

MAPLEHILL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY FARM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Elmhill Inc., dba Maplehill School and Community Farm
P.O. Box 248 Plainfield, VT 05667
(802) 454-7747 ~ www.maplehillsschoolandfarm.org

The Sweetness of Sugaring

By Allie Heckerd, AmeriCorps Member 16-17

Springtime at Maplehill School and

Community Farm means maple sugaring in our sugar woods. On days when the sap was flowing, students helped collect buckets and transfer them into collecting tanks. Once enough sap was collected, we started boiling and taste testing all the stages from sap to syrup. This process went on for the better part of March and April. The sugar house has been an incredible space that brings the community together and allows everyone to embrace the spring season. Maple sugaring is an important part of our farm to school program. We would like to give a huge thanks to Elmhill, Inc. Board Member Daniel Marcus,



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who was here every day of the sugaring season and helped make this all possible. Also, thank you to everyone who came and volunteered their time.



4th Annual Student Art Show a Success

By Jamie Spector, Development/HR Coordinator & Social Worker

On Friday May 12th, Maplehill School celebrated the artistic endeavors of its students at the 4th Annual Student Art Show at the Plainfield Community Center. The show drew students, staff, parents, Elmhill, Inc. Board and community members to view the art work and speak directly with the student artists in attendance. This year's show featured encaustic wax painting, acrylic on canvas, drawings and felted works.

Many thanks to Suki Ciappara and Jim Gerstman for their leadership and teaching in the art room. Their efforts lead to a beautiful art show every spring. The show will be up at the Plainfield Community Center until May 30th. Please stop by and enjoy. Thank you to the Plainfield Coop for donating the space to Maplehill School for the show.

Maplehill School Students Using Blogs to Show Their Learning

By Jamie Spector, Development/HR Coordinator & Social Worker

Each week, during the fourth quarter, Maplehill School students in the Small Group Program are developing their IT skills using Weebly blogs on the internet. Students are meeting with staff to develop blog posts documenting their projects, their learning and goals for their vocational classes. Students are learning how to upload photo images to their blogs and how to link their blogs to other related websites. Students are also learning how to personalize blogs with their own unique design flare, background



Original Painting by a Maplehill School Student



Maplehill School students, staff and community members enjoying the student art show on May 12th

images, and audio clips. We are excited to help students find creative and innovative ways to document their learning and school work.

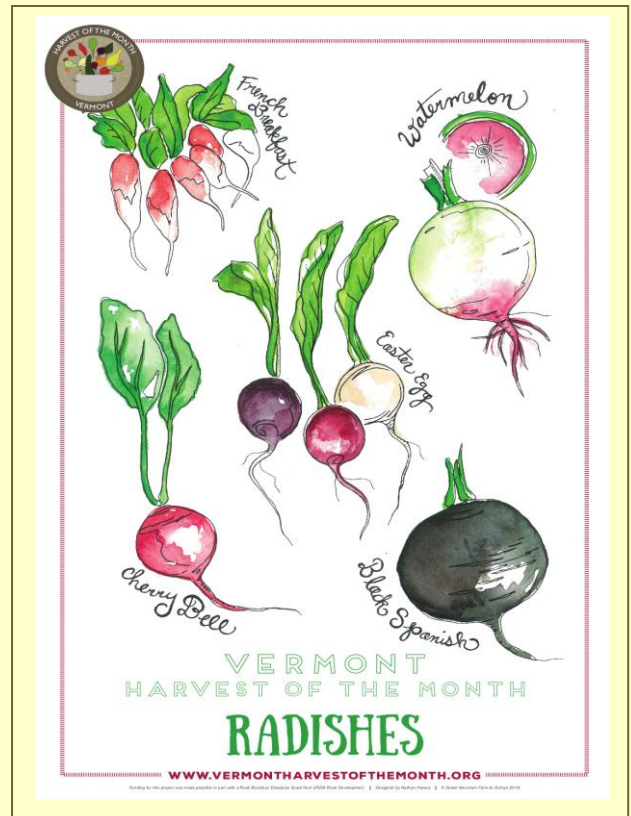
Going Green!

We are planning to reduce the number of paper newsletters that we print. If you want to receive your newsletter by email, please send Jamie Spector your address at: jamie@maplehillschoolandfarm.org

“Wait, there are vegetables in this?” Harvest of the Month cooking demos at Maplehill School

By Nicole Batkis, AmeriCorps Member 16-17

This year, AmeriCorps members, Allie and Nicole, have been showcasing Vermont's Harvest of the Month through weekly cooking demonstrations. Students are cooking up unique dishes with the monthly harvest items. They jump into the kitchen, ask questions and best of all, try new foods that they didn't think they liked before! Some of the favorites have been spiced parsnip cake in January, cabbage spring rolls in February, maple popcorn in March, carrot slaw in April, and quick-pickled radishes in May. Our own farm garden provides us with incredible vegetables for projects and experimentation. Connecting students to the local harvest helps them understand more about the different ways local ingredients can be transformed into surprisingly delicious dishes. It also teaches them about the diversity of benefits each of the monthly harvest items can have on our health.



Nicole and Allie made a variation on this recipe from the Serious EATS website:
<http://www.serious eats.com>



Vietnamese Pickled Daikon Radish and Carrot Slaw

Ingredients:

- 1 large carrot, peeled, cut into strips 1/8th-inch square and 3 inches long (about 2 cups)
- 1 medium daikon radish, peeled, cut into strips 1/8th-inch square and 3 inches long (about 2 cups)
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup rice wine vinegar

Combine carrots, radish, sugar, and salt in a large bowl. Using fingertips, massage salt and sugar into vegetables until dissolved. Add water and rice vinegar. Pack vegetables into a quart-sized mason jar. Pickles can be used immediately, or for best results, seal jar and refrigerate at least overnight and up to 1 week.

Venturing into the Value of Vocational Training

By Nicole Batkis, AmeriCorps Member, 16-17

Part of Maplehill School's mission is to provide students with vocational opportunities that align with their own personal interests. Whether it is gaining experience in the kitchen, fixing motors, or even maintaining our school grounds, we've seen students use their creativity and problem solving skills in new and inspiring ways. This year students have been involved in a wide variety of vocational opportunities at both the Small Group Program and the Individual Care Program.



A Maplehill School student apprenticing with Lucien Avery, Blacksmith, in Hardwick

Opportunities this year include:

- ★ Blacksmithing in Hardwick
- ★ Serving Meals on Wheels to seniors in the community
- ★ Participating in our Elder Outreach Project
- ★ Helping to maintain our school farm
- ★ Assisting with making school lunches in the kitchen
- ★ Learning survival skills and teamwork
- ★ Attending Drivers Education
- ★ Providing care support to animals at Central Vermont Humane Society
- ★ Tuning up bikes for student use
- ★ Working with preschoolers at AllTogetherNow! Pre-School
- ★ Helping out at the Vermont Foodbank
- ★ Working in the woodshop on projects that benefit our school

We are so proud of all the hard work students put into exploring their passions, gaining new and important skills, and positively impacting our community. Keep it up!



One Maplehill School student visited CCV Plumbing Department this spring to explore higher education in a trade skill.

Some updates from Maplehill School...

- Students taking vocational classes are sharing their weekly progress on personalized Weebly webpages.
- The Small Group Program (SGP) is excited to see its very own Instructional Assistant, Ryan Gillard, step up as the new math teacher.
- In SGP science classes, students have learned about boomerangs and plastic trash, and are currently learning about building bug hotels. Students have also been learning about ticks, mostly regarding safety, checking, prevention, and studying them under the microscope.
- SGP English classes have been reading *Call of the Wild* and *Julie of the Wolves*.
- On April 28th, all students and staff came together for a community cleanup extended day. After working on a variety of tasks on both campuses, students and staff enjoyed a well-deserved BBQ dinner and game of volleyball.
- The Individual Care Program (ICP) welcomes three new staff members. Jon Geddes, Nick Ihley and Johanna Anderson are joining the team as Instructional Assistants.
- At the ICP, students are engaging in math through setting up bank accounts, budgeting, shopping, and cooking. Others are measuring the dimensions of buildings to assist with building and grounds upkeep. For science credit, students are learning about fixing farm machinery on campus, exercise and dietary science, and understanding electricity. For English credit, some students are reading material that helps them better understand other projects they are working on, such as fishing books and mechanics manuals, along with the Vermont Drivers Education manual. Others are reading graphic novels. For social studies credit, students are exploring geography through map making, visiting historical sites around Vermont, planning fantasy trips to various locations around the world, and practicing conversational German.



Little baby seedlings are growing in our greenhouse waiting for spring planting.
We love springtime at Maplehill Community Farm.



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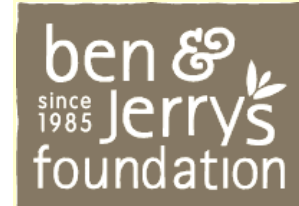
Phone:
802-454-7747

Fax:
802-454-1902

E-Mail:
info@maplehillschoolandfarm.org

Where relationships inspire
learning

With support from:



We're on the Web!

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