



# Backpack Express

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

May 18, 2010

## Calendar of Events

May	17-21	Mon-Fri	ERB Testing
	21	Fri	First Grade Egyptian Museum; Spring Musical, BCC, 7:30 pm
	22	Sat	Spring Musical, BCC, 2:00 pm
	28	Fri	* Spirit Day
	31	Mon	Memorial Day - No school
June	3	Thu	New Parent Welcome, Lora Robins Library, 8:30-9:30 am
	4	Fri	Middle School Lunch-is-Served BBQ, grades 5-8; PA Steering Committee meeting
	11	Fri	Culminating Final Assembly, BCC, 8:15 am; Field Day
	14	Mon	4 <sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Magic Wings
	14-15	Mon-Tue	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade class trip
	15	Tue	6 <sup>th</sup> grade class trip, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm
	17	Thu	No classes for 8 <sup>th</sup> graders, graduation rehearsal, BCC, 9:00-11:00 am, 12:00 dismissal, 8 <sup>th</sup> grade graduation, BCC, 1:00 pm, <b>No AK or AS Program</b>
	18	Fri	Move-Up Ceremony, K-7 <sup>th</sup> grades, BCC, 8:30 am, <b>dismissal to follow, No AK or AS Program</b>

\* 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.](#) There is one month 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. Kindergarten has the potential to be at fifteen, but our first and second grades are still lower than we would like. You can help by inviting friends and neighbors to visit our campus. Here they will discover just how different and how engaging our program is! Our last public event will be the spring musical.

**42<sup>nd</sup> Street – Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 and Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00** - The Middle School spring musical is always a hit and a wonderful opportunity to showcase our students and our campus. Thank you for all the ways you help our school grow and prosper. — My best, Betsy

## Head's Note

Dear Parents,

Quiet! The school is so quiet this week! It is ERB week, so everyone is tip-toeing around campus early in the day so that all students can do their best on our annual standardized testing.

As an independent school, it is especially important for us to have outside measures of our success. While feedback from former students and parents is very positive, and secondary school placement is strong, still, we

seek specific information about our students through norm-referenced standardized testing. This testing tells us how individual students are progressing, gives us feedback to improve our program, and also provides us another way to measure our success as a school. Year after year, as a whole, our students outperform students in other strong public and independent schools. And, unlike scores from many schools, the longer students stay at Crossroads, the higher students score.

I attribute these successes to our partnership with parents, strong, content-driven program, talented and hard-working faculty, and our motivated and diligent students. Taken together, this is a winning combination.

It won't be so quiet in the afternoons and evenings. There's a lot of tapping going on in Bancroft! Please join me in attending the musical, *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, on Friday night at 7:30 pm and Saturday afternoon at 2:00 pm. I've seen the rehearsals. You won't want to miss this! — Warmly, Jean

## **Community Service, Virtue, and Psalm for This Month**

**May Virtue:** Kindergarten - fifth grades: *Wonder* is to marvel at mystery, to stand in awe before the unexplained. Sixth - eighth grades: *Fortitude* is hope, optimism, and perseverance. Psalm 100

## **From the Health Office**

Thank you to Robin Ishak, Ben and Carter Ishak's mom and optometrist, for sharing her time and professional skills to complete vision screenings for our entire school! Thank you to the Genereaux family for sharing their fun banana seat bike for our "Bike Smart" assembly. Mrs. Behnke demonstrated a great lesson on what not to wear and how to dress appropriately while riding a bike on the road. For details on bicycle safety to share at home, see the bike smart flier attached to last week's Backpack.

## **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>.

**Middle School Lunch-is-Served BBQ:** The Middle School Parents Council is pleased to sponsor a BBQ for grades 5 - 8, welcoming fifth graders to Middle School. This spring's BBQ will be held on Friday, June 4th and will feature an on-site BBQ with chefs Rick Higgerson and John Tariot grilling hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers. Students will be receiving sign-up order forms from their homeroom teachers with instructions on ordering and returning payment to the homeroom teachers by Friday, May 28th. Please note that signing up is optional. Look for forms via your student. The order form is attached with this BPX as well. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Higgerson at (802) 649-2327 or [rickandphyllis@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rickandphyllis@myfairpoint.net).

**Graduation:** The graduation ceremony for the eighth grade will take place at 1:00 pm on Thursday, June 17th at the Bancroft Campus Center. All of the Crossroads community is invited to attend this lovely event. Immediately following the ceremony there will be a reception for graduates, parents, and their invited guests in a tent at the Bancroft Campus Center. All sixth and seventh graders should plan to attend the Crossroads Graduation Ceremony. The ceremony generally runs about one and a quarter to one and a half hours. Sixth and seventh grade students should be picked up at 2:15 pm. If you would like your son/daughter to stay after school and get dressed for graduation here on that day, please let me know so that we have enough teachers available for supervision. For sixth and seventh graders attending, the dress code is the following: Boys should plan to wear a dress shirt and pants. Girls should plan to wear skirts or dress pants and a light colored blouse or a dress. The graduates should wear the following: Boys should wear khaki pants with a white shirt and tie, and girls should wear pastel colored dresses or skirts and blouses. Parents and guests should plan to park at the Bancroft Campus Center, and faculty/staff have been asked to park at the Klee Building. Please do not park on Route 10. — Doris LaMontagne

## **Middle School News**

On behalf of the seventh and eighth grade students and faculty, I want to thank Carolyn Steffey, Robin Shield, Sheri Mellin, and Veronica Ingham for their part in decorating the Barn for the graduation dance. It was one of the loveliest dances yet. There was a photo booth set up that John Kotz manned, and he did a superb job. Several parents contributed lots of delicious food. Monica Steffey and Madeline Mulvihill worked on the music list while Mr. Ligett set up the fabulous sound system. Our two best helpers on campus, Phil and Dick, helped set up and clean up the Barn. **THANK YOU TO ALL!** — Sharon Moore

This week, the seventh and eighth grade students should be receiving permission slips and information regarding the trip to Montreal on June 14-15. Please look over the information carefully, fill out the necessary papers, and return them to the homeroom teacher along with a check written to **Crossroads Academy**.

Please be sure your child has either a passport or a passport card for the trip across the border.

## **Parent Association Notes**

**Bake Sale for 42nd Street:** Calling all bakers young and old to shake, make and bake goodies for this year's bake sale held during intermission at the *42nd Street* musical. Try out that new cookie recipe and watch them disappear! We'll need lots of goodies for both Friday night and Saturday afternoon performances. Drinks are also welcome. Carefully wrapped food can be deposited in the kitchen next Friday during school hours or brought before the performance. (Remember to write your name on any Tupperware type containers). Concession helpers are needed to sell goodies at both performances. Please contact Kim Stern at [sternvermont@comcast.net](mailto:sternvermont@comcast.net) if you can help out or have any questions. See you at the show!

**Crossroads Spirit Gear:** Get official Crossroads apparel and support the Parent Association at the same time! Check out [www.Crossroadsstuff.com](http://www.Crossroadsstuff.com). The virtual store is open until May 23rd. Items will be delivered in time for graduation.

**Come Join the PA Steering Committee:** Our next meeting is on June 4th, where we will review petitions, and decide how to spend the money you have all contributed over the year! The PA meetings are **open to all families**.