

Tapestry Program

Program Guide

Spring 2011



Mission Statement

The Tapestry Program seeks to “Keep the Lights On” in the public schools of Rutland City, Rutland Town, West Rutland and Proctor beyond the traditional school hours and in the summer. The program shall provide expanded learning opportunities, as well as multiple cultural and enrichment experiences in a safe, drug free, supervised environment within a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all children K-8th grade. Tapestry will weave together a multitude of community resources that will support the needs of families.



Diana Pfenning, Executive Director (802) 786-1935



Rutland Town Tapestry students show off the quilts they made for the Blankets of Hope Program, (see page 6 for more information).

In This Issue

News from the Director í í í .í Page 2	Afterschool Programming íí . Pages 3-6
Academy/ Tutoring í íí Page 7	Volunteer/ Staff Information íí . Page 8

Tapestry Program

Program Guide

Spring 2011

News from the Executive Director

Afterschool for All-Legislative Day on February 23, 2011

For the fourth year in a row, people who are involved in providing afterschool activities and summer programs, came together to talk with legislators at the Capital. It was powerful to see communities coming together ensure that our future is in good hands with your young people. Their time spent in the community and with their families exceeds 5,000 hours and we know that time out of school matters. It does take a community to raise a child!

Quality afterschool programs work together with communities, schools and families to put kids on the road to success. Every day afterschool 20,000 students are being offered activities that:

- expand learning opportunities through project based learning
- provide skill based tutoring and intervention to support children who need extra time to succeed in meeting the standards or grade level expectations
- reach out to help in their communities by providing community service
- promote being active and moving, learning a team sport or life long skills
- offer opportunities to see and experience the activities that are beyond their small world through technology or field trips
- provide summer learning that reduces the learning loss that summer brings to all children and especially narrowing the gap for the youngsters most in need
- food and nutrition is a big part of summer support

There are 358 afterschool programs in Vermont. Some are licensed; some are funded by 21st Century Community Learning Grants from the DOE; some are Boys & Girls Clubs and some are YMCA; many are youth centers; and of course there are school activities, teams and clubs. However, not every child in Vermont can access an afterschool program so there is much work left to do.

As I drove home with my head spinning with these facts, I began to understand what the Tapestry Program in Rutland has accomplished. Indeed the program has been able to weave together, with fabric from many partners in the community, a blanket of support for over 800 students. The partners who provide services are too many to list, the schools are wonderfully supportive and staff who work in the program are totally committed despite working a much extended day from early morning until dinner time at night.

Most of all I was happy to know that most children can find a place where they fit best in the afterschool hours because there are many choices. Besides the Tapestry Program, there is The Boys and Girls Club, recreational activities, private centers and many home providers. The question I ask is this; can every child in Rutland County have a place to expand their learning, be safe and happy, learn social and leadership skills and explore a passion? Not all children can, however, Rutland County has a wonderful start at making sure there is Afterschool for All. Let's keep moving forward!

I want to thank the following legislators who attended the luncheon: Peg Andrews, Tom Burditt, Gale Courcelle, Jim McNeil, Peg Flory, Kevin Mullin, Peter Fagan, and Herb Font-

Tapestry Program

Program Guide

Spring 2011

Afterschool Programming by Site

Northwest Primary School

Northwest Tapestry is winding down from a great winter filled with swimming, sledding and loads of outdoor fun. Now that spring is coming, we are looking forward to lots of new activities, as well as some old favorites.

March will be bringing a few new things to Tapestry. We are still doing our indoor sports such as kickball, tag and jump rope, but we are also hoping to start a basketball team. With the help of the Rutland Recreation Department, we are hoping to start our own Northwest intramural basketball team. The basketball team will learn the rules of the game. We will have



practices regularly ending with a game with another school. While some kids will be playing the game, others will be involved in supporting our team. We will be getting together our own cheering squad, poster and banner makers, and perhaps even some chefs to get some snacks together for the big game.

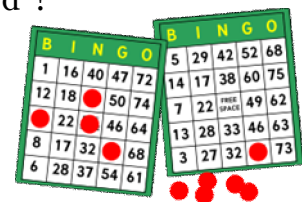
Bowling is another activity Northwest will be involved in this spring. This along with arts and crafts, homework, and free play will keep us busy this month.

Debby Marchese, Northwest Site Coordinator
(802) 773-1946

West Rutland Tapestry

Unfortunately, because of freezing weather and the various storms, we missed quite a few days during our winter months. It is time to “spring forward”!

The West Rutland Tapestry students have a lot to look forward to during the spring months. March will involve the students working on a game theme where they create, learn, and play various types of games. We are also hoping to host a Student/Parent Pot Luck Dinner and Game Night!



In April, our focus will be health & well being. We are expecting some special guests to visit to help us learn about ourselves, how to take care of ourselves, and make us aware of unhealthy habits. We hope to begin exercising more and be outside to enjoy the fresh air Spring has to offer.

Finally, in May we will be looking at dancing, sports, and outdoor play! We have a long list of activities, but all very vigorous and lots of fun!

Heather Spaulding, West Rutland Tapestry Site Coordinator
(802) 438-2288 ext. 290

stry Program

Program Guide

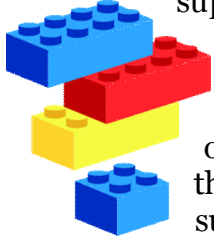
Spring 2011

Northeast Primary School

Our main mission will be to continue our community service of entertaining at the Maples, a local assistive living center! We have been warmly received and fun is had by all! We strive to give back to our school community as well and are very helpful setting up the gym for special performances. We are looking forward to our basketball skills sessions through the city recreation department who will help introduce us to this lively sport, we are especially excited about a match up between the Northeast and the Northwest Tapestry programs! Our skating lessons were a fantastic time and the children were very proud of their accomplishments on the ice and it should be equally as enjoyable on the basketball court!

Monday and Friday - Free play!

Tapestry assists with homework daily, with the few exceptions that we are off site; homework is addressed in small, quiet groups. We work closely with the school staff on supporting skills learned daily. We also participate in the schools "Books and Beyond" program by reading to all the children and having the children who wish to read to us! We spend up to 30 minutes on daily skills. We love giant toy box days with stations of games and toys available for the children to decide on what they wish to play with! Legos have remained the number one favorite throughout our eleven years of Tapestry! The children excel in co-operative games such as; whiffle ball, hopscotch, jump roping and many other, "old fashioned" outdoor games that warmer weather brings! We are looking forward to warmer weather!



Tuesday and Wednesday- Friendship and Art!

Each week we work on friendship skills with specific activities to help each child feel safe, welcomed and empowered to be the best citizen they can be. We are most fortunate to have kind and compassionate little ones who truly care about their friends. We love arts and crafts and these activities are vital to teaching children coping skills as well as a life time skill.

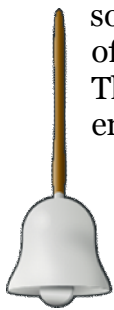


Thursday- Music!

Music is everywhere and March is "Music in our Schools Month" with the help of some high school students we will be introduced to the violin! This will add to our use of the recorders and the recent addition of mini hand bells.

This helps us with our community service to the Maples and adds to everyone's enjoyment! We love to play freeze dance and have become excellent listeners!

We are always on the look-out for new ideas or individuals willing to come and share with our children their talents! We have open enrollment and room for more children to join us. Our program follows the Rutland City Public School calendar with few exceptions. If you are in need of quality after-school care please contact us! Please be on the lookout for summer enrollment forms!



Deborah Sanborn, Northeast Site Coordinator
(802) 773-1940 ext. 228

stry Program

Program Guide

Spring 2011

Proctor Elementary School

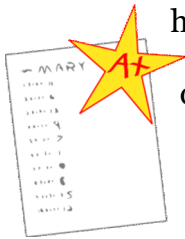
Our winter theme was sports and we have enjoyed spending time together swimming, playing basketball, ice skating, and utilizing the computer lab. We are looking forward to bowling and many more outdoor and indoor activities.

We want to thank everyone who participated in our fundraiser for the Women's Network Shelter. The Rutland County Humane Society is our next community service project.



Our friendship banner and mosaic tile art projects are next on our list of activities along with scavenger hunts, cooking, social skills games, team sports, and family fun nights.

Homework club is in session Monday through Thursday and many of the students have chosen to spend more than the allotted time to complete their homework assignments. We commend these students for their hard work and their dedication to their academics.



Team work and Acts of Kindness are vital to our program and we are happy to report that Our Acts of Kindness jar is over flowing. Keep up the good work team!

Kathy Pellerin, Proctor Site Coordinator
(802) 459-2225 ext 2025 or 2026

Rutland Intermediate School

The RIS Tapestry program successfully performed the first ever *Rockin' Poppin' RIS Show!* The students performed on February 11 for an audience of parents, other Tapestry sites, friends, and other invited guests. Students performed in a circus act, percussion, or *Boris and the Valentine Fairy*, a Valentine play. Students who didn't perform were busy photographing, videoing, creating programs, decorations, etc. Following the show, everybody enjoyed a spaghetti dinner in the cafeteria. A great time was had by all!



Now, we are all anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring! For the next several weeks, Tapestry will join forces with *Girl Scouts of America* and offer a 6 week program for our 3rd and 4th grade girls. *Uniquely Me*, a program offered before at RIS by Girl Scouts, focuses on girls' self image, self-esteem, fitness, healthy food choices, and even some career exploration. The participants will meet every Tuesday afternoon. We have to remember: No BOYS ALLOWED!

We'll also keep busy swimming at VAC, cooking and baking our favorite dishes, creating and designing various art projects, recreational games, exploring technology, and enjoying the outdoors as much as we can!

Stay tuned for unveiling of our 2011 summer theme! We can't wait.



Todd Stratton, Rutland Intermediate School Tapestry Site Coordinator
(802) 773-1932 ext. 494

stry Program

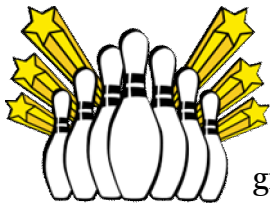
Program Guide

Spring 2011

Rutland Town Tapestry

RTS Tapestry students are looking forward to spending some time out in the fresh air this Spring. It has been a long cold winter and we are gearing up for mud season and some warmer temperatures.

Some things we have enjoyed over the winter months were our community service project. The students made fleece blankets to be mailed to the Blankets for Hope Program. These blankets are distributed to our military who are recovering from injury. We were able to make 4 tied fleece blankets and shipped them to North Carolina along with a note and cards from the students. We also hosted our first (hopefully annual) winter carnival. We invited all the neighboring Tapestry programs to come and join us for some winter games and events out in the snow. It was a great winter for snow activities.



RTS students also enjoyed cross country skiing, snow shoeing, and sledding throughout the last few months. Our gym teacher Marcia Barron and her student teacher Courtney Chadburn were wonderful at teaching these students these beneficial life time skills. We had the opportunity to swim at VAC and bowl at the Bowlerama. It has been a great winter.

As the cold winter winds slowly turn to a soft Spring breeze we hope to get outside and start playing some of the favorite Spring sports. In early Spring we will learn the rules of some outdoor games and begin practicing for some intramural games to be played against other Tapestry programs in the area. Kickball will be the game we will focus on the most because it is one that can be played by students of all ages and ability levels. It is fun and seems to always be the game of choice.

RTS Tapestry will also explore a variety of dance and movement forms. We will invite instructors to come to the program once a week to teach the students the steps to a new dance style such as Zumba, African dance, Hip Hop, Square-dancing, and others. We will end our dance exploration with a square dance event that would involve all the Tapestry sites. Everyone grab your partner!

Also in preparation for Summer we will start planting some vegetables from seed. The students will plan out the garden and decide what they would like to grow. This would incorporate a little science and math as we sketch and design the layout and dimensions. The plants would then be planted in our small garden in the back of the school. The summer Tapestry students will then take over the care of the garden in June when the summer program begins. This will be a great Tapestry community project.



Speaking of summer, it is right around the corner. Enrollment forms will be sent home with children soon. Please sign up early to ensure your child's spot for our exciting 8 week summer Tapestry Program.

Lori McNeil, Rutland Town Tapestry Site Coordinator
(802) 775-0566 ext. 3016

**Space is still available for many of the Afterschool Programs;
Please call 786-1935 for more information.**



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Academy Program

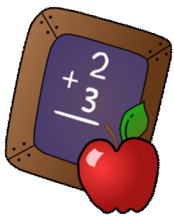
Program Guide

Spring 2011

Academy Programming by Site

Northwest Primary School

Northwest Academy recently wrapped up Session II, which ran from January 3rd to February 10th. It's hard to believe that we're already into Session III – which is our last six week stretch of the school year Academy program.



During Session II, our students continued to focus on strengthening their math and literacy skills through the small-group tutoring that is offered three days per week for approximately an hour. Many of the students have reported that they enjoy the Academy program and wish to return next year! This is very positive feedback and speaks highly about how students feel about their achievements throughout this program. In addition, Northwest Academy wishes to extend a big thanks to Benjamin Simpson, a fourth grade student at Rutland Intermediate School who volunteered his time two days per week to teach Academy students how to play basketball. He also served as a “big buddy” to several students within the program. His time and talent is much appreciated!

We look forward to continuing our hard work throughout Session III, which will conclude our school year Academy on April 6th.

Coral Czachor, Site Coordinator
 (802) 773-1946 ext. 348

Rutland Intermediate School

Ellen Colvin, Site Coordinator
 (802) 773-1932 ext. 358

West Rutland
Proctor Elementary
Northeast Primary

Erin Therrien, Site Coordinator (802) 438-2288
 Sue Quensel, Site Coordinator (802) 459-2225
 Marie Marallo, Site Coordinator (802) 773-1940

stry Program

Program Guide

Spring 2011

We Want You!

The Tapestry Program is looking for Volunteers!

Are You...

- A High School Student
- A College Student
- A Parent
- A Senior Citizen
- A Member of RSVP or Foster Grandparents
- A Volunteer Center Member

If so, we need you!

We are looking for people to share their talents and interests with the students in our community. Please contact us at 786-1935.

Volunteer your time and skills today!



Tapestry Staff

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Donna Brooks (802) 786-1959
Virginia Parker

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Northwest Primary School- Deb Marchese
Proctor Elementary School- Kathy Pellerin
Rutland Intermediate School- Todd Stratton
Rutland Town School- Lori McNeil
West Rutland School- Heather Spaulding

Academy Site Coordinators:

Northeast Primary School- Marie Marallo
Northwest Primary School- Coral Czarchor
Rutland Intermediate School- Ellen Colvin
Rutland Middle School (Summer Only)-
David Cornwell
Proctor Elementary School (Winter Start)-
Sue Quensel
West Rutland School (Winter Start)-
Erin Therrien

Homework Club Coordinators:

Rutland Intermediate School- Pat Graves
Rutland Middle School- Paula Lannon
Rutland Town School- Paula Townsend

Counselors:

Laura Brayton
Kristin Morrison
Jenny Parker

Newsletter Coordinator:

Bianca McKeen