

**WHITE RIVER SCHOOL**  
102 Pine Street  
White River Jct., VT 05001  
(802) 295-8650  
*Sheila Powers, Principal*  
www.hsdvt.com

January 13, 2017

Dear Families:

Happy New Year!

Next Thursday, January 19, the kindergarten, first, and second grade classes will be going on a field trip to the Lebanon Opera House to see a production called *Moon Mouse*. This is a performance by Lightwire Theater told by dancers and glow-in-the-dark puppets. It should be a unique theater-going experience! You can learn more about it at [www.lightwiretheater.com](http://www.lightwiretheater.com) if you wish, or by visiting the Lebanon Opera House web site and clicking on the YES! series. Some of our first-grade background knowledge about the moon and its phases should help make the show even more enjoyable. You all signed permission forms for your children to join field trips at the beginning of this school year, so there is nothing you need to do in preparation for the trip. It will all be within regular school hours. Let me know if you have any questions.

Please remember to send your child to school with snow pants, jacket, gloves, and boots—and shoes to wear indoors—daily. If you would like to leave a pair of sneakers at school, that is fine. **Please label all winter clothing.** Thank you for your attention to this.

We began a new project in Writing Workshop last week. I am (and many other teachers in our district are as well) taking a course called Reading, Writing, and Research for All. It is about giving children appropriate experiences researching a topic at their grade level, discussing it thoroughly so they know it well, and then writing effectively to teach others about it. I am doing this project in conjunction with our science unit about how animals use their body parts to help them survive. Your student is getting to know well the book *What do you do with a ail Like This?* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page. The children will be writing informational pieces and we will be talking about things like focus statements, conclusions, transition words, pieces of evidence, and elaboration. We are writing a class piece together about interesting ways animals use their noses (ask them about the platypus, hyena, star-nosed mole, elephant, or alligator!), then in small groups students will be writing about ways animals use some other body parts we read about in this book.

Remember there is no school Jan. 16 - 17 due to teacher in-service days.