

**Points of Interest**

**Our Current Theme: Health**

The students are working on a number of projects and activities that encourage their knowledge and awareness of the human body, interacting with the environment, disease prevention and healthy living habits.

We are including this theme in all of our activities, including: classroom activities, morning meetings, our ECO outdoor environmental science classroom and our outdoor experience field trips.

**Maker Education** goes hand in hand with our emphasis on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics).

An essential element in any successful STEAM program is to have students actively participating in the process of learning, with guidance and help from our wonderful educators.

Maker education encourages students to be creative, problem solvers who participate directly in their learning, rather than just being passive receivers of information. Our kids are learning to be curious and to dig in to the concepts and information that their teachers strive to have them learn about.

Whether it's learning about kinetic energy with chain reaction machines, creating their own robotic hands or learning about the human body by fabricating simulated body parts, students are learning skills and subject matter that they will use throughout their lives. They also are learning how to logically and methodically problem solve through creative use of the scientific method and applying it to many different situations.

**WHITING SUDBURY LEARNING ACADEMY**

**Community Update For February 5th, 2018**

**Grades 3-4** Mrs. Desabrais' class has been doing some great work on the body's organs, systems and how they work.



One of the ways they have examined this is by making cut outs of organs, studying how they function and how they work with other parts of the body.

Miss Jessie has also been working with the students on some very useful life skills: sewing and knitting. The kids have been enthusiastically working on their own projects using needle, thread and yarn.



**Mr. Francescutti's 6th graders** have been examining the topic of being good digital citizens. This is extremely important in today's online world of social media, texting, posting photos. The students are working on finding healthy and safe ways to use these important means of communication.



One important way is to have student s examine various items that have been posted online and decide whether the postings are safe and appropriate.

They are also examining the pros, cons and safety concerns of the different types of social media platforms available online and through smart phones.

**Mrs. Wisnowski's 5th Graders**

Mrs. Wisnowski was able use the Donor's Choose website to get crowd funding for the purchase small sewing machines for the students to work on their life skills.



Using the same website, she was also able to secure crowd funded purchase of robotic hands, which the students learned to operate. The kids also constructed their own version of the robotic hands.

Both purchases were completed with no cost to the school district! Very cool!

**Mrs. Kimball's K-1 Students**

**Visit VINS!** Congratulations to Mrs. Kimbal for another successful posting on the Donor's Choose, crowd funding website.



The class has continued their learning about the natural world, especially focusing on the many different types of birds

Mrs. Kimball was able to secure complete funding for our kindergarten, first & second grade students to travel to Quechee to visit the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences. The institute is celebrating the "Year of the Bird" with special programs



and demonstrations. To get ready for the trip the class made a beautiful mobile with birds that were handmade and painted by the students. Great job kids!



A snowy owl at VINS!

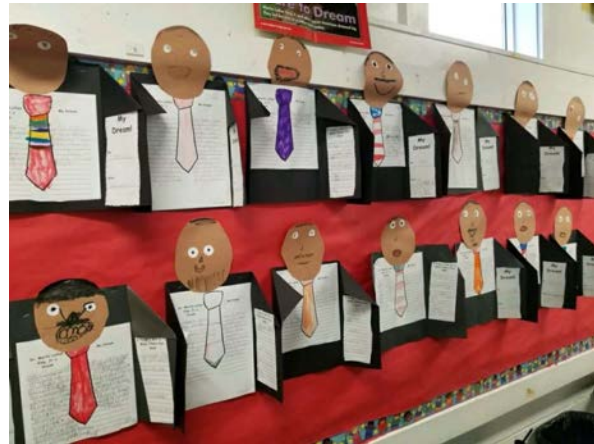
**Check Out Pages 2 & 3!**

# Whiting Sudbury Learning Academy

**Mrs. Zauli's 2nd Grade** the students are working on expanding their knowledge of the natural world and our place in it. They went on the trip to VINS with the kindergarten and first graders. They have also been working on outdoor skills like tracking and how to identify different animals by examining things like the scat they leave behind.



Additionally, the 2nd grade students created wonderful essay presentations in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.. Great Job Kids!



**Outdoor Experience Field Trips** The school district funds activities which will enhance the health and wellness of students. What could be better than being outdoors in Vermont! The last two weeks we have taken field trips to expose our students to fun, healthy, winter, outdoor activities.

Last week we visited the Rikert Nordic Sports Center in Bread Loaf for some snowshoeing and cross country skiing. This week we went to the Middlebury College Snow Bowl for downhill skiing and snowboarding. This coming week we will be travelling to Rutland for ice skating. Great winter fun! Check out the happy faces!



Outdoor Field Trips- Snowshoeing & Cross Country Skiing At Rikert Nordic Center/Snowboarding & Skiing @ Middlebury Snow Bowl



Message From Superintendent Jeanne Collins.

RNESU is pleased to announce the board has approved the Vision and Mission for RNESU schools!

For the past 18 months, the RNESU board, with input from the OVUU and BUU boards, community members and faculty/staff, has been working on updating the compact with a current Vision and Mission for the RNESU schools. The following version was adopted by the RNESU board on Jan 24, 2018:

**VISION:** The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union empowers all students with the knowledge, skills and attributes needed to be successful and contributing members of a global society through the development of character, competency, creativity and community.

**MISSION:** By way of the resources invested by our communities, RNESU students will have the knowledge, skills and tools to be prepared for the next stage of their lives.

To achieve the vision, students will meet or exceed proficiency in the following Content Areas, Transferable Skills and Habits of Mind to navigate school and general life experiences:

CONTENT AREAS	TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS	HABITS OF MIND
Literacy	Clear & Effective Communication	Creativity & Innovation
Mathematics	Global Awareness	Flexibility & Adaptability
Science	Creative & Practical Problem Solving	Initiative & Self Direction
Physical Education	Responsible & Involved Citizenship	Social & Cross Cultural Skills
Visual & Performing Arts	Informed & Integrative Thinking	Productiveness & Accountability
Healthy Living	Collaboration	Leadership & Responsibility
Technical Education		Responsible Use of Technology &

In the RNESU annual report due out in April, we will begin to show metrics for the Vision and Mission and will develop these metrics over time, with annual progress presented publicly. The boards wish to thank all who participated in the shaping of this Mission and Vision through public input at school open houses and Let's Talk dialogues as well as at board meetings.

**BUDGET VOTE MARCH 6, 2018**