

Sept/Oct

Volume 9, Issue 1

# Boxberry School Routes

## Learning Expedition: Dinosaurs and Beyond

academics  
foreign  
language  
art  
music  
drama  
environmental  
studies  
outdoor  
education  
creative  
movement  
cultural  
studies

### Time Line

In the Periwinkle room students are studying dinosaurs and historical time periods and eras. Periwinklers have made a time line starting at the beginning of the formation of Earth up to our present time. They have labeled the periods and eras and written the times in terms of millions of years ago. They will also draw connections to the time period that their researched dinosaur lived in, as well as make drawings of life from all the different periods.



Katie draws creatures from the Ordovician period. Periwinklers learn about evolution and how creatures change and adapt over several thousands of years. Over the next few weeks students will learn more about Darwin's theories and evolution.



Left: Allie drew this dinosaur with colored pencils. All Periwinklers have been making lots of observations and quality drawings of different types of dinosaurs.

# Hands-On Learning



Green room students have been working hard at making dioramas of what the Earth looked like at the time of dinosaurs. Right: Sam works with Oliver and Ian (far left) to place their "trees" in their dioramas. Students created landscapes with rivers, mountains, and volcanoes out of paper, paint and drawings. They used many types of materials, such as sand, clay, sticks, moss, and other natural materials. Lastly they will incorporate small plastic dinosaurs into their dioramas.

## Field Trip to Portland Ovation!

Boxberry and Ganderia went to see the Cuban Creole Choir in Portland at Merrill Auditorium. Students loved the brightly colored outfits, the dancing, and the energetic singing.



Left: Mina, Allie, Mae, and Sophie clap along with the audience to the rhythms of the Cuban Choir. Students related their experience to their own chorus class and to learning a foreign language.

**Check out our Facebook page!!!**

**[www.facebook.com/BoxberrySchool](http://www.facebook.com/BoxberrySchool)**

Become our friend to view current pictures and learn about our events!



## Music


Left: Dawson leads the Green room in orchestrating how to play notes on the recorder.

Dawson writes, "In music class we are learning about different styles of music and exploring sounds through the experimentation of playing a variety of instruments. In the younger group, they have begun to play the recorder, with which they can learn basic music reading and playing. In the older group, we continue to learn music in a fun and spontaneous way, although we are in the process of doing individual music projects, which will focus on a musician, instrument, band, or style of music. These projects will include a small report and presentation."

### CHORUS with Kristen Short

The students are doing a great job in actively participating in the Friday Chorus classes. We have been doing an assortment of activities to explore our voices. Students are discovering the three voices they have, their deep, middle and head voices, and are developing their ability to recognize and utilize this expanded range in their vocalizing. We do vocal warm-ups, work on breathing techniques and proper posture for singing, and are beginning to work on developing their sense of proper pitch. They are also learning to recognize the conducting hand movements I am using in class to direct the group. The two younger groups also enjoy doing imaginative, impromptu, individual vocalizations that we arrange in a group (i.e., "voice-estra"). They are currently learning to sing several songs, and we look forward to performing a song or two for everyone at the December potluck. The third and older group is also learning several songs in addition to doing more focused singing activities such as working on proper pitch and delivery and singing in harmony. This group is also doing a bit of songwriting and will be presenting a small parody piece that they are working on as well. I am enjoying the students' enthusiasm for Chorus class!  
~Kristen

Boxberry's  
Ticket  
Auction  
At OHMS  
Nov. 5  
12-3pm  
Ask how you  
can help  
raise money  
for  
Boxberry!



Boxberry  
School:  
where children  
become  
enthusiastic,  
confident  
learners!

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See us at:

[www.boxberry  
school.org](http://www.boxberry<br/>school.org)

## OUR MISSION:

The mission of the  
Boxberry School is to  
identify and nurture  
academic and creative  
potential in an  
environment that  
embraces each child's  
natural enthusiasm for  
discovery.



## About Our Organization...

The Boxberry School was  
founded in 2003 by a group of  
parents, grandparents and other  
caregivers committed to creating  
an environment of educational  
excellence, responsive to  
individual strengths and  
interests while nurturing the  
creative spirit of each child.  
We rely on an active parent  
base and community support to  
help keep this vision alive.

As the only school of its kind  
in the area, the Boxberry  
School is an exceptional choice  
for families interested in  
affordable alternatives for K-6  
education in the Oxford Hills  
area. Please contact the school  
regarding tuition and financial  
aid, as well as part-time  
options.

# PHILOSOPHY

- Our supportive culture fosters effective communication skills, creative problem-solving techniques, critical thinking, self-confidence and respect for others.
- The academic curriculum is enhanced by foreign language, art, music, drama, environmental studies, outdoor education, creative movement and cultural studies.
- Our small class sizes allow for interactive learning and individualized attention.
- Our multi-age classrooms create positive learning opportunities:
  - Older students mentor younger classmates and develop a sense of responsibility.
  - Younger students are consistently introduced to higher-level concepts at an earlier age.
- An active parent base stays engaged in all aspects of their children's education and helps to keep Boxberry an affordable option for education in the area.
- Field trips, guest speakers and community service projects emphasize the importance of volunteerism and involve students in the greater Oxford Hills community.
- Our teachers use the **Maine Learning Results** as the backbone to their curriculum. Methods of the **Responsive Classroom** encourage teamwork, character-growth, active involvement and academic engagement. **Expeditionary Learning** units are challenging projects developed to enhance teaching across the subject areas of math, literacy, science and social studies.