

MCS Cross Words

April 7, 2017

Do you ever get to the point, whether at work or at home, that you just want to quit? It's not an uncommon feeling. Sometimes we feel life is too much, too hard, too fast.

I saw two examples this week that illustrated a positive path beyond quitting. The first was Thursday night's chorus concert. The music was varied and complicated, and the choruses meet only once a week starting in January. At times, I'm sure, students didn't want to tackle the challenges of the pieces. Mr. Ramsey mentioned how—after all the preparation—the biggest leaps happen in the last day. Like learning to ride a bicycle, the many leans and falls and spills lead to a magical balance.

In the fourth grade Biography Teas, I heard of students in tears trying to piece together their in-character presentations of famous and hard-working people. On Wednesday, a presentation on Friday appears impossible.

But students didn't quit. Teachers didn't quit. Parents didn't quit. Accomplishing something hard is, well, hard. In the end, however, it's the most rewarding work we do.

Calendar

Tuesday, April 11: Professor Flanagan's Dartmouth class visiting recess with innovative games, 10:00-12:00

Wednesday, April 12: WISE Parent Night, 5:30-6:30, Multi

Friday, April 14: REGULAR SCHOOL DAY FOR ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS; Jigs and Reels played by Ben Van Vliet, 4th Grade, 9:15-12:00, Multi

School News

(1) Call for Musicians!

I would like to extend an invitation to any adults in the MCS community to come join me and Ben VanVliet in the bandstand to play for Mayfest. Standard "folk" instruments like guitar, fiddle, banjo, uke, etc. would fit the best. We will play one dancing tune for each grade level, plus three or four sing-along songs for the whole

school. Songs are generally simple and in reasonable keys like G and D, but the dance tunes are often have more challenging chord changes, go faster, and last a lot longer. Please let me know right away if you are interested!

(2) Seeking **Volunteers to support MCS gardens!** We have a rather large school veggie garden at MCS, along with perennial and annual flower beds, and 4 raised beds that have served various purposes. The veggie garden feeds us twice/year - for a spring "salad day" and a fall harvest sampling which has lately been shared at open house night. The flower beds feed our need for beauty and pollinators need for food. This year MCS is participating in the Upper Valley Pollinator Project to plant and maintain pollinator friendly gardens to support butterflies and bees whose survival has become concerning. Many classes work in the gardens to prepare the beds, plant seeds, weed, water, harvest, eat, and learn. We seek parent (or grandparent) volunteers who would like to support our joy of working in the soil with children and bringing things to life. There are a variety of projects with which we need help: new fence posts, upgrading the raised beds, weeding/watering over the summer, planting in the spring. Please contact Lindsay Putnam at lindsay.putnam@hanovernorwichschools.org if you would like to help. We would like to have a meeting of interested people on Thursday, April 13 at 8:00 AM. We will meet in the conference room next to the main office. Thank you for considering this!

(3) MUD SEASON IS HERE!

Please **send a change of clothes** to school with your child. Lots of puddles and areas with mud make for lots of dirty and wet kids. It is very distracting for them to sit in wet clothes in class. Thank you so much for your attention to tho matter.

(4) Hi parents,

As many of you know, the RMS Robotics team that I helped coach this year, RoadKilz, has advanced to the World Championship and will be heading to St Louis at the end of the month. They're trying to capitalize on this success to generate more interest and increase participation in the Upper Valley.

What: **FLL robot team video/demonstration**

Where: Marion Cross School Norwich, VT

When: Tuesday April 11 3:30 - 4:30

In addition to a brief discussion of the program, it will include some robot videos, interactive demos and an honest discussion of what it takes to form an FLL robot team. Intended audience is 4th through 8th grade students and parents.

This should be very helpful if your children are considering participating next year. Please join us if you can.

Thanks,

Randy Witwick, PE

Office: [\(603\) 653-0060](tel:6036530060)

Mobile: [\(603\) 667-0526](tel:6036670526)

<http://www.stemrobotix.com>

(5) Come Hear our **Fiddle Tunes!**

The fourth graders have composed some new music! They have been learning to write two kinds of fiddle tunes, jigs and reels. Over the last few weeks they sketched out their ideas, revised their music, heard feedback from their classmates, and completed their music. On Friday, April 14, they will get to hear their music performed live by fiddler Ben VanVliet from Upper Valley Music Center. Please feel free to bring your class for as long as you like!

9:15-10:00 - Jigs and Reels from 4W

10:30-11:15 - Jigs and Reels from 4F

11:15-12:00 - Jigs and Reels from 4H

(6) The **third-through-sixth grade concert** went beautifully last night. Thanks, all of you, who attended. Students sang about American history in "Hamilton," extolled the American musical with a version of "Tomorrow," and dealt with self-acceptance with "Scars to Your Beautiful." When Mr. Ramsey and the students developed this last song, their focus (and the song's focus) was on celebrating yourself and not letting other people's comments or attitudes diminish you. In the lyrics of the song, "Beauty goes deeper than the surface" and "You should know you're beautiful just the way you are."

(7) 6th Grade Parents,

If you haven't yet indicated your child's **preference for Mayfest dances**, please do so as soon as possible. The students will begin practicing next week, and we need to have a final number for each dance. Thank you!

<https://goo.gl/forms/IYA43YtcJRVbcBxk1>

(8) **WISE Parent Night:** Wednesday, April 12, from 5:30-6:30 in the MCS Multi. Please join Katie Cormier, MCS School Counselor and Kate Rohdenburg, WISE Program Director to talk about the work WISE has done here at MCS and learn some strategies for how to talk about creating safe and positive relationships for your kids. We are lucky to have such a great resource in WISE and would love to have you join us for questions and conversation around healthy relationships.

Community News

(1) Come see ***You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*** this weekend at the Richmond Middle School auditorium! Kate Budney and Henry Lang, two seniors at Hanover High School, have co-produced this show as a Senior Bridges project. Admission is **FREE** because the show is funded by The Winthrop Bean Award for Theatre Arts.

PERFORMANCES:

Friday, April 7th @ 7:30pm

Saturday, April 8th @ 1:30pm AND 7:30pm

This show will have open-seating (seats are NOT assigned). However, you may reserve tickets by emailing brownsow2017@gmail.com by APRIL 6TH with your name, phone number, and number of seats requested for a particular performance.

(2) **The Norwich Recreation Spring Brochure** is attached.

[SPRING 2017.doc](#)

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Bill Hammond

Principal

Marion Cross School