

**From:** Kathleen Bailer <kathleen@mountainroadschool.org>  
**Subject:** **Autumn Harvest**  
**Date:** September 23, 2009 4:20:13 PM EDT  
**To:** kathleen@mountainroadschool.org  
**Reply-To:** kathleen@mountainroadschool.org

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

MOUNTAIN ROAD SCHOOL

## Autumn Harvest

### Items Needed

The school is in need of the following items. Can you help?

- Brown paper grocery bags for recycling- lots of them!
- Pretzels, Dried Fruit, and/or Trail Mix for extra snacks.
- Extra rain boots

### Upcoming Events

- No School September 24th - 28th  
Community In-service and Yom Kippur
- Grandparent's Day  
Friday, October 2nd.  
Grandparents invited!  
10:45-12:00 A school tour for Grandparents will be held at 10:45 followed by tea, time in the classrooms and a special Big Circle!
- Columbus Day, No School October 12th.
- Community Meeting in Family Room

### From the Director

Hello Mountain Road School Families and Friends! Welcome to our Fall Newsletter! Our newsletter communication is one of the main ways we communicate what is going on at the school so please take your time to read it carefully. There will also be a printed version of the newsletter in the resource room for those who prefer to read it on paper. Thank you!

### Welcome

Welcome to a new school year! All the classes are in full swing investigating and learning and it seems that the children have begun to settle into the routines of the day. We had a very successful fire drill this week and just today, I noticed that all the preschool children were able to get ready for an outdoor exploration with ease! It feels once again that we are one big family as the children relax into the structure and routine of coming to school. My hope this year is that each child and parent feels welcome, appreciated and a part of the Mountain Road School family. Thank you for all of your patience in smoothing out the back-to-school wrinkles.



Back-To-School Night

Wednesday, October 14th 6:30-8:30pm  
Child Care Provided.

See details below

- Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 15th 6:30 pm.
- Parent/Child/Teacher Conferences, No School, Tuesday, October 20th Sign up in the classrooms, Child Care Provided
- Abode Lantern Walk  
Friday, October 30th @ dusk.

#### **Save The Date!**

- Field Trip to Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats at the Mahaiwe Theater in Great Barrington Friday, November 13 Leaving around 9:00 am.
- Empty Bowls Dinner, November 18th @ 6:00 pm. Location TBA

#### **Community Meeting**

As the parent representative, I would like to personally invite all Mountain Road School parents and community members to join together for our first community enrichment meeting of the 2009-2010 year. These meetings are an opportunity for our parents, teachers, and other supporters of MRS to join together to discuss the school's mission and curriculum, to inspire ideas, and strategize around various programs and projects happening at the school. It is also an important part of the school's ethic of parent involvement, embodied by a community-minded spirit, with the goal of us all being a part of an interdependent learning community.

On Wednesday October 14th at 6:30 pm, Joel Priest and I will be facilitating a discussion on the nature curriculum at Mountain Road School. As you know, our school is so very fortunate to be mentored by Michelle Apland and Devin Franklin, Directors of the Flying Deer Nature Center. This program has become a central focus in the school's curriculum, and continuously enriches our children and parent

Speaking about appreciation, at our amazing Back-to-School night (thanks for an incredible opening ceremony by Flying Deer), a new committee was formed called the Sunshine Committee! Already, we have seen their work with the appreciation of Shivani on her birthday, goodies in the resource room and more! I am very excited about this new energy to the school. Thank you to all the parents who agreed to participate and spread sunshine! Also, at the Back-to School night, we formed the Development Committee, an ad hoc Hiring Committee (if needed), and a Retention and Recruitment Committee. If you are interested in being a part of a committee and did not join already, please let us know and we can help you connect. Yahna Saltsman and Cari Naftali volunteered to coordinate clothing swaps and the first one is happening today! With our emphasis on Nature this year, I love seeing all the ways the school is transforming into more of a Green School. We have always recycled, composted our scraps, collected ink cartridges, reused paper and used environmentally friendly cleaning products but it seems like now there is even more energy going into thinking about ways to save, reuse, and recycle. The clothing swap definitely meets our environmental goals as well as the recent curriculum work going on in the classrooms. I look forwards to report on more as the year progresses.

#### Workday

Our workday was very productive this year and resulted in an amazing amount of projects being completed. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who participated and the teachers and Eileen for going "above and beyond". Thank you to Kenly Brozman and Craig Westcott for refurbishing the small playground, Nathan Hoogs for repairing the Big Playground Structure, Peter Gray for repairing the bathroom, clothing chest and creating an incredible mailbox system for the preschool, Eileen Ordu, Cari Naftali and Cynthia Gray for painting the Red Squirrels room, Regina Trantel for painting the preschool cubbies, Jill Zoeller for painting the Red Fox room, Yahna Saltsman for sewing curtains for the downstairs bathroom, Kyle Johnson for rebuilding the steps to the Big Playground and Ellen Harris Braun, Emily Vieira, Don Johnson and Alice Smith for all of your hard work! There are still some more carpentry projects still needing to be done around the school so please let us know if you can lend a hand.

Upon closing, I would like to thank you parents for sharing your children with us. They are our joy and inspiration.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Bailer Adams, Director

[Mountain Road School Website](#)

community in immeasurable ways. This past summer, the teachers deepened their understanding of nature in curriculum by reading "Last Child In the Woods" by Richard Louv, and we will be using this book as a backdrop enrichment meeting. We will also be hearing from the the families who attended the Art of Mentoring Retreat at the Vermont Wilderness School. But mostly, we will sharing our own life experiences of how nature has impacted ourselves and our children, and why the nature curriculum at Mountain Road School is so vitally important to our children's education and development as human beings. We hope to also discuss the school's playground project, and the future development of an indoor science center, as well as any other amazing ideas and suggestions that you may have that will support the nature curriculum.

A short time before this evening, we will be sending out some key quotes from "Last Child in the Woods" to help inform the discussion. We invite you to read these quotes, or read the whole book if you like, but no prior reading of the book is required or necessary to join the discussion!

Looking forward to seeing you on the 14th! (Free child care provided)

Sincerely,

Kenly Brozman, Parent Representative

### Greetings From the Development Committee

The Development Committee leadership (Liz Young, Betsy Feathers, Jill Rembetski) began the year with a goal setting meeting with Joanna Ezinga (Board President), Aimee Johnson (Faculty Rep to the DC), and

## Policy Updates from the Teacher Collaborative and Board of Directors

### Keeping you Informed...

There have been a number of concerns about our After Care program fee structure and as a result, the Board of Directors have asked for a community wide survey of the parents of the school to decide how to proceed. It is important that you respond to this survey if you would like your voice heard. After Care is an important part of the school program and without it, many families would not be able to attend the school. After Care also fulfills a community need to provide flexible "neighborhood like" free play to the children of the school as well as offers the children of the Abode an overseer and playmates. For the school, After Care needs to meet it's financial responsibility by not drawing on the budget. In other words, After Care needs to pay for itself if it is going to be offered. This year's structure enables After Care to pay for itself and also guarantees Lily, our After Care teacher specific hours of work that she can count on. Last year we lost over \$2,000 on After Care. The issue that seems to be arising is that it doesn't meet the needs of the families who want to use it on an occasional basis. As a result, the board is putting forth 3 options as we move forward:

[Please email the office with your choice.](#)

**Option 1: Keep with the current system** of prepaying a month in advance at \$5.50 hour (or less depending on use) and having a drop in fee of \$25/day and \$35/Fridays. This includes teachers, parents, Abode residents, etc.. If we continue this option, there will be no After Care on Mondays because no one is enrolled. This option guarantees families After Care in advance at a set amount.

**Option 2: Tracking hours of overall use for a month** and dividing the overall cost of Lily's salary between the families who used it. This would include teachers, Abode residents, parents who are working in the school, etc.. This option was employed in the past. The down side is that you will not know how much it would cost until the end of the month. This option offers the most flexibility for families but has a financial risk to it.

**Option 3: Instituting a yearly After Care fee at \$200**

Kathleen Bailer Adams (our school Director) to review expectations, address concerns, clarify budget expectations, and to review of the fundraising event calendar. It was a very productive and inspiring meeting.

As a result of this meeting we are fired up and ready to go...

We will have our first meeting next week and will begin the organization and planning for the following events:

- The Annual Appeal- This involves stuffing and stamping envelopes and historically we have fun doing it! If you enjoy chatting and stuffing please let us know and we would love your help getting the job done. Our goal is to have the annual appeal out and in the mail by the end of the first week in November.
- The Holiday Fair- This, along with the annual appeal, is the cornerstone of our fundraising plan. It is an event that takes many hands and many hours of work. In the end our school is transformed into a magical and spirited winter

per child for the whole year. This breaks down to \$5/week and you would be able to use After Care Monday- Friday until 5:30 as much as you want when you want. This option allows for the most flexibility, is the most affordable but can only work if each family agrees to pay \$200/child for the year. You would have to notify the office in advance on availability because there can be no more than 10 children at one time using After Care without additional teacher support.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. We want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to be heard before an official policy is put in place.

## The Black Capped Chickadee Clan Adventures



A warm welcome to all of our new and returning families in the Black Capped Chickadee Clan! Each day brings deepening friendships, inspirational laughter and fortified self-assurance. We are loving our new swings on the Little Playground that Kenly and Craig fixed up over the summer. Adventures in the woods have brought discovery and fun, chipmunks, toads and black walnuts. Rythmn and routine bring sense of security and self confidence. Chickadee-dee-dee-dee!

Shivani

## Red Squirrel Clan News Friendships



carnival... full of fine crafts, great games, fine food, and good fun. The Holiday fair also has a great, big White Elephant Sale and we need your donations to make it work. So as you are cleaning and discarding please remember that we need clean, lightly worn clothes of all sizes (children and adult). Stay tuned for where and when we will be collecting these items. Please mark your calendars as the Holiday fair will take place on Saturday December 12.

- We are excited by a fundraising suggestion from Joanna Ezinga...we will be raffling off the services of a "Dream Team"! Is there a project that needs to be done? Heavy work you can't get done by yourself? The dream team will come to the winner's home and take care of that tough job lickety split! This will involve all of us selling raffle

Welcome everyone to a New Year! I am so excited to be back in the same classroom, teaching a similar curriculum for the 3rd year! But what I am most excited about are the social connections my students and I make through out the year. Already, I have seen new friendships blossoming as in the case of Langford and Jackson tumbling through the apple trees, or Eliot and Brenna laughing uncontrollably while making apple prints and creating intricate handshakes. Sammy and Sophie have already found a similar passion in puzzle making, while Evelyn has vowed to take responsibility for fellow students in our class who feel upset. But probably the most popular activity in our classroom is paper airplane making. Dylan and Haven to name a few, have found much joy in making and flying planes together around the school. Wow, we're off to a great start! I look forward to nurturing even more connections throughout the year.

Bharati

## Blue Jay Clan News

### Beautiful Beginnings



Greetings Everyone!

What a glorious fall day it is as I write this, and the Blue Jay Clan is as busy as a bunch of blue jays in a berry patch! We are off to a wonderful start in our school year with 10 students as well as a homeschooler joining us part time. I think we are all greatly enjoying our time in nature. On our first Flying Deer afternoon we rekindled the morning's fire from the embers, gathered goldenrod flowers and made a dye for some wool. Through this year we'll be learning about local plants, trees, birds and other animals. We will also study rocks and minerals, and I hope to have a field trip to Howe Cavern. The Blue Jays have a field trip planned in late October to the Berkshire Museum to see the exhibit on frogs and participate in a program about it (and if you haven't seen this exhibit, I highly recommend it!)

tickets...the great news is we can sell them to people outside of our own MRS community and provide a helpful service as we raise money for our school. We are looking for folks who are interested in being a member of this team. Please let one of the DC leadership, or the MRS office, know if you are interested in donating your time to this great new fundraiser.

Other events/fundraisers for this year include school photos, a Spa/Wellness day, Seed and Bulb orders, and a Springtime Family Fun event. It is looking like a great Development Committee year!

### Recycling at MRS

We pride ourselves on teaching and practicing recycling at Mountain Road. Here are a couple of simple ways to contribute to the recycling effort and earn cash for the school at the same time. There is a box in the entryway to the office for used ink jet cartridges. Perhaps you can collect them from your friends, neighbors and place of employment.

The school is also collecting bubble wrap and padded envelopes for a former MRS teacher/Abode resident who has a home business. She will pay the school for every envelope we collect-small, medium, or large. It's a win/win/win situation-for her, for the school and for the environment! This box will be placed beside the one with the ink cartridges. Help Mountain Road and the

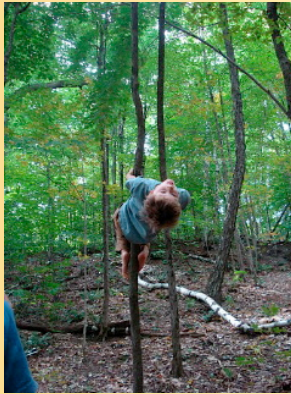
I want to thank everyone who came to our Back to School Night, and I especially want to thank Michelle and Devin for the beautiful opening ceremony. It really set the tone for Mountain Road School's commitment to both nature and community-a beautiful beginning to what I think is going to be a wonderful year!

Peace and blessings,

Aimée

## Red Fox Clan News

### Off To A Good Start!



How wonderful to be among great friends again! The Red Fox Clan has picked up right where it left off last June. We have spent our first days of school beginning our nature journals, working with rubrics, responding to writing prompts and reading both fiction and non-fiction. Students have begun investigating math topics including place value, decimals and order of operations. We are discovering how Columbus "discovered" America by interacting with textbooks and primary sources. "Why does the textbook leave out so much?" is the question we will be grappling with all year. Much of our mornings are spent in a work block in which students choose to work on spelling rules, do nature journal entries, or complete readings when not engaged in a math lesson. The responsibility and focused displayed by students throughout the first few days is quite commendable.

We're off to another great year of exploring ourselves and the world. Welcome back!

Jon

## Staff News

### Flying Deer Dates

Here are the remainder of the Flying Deer Dates on Wednesdays until Winter Break. September 30

environment! Thanks!

## Announcements

### Parking

To: Residents, Staff,  
Organizations located  
on the Abode campus  
and Guests  
From: Alima and Farid

Dear friends:

We are making some shifts in parking to better utilize our parking areas and protect areas that were not originally designed for parking from further erosion. Mountain Road School is also back in session and we are trying to effectively accommodate their drop-off/pick-up needs.

Accordingly, you will see signs going up in the next week to guide parking.

1. The area formerly designated for short term parking in front of the garden has been reduced with the extension of the new fence. There are now three parking spaces in this area and they are for short term (30 minutes or less) parking ONLY. During the hours of 8:15 - 9:00 a.m. and 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. these spots are reserved for Mountain Road School only.

2. The Mountain Road School parking lot (directly below Wakil) is reserved for school

October 7, 21  
November 4  
December 2 (Make-up December 9)

Please remember to dress your children warmly and provide plenty of food and water on Flying Deer Days. Be sure to also check for ticks!

## Greetings From The Art and French Room

Bonjour to all,

Here are some ideas for our french/art program for this year.

Red foxes will work on a play, *Le pantalon trop long*, a beautiful poetic song of Gilles Vigneault and mini study of french in America, in Quebec and Louisiana if I can get some document on the Cajuns and if anyone has anything I could borrow for show and tell and reading I would be so grateful. Puss all the usual numbers while playing bingo en francais and grammar, vocabulary, conversations, questions and answers on everyday things and writing in our french books. Art a la Andy Goldsworthy, paper making and journals ,bookbinding, form drawing, drawing.

Bluejays will be learning also the usual numbers, vocabulary, games, mini conversations on greetings and beautiful songs in rounds, a dramatic game *Grand mere au marche*, much more writing in our french books. Watercolor, form drawing, paper making, art a la Goldsworthy, puppets, and animal art with recycled cardboard with tempera paintings that will knock your socks off.

Red squirrels will do some basic vocabulary, colors, numbers, fruits and vegetables and farm animals, "*Ze little french hen* ", for dramatic play ,and songs, games. Watercolor and form drawing, Puppets, art a la Goldsworthy, paper making, masks made with recycled cardboards adorned with tempera paints.

Chicadees will learn songs, rounds, games, colors and numbers. For art, in the fall we will focus on the forest elements with paints and cut outs and collage. Art a la Goldsworthy and painting animals from recycled cardboards that the older classes will cut out for them.

Plus our usual festival arts and crafts, among them, lanterns and festival of lights stars and decorations.  
Voila for now, Chantal

## Greetings From The Bookkeeper

Welcome back returning families and greetings to new families! I am at the school midday on Tuesdays and am available other times by e-mail at [westover@taconic.net](mailto:westover@taconic.net). NEW THIS YEAR: In lieu of paper statements, I plan on e-mailing monthly statements as well as individual invoices for tuition charges and other fees. I am aiming to e-mail the statements around mid month and the invoices at the beginning of the month starting in October. As we get into this process, I am sure there will be some questions and some errors--I apologize in advance. Please know that any issues can usually be easily addressed and resolved and that I will do so as soon as possible. September is a very hectic month and I appreciate your patience. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or just to say "hi." Many thanks.

Gennifer Westover, Bookkeeper

use ONLY during school hours with the following exception: the first three spaces in the lot closest to the road are reserved for short term parking (30 minutes or less). During the hours of 8:15 - 9:00 a.m. and 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. these spots are reserved for Mountain Road School only. During other times, they may be used by anyone, but please remember, they are for short term parking only.

3. Please do not park in the driveway between Vakil and Rezak. This driveway is meant for unloading and loading only and is not for temporary or short term parking.

4. The driveway that continues around the side and back of Vakil was not meant for vehicular traffic and is not maintained for traffic. Please do not use this driveway; due to the uneven surface, rocks, etc. those who use this driveway do so at their own risk.

5. Parking in front of the Barn may be restricted in the winter due to the need for snow plowing. Parking in the winter in front of the barn is strongly discouraged because of falling ice which has previously taken out a number of windshields.

We will be working on a project to mark the spaces in the MRS lot.



Thank you very much  
for your cooperation  
and support!

### **Meals At The Abode**

·If you would like to stay for dinner at the Abode, please notify the Abode Kitchen the day before or by 3 pm at the latest by calling 794-7659. Dinner prices are \$12 adults, \$6 children ages 4-15 and children under 3 are free. Payment for dinner is expected before eating. You can also prepay for meal tickets in the Abode office and receive a slight discount. Dinner is served each day Monday-Thursday and on occasional Fridays.



#### **[Forward email](#)**

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to [kathleen@mountainroadschool.org](mailto:kathleen@mountainroadschool.org) by

[kathleen@mountainroadschool.org](mailto:kathleen@mountainroadschool.org).

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Mountain Road School | 5 Abode Road | New Lebanon | NY | 12125