



## UPCOMING DATES:

For more information consult PowerSchool or your school calendar.

- 12/18: Holiday Celebrations  
Infants-Grade 4
- 12/19: No Classes; Vacation Camp
- 12/20: No Classes; Vacation Camp
- 12/23: No Classes; Vacation Camp
- 12/24 & 12/25: SRS CLOSED for  
Holiday Break
- 12/26-12/31: No Classes;  
Vacation Camp
- 1/1/20: SRS CLOSED  
New Year's Day
- 1/4/20: SSAT in 600 Building
- 1/7/20: Ski Program Begins  
Grades 5-9
- 1/7/20: PTG Meeting Room 101  
@ 5:00PM
- 1/9/20: Ski Program Begins Grades  
K-4
- 1/20/20: Civil Rights Workshops  
Campus Wide; academic day
- 1/25/20: **SOCIALLY SHAKER**
- 1/27/20: K-3 Parent-Teacher  
Conferences Begin

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

Look for the Saplings on *PowerSchool* 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

**COPY EDITOR:** Tad Curry

### PHOTOS COURTESY OF:

- Gillian Berry
- Becky Carter
- Ryley Chipman
- Stefanie Curry
- Kristyn LaRochelle
- Cathy Linden
- Nikki Stuppard

## BAND AND CHORUS CONCERT





# Making Waves in First Grade

When it is time for science in first grade, the *sound* of excitement and curiosity fill the classroom. There is nothing more exciting as a teacher, or parent, than to watch young children's faces *light* up when they are about to embark on a new learning adventure. The high-pitched squeals, clapping hands and enthusiastic bouncing is, surprisingly, exactly how we want our students to react when we announce a new science investigation is about to begin.

Our first science module of the school year focused on *Sound and Light*. This module provided multiple hands-on experiences that helped students develop an understanding of how to observe and manipulate the phenomena of sound and light. The driving question, which helped us to navigate through each investigation, was: how do sound and light interact with objects?

Through active investigating, meaningful conversations, and written reflections, the students discovered that sound is produced when an object vibrates. Students were able to observe and create sound using a table fiddle, a tuning fork, and a miniature guitar made with rubber bands and a cup. They learned to make and discriminate between different kinds of sounds. Xylophones and one-string guitars allowed students to experiment with change in volume and pitch.

The first graders put down their instruments and picked up a flashlight to conduct their next experiment focused on light. They were able to tap into their prior knowledge about light to draw new conclusions about how shadows are made. As always, we were fortunate enough to take advantage of our beautiful campus and take our learning outside! Identifying the biggest light source of all and making different shaped shadows with our bodies was a fun way to kick off our new investigation.

Science, engineering, reading, writing, math, collaboration and perseverance are just a few of the many skills that the students are learning during our "science" time in the classroom. Picture this: groups of first grade students working together to solve a problem or to meet a goal, on the edge of their seat and on the brink of discovery. You can almost see the metaphoric light bulb glowing as they make new connections and shout out, "I noticed that the string stops vibrating when I put my finger on it!" or "I observed that the beam of light reflects off the mirror and hits the ceiling! Cool!" After coming together as a larger group to have a sense-making discussion, the students then sit down to record their observations in their science notebooks.

With the addition of the new FOSS program this year, science has most likely taken the top spot as student favorite. The kids look forward to the many active investigations and discoveries they will make in the future and would be happy to share their excitement with you. First grade loves science!

Submitted by: Kristyn LaRochelle



# From Text to Graphics: The Art of Making a Graphic Novel



Fifth grade has recently converted their small group reading books into graphic novels. In order to reach their goal, students had to work collaboratively, set reading goals, meet each week to complete storyboards, and finally assign each member of the group a section of the book to transform. From the very start, the students took the lead on this project from decision making to the final due date. It is truly inspiring to witness students who feel empowered and in control of their learning.

Over several weeks, students worked diligently in their groups. Upon entering the classroom, you could hear the discussion of book

plots, details that should or should not be used to retell the story, and lively conversation about setting the next goal. The students not only met in class, but also created Teams on their Office365 accounts so they could discuss assignments and their thoughts about the book online as well.

Here is what some of the fifth graders had to say about the project:

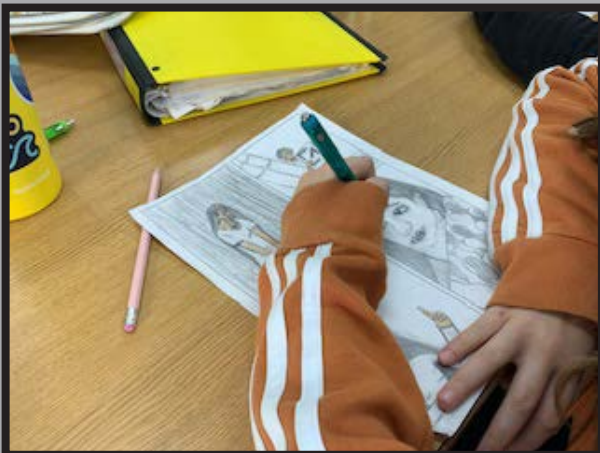
***“This was very interesting because I like how we used our creativity and our knowledge about the book to make graphic novels.” – Natalie***

***“I think it was nice because it involved drawing and comics as well as learning the skill of what important events to take away from the book.” – George***

***“I feel like it allowed us to express how the book would look if it had pictures.” – Chloe***

***“I like how it showed our cooperation, teamwork skills, and communication to help us do these graphic novels.” – Brooke***

Submitted by: Becky Carter



# Jr. FLL EXPO

Shaker Road School's two Junior FIRST LEGO League teams participated in the Jr. FLL Expo at Hollis-Brookline High School on December 15. The third and fourth grade students on these teams worked on challenges with a theme similar to the middle school students. Teams Eta and Zeta each met two times per week, constructing models of two-story buildings to help represent their solutions to the challenge in Boomtown Build. This year, students were challenged to imagine and create an environmentally friendly, accessible, and durable building that solves a problem and makes life easier and happier for the people who use it. They also programmed their WeDo LEGO modules to add features to their buildings such as a motorized ramp and sensor automated doors.

We're proud to announce that team Eta won the Safety award and team Zeta was awarded for Explosive Ideas! Way to go, kids!

Submitted by: Nikki Stuppard and Alex Hicks



# LEGO League 2019

On November 16, Shaker Road School's four FIRST LEGO League teams competed in a qualifying FLL tournament in Gilford, NH. These teams of fifth through ninth grade students had met and worked at least twice a week from September through November. By the end of that competition with 21 other teams, each of our teams had earned one of the coveted invitations to the state championship tournament in December. In addition to these invitations, Team Alpha won special recognition for their gracious professionalism and Team Delta was recognized for their robot design. Our teams continued to meet and practice through the beginning of December when they would compete at Windham High School in the state championship tournament.

The theme for the 2019 season was City Shapers. Along with building and programming a robot to autonomously complete mission challenges, the teams were asked to design an innovative solution to solve a problem in their community. More than 32,000 teams in 88 nations competed in this challenge hoping to earn an invitation to the World Festival competition through their local championship tournaments. The NH State Championship Tournament was held on December 7 with 50 of the top teams in the state. Throughout the entire day of competition where teams present the research projects and robot designs, participate in teamwork challenges, and run their robot in competition, SRS teams Alpha, Gamma, Delta, and Epsilon represented the school well. Nearly 200 teams from New Hampshire participated in their regional qualifying tournaments, so it was exceptional to have all our teams invited to the 50-team championship tournament. As icing on the cake, we're happy to report that Team Epsilon earned the First Place in Research award!

This was Shaker Road School's 19th year competing in the FIRST programs. If you'd like more information on how the program works at Shaker Road School or are interested in helping coach a team, please let us know. We couldn't do what we do without our great students, coaches, and incredibly supportive parents!

Submitted by: Alex Hicks



## Girl Scout Bronze Award Project



Hi, my name is Ryley Chipman. I am in Ms. Carter's 5th Grade Advisory and I am also in Girl Scout Troop 10162. This is my fifth year of Girl Scouts. I am a second year Junior working on my Bronze Award. The Bronze Award is the third highest award in Girl Scouts and the highest award you can earn as a Junior.

To earn your Bronze Award you must independently work on a project to better your community in some sort of lasting way. For my Bronze Award I completed a project that will help the SRS community. My project has been to add a "Buddy Bench" to Heron's Hideout.

I have seen Buddy Benches at other schools and I have heard from my Girl Scout friends how great and supportive a Buddy Bench can be for a school community. A Buddy Bench is a place where a student can go and sit to let others know they need a friend to play with, are feeling lonely or are having a hard time. The other students come over to support them and ask them if they want to play so they don't feel left out or lonely. Not only does a Buddy Bench help the student that is sitting on it but it also teaches other students how to be a good friend and help someone in need.

Over the summer I raised money to purchase the bench. I held a bake sale and art show to raise half of the money needed and the other half was donated by the SRS PTG. Once I raised the money I ordered, assembled and delivered the bench to SRS (it is made out of recycled milk jugs). I then wrote and presented a speech at the SRS

Community Assembly Meeting for the month of October. Then with the help of Dr. Matt and my fellow 5th Grade Class Rep George Taggart, we picked the perfect spot near the music cabins in between two trees at Heron's Hideout. Even though I am not at Heron's Hideout much as a fifth grader, I feel like this is the perfect spot for a Buddy Bench because of all of the different ages of the students that use this playground. A few weeks later I went to the SRS Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade classes to read *The Buddy Bench Book* by Patty Brozo and Illustrated by Mike Deas. I chose to read this book so it could teach the younger students how to use the Buddy Bench and what it means to be a good friend.

The following is a list of guidelines that I reviewed with the SRS community at the assembly:

Before you sit on the bench think of something you would like to do. Try to ask someone to play with you before you sit on the bench.

***The bench isn't for socializing. Only sit there if you cannot find someone to play with.***

***While you are sitting on the bench, look around for a game that you can join.***

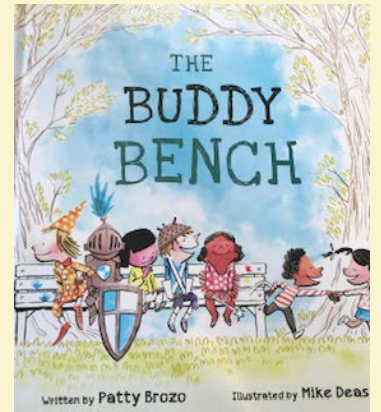
***If you see something you want to do or a friend you want to talk to, you can get up from the bench.***

***When you see someone on the bench, ask the person to play with you.***

***If you are sitting on the bench, play with the first classmate who invites you.***

***Keep playing with your new friends!***

So the next time you are at Heron's Hideout please check out our school community's first Buddy Bench. And remember do all things with kindness and be the one who will play with anyone!



by Ryley Chipman

# PTG NEWS

Congratulations to Mr. Blazon's and Ms. Burgess' Kindergarten classes and Miss Marie's Pre-K3 class for bringing in the most carved pumpkins (by class percentage) for the annual Halloween Hayride! Kindergarten contributed 36 carved pumpkins and Miss Marie's class brought in 26. Each class will be awarded with a PTG-sponsored pizza party. The entire school brought in a total of 184 carved pumpkins. Thank you for making the hayride a great success!

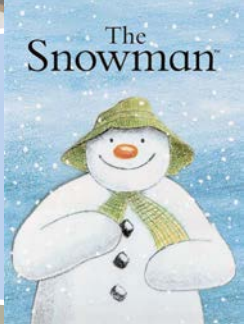
Connect with the SRS PTG on Facebook, where you can learn more about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/srsptg>

Don't forget to buy your tickets for Socially Shaker 2020! This event is our biggest fundraiser and will be held on January 25, 2020. This is a fun, adult-only event featuring themed basket raffles, a silent auction, DJ and dancing, hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar. The theme is "Denim and Diamonds" (Google it for ideas on what to wear!). Tickets are being sold in the office and on the PTG webpage: <https://shakerroadschool.org/life-shaker-road/parent-teacher-group-shaker-road-school/>. Interested in donating something towards the Socially Shaker 2020 silent auction? Please contact Caitlin at [Caitlin.Connelly@shakerroadschool.org](mailto:Caitlin.Connelly@shakerroadschool.org).

If you'd like to be added to the PTG email list, please contact me at [stefanie.curry@comcast.net](mailto:stefanie.curry@comcast.net).

Stefanie Curry  
PTG Communications  
P'17, P'19, P'22, P'26

## PTG Holiday Movie Night





*Save the date!*

**JANUARY 25, 2020**

7:00 PM AT Shaker Road School

\$35 individual / \$50 couple  
(Available soon online or in the Main Office)

Mark your calendar for the PTG's biggest fundraiser of the year!

## WHAT IS SOCIALLY SHAKER?

- A themed adult-only event (wear your best denim & diamonds!)
- A silent auction and raffle
- A party with hors d'oeuvres, DJ, dancing, & cash bar
- A chance for the SRS community to enjoy an evening together

*Proceeds from Socially Shaker will be used to enhance students' academic and co-curricular experiences.*

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

To help make this year's event a success, we are seeking your help in gathering donations. Donations for the silent auction and raffle come in many forms. Some of the most popular items from previous years included:

- **Merchandise and Goods:** Home improvement tools, jewelry, solid wood Adirondack chairs, electric toothbrushes, a set of bunk beds, electric kettle
- **Services Offered:** Consultation with an architect, free kitchen design, personal training and gym membership to White Mountain Crossfit, free dental exam and cleaning
- **Vacation Offerings:** Week-long stays in a house on Lake Winnepesaukee and in a Florida vacation home
- **Experiences:** Front row tickets to upcoming SRS events (including the dance recital, drama productions, Spring Fling, and graduation), Boston Celtics tickets, UNH hockey tickets, tickets and popcorn at Red River Theatre

All donors will be promoted the night of the event and all donations are tax-deductible. Thank you for your support of Shaker Road School. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Socially Shaker, Co-Chairs

Caitlin Connelly  
caitlin.connelly@shakerroadschool.org

Missy Pomeroy  
mpomero@stmarysbank.com