



**UPCOMING  
DATES:**

*For more information consult  
PowerSchool or your school  
calendar.*

**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 Work-  
shops 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



# Scholastic Arts and Writing Award

On Sunday, February 11, I will join a group of students and their families to honor the accomplishments of New Hampshire students in the Visual Arts. Seventh grader Avery Sahr's submission of a pen and ink drawing of Zealand Hut earned her an Honorable Mention from the 2020 Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards, being held at Pinkerton Academy in Derry.

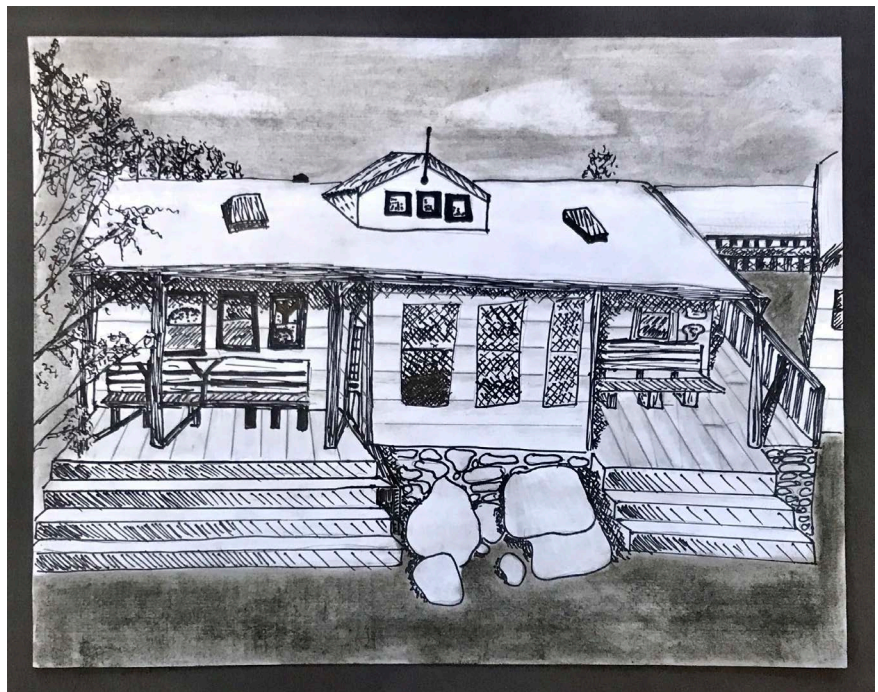
Established in 1923, the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is the nation's largest and longest-running program recognizing the accomplishments of students from grades 7-12.

This year approximately 2,500 students from all over New Hampshire submitted works for consideration. Each work is judged blindly: without knowledge of the artist's name, grade, or gender. The judges look for work that demonstrates originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

Fewer than half of all submissions receive recognition: either an Honorable Mention or a Silver or Gold Key. Avery is among an elite group of fewer than 1% of seventh graders receiving an award.

Congratulations, Avery!

Submitted by Barbara Morrison



## Infants and Toddlers: Learning through Play

It is widely known that infants and young children learn about the world around them through sensory based experiences. Shaker Road School's infant and toddler classrooms provide many opportunities to learn through play. Much thought and care go into the planning of each curriculum with a large focus on sensory experiences.

In the Infant Room, teachers incorporate natural resources as well as handmade objects into daily activities. Throughout January and December, the Infants have enjoyed exploring winter themed sensory bottles which were created using a variety of supplies including glitter, beads, pine tree branches, glue, and food coloring. These bottles encourage children to visually follow objects inside as they float and sink. The Infants quickly learn cause and effect by moving or shaking the bottles to create a reaction. During the colder months we bring snow into the classroom for our friends to investigate. It is a curious thing; the snow is cold and wet, and even melts before their eyes! The Infants also enjoy exploring felt boards, shaving cream, paint, and so much more!

December and January create opportunities both inside and out for the toddlers to have enriching sensory exploration.



## Toddler 2 News

The winter months provide wonderful sensory opportunities in Toddler 2 to bring some of that snow day magic indoors! Some of the snow sensory bins we have created include an ice cream shop, a wintery small world for our little people, and a construction zone complete with road signs and construction vehicles. The toddlers are able to observe how the snow's properties change, becoming softer and then heavier and wetter, eventually turning slushy! We also explored an ice world with water, ice, and sea theme props. Sensory play opens the opportunity to talk about and use words to communicate what is being experienced. Many toddlers described the ice world as cold, slippery, and smooth. Favorite sensory activities in December included silky soft goop, foam dough, colored ice, and scented rainbow cloud dough. Sensory play is a valuable way of engaging children in activities that will heighten their senses and enrich their learning.

Submitted by: Gina Paige, Abigail Ferguson, and Laura Urban

# Curriculum Night

On January 15, nearly 40 families joined us for Curriculum Night to learn more about the Kindergarten through 9th grade program at Shaker Road School. After a brief welcome from Dr. Matt, the group split into smaller sessions to hear about the depth and breadth of the experience of students at Shaker Road School. Faculty members from Primary to Middle School spoke about the curriculum at each grade level, both academic and social/emotional. Parents had an opportunity to explore classrooms, ask questions and chat with faculty members!



The highlight of the evening was our alumni panel. 8 alums from around New England returned to campus to share stories of their time on campus and the lessons they learned at SRS that they carry with them today. The following alums joined us for the night:

- **Nicholas Fairall, Class of 2003** – After graduating from SRS, Nick attended Proctor Academy and then studied Aviation and Business at Westminster College. He was an elite ski jumper, and is a former US Olympian and was in the 2014 Sochi Olympic Games. Nick is currently a public speaker and athlete mentor.
- **Jon Kimball, Class of 2007** – Jon attended Bishop Brady High School and graduated with a degree in Finance from Loyola University Maryland. He currently works as an investment analyst for an infrastructure private equity fund in Boston.
- **Ian Hill, Class of 2010** – After graduation from SRS Ian attended Olin College of Engineering and serves as a software engineer for Google in Boston.
- **Ben Bengston, Class of 2010** – Ben attended Concord High School and then the University of Hartford, earning his degree in project management. He was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates and played professional baseball for a number of years. He currently works for TPG, based in Rhode Island.
- **Leah Corson, Class of 2011** – Leah went to Tilton School and is currently completing her first year of Law School at UNH Law, where she is preparing for a career in patent law. She graduated last spring from Smith College in Massachusetts.
- **Sam Pratt, Class of 2014** – Sam graduated from St. Paul's School after SRS and is currently a first-year student at Harvard, where he is also a member of men's varsity soccer team.
- **Ben Tardiff, Class of 2014** – Ben graduated from Kimball Union Academy last spring and is currently a first-year student at Wesleyan University, where he plans to study mathematics and economics.
- **Alice Crow, Class of 2014** – Alice graduated from Middlesex School in Concord, Massachusetts, last spring. She is attending Dartmouth College, where she plans to study studio art and history.

A special thank you goes out to Jackie Clarke, Debbie Potter, Chris Terrell, Gina Paige, and Megan Crevier who provided childcare that evening so parents were able to join!

Curriculum night 2020 was a success! Thank you to all the families who joined us! If you were unable to attend and are interested in more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Admission Office.

Submitted by: Caitlin Connelly  
Director of Admissions and Placement

# Civil Rights Day at Shaker Road School



Since its inception, Shaker Road School has fostered a community that supports learning, acceptance, and tolerance. Shaker Road School's first motto as a childcare center—"Loving, Learning, Caring"—continues to guide the work we do with all families. Our mission, in part, aims to foster "respect for others" and "prepare children to positively contribute to a rapidly changing world." We work hard to make this happen. Teachers continue to appropriately diversify the curriculum, and students in all grades study monthly citizenship themes in small classrooms and advisory programs. These experiences provide numerous opportunities to learn about a world vastly different than Concord, New Hampshire.

Still, we should devote more time to study important and too often tragic lessons from American history that continue to plague society. In a time fraught with political polarization, struggles with mental illness, and increased animosity toward minority and marginalized groups, children need space to learn and reflect on their places in the world and actions they might take to make a difference. On January 20, 2020, Shaker Road School devoted an entire school day to the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights activists. Perhaps the greatest tribute we can pay to their legacy is to continue educating children, and ourselves, on historic and current issues affecting our communities, nation, and the world.

As Dr. King wrote in his Letter from a Birmingham jail in April 1963, "whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Shaker Road School's Civil Rights Workshop Day created a time and space for students to learn about historic and current experiences of those who struggle to achieve equality. Students experienced crucial lessons in tolerance, kindness, and action as they prepare for their roles in a larger world. The day began with our monthly Shaker Meeting. Sixth and eighth grade advisories recapped December's theme Conflict, Tolerance, and Peace. Students learned about key leaders of several social movements before an overview of the day, including an introduction to Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. After Shaker Meeting, students gathered in age-appropriate groups. Kindergarten through ninth grade students studied topics including identity, kindness, conflict resolution, difference and commonality, advocacy (upstanders vs. bystanders), and agency.

Students also studied music related to the era and created art projects with key words and phrases they learned during the day. Ninth graders gathered, "exit tickets" from the workshop to create a student pledge: "As a part of the SRS community, I pledge to advocate for not only myself but the people around me.

I will accept everyone and recognize that people are individuals with their own ideas and personalities. Even though we may look different, we are all human and have our own important views that make up our world. Since we are all diverse and unique, the world isn't a dull and boring place. Instead, it is full of ideas, and we can cause change.

I will speak up when I see something wrong, and I will stand up for others and myself. I will use my voice to communicate my ideas and advocate for change. I will be understanding and use empathy towards others. In a group, I will share my ideas, but also listen to others and be sure to include them and their ideas even if I don't agree with them. I will be tolerant and accepting of others, setting aside our differences.

I will be kind to everyone, and I know that our looks, our personalities, and everything about us make up our individual identities. Even though we may be part of different groups, I will still be accepting and considerate of others. Whether you are an athlete, artist, or bookworm, I pledge that I will show acceptance toward everyone. By doing so, I will help the community grow and make it a better a place."

As with our study of monthly citizenship themes, we encourage families to discuss these topics with their children to continue the dialogue. We respect differences of opinions and value respectful disagreements as opportunities for deeper understanding. January 20, 2020 was not just another school day at SRS. In the middle of a busy school year, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day gave us an opportunity for even deeper learning and reflection. At the end of the day, one student commented that she was "grateful for the day" because she learned so much about civil rights and Dr. King. "Otherwise," she said, "I would just be sitting at home watching television."

Submitted by: Matthew Hicks, Principal



Fourth graders, after participating in workshops on MLK Jr. Day, discussed civil rights back in our classroom. We reviewed the messages of Dr. King and other civil rights leaders, talking about concepts like kindness, justice, and equality. Students made a list of words related to civil rights to use as inspiration to write poems. We learned how fun it could be to convey message though poetry. These thoughtfully written poems are hanging on our classroom bulletin board as a reminder to be thankful for the work of these brave leaders and to live every day thinking about how our words and actions influence the lives of others.

Submitted by Samantha Daniels and the Fourth Graders

**Civil Rights**

Please pay attention  
 People treated unfairly  
 Think hard about it.

They deserve the same  
 You stand up and say something  
 Make a difference

Injustice is wrong  
 The future can change the past  
 Show love to others

Become a leader  
 Have courage to do what's right  
 All people matter

We are all the same  
 Don't judge us by our color  
 Be kind to people

**The Speech**

Join me in my march  
 Will you stand up for what's right  
 Thunderous clapping

Take a stand and fix it all  
 People were speechless  
 I spoke about peace

And something rose within me  
 Hope to make a change  
 It was a great day

**The Speech For Change**

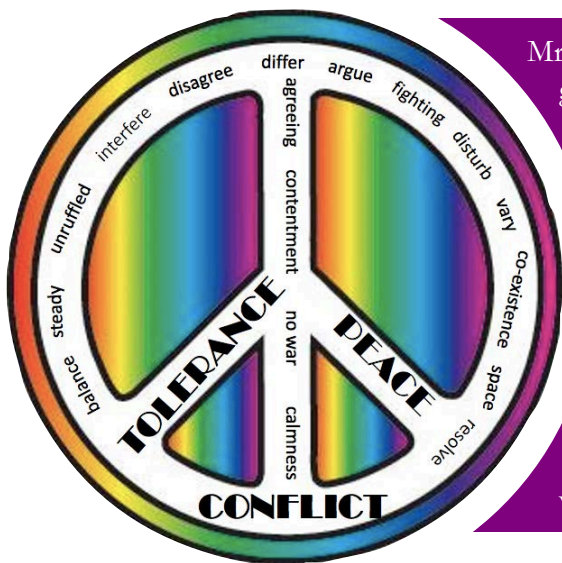
Martin Luther King  
 He was an inspiration  
 Martin had a dream

Show respect for blacks  
 He gave a speech to change minds  
 We are all equal

He proved that to us  
 The speech brought us together  
 Believe we could change

Achieve equal rights  
 Progress was made with his speech  
 He was a leader

He fought for freedom  
 America has changed now  
 But it can change more



Mrs. Berry's 8th grade advisory interviewed the kindergarten through ninth grade students here at Shaker Road School and they collected words that best reflect the students' views on conflict, tolerance, and peace. Conflict can happen when interests and ideas clash or appear to clash. Peace is freedom from disturbances, including war and violence, and being tolerant is accepting differences. The 8th graders had conversation with the students asking questions such as: What do you think peace means? How do peace, tolerance, and conflict work together? When is a time you have been in a conflict, and how did you use peace or tolerance to solve it? When might you use tolerance? Gathering responses, they created this peace symbol with different words from the student interviews that they felt best related to the words conflict, tolerance, and peace.