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"Drawing to Learn" Classes Held in North Gorham

Barry Atwood



Changes in Kindergarten Schedule

GT Staff

As previously reported, the Gorham School Committee voted to eliminate the kindergarten switch beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. Parents of kindergarteners were officially notified of this change at the beginning of July when they received teacher assignments for their children.

The morning kindergarten students will attend the first four Early Release/Extended K days while the afternoon

North Gorham Church becomes a class room once again as Lucy Smith teaches art students how to draw.

Photo credit Barry Atwood

It was not at all unusual to see people entering the United Church of Christ at North Gorham on Saturday mornings in July, even when those people were carrying easels, sketchpads, and other artists' tools. The church has long served as a community center for meetings, recitals and suppers. But for the first time since the building stopped serving as Gorham's Levi Hall School in the 1950's one of its former classrooms was once again the site of teaching and learning.

North Gorham resident Lucy Smith, a professional artist with 30 years experience in graphic design, fine art painting and portraiture, collaborated with the UCC to conduct a series of summer classes entitled Drawing to Learn. She is utilizing a large open space that was used as a high school from 1895 until 1903 and in which famed arctic explorer Donald B. MacMillan taught. The original century old slate blackboards are still in place in the room and were put to good use during the class. The other classroom space in the building was the grammar school in North Gorham

students will attend in the morning session for the last four Early Release/Extended K days.

After much consideration, the School Committee voted for this change in hopes of causing less disruption to parents, teachers, staff and daycare providers midway through the year.

Kindergarten orientation will be held on August 31.

Parents must provide transportation and attend school with their child on that day. Buses begin transporting kindergarten students on September 1.

The bus schedules will be published in the Gorham Times in late August and also online at www.gorhamschools.org. If you have any additional questions, call White Rock School at 222-1050, Narragansett School at 222-1250 or the Transportation Dept. at 893-2547.

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for nearly 60 years until it was converted to the church sanctuary by the UCC in 1962.

Smith's teaching emphasizes the importance of classical drawing and painting skills. Students are encouraged to apply these skills in ways that promote individual expression, as evidenced by the variety of treatments and media displayed around the classroom. She limits the number of students in her classes to allow plenty of one on one instruction and guidance. Smith believes this approach promotes a comfortable learning environment for students whose skills range from beginner to more advanced artists. And she carefully repositions the model in the same pose for each session to provide her students ample time to refine their figure studies.

A second series of art classes is tentatively scheduled for the fall. More information is available by contacting the UCC at North Gorham.

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