



**UPCOMING DATES:**

For more information consult Chalkable or your school calendar.

- 10/3:** Prekindergarten & Grades 1-3 Open House (6:00-7:00pm)
- 10/4:** Open House 4th through 8th grade (6:00-7:00pm)
- 10/4:** Capitol Center for the Arts Grade 3 (10:00 am)
- 10/5:** School Picture Day
- 10/9:** SRS Closed *Columbus Day*
- 10/10:** PTG Meeting @ 4:45 Room 101
- 10/10 – 10/13:** Parent/Teacher Conferences K-3
- 10/14:** SSAT test date at SRS
- 10/15:** Making Strides Walk (1:00pm)
- 10/20:** Halloween Dance Grades 5-8 (7:00—10pm)
- 10/28:** Halloween Parade/ Party—PreK through 4th (9:30am)

**NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:**

Look for the Saplings on Chalkable each month this year posted online at [www.shakerroadschool.org](http://www.shakerroadschool.org). A classroom will be featured with updates from special events, school trips, athletics and alumni. If you have any photos of sports or school performances that you would like to share, we would love to have a copy. Hope you enjoy the articles.

- EDITOR:** Patti Hicks
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**ECOLOGY SCHOOL**



This past week, our team of sixth graders hopped out of the classroom and into nature at the Ecology School in Saco, Maine. For half a decade, Shaker Road School has partnered with the Ecology School for a week of learning, new experiences, and plenty of fun at the beginning of the school year.

The sixth graders spent their time fully immersed in

the oceanside and its ecosystems. The Ecology School's educators divided our students into small groups, which allow them to express their individual learnings through creative writing, skits, songs, and drawings.

While not every student was thrilled to be leaving the comforts of home and getting their hands dirty, by the end of the week, the enthusiasm in the group was palpable. Students created fun and entertaining ways



to present their learnings, from joining dressed up cowboys to talk about the weather to putting on their hypothetical lab coats and explaining their scientific findings.

We never cease to be amazed by each year's group of sixth graders and their respect and maturity for this unconventional form of education. Students are given not only the chance to experience field work, but also the opportunity to bond as a group and strengthen their team-



work. We saw no shortage of peer encouragement, laughter, and lending hands at Ecology School.

Back on campus, we look forward to taking our learning and applying it to our multidisciplinary curricula. We are extremely proud of our sixth graders and their open mindedness this past week.

Submitted by: Barbara Morrison, Maria Giberti and Peter Daley





## EIGHTH GRADE LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Eighth grade is an important year for students at Shaker Road School. They are among the oldest students on campus and faced with the transition to ninth grade at SRS or another school. As such, a lot is expected from them. The leadership retreat provides a unique opportunity for students to spend time as a class preparing for a busy and often stressful year. In previous years, students have found the lessons learned at the Leadership Retreat to be a helpful way to begin the school year and guide them through graduation and into high school.

The experience is organized purposefully to build from broad concepts of leadership to personal discussions of identity and self-improvement. Students spend time in small and large groups most of the week learning about important topics including power, influence, ethics, consensus building, conflict management, peer pressure, and stereotypes. Students also spend time reflecting and journaling. Free time is carefully organized to encourage and practice what they learn.

Some of the week's favorite challenges include trying to solve a bank robbery, which only one group has ever successfully accomplished, building their Acme Widget Company, and surviving on a deserted island. Other activities are more personally difficult and push some students to their emotional limits, including identifying and confronting stereotypes and reflecting on their hopes and fears as they prepare to end middle school. Of course, personal growth would not be complete without KP duty at mealtime. Students are responsible for helping prepare meals, clean the dining hall, and wash dishes. For some, this is the most challenging activity of the week.

This year's eighth grade class actively participated in all activities, enthusiastically dove into KP duty, and felt the emotional weight of personal growth exercises. When conflict arose during a heated game of capture-the-flag, they resolved their differences and moved on. Fortunately, their Acme Widget Company was successful enough that they earned free time in Wolfeboro. Not all groups have been so successful. Each eighth grade class is required to identify a goal for the year. Five years ago, the eighth graders vowed to make middle school more welcoming for fifth graders. The impact of their success was remembered when those fifth graders attended leadership three years later as eighth graders and set a similar goal. This year's group has a similarly lofty yet practical goal. Rather than tell you what it is, I encourage you to ask one of them when you pass them on the pathways. They will love to share their experiences as they begin their turn leading the school.

Submitted by: Matthew Hicks, Tad Curry and Cathy Linden



## ACADEMIC HONESTY— Advisory of the Month

In a small high school in California, Fleur was preparing for her final test.. Across the room, Achilles was also studying for the big test. This test however, was not like any they had had before. It was the hardest test at the school.

“Hey Fleur, want to study for the test together?” asked Achilles.

“No thanks, I was just about to go and hang out at someone’s house, maybe tomorrow,” replied Fleur.

Achilles walked home and studied by himself in his room.. Meanwhile, Fleur partied with her friends, and didn’t study a lot.

The next day: “Fleur, want to study for the test together? Asked Achilles.

“No thanks, I have to finish the last episode of the show I’m watching on Netflix,” said Fleur.

“Well then maybe I can facetime you once your show is over, and we can do it then!” said Achilles.

“Ok, sounds good,” replied Fleur. That night, Achilles studied some more until he knew the material really well. Fleur finished her show, and went up to her room to take a shower. Achilles already studied for a very long time, but he didn’t want to break his promise, so he decided to be a nice friend and study with her. Achilles facetime’d Fleur, but she didn’t respond. So he tried again, and no response. Finally he was extremely tired, and fell asleep. Fleur got out of the shower, and tried to facetime him, but it was far too late, so he was already asleep.

It was the day of the big test, and Fleur was extremely tired from staying up too late on her phone. At the desk next to her, Achilles was wide awake, and prepared to take the test. Fleur looked at the first questions, and had no idea what the answers were. Achilles was flying through the test. Fleur did the best that she could, and tried to finish the test. Achilles, came to the last question, and had no idea what it was. He decided that if he had to cheat to get into Princeton, he would. So he peeked over at Fleur’s test and copied her answers. The teacher looked over and saw Achilles, and called him up to her desk.

“Achilles, I’m going to need to take your test and you need to go straight to the principal’s office,” said the teacher.

“Why, I didn’t do anything wrong, I studied so hard for that test!” said Achilles.

“Achilles, please use academic honesty, and tell me the truth,” said the teacher.

“Fine, I cheated,” said Achilles.

“Thank you for admitting that, but I am afraid I am going to have to tell Princeton about this,” said the teacher.

“Ok,” Achilles said, and went to the principal’s office. When the test was over, Fleur passed with an 83, and got accepted to Princeton. Achilles could not go to Princeton with cheating on his record, and so had to leave school.

Although Fleur didn’t study a lot, and didn’t do very well on the test, she still got to go to her dream school. Achilles studied nonstop, and did well on the test, but automatically got denied for cheating.

Submitted by: Baxter Curry and Luna Hicks

# AMC

The seventh grade students had an exciting second week of school as they headed north to to spend several days hiking trails and bonding in the woods. The program, A Mountain Classroom, is an outdoor education program run by the Appalachian Mountain Club with a focus on team building and the ecology of the area.



Their first night, the group stayed at the Highland Center, hiking in the area and participating in cooperative team building activities. After an early breakfast and quick gear check, they all headed into the woods up Crawford Path toward Mizpah Hut where they stayed for the next two nights. The sunshine and unseasonably warm weather allowed for magnificent views from the summits of Mounts Jackson, Pierce, and Eisenhower. A variety of activities and challenges throughout the trip, home-cooked meals by the entertaining hut Croo, and lots of laughter and happy faces made for a spectacular few days in the White Mountains.

Submitted by: Chrissy Raby, Gillian Berry, and Chris Dow

