

# PRESS KIT

## Valley Grange Dictionary Days 2025

- WHAT:** Valley Grange is proud to support The Dictionary Project through its Words for Thirds program. The Dictionary Project has placed over thirty-seven million dictionaries in the hands of school children around the world. This is Valley Grange's twentieth year, and we have presented over 4,000 dictionaries to third graders in the area.
- Who:** Valley Grange Teams will travel to five schools to present third grade students with free dictionaries.
- Where:** SeDoMoCha Elementary in Dover Foxcroft, Ridgeview Elementary in Dexter, Brownville Elementary, Harmony Elementary, and Piscataquis Community Elementary in Guilford.
- When:** First two weeks in November, schedule listed below.
- Contact:** Walter Boomsma, Program Director of Valley Grange at 207 343-1842
- Resources:** <http://valleygrange.wordpress.com>  
<http://www.dictionaryproject.org/>

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### SeDoMoCha Elementary School Information

- Monday, November 3, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.
- Principal is Cameron Archer
- Approximately 90 students in four classes are involved this year.

### Ridgeview Elementary School Information

- Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- Principal is Jessica Dyer
- Approximately 60 students in four classes are involved this year

### Brownville Elementary School Information

- Monday, November 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
- Principal is Josh Bessey

- Approximately 35 third students in two classes are involved this year.

### Harmony Elementary School Information

- Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- Lead Teacher is Teresa Prat
- Approximately 8 students in a combined class are involved this year.

### Piscataquis Elementary School Information

- Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- Principal is Anita Wright
- Approximately 36 students in two classes are involved this year.

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### Valley Grange Information

- Program Coordinator is Walter Boomsma
- Community Service Director is Mary Annis

### ATTACHED:

- Program Outline
- Copy of Letter to Parents

**REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO: Please note there are several children present who are not allowed to be photographed. Teachers and school personnel will help you with identification. Thank you for your cooperation!**

# Summary of Valley Grange Dictionary Presentation

At Valley Grange, we've been doing dictionary presentations for over two decades, and I've had the distinct honor to be the presenter. As a result, we've developed an approach and program that works well. It has lots of flexibility and is designed to cover basic dictionary skills, some things about farming and the Grange, while creating excitement about what can be done with a dictionary. The presentation lasts about 45 minutes.



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## Presentation Objectives

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- To introduce students to a basic understanding of the Grange from a historical perspective and how the Grange's values drive the Dictionary Program.
- To create enthusiasm for learning and using their dictionaries together with some basic dictionary skills and encouraging students to "look it up!"
- To explain and emphasize the Grange value of stewardship, specifically in caring for their new dictionaries.

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## Presentation Flow

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### Introductions/Expectations

### Explanation of the Grange

### Introduce the Staffs

- Spud is used to pluck weeds out of the garden... we use it to remind us to get rid of things that are not helpful
- Pruning hook is used to cut dead branches off of trees... we use it to remind us to cut out any inappropriate things like bullying or being mean
- Shepherd's Crook is used to lead sheep, like a leash... we use it to remind us that we all can be leaders at different times, helping each other and keeping each other safe.
- Owl keeps an eye on things and scares away pests. We use it to remind us to be observant and watchful.

### R.F.D.

This section changes depending on the number of students and classes. RFD Mailbox (another farmer's tool) has some mail in it. In brief, a representative of each class collects a class letter that includes a word they probably don't know. We distribute dictionaries, students look up class words (things to get loud and there's lots of excitement. I give the kids/classes some time to find the word... Grangers and guests will help and encourage kids to help each other. We call them back together (after one student from each class reads the definition)

**Dictionary Contents** We explore what's in our new dictionaries.

**Wrap up** - Farmers and Grangers must be good stewards

**What did you learn?**

**Dismissal**



*American Values.  
Hometown Roots.*

## Valley Grange #144 Patrons of Husbandry

located on Guilford Center Road at Butter Street ☺ Guilford Maine

Walter Boomsma  
Program Director  
walter@boomsmaonline.com

November 2025

To: Parents of Third Grade Students:

The GRANGE is a fraternal order known as Patrons of Husbandry, hence the “P of H” in the organization’s logo. It was formed in the years following the American Civil War to unite citizens in improving the economic and social position of the nation's farm population. The Grange has evolved to include non-farm rural families and provide services designed to ensure a strong and viable Rural America.

**Your child received his or her Dictionary today as part of The DICTIONARY PROJECT** and our Words for Thirds initiative. This project is designed to aid third-grade teachers with their goal to see all their students leave at the end of the year as good writers, active readers, and creative thinkers. The dictionary is for your child to keep with our compliments so he or she can take it into the fourth grade and use it throughout his or her entire school career.

There’s a place for you and your family in Valley Grange. One thing that makes us special is that **we are a family-oriented organization**. Our activities encourage families to participate together instead of “going in all different directions,” as is so often the case these days. We typically meet on the third Friday of every month with a potluck supper at 6 PM and a meeting at 7 PM.

**Our December 5, 2025, meeting will be “different” with a Fellowship Breakfast at 6 PM** (you read that right, breakfast replaces our potluck supper) and a brief Christmas Program at 7 PM. Come in your jammies if you’d like! Our meetings are always family-friendly, and kids are welcome. If you can, please bring a breakfast dish to share... and it will help us with planning if you can let us know you are coming! You can call us or check out our website and Facebook Page.

More information about these events and our Grange is available on our website.

We are always looking for like-minded folks to join hands with us! Membership is very affordable. We also welcome “almost members” who help us with specific projects. Please call for more information or simply come to a meeting! For additional information:

Walter & Janice Boomsma at 876-4131 or Jim & Mary Annis at 564-0820

**You can also visit the Valley Grange web site at <http://valleygrange.com>**. There you’ll find information about our current projects and meetings as well as some resources for you and your family! We also maintain a Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyGrange/>.