



Backpack Express

The weekly newsletter from Crossroads Academy, an independent school
serving grades K-8 in Lyme, NH

April 27, 2010

Calendar of Events

April	29	Thu	Shakespeare Festival Day; <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by 5th grade, BCC, 8:30 am; K-4th grades and MS assembly, BCC, 2:00 pm; Kindergarten full day of school
	30	Fri	2nd Grade State Fair, AK room, 1:30-2:30 pm; Spirit Day*
May	3	Mon	Plant sale begins - <i>PA sponsored</i>
	5	Wed	Author Visit with grades K-2 and 3-5, Lora Robins Library, 8:00-10:30am
	7	Fri	Performance Assembly by K-2nd grades, BCC, 8:15 am; Monthly teacher snack by K parents - <i>PA sponsored</i> ; Discover the Difference for prospective families, Lora Robins Library, 8:15-10:00 am
	11	Tue	Current 7th grade parent and student placement meeting, MS, 7:00 pm
	13	Thu	Kindergarten field trip to Northern Stage, 11:30-2:30
	14	Fri	MS Parent Coffee, Lora Robins Library, 7:45-9:00 am; 7th and 8th grade graduation dance, Bancroft, 7:00-9:45 pm; Bike Smart Assembly, BCC, 8:15 am, Lower School only
	17-21	Mon-Fri	ERB Testing
	21	Fri	Spring Musical, BCC, 7:30 pm
	22	Sat	Spring Musical, BCC, 2:00 pm
	28	Fri	* Spirit Day
	31	Mon	Memorial Day - No school

* If you want to participate in Spirit Day, you must wear spirit gear or a blue or a white collared shirt with blue jeans; otherwise you can wear school clothing that follows the Crossroads dress code.

News from the Admissions Office

Spring greetings from the Admissions Office: [The #1 way we attract new families is through the good words you share on behalf of the school with your friends and colleagues, and we thank you for this and all that you do for Crossroads.](#) I write today to ask you once again for your help in growing this unique school community. There are two more months left of school plus the summer so the admissions season is far from over. There is still some uncertainty with the numbers, but currently we are looking strong in our third through eighth grades. It is very possible we will have the largest Middle School we have ever had with 53 students. Kindergarten has the potential to be at thirteen, but our first and second grades are still lower than we would like. You can help by inviting friends and neighbors to the following admissions events. Here they will discover just how different and engaging our program is!

A Midsummer Night's Dream – Thursday, April 29th at 8:30 – Following the performance, Jean will host a coffee for visiting families in the library.

Discover the Difference – Friday, May 7th from 8:15 – 10:00 am – Prospective parents are invited to join us for the K – 2 Assembly from 8:15 until 9:00, followed by a presentation in the library about Crossroads. The Student Ambassadors will lead tours from 9:30 until 10:00.

42nd Street – Friday, May 21st at 7:30 pm and Saturday, May 22nd at 2:00 - The Middle School spring musical is always a hit and a wonderful opportunity to showcase our students and campus.

Thank you for all the ways you help our school grow and prosper. — My best, Betsy

Head's Note

Dear Parents,

Kids coming, kids going. I see your kids arrive in the morning in their freshly laundered clothing. By dismissal, many are sporting wood chips in their sweaters, dirt and marker on their faces, and mud on their pants. I think to myself, "That child had a good day." Play is so important.

Here at Crossroads we are dreaming of some new ways to engage our students in creative play. As you know from Gretchen Curtis, we are looking to create a committee to study the possibility of creating a natural playground. Please contact Gretchen if you would like to join the committee. We are so excited about this idea and want your input and assistance in making this dream come true!

Additionally, if the weather cooperates, Mr. Louzier will be painting our Ball Wall and preparing the back side for a new use. Once prepared, the Genereaux family will be transforming the back side of this wall into an outdoor "kitchen" for the preparation of delicious "mud pies," "stone soups," and other delicacies. Bruce Genereaux will build a kid-sized counter top and place hooks for various utensils along the wall. *How can you help?* By donating used kitchen tools (with a hole for a hook) and small pots/pans that can be used and then hung on S hooks from the back side of the wall for storage. If you have any used kitchen gadgets that you would like to donate, the children would be delighted. We hope to have this new play center cooking by early May.

We look forward to see you on Thursday at Shakespeare Day. We are excited about celebrating the life and works of William Shakespeare with your children.

My best,
Jean

Community Service, Virtue, and Psalm for This Month

April Virtue: Kindergarten - fifth grades: *Gentleness and Humility* are treating others with kind words and mild manner; knowing that I am definitely not perfect. Sixth - eighth grades: *Temperance/Prudence* is self-control, patience, good manners, gratitude, and humility. Psalm 111

School Notes

Crossroads Community Calendar: Please go to <http://www.crossroadsacademy.org/> and click on the calendar icon and for the library please go to <http://library.crossroadsacademy.org>.

Library News: John Stadler, a nationally known author and illustrator of children's books (and resident of Lyme!), is coming for an Author Visit on Wednesday, May 5th from 8:00-10:30 am. He will be meeting with two groups: grades K-2 then grades 3-5. — Libby Robbie

Hats off . . . to alums, Owen Labrie and Kiri Staiger, who are students in the KUA Latin department and who participated in the National Latin Exam (NLE) in the first week of March. The NLE is a 40-question multiple choice exam sponsored by the American Classical League and the National Junior Classical League. The exam tests students' ability in both grammar and culture. Owen scored Magna Cum Laude and Kiri scored Maxima Cum Laude. Congratulations to both!

Parent Association Notes

The PA is asking for petitions to be filled out and submitted by May 17th. Petitions have helped to fund things like the playground equipment, musical instruments, climbing wall, guest speakers, overhead projectors, and a computerized catalog system for the library, to name a few. Please open the attachments to see how the petition process works and to fill one out if you are interested.

Do you like to garden? Do you like clothes? Are you looking for a way to get more involved, have fun, and meet some new people? Do you have a few hours to spare? If so, then the Crossroads Parent Association needs your help!

We have a couple of events coming up and need a few fabulous and energetic people to lead them:

****Coordinator of the Spring Plant Sale, which starts on May 3rd

****Collared Shirt Sale Vendor

****Host Family Coordinator

If any of these positions scream "This has my name written all over it!" please contact a PA member (or Gretchen Curtis at gretchen.curtis@yahoo.com or 603-353-9076).

Are you doing some spring cleaning? Have you come across some collared shirts that no longer fit? Save them for the Spring Collared Shirt Sale! More information as to when and where this will be will follow.

The PA is looking for some volunteers to help jump start a new committee for a natural playground. Please contact Gretchen Curtis to join in on the fun! gretchen.curtis@yahoo.com



Crossroads Academy has entered a team in the Prouty for the last four years; over those four years, we've raised over \$80,000 for the Norris Cotton Cancer Center. Many of you who are new to Crossroads may not know about the event. It is a phenomenal "feel good" event — hundreds of people riding bikes, walking, and volunteering to support an event that raises over \$2 million for cancer research and patient services right here in the Upper Valley. If you are a veteran of the Prouty with another team, that's GREAT! All the money goes to the same place. If you have biked or walked before, please consider joining us again; if you have never participated in the Prouty, you really owe yourself the experience. It is an incredible event filled with a sense of community and fellowship. It is tremendous fun, it is good exercise, and it is inspiring to see so many people doing such good. There are many ways to enjoy the Prouty: bike 200, 100, 50, 35, or 20 miles, walk 5K or 10K through either wooded or residential routes, and/or volunteer at the event site or any of the "Stop & Go" sites.

The Crossroads Prouty page is now active and accepting team member registrations.

1. Go to The Prouty site (www.theprouty.org).
2. Scroll over to the right where they have listed "Team Ranking" and click on "more."
3. Find "Crossroads Academy" and click on it.
4. When our page comes up, click on "Join our team."
5. Agree to the terms and follow the directions to register. Remember:
 - You can't add family members, so if you are registering as a family, you must put in all family members' names at the same time.
 - Remember to name your family page in the first box of the registration form.
 - Team members as well as family members can do different events.

After you have created your own individual or family page connected to our Crossroads Team, you will be able to collect donations online through the secure website, and you should offer people that option in your fundraising letters/e-mails. The Prouty site has a lot of good ideas for fundraising tips. Online donations will

be credited to your fundraising effort automatically. Any checks you receive will need to be sent or dropped off to The Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center. The website will also keep track of all your donations so it is easy to print off a list for sending thank you notes.

Although this may seem like a lot of work, it really is painless and the cause is so important. Beyond the good work we will all be doing to raise money, there are so many other tangible and intangible benefits. Think of all the good exercise, think of the example we set for our kids as we work together as families, and think about the school spirit as we ride past the school or walk with our Crossroads Team shirts. — Deb Springhorn