



The Slate

Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.,
Post Office Box 431, Port Republic, MD 20676-0431 • Winter 2010-2011

Season's Greetings from Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse



Local fourth graders enjoyed an autumn lunch on the lawn during their day at the One-Room Schoolhouse.

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Celebration Luncheon Was Held June 2



(Upper right) Carol Khalili, Board Member, and Jack Fringer, President of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, welcome guests to the June 2 celebratory luncheon.

Camaraderie was much in evidence on June 2, 2010 as 45 of us gathered in Christ Church Parish Hall to celebrate the 2009-2010 school year visits by the 4th grade students of Calvert County to the One-Room Schoolhouse. It requires many people to make this smooth and seamless program come to life. Many of those in attendance were those who donated their time, energy, and talents.

Recognition was given to the teachers who lead the educational component of a day's visit and the trail guides who share historical, cultural and geographic information as they recreate a walk to school in the time before cars and buses. The teachers recognized were Fran Armstrong, Casey Duehrssen, Carol Dargan, Carole Wagner; and Sandy Roberts, who shepherds students and shares stories of farm and family life in the time before electricity.

The trail guides recognized were Rita Amtmann, Barbara Carey, Mark Edmonson, Barbara Fringer, Jane Manning, Susan Mattingly,

Ginny Murphy, Bob Platt, Fritzie Zidow, and Mary Ellen Romney who schedules them all.

Joining together with members of the Friends of the One-Room School at the celebration luncheon were representatives of Christ Church, Calvert County Public Schools, Friends of the Old Wallville School, members of the Calvert Retired School Personnel Association, Maryland state and local officials and delegates, and members of the One-Room School Committee.

Elaine Dunkle received a certificate for her forward thinking and determination that brought the restoration of the One-Room Schoolhouse to completion during the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration.

Boy Scout Brian Stroh and his parents were in attendance. Brian received special recognition for the project he undertook in working toward attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. His project provided for the replacement of the Humpback Bridge on the Seven Bridges Trail

that follows the boundaries of Christ Episcopal Church. Photos taken of the various stages of the project were incorporated into a DVD slide show for all to watch and enjoy.

Carma Latvala, invited guest speaker for the Luncheon, helped us to think of special memories from our own unique school days, then shared vignettes from her one-room school experiences in rural Idaho. Dr. Latvala is a retired administrator and educator, now a professor at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. She regaled us with stories of riding to school in the deep and blinding snows and of an April Fool's prank where the girls bested both the teacher and the boys, convincing us of a deep mischievous streak.

All those in attendance at the Celebration Luncheon affirmed that Calvert County is richer for having this authentic resource for the community and its children. We thank all who contributed to making 2009-2010 a highly successful year.



Carol Khalili, at left, recognized Trail Guides at the Celebration Luncheon: Rita Amtmann, Jane Manning, Susan Mattingly, Bob Platt, Barbara Fringer, and Ginny Murphy.



Senator Roy Dyson, County Commissioner Barbara Stinnett, and Delegate Sue Kullen presented Carol Khalili (second from left) with a Proclamation from the Maryland General Assembly honoring the work of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse.



Dr. Carma Latvala was the luncheon's speaker.

Left to right: Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Scout Brian Stroh, Volunteer Sandy Roberts, and Elaine Cochran Dunkle who has worked with this One-Room Schoolhouse project since 1975.





Calvert County Public Schools 4th Grade Service Learning Project

Service Learning Projects come in many forms and touch many lives.

Again the One-Room School has been privileged to be the recipient of their generosity.

Under the guidance of the Service Learning Coordinator, Calvert County Public School 4th graders were given the task of collecting “pennies” for Port Republic School #7. Penny jars cropped up all over the elementary schools as the campaign began. A kindergarten student asked, “Would it be okay if I put a dime in the penny jar?” “Of course,” was the teacher’s response, “a dime is worth 10 pennies.” Monies were collected, sorted, counted up, deposited, and delivered to our school.

This year, the school system collected a whopping \$2,609.78!

The funds will help us to defray the costs of repairing the railing and pickets on the schoolhouse’s hand rail. The wood had started to rot and needed to be replaced. Thank you so much for your donation!

We are so pleased to offer this field trip to Calvert County 4th graders. The students get to experience what schooling was like in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is truly a living history lesson. And through this Service Learning Project students understand and appreciate the importance of helping to preserve our local historical sites.

Annual Meeting Set for Sunday, January 23, 2011, at Adam’s Ribs



Mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse. We’ll be gathering at Adam’s Rib Restaurant on Sunday, January 23, at 1 P.M., to enjoy a light lunch and a brief Annual Meeting during which time we will elect new officers and board members. You’ll be getting a notice after the first of the year, but please mark your calendar and plan to join us.



We Always Encourage and Welcome New Members as Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.

The Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization formed to establish a partnership between the Calvert Retired School Personnel Association and others who are interested in preserving Port Republic School #7.

Membership includes a newsletter plus information on activities with updates on coming events.

Make your *tax-deductible* check payable to “Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.” and mail to Post Office Box 431, Port Republic, MD 20676-0431.

- Individual or Family \$20.00
- Benefactor \$50.00
- Sustaining \$100.00
- Additional Contribution \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

“The One-Room Schoolhouse Still Teaches”

Scout Leads Replacement of Humpback Bridge



Scout Brian Stroh and his crew replaced the Humpback Bridge this Spring.

The Trail of Seven Bridges affords visiting 4th grade students the chance to experience a walk through the woods that is reminiscent of the journey taken to get to school by those who lived in the area served by the Port Republic School #7.

Schools throughout Maryland were situated so that most children of the families they served would not have to walk more than three miles each way. Currently our trail is approximately 1.25 miles. It includes part of an old rolling road, used by farmers rolling hogsheads of tobacco to the docks at Port Republic; a section of the raised

bed built by hand and intended for the tracks of the never-completed Drum Point to Baltimore Railroad; as well as a meandering stream, wetlands, woodlands, a field where tobacco likely was grown by families in the area and the field used by the historic Christ Church Jousting Tournament each August. Lessons of history, biology, ecology, and culture are integral parts of the trail walk.

Just this Spring a bridge replacement improved the safety of the trail. This project was one of many over more than 20 years that have been carried out by Boy Scouts in fulfilment of the requirements for

the Eagle Scout rank. This project was led by Brian Stroh.

Today’s students are struck by the quiet, the stillness, and the feeling of being totally in touch with nature in a very special place. Often we hear the comment “This is awesome.”

On a recent spring visit, our trail guide heard a student remark “this is so peaceful.” The accompanying classroom teacher overheard and asked which of their vocabulary words would express the feeling. “Serene” quickly came an answer—a teachable moment captured perfectly.



Eric Skow and Bob Pfeiffer provided entertainment.



Sandy Roberts and Casey Duehrssen scooped ice cream.

Aug. 4th Ice Cream Social

The 4th of August provided a very warm evening for our annual Ice Cream Social. We had well over 100 attendees who enjoyed a variety of ice cream treats as well as some very entertaining music provided by Bob Pfeiffer and Eric Skow. This year's Ice Cream Social was truly a "Social" as everyone enjoyed visiting with those in attendance and catching up on the latest "news."

Port Republic School #7 Is on the Web

Website: www.calvertoneroomschool.org • Email: admin@calvertoneroomschool.org

While children who visit the One-Room Schoolhouse can still learn to communicate using quill pens and slate boards, we have joined the information age by launching a website which can be found at www.calvertoneroomschool.org.

Although still under development, our recently launched address has had visitors from around the globe.

Those who log-on will find a "Home Page" plus a number of other pages. The "About Us" page provides a brief history and information about the school's current program for educating Calvert County's 4th grade students about life before electricity. The



"Contact Us" page and the "Slide Show" complete the presentation. The website will allow us to post information about upcoming events as well as to receive email at admin@calvertoneroomschool.org.

As we seek to increase our exposure to potential visitors and as an historical resource, we will be adding links to other organizations with similar interests.

Please visit us on-line and send us an email with your thoughts.

The Slate Is on the Web with Photos in Full Color

Beginning with this issue, *The Slate* will appear on our website as a pdf file that you may view and/or download.

Check it out! The photos and graphics are in full color!

Student's Thank-You Note and Drawing



5-4-10

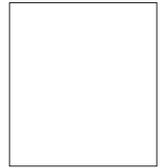
Dear Volunteers at the one room schoolhouse,

That was one of the best field trips ever! I loved going on the trail because we got to see some animals and got to find out how long kids walked from the farms to the school. We also got to find out how children worked in school back then and found out what activities they did.

Next we found out where children ate and got to see what games they played. I also saw what they wrote on and I also saw what they used to write on!

Sincerely,
Ryan Buckmaster

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Website: www.calvertoneroomschool.org
Email: admin@calvertoneroomschool.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Newsletter layout and design
by Frances Dunkle Poling*

President's Corner

Jack Fringer, President

After serving on the Board of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse for a number of years, I thought that I was familiar with the scope of activities and responsibilities of the Board of Directors. However, when I became President last January, I realized that Bob Pfeiffer never told us the “whole story” of his “presidential activities.” So I have learned that filling Bob’s shoes is a formidable task. I want to sincerely thank Bob for his devotion to the Port Republic School #7 through his service as the Board President for more years than anyone can remember.

We have had a very busy year as you will note from the articles in this edition of *The Slate*. From replacing a bridge on the trail, to sponsoring successful social functions, to maintaining the schoolhouse in mint condition, the members of the Friends have volunteered without hesitation. We also now have a functioning website so everyone can keep abreast of our activities.

In closing, let me remind you of our annual meeting to be held on



Jack Fringer, left, replaces Bob Pfeiffer as Pres. of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse.

Sunday, January 23, 2011. (page 4.)
Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday
Season and all the best in 2011!

Jack Fringer