

The Update

Southern Valley Unified Union School District Newsletter Halifax and Readsboro

March 6, 2020

Principal's Note

March Reading Challenge has begun. Students at both schools participated in the first weekly drawing, books and other related prizes were given out. Readsboro Community Library decorated the main entryway in a Dr. Seuss theme, as they do each year. We hope to keep our momentum going through the month. Remember, students can enter weekly, if you read to your child that time counts toward the 30 minutes, and time can be made up! Adults please join in the fun, forms can be picked up at each school office! Here are a few reading facts:

[5 Reasons Reading is So Important for Student Success- \(excerpts, from the School of Education and Social Policy at Merrimack College\)](#)

Self Esteem

This might be the most important area of all. The sooner students develop reading skills, the more they gain ground in the areas listed below. That leads to more assurance in how they speak and write, as well as giving them the confidence of an expanded knowledge base. When students start at an early age to read about diverse people, distant places, and historical events, they become more creative and open. Also, those who have read a lot will naturally be asked to answer more questions – another confidence builder for a young student.

Improved Concentration

An emphasis on reading and student literacy helps develop higher levels of focus and concentration. It also forces the reader to sort things out in their own mind – including topics that might not be familiar to them at all (Paris at the end of World War II, for example, or another planet in a science fiction novel). This type of concentration on one topic – rather than trying to do many things at once – leads to better focus even after the book is put down.

Critical and Analytical Thinking Skills

The classic here is when a young reader becomes absorbed with a mystery book – Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew were examples for generations of Americans – and manages to solve the mystery in her head before the books reveal it. That's a simple example of how reading helps students develop better critical and analytical skills, something that carries over even after they have put the book down.

Stronger Memory Skills

Think about reading. Even an elementary age child with a relatively simple book must keep in mind a group of characters, the setting, and past actions. Reading helps to strengthen memory retention skills. That's a powerful tool for young students – and older adults, as well.

Expanded Vocabulary

How many times do we all search for just the right word to express what we're trying to say? Readers do that less. They have a larger vocabulary, and the words that young readers learn in a book will eventually make their way into their speech.

Winter Sports - Halifax

Oops! A few people weren't included in last weeks thank you. A big thank you to Joshua Smith Sr., Cynthia Weiss and April Dupuis for chaperoning for the Winter Sports program. We couldn't have done it without you!

Tube-a-thon-

Join the Deerfield Valley Rotary Club on Sunday, March 15th for a Tube-a-thon to benefit local schools in the Deerfield Valley. We'll be meeting at the top of the tubing hill from 1 pm - 4 pm for food and fun! All are welcome to attend and your donation is tax deductible. The money a student collects goes directly to their school! Form will be sent home or can be [downloaded here](#)



Please note the tubing hill closes at 4 pm on this day.

Spirit Week in Readsboro

Monday March 9th- Crazy Hat/Hair Day

Tuesday March 10th- Sports Day

Wednesday March 11th- Crazy Sock Day

Thursday March 12th - Twin Day

Friday March 13th - Pajama Day

Show your Reading Spirit in Halifax

On the following dates dress or represent in some way the following:

Thursday 12th - Hero & Villain Day

Thursday 19th - Fairy Tale Day

Thursday 26th - Word Day

Thursday 2nd - Poetry Day

Nursing Notes

VT Department of Health New Release - [Coronavirus - more information](#)

US Census:

Make sure you count! There are three ways to respond to the 2020 Census.
 By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.
 You will have three options for responding:

- Online.
- By phone.
- By mail.

In mid-March, households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census. For more information: <https://2020census.gov/en/what-is-2020-census.html>

Rolling Calendar of Southern Valley School Events and Dates

<u>Halifax</u>		<u>Readsboro</u>	
March 9	Wings Session 4 Starts	March 9	Wings Session 4 Starts
March 15	Tube-a-Thon 1-3 MT Snow	March 9-13	Spirit Week
March 26	11:30 Dismissal - Inservice	March 15	Tube-a Thon 1-3 Mt. Snow
March 27	No School - Inservice	March 26	11:30 Dismissal - Inservice
April 20-24	Spring Break	March 27	No School - Inservice
May 13	Special Person's Day & 11:30 Dismissal	April 20-24	Spring Break
May 25	No School - Memorial Day	May 25	No School - Memorial Day

A Show of Support

We have many families in our communities that have fathers, mothers, sons and daughters who have been deployed. We have been asked that you consider showing your support in the following way:

R.E.D Fridays stand for Remember Everyone Deployed, so wear red on Fridays to show your support.

What's [Happening](#) in the area

Volunteer Coach Needed - [for more information](#)

Violin Lessons- [for more information](#)

Whitingham Library - <http://www.townofwhitingham-vt.org/library/events> -Kids Club

Halifax 5th and 6th graders School Store [for more information](#)

Halifax Book Swap [for more information](#)

Lunch Program [March Menu](#)