daley







## 5-8 Cross-Country Running

Throughout the entire cross-country running season there was never a lack of drive with the SRS runners. They continued to work hard and hone their individual and team skills. At the beginning of the season, several runners appeared somewhat hesitant, but their enthusiasm for the sport never wavered.

Their performance as individual runners and as a team continued to improve and develop. They were able to dig deep and run some of their best races yet at the State Championship at Coe-Brown Academy. In the boy's race, SRS had runners place third and fourth. In the girl's race, SRS had a runner place eighth. As a coach it has been a joy to watch these runners grow individually and as a team over the entire season.

Submitted by: Delaney Poirier

# GO SRS HERONS!!



## 3/4 Cross-Country Running

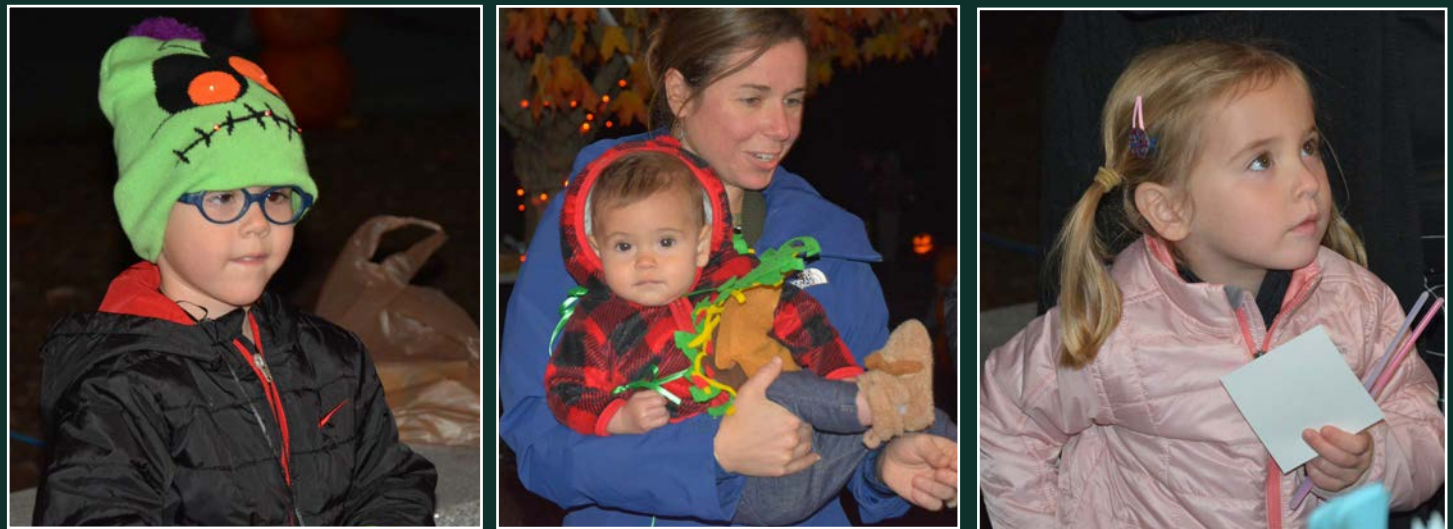
The 3/4 Cross Country team challenged themselves on the trails this season. This group of runners came to the team with little experience but mounds of enthusiasm for the sport. I am so proud of this group of students for trying something new and taking *steps* to reach their goals. The third and fourth grade team not only worked each day to build stamina and endurance, but they applied many of the citizenship themes they have learned in the classroom. Perseverance, diligence, respect, and sportsmanship are just some of the many skills demonstrated out on the trails. The season wrapped up with a distance challenge and a fun run. Many of the students surprised themselves by running 2.5 consecutive miles by the end of the fall. Great job 3/4 Cross Country Team!

Submitted by: Kristyn LaRoche





# JACK-O-LANTERN STROLL









# Happy Halloween 2021









