

Vernon Elementary

BAMS

Parent Information
Night

Monday, February 15th
6:30 p.m.

**YES - we will be
have our**

**SLEDDING
PARTY**

**TOMORROW,
2/13/10,
1-4 P.M.**

**at the Ellis House
538 Hucklehill Rd.
(The old ski jump)**

Park on Wheeler Rd.

A Message from Mr. Speno

In an effort to answer questions that parents, students and community members may have in regards to the drinking water at Vernon Elementary School; school nurse Karen Barrett, Recreation Department Director Seth Deyo and I have met with Dr. Bill Irwin the Radiological Health Chief of the Vermont Department of Health.

This meeting was helpful and extremely informative. The water at Vernon Elementary School is tested every week by the VT Department of Health and every test has shown absolutely no traces of tritium or any other foreign substance. In fact, the results of every test at Vernon Elementary School are published on the Vermont Department of Health website. Also on this website is a link for you to ask questions. All questions and inquiries whether general or specific will be answered. Aside from the water at our school, the air is continuously monitored, and the soil and grass is also tested. I hope this information has been helpful. A link to the website of the Vermont Department of Health will also be added to our own school website.

www.healthvermont.gov

News from the Resource Room

Students in our Literacy Block have just completed Persuasive Essays, which is one of the two district-required writing pieces for fifth graders. Some of the suggestions the students came up with included:

- Having activities on Mondays rather than academics because "every Monday you come to school and you're mean and nasty. It's hard to do

math, SS (aka social studies) and literacy".

- Having rollerblading every Friday because "It's fun and exciting...and is good exercise for your body".

- Allowing pets in school the week before Valentine's Day because it's a special time of year for your pets not to miss you and a way to teach kids responsibility.

All in all, the kids did a very fine job explaining and defending their position on the subjects that they chose to write about.

--Mr. Loomis

Drug and Alcohol Prevention

The Vermont Department of Health has received a grant to help reduce the misuse of alcohol and drugs in Vermont communities, and is interested in learning more about parents' views on issues related to underage drinking. A brief web-based survey has been set up that parents or guardians who have children in grades 6 through 12 can access and complete online. The link to the survey is on the website of local partner the Brattleboro Area of Prevention Coalition.

www.brattleboroareapreventioncoalition.org

Our school will receive one dollar for every parent (up to \$100) who completes this short online survey. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey, and help support our school. The survey will close on Sunday, February 28th.

ART FROM MANY HANDS

All students are making art that has been inspired by African cultures. From beautifully patterned fabrics to modern cityscapes, wildlife and geography to beaded figures, Egyptian canopic jars to masks, all artwork is being made and displayed. Also included in this year's theme is an awareness of diversity. Some of our artwork is inspired by Maya Angelou's poems and reflect the struggle for equality here, and in Africa. February 11th is the 20th anniversary of the election of Nelson Mandela and an end to apartheid in South Africa.

Soon, artwork will also be hung in the Student Art Month show at the Brattleboro library. It is very interesting to see art from many different schools. I hope you can visit during the month of March.

I'd like to formally thank Mr. Clark and all the custodians for being such a help to me in preparing materials and hanging art work. And most of all, a sincere thank you to my wonderful students.

--Mrs. Mann