

THETFORD ACADEMY

The school year began on Wednesday, Aug. 25, with the highest enrollment at TA in eight years, bringing around 340 students to campus. This robust student body is made up of students from 14 Upper Valley towns and three countries (China, Greece and Rwanda).

At the opening day assembly, Head of School William Bugg presented the theme for the school year, derived from the following Jane Goodall quote:

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

It was a fantastic start to the 2016-2017 school year, and we are very excited for the many fun events coming up this month.

Homecoming weekend will take place on Sept. 9 and 10, starting off with an in-school pep rally, followed by the Homecoming dance on Friday evening. Festivities will continue on Saturday morning with double-header varsity soccer games versus Oxbow. The girls will play at 11 am, followed by the boys at 1 pm. It will be a great day to show your Panther Pride, and we hope to see many students, parents, alumni and community members there!

Our 38th annual **Mountain Day** is Friday, Sept. 16 (rain date: Monday, Sept. 19). This wonderful tradition challenges each class to hike one of the nearby peaks, giving our students the opportunity to get out and enjoy our beautiful surroundings, and to get to know their new classmates.

The 26th annual **Woods Trail Run** will take place at TA on Saturday, Oct. 1. This event draws more than 2,000 runners and spectators from all over New

England and takes hundreds of volunteers to host. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Assistant Meet Director Bridget Dugan-Sullivan at bridget.dugan-sullivan@thet.net

The TA **Board of Trustees** monthly meeting is on Thursday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m. in the TA Library in the White Building. The public is invited to attend.

We hope to see many familiar faces around campus for these and many other events taking place at TA this fall!

Bridget Dugan-Sullivan

THETFORD LIBRARIES

LATHAM LIBRARY

“Wolf Peaches, Poisoned Peas, and Madame Pompadour’s Underwear”: **The Surprising History of Common Garden Vegetables.** Common garden vegetables have long and fascinating histories. Science and history writer Rebecca Rupp will discuss the stories behind many of our favorites, among them the much-maligned tomato and potato, the (mostly) popular pumpkin, and Vermont’s dynamic duo of kale and Gilfeather turnip. A Vermont Humanities Council event hosted by Latham Library on Thursday, September 22 at 7:00 pm. Free, accessible to people with disabilities, and open to the public. For more info contact Peter Blodgett at 785-4361.

Magic Card Night: Monday, September 19, 6:30-8:00 pm. Come play Magic, the card game, with friends. All ages welcome. Please bring your own deck.

Afterschool Activities on Fridays will begin on September 9, and run every Friday that Thetford Elementary School is in session through the school year, with the exception of Ski Fridays. Children in grades 4-6 (please note, this is a change from last year) are welcome to walk to the library from

school to participate. Stories, crafts, games, and other activities will be offered, and a snack will be served. Pick-up time is 4:30 pm.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AT LATHAM LIBRARY

Preschool Storytime Fridays at 10:30 am. Children of all ages and their caregivers welcome.

Knitting Group Thursday evenings from 6-8pm. Beginners and experienced knitters welcome.

PEABODY LIBRARY

Post Mills Labor Day Parade: Come march with the Peabody Library in the parade to celebrate our 150th birthday this year! We’ll meet in the field behind the library at 10:30 am on Monday, September 5. Dress as a favorite book character, carry a favorite book, or just come as you are!

Looking for volunteer: Are you a Thetford Academy student looking to fulfill community service hours? Do you enjoy spending time with young children? The Peabody Library in Post Mills is looking for a teen volunteer to help with our afterschool programming, which is held on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30. We offer the program to early elementary-aged children, and do some kind of arts and crafts, games, or other fun project every week that school is in session!

Please email Emily Zollo, children’s librarian at Peabody and Latham Libraries, if you are interested at: ebzollo@gmail.com

ONGOING PROGRAMS AT PEABODY LIBRARY

Afterschool Activities on Wednesdays will begin on September 7, and run every Wednesday that Thetford Elementary School is in session through the school year, unless noted. Children in grades K-3

(please note, this is a change from last year) are welcome to ride Bus #2, with a note from home, from TES to the Peabody Library on Wednesdays. Stories, crafts, games, and other activities will be offered, and a snack will be served. Pick-up time is 4:30 pm.

For more information, including lists of new books and movies, please visit www.thetfordlibrary.org.

Emily Zollo

TEN AUGUST LUNCHEON THETFORD ELDER NETWORK'S HARVEST LUNCHEON

Come celebrate the first day of autumn with a delicious luncheon to be held at North Thetford church. Doors open at 11:30am on Thursday, September 22.

The menu will include Pam's fabulous mac'n'cheese, Gita's memorable savory rice'n'beans, ratatouille, garden salad, beverage,

and brownie with ice cream.

Plans are still being shaped; watch and listen for further details.

TEN Luncheons are offered monthly on mostly the fourth Thursdays, sponsored by Senior Solutions. Donations are gratefully accepted. To volunteer for a specific task, call Cathy at 785-3136.

Susan Rump

NONFICTION BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of Thetford's informal nonfiction book discussion group will take place at Latham Library on Thetford Hill on Tuesday September 27th at 7 pm.

We will be discussing *The Gene* by Siddhartha Mukherjee. As this is a long book, we have decided to continue our discussion of it at our October meeting. Mukherjee's previous book, *The Emperor of All Maladies*, a "biography" of cancer, won the Pulitzer Prize. His book *The*

Gene has been nominated for the Royal Society Prize, a kind of Nobel for science writing.

You can find the book at your library; via interlibrary loan; as an audio or e-book via ListenUp Vermont or NH Downloadable Books; from your bookseller; or at bookfinder.com.

All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

EDM Landman MD

GOT NEWS?

Is your news of general interest to Thetford residents? Send it to thetford@pendane.com or by calling me at 356-4542 by the 29th of the month. I generally enter news in the order in which it is received, and may need to edit for space. There may not be room for late submissions (but I do my best). Feedback is always welcome.

Susanna French



The hurricane of September 1938 ripped out many of the enormous trees ringing the Thetford Hill green. The Farnsworth house (**above left**) and Slade house (**below left**) both sustained severe damage. Thetford resident Rosetta Estabrook wrote in a letter to her sister Gladys that she counted 42 fallen trees along the road between Route 113 and Thetford Academy (from its original site, a distance of two tenths of a mile). **Above**, Thetford historian Mary Slade stands in her yard next to the cradle that blew out of her attic. "It's a wonder they are alive to tell the tale," recalled Estabrook. "Mrs. S. realized the fury of the gale... She heard the chimney fall... Our greatest fear now is that some of us may have defective chimneys, or that the least wind will take trees that have already been weakened."