



Spelling Bee 2020



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

Look for the Saplings on *PowerSchool* each month this year posted online at 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.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF:

- Roger Blazon
- Mary Beth Burgess
- Stefanie Curry
- Barbara Morrison
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To quote the title of an essay by linguist John McWhorter, “English is not normal.” Our language has so many exceptions to spelling conventions and pulls words from so many different origins that spelling English words can be a real challenge. Never mind the degree spelling has changed in the centuries since Shakespeare introduced some 2,000 words to the language. Spelling bees as we know them are rare in other languages—it is distinctly an English language challenge, as Brad Plumer reasoned in *The Washington Post* a few years ago.

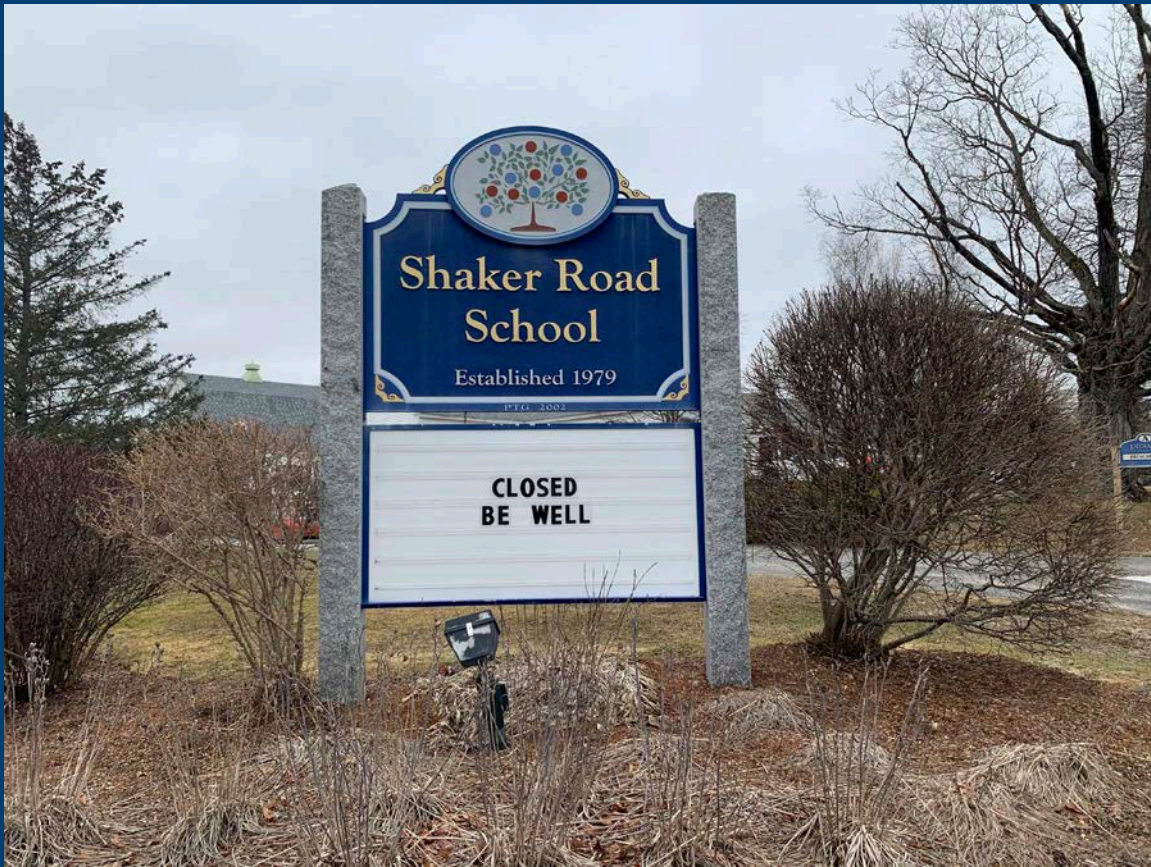
At SRS, we approach the annual Scripps National Spelling Bee with the attitude that it is a fun challenge for our students. This year, students in grades 1-9 competed to spell words ranging from “hem” (Word 1) to “hydrargyrum” (Word 225). The top spellers from Grades 4-8 competed in a second round, a multiple-choice vocabulary test, to earn a spot in the spelling finals held at lunchtime on February 5. Each advancing student received a new list of 225 words to study.

After several rounds of sweaty palms, furrowed brows, and “I-know-every-word-but-the-one-I-got!” thoughts, we were down to 7th grader Mei-Ling and 8th grader Sidney. They traded words for nine championship rounds (*therapeutic... aspersions... proximo... bokum... thermohaline... divan*) before Sidney won the day with “levees.” Only fifteen words remained on the study list.

Congratulations to all the finalists: Elie, George, Justin, Laith, Andrew, Lillian, Ari, Mei-Ling, Alexa, Allison, Sidney, Avery, and Ana. We also congratulate Sidney and Mei-Ling, who had the chance to represent SRS at the State final on March 7 at Plymouth State University.

[Editor’s note: Find the spelling error in this article!]

Submitted by Tad Curry



In the 41 years that Shaker Road School has been in operation, I found myself looking at the signboard that welcomes people to campus with a message that was difficult to comprehend. We are experiencing a painful and disruptive experience that COVID-19 has brought to our community here at SRS, the State of New Hampshire, and the rest of the world.

Our decision to close was not made lightly or without health and safety at the forefront of our minds. Over the prior week and throughout the weekend, we met with physicians and professionals who, though they themselves would be impacted by the closure, assured us in the light of this pandemic crisis we were making the absolutely correct decision. We needed to protect the health of our whole community, from the very youngest children to the older students as well as our faculty and staff.

On a more personal note, the discussion with our faculty and staff was an extremely emotional one, informing them of the school closure, which is unprecedented for us.

Of course, though campus is closed, school is still very much open. We are extremely grateful for the school-wide community response and support. Families are reacting by saying that this was the right decision, and they are thankful that we are looking out for the welfare of their children and the SRS community. Our teachers have been amazing, and we could not be prouder of the remote learning that started taking place almost immediately, from the Infant room right up to our ninth-grade students. Teachers have posted websites for learning and creative ideas; they have been here, online, teaching math, social studies, and reading classes remotely. Families are asking how they can help support the school and members of the community.

We are all hoping that we will return to campus very soon and see everyone back together, enjoying the remainder of the academic year. We are anxiously waiting to change that front signboard to “We’re Back!”

Submitted by Patti Hicks

Kindergarten on the Road

The Kindergarten students have been learning about trees and agriculture as part of their science curriculum. To go along with their studies, the students visited Treat's Sugarhouse. Mr. Treat is one of the Kindergarten grandparents, so that made this trip extra special! The children learned all about how to tap trees and make syrup. The teachers learned a lot too! The best part was getting to taste the syrup! When we got back to school the children made a book about their trip for Mr. Treat.

Submitted by Mary Beth Burgess



Prekindergarten 4

All year long, the Pre-K 4 classroom's themes revolve around the letter of the week. Recently, "Q" week brought quilts to the classes. Using literature, like Jane Yolen's *Soft House* to support our lessons, the children make a home/school connection. Some children brought quilts from their home to share with the classes and the story behind them. We told our own story by making a Friendship Quilt out of our handprints. We then integrated this project into our social studies through discussing concepts such as kindness, friendship, and cooperation.

We also try to integrate all of our curricula through our outdoor classroom throughout the year. We take weekly walks which provide more than just fresh air and exercise. We are so lucky to have a beautiful campus that provides us with an outdoor classroom. When we take our walks, we are always looking for signs of animals, changes in nature and anything that looks interesting to us! We also use our walks to find things that begin with our letter of the week or any environmental print, such as signs or items with print on them that the children can recognize. These walks help our young readers and scientists explore, wonder and make connections. All of which help us when we come inside to learn!

Submitted by Melanne Waters and Frances Witte-Holland



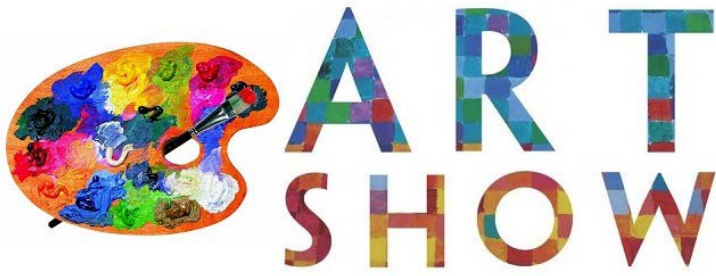
Prekindergarten 3 Frogs and Owls

The PreK 3 Frogs and Owls have been very busy but don't tell them they are learning as they play! As educators of three year olds, we know that by engaging all of their senses and providing a safe and age-appropriate environment, filled with open-ended activities, we expose them to a world filled with possibility. We work hard to give them space to make choices, to try new experiences and to fail which we know builds grit and improves problem solving abilities. At the end of each day, we watch a daily slideshow in our classroom, reflecting back on the activities of the day and sharing the moments that made us most proud. We love seeing the smiles of success on children's faces.

As parents and teachers we often find ourselves coming to a child's rescue without allowing them the time they need to "figure it out". If we see them struggling to put on their shoe, for example, the automatic response for many is to take the shoe and put it on for them. A better plan of action would be to guide them through the process verbally. Trial and error is a fabulous teacher!

Submitted by Marie Washburn





ART SHOW

2020 SRS Art Show

When I think of March and Spring I think of getting outside, of flowers budding and blooming, and of enjoying our wonderful New Hampshire scenery. You might think of this, too, but you probably don't immediately think of students and their amazing artistic talents. That's right, March is the month of the national celebration of student art!

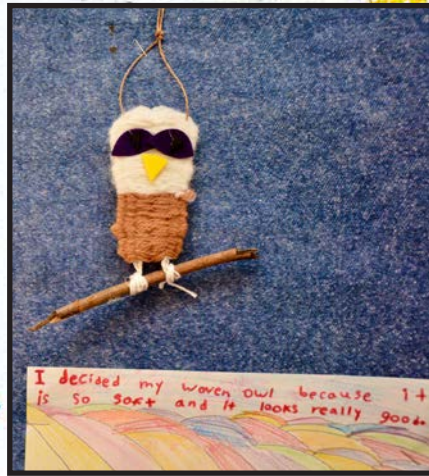
In keeping with this national observance, SRS started the month displaying art in two New Hampshire Arts Educators' Association events. Our regional event was on display at the Red River Community Gallery in Concord, and state show was on display at the NH State Library. Both events displayed Shaker Road School students' art in our community.

During the second week of March, the "old lunch room" was transformed into a spectacular art museum to showcase our students' work. All students from the Infant program through ninth grade selected one piece of their choosing. Some students selected their favorite or best work while others chose based on a favorite medium.

This year saw an amazing number of families and students coming to the opening reception. For our interactive mural this year we brought back the ever popular *The Scream*, based on the painting of the same name by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch. This continues to be a big hit for a photo op experience. Even though the show is over the art making is not as we continue to challenge our creativity from our home classrooms during Shaker Remote School.

Submitted by: Barbara Morrison





A year with FROG and TOAD

FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE DRAMA

A flock of birds (Leena Degieux, George Taggart, Brooke Miller, and Abigail Vlachich) fly onstage and welcomes everyone to the spring, introducing Frog (Evie Rosso) and Toad (Charlotte Belanger), who are still hibernating. Each is having a lovely dream about her friendship with the other and is excited for the new year to come.

Frog and Toad awake, and Toad is sad because she never gets any mail. Frog writes a letter and gives it to the Snails (Ada Sansone, Justin Bielagus, and Cullen Tierney) to deliver it for her.

Frog and Toad go to the riverbank for a swim, and Toad asks Frog to turn away because she thinks she looks funny in her bathing suit. Turtle (Amelia Hicks) arrives and can't wait to see Toad in her bathing suit and tells Mouse (Catie Cyr) and Lizard (Parker Baker) about it, too. Soon, all the animals gather on the riverbank to see Toad in her bathing suit. Toad eventually gets out of the water and recognizes that she does look funny in her bathing suit.

Meanwhile, the Snails are still on their way to deliver the letter to Toad.

After the swim, Frog and Toad are making cookies when Mouse arrives and suggests they taste some to see if they are done. Soon, everyone is having so much fun eating cookies together!

Now, the summer has ended, and leaves cover the ground. The Birds pack their suitcases to head south, and the Squirrels (Natalie Hadnot and Ryley Chipman) begin stocking up on food for the winter. Both Frog and Toad secretly plan to rake each other's yard, but by the time they get home, the squirrels have spread the piles of leaves around the yards again!

Meanwhile, the Snails are still slowly delivering Frog's letter to Toad.

It's now winter, and Frog and Toad prepare to sled down a hill despite Toad's fear. On the way down, Frog accidentally falls off the sled and watches with the Moles (Ellie Kozikowski, Aidan Magnus, and Ben Laliberte) as Toad ends up on a dangerously steep, bumpy path down the hill. When Toad reaches the bottom of the hill, she is mad that Frog made her go sledding and vows to never speak to Frog again. Finally, the Snails arrive with Frog's letter, and after reading the touching letter, Toad decides to continue speaking with Frog after all.

On Christmas Eve, the Moles are singing while Toad is worried because Frog is late arriving to her house. Toad imagines all the terrible things that could have happened to Frog and is about to rush out and find her when Frog arrives carrying a present. Toad forgives her, and all the animals gather around to celebrate the holiday.

Now back in hibernation, Frog and Toad are in bed and it's almost spring again. The Birds arrive and sing as Frog and Toad wake up and get ready for all the possibilities that lie ahead in a new fun-filled year!

A hearty thanks to the Fourth and Fifth graders for another successful drama production, and to Betsy Carter, the Art club, and Middle School Drama for help with costumes and set design!





Jack and the Beanstalk

The audience laughed, cheered, and even cried during the production of Jack and the Beanstalk, performed by the first through third grade drama students on the night of Tuesday, February 11. The play, written by Ron Fink and John Heath, brought us back to our childhood memories of being told the traditional tale of Jack, the Giant, and the magical beanstalk. Our school's youngest actors took a page directly from the fairy tale itself and brought each character to life as they sang their way through each scene.

Colin Campbell and Tayeson Hall, the narrators, were the glue that kept the entire story together. With their help, the actors were able to move seamlessly through each part of the story. Jack (Isabelle Crevier) and his mother (Natalie Crevier) opened the show with a song about Jack being a dreamer and needing a little more common sense. Since they were down to their last bit of food, Jack's mother sent him to sell their old cow (Brooks Baker). On his journey, Jack met some farmers (Harrison Beecher, Zoe Edwards, and Rand Provost) who were trying to persuade Jack to trade the cow for three "magic" beans. Jack's mother was furious when he returned without money and only brought back three lousy beans. In a fit of rage, Jack's mother threw the beans out the window.

In the dark of the night, a magical beanstalk (Hadley Mobile, Evelyn Belanger, Zoe Perlet, Addison Dore, and Sarah Neville) grew right outside Jack's window. Jack awoke to a big surprise! He climbed the beanstalk to a magical land, and the first to greet him were some shepherds (Anabel Letendre, Grace Crowley, and Sophie McCague) and their sheep (Kiran Patel, Ruth Connelly, and Sadie Mobile). Jack then knocked on the castle door and was greeted by the servant (Sarah Angelias). The servant gave Jack a stern warning about the dangers of being in the castle with the Giant around and he helped him hide in the cupboard so the Giant wouldn't eat him for lunch! Although the Giant couldn't see Jack, he could smell his presence within the castle walls.

While Elliott Stickney captivated the audience with his precise portrayal of a hungry Giant looking for a meal, his cook (Sophia Degieux) presented him with a tray of delicious delicacies fit for a king. After he ate a huge meal, the Giant shouted, "Bring me my goose!" The goose (Nia Paige) took center stage as she sang her song about wanting to lay golden eggs for someone nice. Tired and full from his feast, the giant fell fast asleep at his table. Upon hearing the thud of his head, the servant quickly encouraged Jack to come out of his hiding place. The goose begged and pleaded for Jack to take him along as he escaped down the beanstalk. As Jack and the Goose made it safely down the beanstalk, knowing that the Giant was not far behind, Jack ordered his mother to bring him an axe. With five swift chops, the beanstalk fell apart leaving the Giant swirling in the sky. Everyone cheered once they heard the Giant's final fall and knew he was no longer a threat.

The audience was brought to their feet as the cast sang their last song and took their final bow. Congratulations to the first through third grade drama group!

Submitted by Kristyn LaRochelle and Kim Stewart

