

Thanksgiving traditions in elementary school

Lauren Benedict
Assistant Editor

Finger painting, turkey cutouts, dressing up as a pilgrim for a day, and watching *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving* might be some favorite activities of elementary school students.

First grade teacher Joanne Rill said, "The students enjoy the holidays. They look forward to having some days off of school, [and] they also enjoy making the different projects we do."

Year after year, elementary school teachers come up with more ideas to incorporate Thanksgiving activities into their students' everyday learning.

"[An] area we tie in at this time is nutrition and healthy eating. We use the 'My Plate' program," said Joanne Rill. "We allow the students to plan their own healthy meals. We also integrate balancing exercises and eating healthy."

Coming up with new ideas to do and collaborating among other teachers to find new, exciting activities isn't as hard as it seems.

"I use ideas from Pinterest and teacher magazines or come up with ideas with other teachers," said third grade teacher Angela Jordan.

In addition, Joanne Rill's daughter senior Taylor Rill helps her mother come up with new, unique crafts to do with her students.

"I love going online or talking with my friends about crafts for kids that I can tell my mom about that she can hopefully do," said Taylor Rill.

Joanne Rill said, "Most of these activities we have done in the past, but we are always looking for new books or activities to supplement what we do."

Jordan, Joanne Rill and fourth grade teacher Jennifer Christopher all do a turkey project with their students in which they trace and cut out their hands on paper and write what they are most thankful for.

Jordan said, "We will also read *A Turkey for Thanksgiving* by Eve Bunting and the students will write about how they would catch a turkey for Thanksgiving."

On the other hand, third grade teacher Joel Satterfield conducts



Photo by: Joel Satterfield

Third grade teacher **Joel Satterfield's** students participate in a Thanksgiving play at Delta Peach-Bottom Elementary School.



Photo by: Erin Strine

Kindergarten teacher **Erin Strine** has her students construct a Thanksgiving placemat with tracing their own hands for turkeys.

his original play each year with his students.

The play is called "The First Thanksgiving," and Satterfield wrote the play in 1992, but has incorporated new poems and songs over the years.

"I enjoy watching my children learn about Thanksgiving and getting to act in our classroom in front of family and classmates," said Satterfield.

Although there are not as many activities to do with students for Thanksgiving as there are for Christmas, the students always seem to enjoy doing something other than learning times-tables and vocabulary words.

Christopher said, "I have also given them a packet of some fun things to do while I am doing reading testing."

During this time of year, it is important to give the students a break from the everyday learning to do the exciting holiday activities.

"The students love the change of pace and enjoy doing something out of the ordinary. We have to work so hard every day to learn everything that is required in third grade that to have a day or two of holiday activities is a real treat," said Jordan.

As the holidays inch closer, the students devote all their time thinking about presents and their family Thanksgiving dinner that integrating class work with activities is the only way to have the students to learn.

Kindergarten teacher Erin Strine said, "I absolutely love how excited the kids are... [They] get very excited about the Thanksgiving activities! I love that they are also like little sponges that soak up everything I teach them!"

Elementary teachers try to make Thanksgiving and Christmas the most joyful time for students to be able to do different crafts and read holiday stories.

Joanne Rill said, "We read books about the Pilgrims and the hardships they endured through their journey and how the Pilgrims had to work hard for what they eventually had. We connect this to being thankful for things they have such as homes, food, love from their families and try to stay away from concentrating on material things they have."

Veteran's day remembrance

Mikala Hollingshead
Reporter

It comes back every year and it is something that America is proud of: it is Veteran's Day.

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the allied nations and Germany in World War I.

Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I.

November became a legal federal holiday in the United States in 1938.

In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became Veterans Day, a holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars.

In 1945, President Dwight Eisenhower officially changed

Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed by Congress, which was moved the celebration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October.

The law went into effect in 1971, but in 1975, President Gerald Ford returned Veterans Day to November 11 due to the important historical significance of the date.

Britain, France, Australia and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World Wars I and II on or near November 11.

Canada has Remembrance Day, while Britain has Remembrance Sunday, the second Sunday of November.

American involvement during World War II (1941-1945) saw the greatest mobilization of the United States, Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force

to all American veterans—living or dead—but espe-

cially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

There are many traditions that are held on this day. One of them is restaurants like Friendly's, Applebee's, and others are giving veterans free meals to thanking them for their service.

New York has a parade every year to celebrate the people who served.

"I think Veterans day is a great day to celebrate because it is a good day to give thanks to our troops for what have they done," said junior Brooke Cole.

Parades and other things are held around the country.

Veteran's Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day which is a common misunderstanding, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle.

While Veteran's Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but espe-

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Baby bumps!

Brad Dunaway
Reporter

Did you know that over 4% of Women in the United States are pregnant right now?

Currently, there are 3 pregnant teachers in Kennard-Dale. They are: English teacher Sarah Buttiens, another English teacher Rachael Appleby, and Emotional Support teacher Courtney Mullen. All of the teachers and having their first child.

All of these fantastic teachers are pregnant with their first kid! How anxious would you be? Being pregnant has its pros and cons.

Scientists say that when a woman is pregnant, their skin changes, bones soften, hair gets thicker, you produce more blood, and even the baby gets the nutrients and food you eat before you do!

It is also more likely that your fiancé or husband will treat you a-lot better than he usually does. This includes being more romantic, buying you more stuff than usual, doing house work, etc.

"I feel him move several times per hour. He is most active in the morning and at night around 9:30 P.M." said

Mullen

Appleby was really excited when she found out she was pregnant. "I do really love apples right now, I also do not really like sweets "On the other hand, Buttiens was craving some other things. " I haven't craved anything really strange. I'm currently craving sweets like cookies. I also been craving apples and peanut butter. I eat an apple a day."

It seems like apples are the thing for pregnant women? But why does one teacher crave sweets, but the other doesn't? Could it be by the foods they eat and the amount of sugar that is in the foods that they are eating?

Most women say that when your baby kicks or moves around in your belly, that it is very heart-warming. Could you imagine your child inside of you, feeling it move around, feeling it have a hiccup, this is probably the most important time in a women's life besides her getting married.

Naming a child is very important. Appleby came up with Virginia Faye. They got the name from both her husbands and her grandmothers.



Photo provided by: Sarah Buttiens

English teacher **Sarah Buttiens** and **Rachel Appleby**, and support teacher **Courtney Mullen** pose with their baby bumps.

Buttiens came up with Oskar Theodore. They got the name Theodore from her husband's grandfather, and they both liked Oskar. Mullen came up with the name Thomas Sterling. She got the name from her fiancé's grandfathers name and sterling was her grandfather's name.

After being asked if their family was acting strange, Appleby's answer was very interesting. "Not really, unless you count our cats. My one cat is always laying on my lap, but Ginny (a nickname for Virginia) likes to scare her by kicking the cat when she is on my lap," said Appleby.

Buttiens gave birth to baby Oskar on November 16. Mullen is due December

23rd of this year. So the baby could be a Christmas or a New Year's baby.

Appleby is due January 27th, so she still has time to do some planning. But Appleby is one of my favorite teachers and I know personally, that she will be a great mother.

None of the teachers expect this pregnancy to affect their teaching careers dramatically. Each teacher gets two and a half months off of work to spend time with their precious newborn baby.

All three teachers can't wait to have their kid and return to teaching as a mother, instead of just coming back as a teacher.

This month's music review

Caitlin Salomon
News Editor

Fall is traditionally known as a music hotspot for artists: It is a chance to beat the often cheesy holiday-themed album rush, yet not be confined to the happy, sunny tunes of summertime.

Several artists have capitalized on this time to introduce new albums, one being Alt-J, a quirky indie rock band who has recently received notoriety in their home country of England for their debut album *An Awesome Wave*.

Keeping busy since their album's debut, Alt-J's newest album, *This Is All Yours*, envelops the rather unique, and in some cases awkward, sound that defines the band.

Alt-J steps outside its previous borders of computer-like electronic indie, however, and treads into brash rock territory with "Left Hand Free" and even draws influence from indie-folk with its song "Warm Foothills."

Alt-J's lead singer Joe Newman leads strong vocals in "Warm Foothills" with support from Marika Hackman, Sivu, and Lianne La Havas, as well as Conor Oberst, lead singer of fellow indie band Bright Eyes.

Those who enjoyed *An Awesome Wave* will not be disappointed, I think, in their new, edgier, and occasionally more pensive sound that is perfect to listen to when doing homework or driving to school.

Unlike Alt-J, who have recently arrived to the scene, folk singer Vashti Bunyan is a veteran in the music industry, with a musical career spanning 44 years.

Despite her long career, however, it has been nine years since the release of her previous album, *Lookaftering*.

Bunyan is back, though, with her third and likely final album *Heartleap*, which offers gorgeous, peaceful melodies that will guide you to sleep with one mere listen.

She does this by incorporating gentle, soothing guitar chords layered with her echoing, wispy voice that manages to soar above the strums.

The xylophone also plays an important role in many of her songs, such as "Jellyfish," a song whose sound mimics the motion of swimming.

Bunyan's lyrics speak to the complexities of life that we often face, as well as the ties humans create with one another, making her songs all the more enjoyable and pertinent to listeners.

Speaking of enjoyable, one band that I find irresistibly catchy is the two-man group Generational, and luckily for me, they just happened to release a new album in September.

Noted mainly for their 80s- inspired indie pop, the group pulls influence from the 50s and 60s as well to create a fresh, well-rounded sound.

Their newest album, *Alix*, boasts their traditional atmospheric, synthesizer-reliant style, but it also incorporates electric guitar to give it that authentic glitz-glam punk vibe of the grunge movement some commonly associate with the 90's, making it perfect for a weekend jam session.

The album features a spectrum of songs so relaxing and euphoric that if there was a chic cafe on the moon, I am almost positive these songs would be playing in the background.

But not all life is fun and games, as Grouper, the cover name for melancholy folk singer-songwriter Liz Harris, proves with her album *Ruins*.

During the dreary transition from bright autumn foliage to drab, barren tree trunks, Grouper's rather sorrowful music fits in perfectly with the season.

Lilting piano rhythms take the forefront in this minimalistic collection of songs that can as easily bring tears as it can inspire deep-rooted thoughts about life and its purpose.

Its wistfulness, particularly found in "Lighthouse," does not rely solely upon Harris' desolate, hushed vocals and piano alone, but rather it incorporates natural sounds of rainfall and even frog croaking to create its beautiful, haunting feel.

So whether you're still clutching to the cheery, happy vibes left over from summer or want to simply relax to quiet, peaceful melodies, new fall albums certainly have a lot to offer to listeners.