



# Backpack Express

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

**May 4, 2010**

## Calendar of Events

May	3	Mon	Plant sale begins - <i>PA sponsored</i>
	5	Wed	Author visit with grades K-2 and 3-5, Lora Robins Library, 8:00-10:30 am
	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, Barn, 7:00-9:30 pm; Bike Smart Assembly, BCC, 8:15 am, Lower School only
	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
	11	Fri	Culminating Final Assembly, BCC, 8:15 am; Field Day
	14-15	Mon-Tue	7th and 8th grade class trip
	15	Tue	6th grade class trip, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm
	17	Thu	No classes for 8th graders, graduation rehearsal, BCC, 9-11:00 am, 12:00 dismissal, 8th grade graduation, BCC, 1:00 pm, <b>No AK or AS Program</b>
	18	Fri	Move-Up Ceremony, K-7th 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.](#) 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 51 students. 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 the following admissions events. Here they will discover just how different and engaging our program is!

**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 and Saturday, May 2nd 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,

Whew! What a busy week we had! In spite of the snow, spring events are unfolding. Included in these were very strong Middle School results from the National French Exam and the Medusa Mythology Exam. Thank you to Madame Moore and Mrs. Lahey for preparing our students so well for these exams. It will come as no surprise to you to hear that our students excelled.

As you know, I spent a few days of my spring break visiting prep schools in support of our placement process. Vicky Price is visiting five more schools this week. I was awed by the look and feel of the campuses I saw. But moreover, I found the trip to be validating. I asked many questions of our tour guides and of admissions officers. Each one validated our mission and program, and the preparation that we offer our students.

In addition, we celebrated our third annual State Fair, hosted by our second grade. It was such fun to see how much our students learned and how eager they were to share what they knew. We thank Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Mills for coordinating efforts for this Lower School event. Mrs. Wanner and the first graders are elbow deep in projects (and a lot of green paint) as they prepare for their annual Egyptian Museum.

And finally, there was Shakespeare Day, and what a day it was! We spent our day closely simulating the life and times of Elizabethan England. We thank all of our teachers for their dedication to and enthusiasm for this annual event. The day's events consisted of dramatic performances including a full performance by Mr. Freeberg's fifth grade of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to fencing, singing, the making of potpourri, and even a mock trial for Macbeth, a good time was had by all, and all left at the day's end with a greater appreciation for the genius of Shakespeare.

Among other exciting lessons and events, this week we will hold our final K-2 Performance Assembly and release the well-tended salmon into the Hewes Brook. Please watch for invitations to *42nd Street* in your family mailbox. We are hoping that you will share them with family and friends. Here's wishing you a lovely week.

— 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

## 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

**Donations for Kenya Trip:** Kevin Curtis will be leading a team to Kenya on May 21st. He is planning on purchasing Albendazole tablets to bring on the trip. They are chewable tablets to treat intestinal worms that are pervasive in the slums of Nairobi. These worms contribute significantly to malnutrition. A single 400 mg chewable tablet treats worms for six months. His team's goal is to give one of these pills to every child they see. They would like to purchase 500 of these, which will cost around \$250. The third grade will be collecting money to support his efforts. You can bring donations to the third grade classroom. We will also be collecting donations for this effort at the K-2 performance assembly on Friday, May 7th.

**ACES:** What does it mean? It means "all students exercise simultaneously." Once again this year, on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> during our morning recess, the entire school will participate in fifteen minutes of exercise. Please remind your children to dress appropriately and to wear sneakers.

This project began in 1989 and is designed to show students the importance of physical education. This is now a global event. May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month and the week of May 1-7 is Physical Education and Sport Week "Move Every Body, Every Day, Every Way." We look forward to jumping into the fun!

**Hats Off.** . . to Katie Bartholow. Katie has been chosen for publication in the 2010 edition of the *Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans*.

**Hats Off** . . . to the eighth grade Latin students who took the Medusa Mythology Exam. The national average was a 21, and as a whole, Crossroads placed significantly higher than the national average. Tori Pipas and Nathalie Ferneau received a Silver medal (scores of 35-38), Austin Stern and Madison Mellin received a Bronze medal (scores of 32-34), and Liesel Robbins received the Laurea certificate (scores of 26-31). Congratulations to these students, and to all of the eighth grade Latin students who worked so hard to prepare for this exam!

**Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart** continues to be a great success! I would like to thank everyone who helped to make this event run smoothly including the jumpers, volunteers, and donors. It was a fun afternoon. We raised a grand total of \$3,080.15 for the American Heart Association. I would like to congratulate all participants on an excellent job! Thank you. Gifts should be arriving soon. — Mrs. Grenier

**Creation Club Quilt Raffle** - Congratulations to Tea Levy, the winner of the raffle. The creations club raised \$270.75 for the Chile earthquake relief fund. Thank you to everyone that helped and supported this project. — Mrs. Grenier

**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

## Parent Association Notes

**Crossroads Academy 2010 Spring Plant Sale:** Spring has sprung and it's time for our annual plant sale fund raiser. Cedar Circle Farm has generously agreed to collaborate with Crossroads Academy again to bring you beautiful and healthy plants for your gardens. You'll place your orders using an order form and will pick up your plants at Cedar Circle Farm in East Thetford, VT. This will allow you to select the variety and colors of your choosing and have the ability to make an on-site change to your order if desired. Great selection, quality, variety, and organic fruits and veggies — and it all benefits the Parent Association, your kids, and the Crossroads community!

Submit orders by Friday, May 14th and put them in the **Curtis** mailbox in the Klee Building. Please include a check with your order form, payable to the Crossroads Academy Parent Association. A copy of your order and a receipt/pick-up ticket will be delivered to your school mailbox, and you'll need it to bring to Cedar Circle Farm. Pick-up days are from May 24th - May 29th.

Cedar Circle Farm is located just five minutes from Crossroads Academy in East Thetford, VT. Greenhouses are open daily, Monday – Saturday from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm and Sunday from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. You can also enjoy their Hello Café, which is open 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

As well, please consider joining Cedar Circle's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program. CSA Membership is a subscription to fresh food — a basket a week filled with harvest-ready organic fruits and vegetables. By joining, you help to support a local small farm and provide your family with healthy, fresh certified organic produce from June through October. Visit the Cedar Circle Farm website at [cedarcirclefarm.org](http://cedarcirclefarm.org) for more information. Sign up for the CSA program at the farm by May 30th!!

Thanking you in advance for supporting this Parent Association fund raiser. If you have any questions, please call me at 603-353-9076 or e-mail me at [gretchen.curtis@yahoo.com](mailto:gretchen.curtis@yahoo.com) — Gretchen Curtis

**Petitions:** 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.

**Volunteers Needed:** 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:

\*\*\*\*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](mailto: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](mailto:gretchen.curtis@yahoo.com)