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### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Elementary Classroom Teacher*

**2019-present**

White River Valley School, Bethel Campus

*First Grade Teacher*

**2018-2019**

Lyndon Town School

### **SERVICE PROJECTS**

- **NexTrex Composite Bench Donation Project** **2022-present**  
When I heard that NexTrex Co. would donate one beautiful recycled-material composite bench to an organization of our choice, for every 500 lbs of plastic film our school recycled, I got our elementary school involved. In September, my homeroom class made posters and gave presentations to spread the word to all our students. Each day, students brought in plastic packaging film from home and a school volunteer took the collected plastic wrap to the recycling center. By the end of the 2022-23 school year, we had recycled 1,000 + lbs of plastic wrap and earned 2 composite benches: one for the Bethel Food Shelf and one for the Bethel Post Office. The fundraiser is ongoing and we hope to donate several more benches this year.
- **Valentine Cookie Donation to Bethel Food Shelf** **Feb. 2022**  
On Valentine's Day, my homeroom gathered in the Middle School home-economics kitchen for an afternoon of sugar cookie baking. Families sent in cookie dough, rolling pins, cookie cutters, frosting and sprinkles. Kids rolled, cut, baked and decorated hundreds of cookies for the Bethel Food Shelf. While the cookies baked, kids made handmade cards with well wishes.
- **Annual Pumpkin Pie Donation to Bethel Food Shelf** **Nov. 2021-present**  
In November 2021, my homeroom made and donated 10 pumpkin pies to the Bethel Food Shelf. Kids made homemade Thanksgiving cards to go with the pies. The following year, this expanded to a school-wide pie-baking and donation project in which 20 pies were donated to the food shelf. It has now become an annual tradition! This November, 5 elementary classrooms will make and donate pies to the Bethel Food Shelf.
- **Annual "Positive Pizzas" Donation to Bethel Food Shelf** **May 2022-present**  
In May 2021, my homeroom students worked in teams to make pizzas in our cafeteria to donate to the Bethel Food Shelf. Kids decorated the pizza boxes with positive messages. The following year, the project expanded to several classrooms. Students were delighted to deliver the pizzas to the Food Shelf in person. We walked the pizzas in a single file line, down the street to the Food Shelf, where students personally placed the pizzas into the freezer and got a tour of the facility.
- **Spelling Bee Fundraiser \$900 to Rutland County Humane Society** **March 2021**  
My homeroom class wanted to help shelter pets, so when it came time for the school-wide Spelling Bee Fundraiser, they voted to donate the proceeds to RCHS. To our tremendous surprise, they raised \$900! The Director of RCHS came in person with her adopted dog to accept the check, and kids said they were very proud to have been able to make a difference.

# The Herald

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Vermont's White River Valley Since  
1874*

## Fourth-Graders Make, Deliver Pizzas to Bethel Food Shelf

JUNE 02, 2022

If you were driving in Bethel on the morning of Wednesday, May 18, you might have seen a parade of fourth-graders leaving Bethel Elementary School on their way to the Bethel Food Shelf. The 20 or so kids and their teachers made the trek to deliver pizzas they had made earlier that morning.

Their day started in the cafeteria, where, with the help of food service director Mischa Johnson, they split into teams and assembled cheese, pepperoni, sausage, veggie, or barbecued chicken pizzas to donate to the food shelf.

Teacher Kathleen Fechter has been educating the class about the importance of community service, and the kids were very happy to learn how to make pizza and do something to help their neighbors in need.

Before they started cooking, the class brainstormed about words that would describe their mission to make the pies, and their art on the pizza boxes reflected their

brainstorming. Words like positive, powerful, and kind added more meaning to their donations, making them even more inviting.

This effort marked the second time this generous class has donated their time to make dishes for the Bethel Food Shelf. Last November, they made and donated pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving.

People who use BFS were thrilled to be able to bring home such treats, and the pies were gone very quickly, though not as quickly as the pizzas, which had all been claimed after just two days at BFS.



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December 20, 2021 · 🌐

### Pumpkin Pies and Holiday Cards for Bethel Food Shelf

With the support of the WRUD food service and with the expert guidance of Food Service Director Mischa Johnson, Mrs. Fechter's Fourth Grade class at Bethel Elementary made 10 pumpkin pies for the Bethel Food Shelf. Students worked in pairs, cracking the eggs and adding the spice, then mixing the ingredients and pouring the batter into pie shells. Then, while the pies baked, fourth graders crafted handmade holiday cards to accompany the pies. After the pies cooled, the class gathered excitedly in the school lobby to present the pies and cards to Lisa Warhol of the Bethel Food Shelf. It was a wonderful experience and our class is researching more ways we can serve our Bethel community in the New Year!



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## **Bethel Students Will Donate To Humane Society Shelter**

APRIL 28, 2022

In February, Kathleen Fechter's fourth grade class held a spelling bee fundraiser. Before the bee and before even collecting pledges, the class deliberated on how to spend the funds. Having done a service project for the local food shelf earlier in the school year, fourth graders were eager for another chance to contribute to the community; this time, the kids voiced their desire to help shelter animals. Several fourth grade families have pets adopted from shelters, including the Rutland County Humane Society. The decision was unanimous— donate the funds to the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS).

For weeks, students studied 50 words selected from the Scripps Spelling Bee word list. To study, they made flash cards, wrote the words in sentences and stories, scrambled the words, tested each other, and did a variety of other activities. Students gathered pledges from family and friends, who had a choice of sponsoring them by each correctly spelled word, or a flat sum upon completion of the bee.

On the day of the bee, fourth graders set up cardboard privacy walls and rearranged desks for the test. Fechter read each of the 50 words and students wrote them down. After the papers were corrected and pledges gathered, the amount raised was announced: a whopping \$900 donated to RCHS.

On Thursday, April 28, both a human and a furry representative from the shelter will come to Bethel Elementary to meet with the hardworking class and accept the donation.

The Bethel fourth graders are proud of themselves, grateful to their spelling bee sponsors, and very excited to help make a difference in the lives of shelter pets.