

ALSO INCLUDES
Community News!
 STARTING ON PAGE 14

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS!

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2014

celebrating Our Achievements!

Mindful City Project

By Jaycie Puttlitz, Wellness Coordinator, Winooski School District and Lindsay Foreman, Mindful City Project Consultant, Center for Mindful Learning

For many students, it can be a challenge to stay focused, or stay relaxed, during the school day. So, it is even more difficult for students to be both focused and relaxed, especially when something is worrying them, or they are trying to solve a problem. To help students cope with stress and stay attentive, many JFK Elementary teachers began to introduce the practice of mindfulness, or “the skill of focused, relaxed attention,” into their daily agenda last year.

By using an online mindfulness



education program called Modern Mindfulness (www.modmind.org), teachers can access interactive tools and lessons that help students learn this skill. After using the program regularly last year, teachers recognized a reduction in disruptive classroom behaviors and an increase in student participation. Teachers also found that the students looked forward to the lessons each day. The program promotes the ability to focus and relax with the ultimate goal of achieving success in school and life. Today, the program is used in almost all JFK classrooms, as well as several classrooms in WMHS.

And now, the City of Winooski has the opportunity to learn these same mindfulness skills.

In October, the Vermont Community Foundation awarded an Innovations and Collaborations Grant to the Center for Mindful Learning (CML) to teach and integrate mindfulness into the core city institutions of Winooski. CML is the organization that created the Modern Mindfulness program used in our school district today. With this grant, residents and other community members of Winooski—including the Police Department and businesses based in Winooski—will be able to participate in mindfulness training.

During the kick-off in October, consultants from CML met with representatives from the groups involved in the project, called the “Mindful City Project,” including parents and staff from the Winooski School District, Centerpoint Adolescent Treatment Services, and the Winooski Police



Courtesy of Center for Mindful Learning

Department, to discuss the plan moving forward to April.

The goals of the Mindful City Project are to increase student engagement and learning, make mindfulness a transformational force in Winooski, and create a model that can be replicated in other communities. The group is hoping to expand on the positive changes that have already occurred with the

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CAWEEA CHUEEA CHOOO CHOO

21st Annual Benefit for Winooski Dollars for Scholars

TRAIN SHOW

Saturday December 6 2014

10am - 3pm

Winooski Educational Center Winooski, VT

Exit 16 off I-89 South on Main Street

All Gauges Railroadiana Dealer Tables LEGO • TOYS Operating Layouts

ADMISSION Adults: \$5.00 Under 12: \$1.00 Under 6: FREE!

Food Concession to benefit WHS student activities

Lots of Free Parking • Handicapped Accessible • Wide Aisles

Exciting Prekindergarten News!

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools

Last April I reported the following Winooski statistics:

- Average of 110 births per year
- 220 three and four year olds in our city
- Only 58 or ~26% are enrolled in Prekindergarten
- 28 three and four year olds in our city are on a waitlist for preschool



I am very excited and proud to report that 90 or 41% of Winooski children are currently accessing prekindergarten programs. This is primarily due to 17 children attending our new preschool on the school campus and an increase in the number of children served at the Winooski Family Center. 41 of the 90 Winooski children are being served on our school campus. We will be expanding our new preschool program to add an afternoon session next school year, which will add another 18 children. Thanks to WSD Director of Special Services & Early Learning, Robin Hood, and her team for leading the charge in growing our prekindergarten opportunities!

In May 2014, Gov. Shumlin signed Act 166, the Universal Prekindergarten bill, which entitles all 3, 4, and 5-year-old children not attending kindergarten to publicly funded prekindergarten education in a prequalified program. Each prekindergarten child whose parent or guardian enrolls the child at the child's district of residence is entitled to no less than ten hours per week for 35 weeks annually of publicly funded prekindergarten education at an available prequalified prekindergarten education program operated by a public school or private program (<http://education.vermont.gov/act-166-draft-rules>)

One of the important local changes to note is that currently WSD allows students to enter kindergarten if they turn 5 by December 31st. The majority of Vermont school districts use September 1 as the cutoff date. Looking into the history, WSD chose the later date so we could get students into the school system early. Since we have already expanded Prekindergarten opportunities and Act 166 will allow for Universal PreK next school year we will no longer need to delay the cutoff date in order to serve more children. **Therefore, beginning this spring when kindergarten screening is conducted we will use the generally accepted September 1st cutoff date for kindergarten entry. So, students must be 5 years old by September 1st to be eligible to attend Kindergarten.** Younger 5 year-olds will be directed to prekindergarten opportunities.

So, why all the action related to prekindergarten?

- 90% of a child's brain is developed by age five. The brain connections made during this time lay the foundation for a lifetime. (<http://www.urbanchildinstitute.org/why-0-3/baby-and-brain>)

- According to Vermont's Kindergarten Readiness Survey, 40-50% of Vermont's children arrive at kindergarten unprepared.
- Children who are given quality early experiences have better relationships with their classmates and friends, and develop better language, math,

and social skills. They score higher on school-readiness tests, are 40% less likely to need special education and 70% less likely to commit a violent crime. (*National School Readiness Indicators Initiative, 2005*)

Our very own Kindergarten teacher and Winooski resident Jessica Perrotte writes "I am asked often by parents, 'What can I do to prepare my child for kindergarten?' A child's cognitive, social and emotional skills are all interconnected. Children need specific early experiences from day one to be prepared for school and for life. Foster a love of reading and learning in your home. Create a routine of reading a bedtime story at night, and work on learning letters and numbers. But don't just focus on the academics. Play with your child often, and make play-dates so your child has times to build those social-emotional skills with his or her peers. And whenever possible, try to grow their independence by giving them space to be on their own during play-dates or nights with a babysitter. If we keep the focus on creating a safe and stimulating environment in the early years, we can help all of our babies and toddlers develop into successful, independent kindergarteners who are well-prepared for life." (<http://www.letsgrowkids.org/blog/what-kindergarten-readiness>)

Lastly, I would highly recommend perusing <http://www.letsgrowkids.org/> for more information and encourage you to become a supporter, ambassador, partner and/or sign the pledge to support quality early learning experiences for Vermont children. Thank you for working with WSD to benefit our students!

You can reach me at (802) 383-6000 or via email at smcmannon@wdschools.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: CORRECTION

In our last newsletter's story about Walk-to-School Day, we provided incomplete information regarding the demographics of Winooski's student population. We apologize for the error. Here is the data we should have included:

"Winooski is unique among Vermont towns as almost all of its students live within a mile and a half of the schools, and, over 75% live within one mile. Despite such a large percentage of students living within walking distance to school, only 28% of the elementary students walk or bike to school. Almost 60% are driven to and from school in a family vehicle."

Exceptional School Board Leadership 2014

By Tori Cleiland, Board of School Trustees

The Vermont School Board Association (VSBA) presented our school board with an Exceptional School Board Leadership Award on October 31, 2014. WHAT?!?!?!? There are nearly 300 school boards in our state, and WE, WINOOSKI, were chosen as MOST EXCEPTIONAL in school board leadership. Wow.

Here's the criteria for the award:

- *Contributes to the well-being of students*
- *Contributes to the effective and efficient operation of the education system it oversees*
- *Enhances the cause of public education in Vermont*
- *Consistently demonstrates an understanding of the role and responsibilities of a school board relative to administrators, teachers, and citizens*
- *Consistently demonstrates effective and ethical operations as a board*

Here's what made us stand out:

- **Collaborative work with parents and community members in the development of our Graduation Expectations (GX's) and Ends Statement.** These two pieces of work guide us in keeping our students at the center of what we do. Primarily because YOU, the Winooski community, spoke up and shared what was important to you for our collected students when they walk out of our school district as young adults. The board continually seeks deeper meaning from our GX's and Ends by asking questions to other stakeholders. For example, our Ends Statement mentions our students being "college and career ready." At the recent Nov. 12 board meeting, we invited and asked business owners and managers to come share with us what "career ready" meant to them from their perspective. Watch it on RETN, they mention many of our GX's. At the prior May 14 board meeting, representatives from Champlain College, UVM, and CCV discussed college expectations as applicable to Winooski graduates.
- **Adopting Policy Governance (PG), and creating a strong partnership with the superintendent in supporting transformative educational practices.** PG clarifies our role and responsibilities as governing representatives. This means we don't get in the way of the school experts doing their job; the leadership team leading our schools. We set policy that is in the best interest of our students and community and we monitor progress toward efficient and effective operations. We govern from 10,000 feet up; monitoring and supporting the leadership team and teachers to do their job in the best interest of our children and community.
- **Supported the change to a Proficiency-Based educational system.** Do you realize that the proficiency-based work our teachers and administrators are engaged in stands out in our state?? What our teachers and administrators have accomplished three years in experimenting with and implementing a new way to "do" education is profound. This work is NOT easy and NOT linear. We're in midst of radically changing a 200+ year



system, AND we're leading the way. This is connected to the school board knowing our role — we are NOT teachers or administrators (we get out of the way and monitor against our policies and ENDS statement). This is also connected to enhancing the cause of public education. All schools will have to adopt proficiencies as the new way (did I mention we're ahead on this?).

• **Having a collaborative partnership with the City**

Steve Dale, Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association commented, "The Winooski School Board is a great example of a board which has turned itself around in a fairly short time period, has attracted and retained strong executive leadership, and has provided leadership and support for a rapidly improving school district."

Why does it matter that Winooski's School Board is EXCEPTIONAL? Check out the conclusion of this research paper:

The Impact Of School Board Governance On Academic Achievement in Diverse States by Michael Ford, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2013

"The overall conclusion is that traditional school boards can and do influence academic outcomes, meaning, improving school board governance is a legitimate approach to improving academic achievement". pg. iii

There are plenty of amazing things that live within this award. It's super important to sustain a cohesive and efficient organization that's in the business of growing and expanding the lives of human beings, one precious life at a time. This award honors ALL OF US. Each one of us that lives in our fair city are the reason we won this award. Without COMMUNITY, there is no school.

Remember the community involvement in the process of hiring Sean MacMannon as our superintendent? Remember joining a Learning Conversation? Remember coming to a community dinner? Remember voting for the school budget? Remember paying your taxes? Remember speaking your voice on FPF? Remember being proud of our school? Remember questioning it? Remember participating in school event or parent group? Remember buying something from student for a fundraiser? Remember coming to sporting event? Remember getting a child to school on time or late? Remember volunteering for a child or a neighbors? *It all matters. To have a great school means to have engaged community involvement.*

The Winooski community is the recipient of this award.

That matters. And it matters that you can't spell Winooski without WIN! And WIN we did!

Go WINOOSKI!

THANK YOU for being a part of this incredible honor for our little district that could!

(WELLNESS continued from cover)

mindfulness practice in the school district. However, community outreach and support is essential to the success of the project. Over the next several months, mindfulness education and classes will be offered across the city and are open to all community members in Winooski.

Additionally, as a part of the grant for the Mindful City Project, residents and employees of Winooski will be encouraged to take the “10-minute challenge”—to practice ten minutes of mindfulness each day. CML will support participants and provide guided mindfulness audios through its website at www.mindfulcities.org. The goal is to support each other in making mindfulness an accessible, powerful, daily activity in Winooski. The challenge will start on January 1, 2015. More information about the challenge will be available on the [mindfulcities.org](http://www.mindfulcities.org) website as the date draws near.

It is possible that the Mindful City Project is the first ever, city-wide, mindfulness initiative ever conducted. It is such an exciting, groundbreaking idea that it has caught the attention of filmmaker Paul MacGowan. He has been documenting the progress of the project the last two months, including conducting interviews with teachers and students. He will present the final documentary after the project concludes next spring.

All members of the Winooski community, from residents to employees working here, are encouraged to participate in the Mindful City Project. You can follow the progress at www.mindfulcities.org. There, you will find a link to sign up for updates as well as contact information. You will also find updates on the Winooski School District web page at www.wsdschools.org.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Would you like to sponsor a Winooski High School graduate and help make their dreams come true?

DONATE NOW to Winooski Dollars for Scholars at www.winooski.dollarsforscholars.org/.

Pockets of Innovation at Winooski Middle High School

by The Partnership for Change



PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

OUR SCHOOLS • OUR COMMUNITIES • OUR FUTURE

In our third year supporting Winooski Middle/High School to remodel the education system, the Partnership for Change is helping Winooski and Burlington teachers pilot innovative, student-centered learning practices. Much of the research, discussion, and assets-based inventory work of the first two years has informed these pockets of innovation. To learn more about the Partnership for Change, please visit www.partnershipvt.org. Here are a few examples so far this year at WMHS:

STEM Family Fun Night

The first STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) Family Fun Night at Winooski Middle and High School saw over 300 people show up to explore what it's like to learn science by doing science. Starting with a free dinner and culminating with a much anticipated Egg Drop competition, Family Fun Night was a local version of a mini-hands-on-science museum for our community.

Newcomer Program

This year, two ELL teachers are facilitating a group of 17 Newcomers from Nepal, Iraq, Somalia, Ethiopia, and the Congo. Most of these students have no or limited formal education prior to coming to the Winooski School District. The goal this year is to create a proficiency-based classroom and provide authentic learning opportunities for these students. The units are focused on learning about the community through the four basic areas of language development (reading, writing, listening, and speaking).

Currently, students are creating a website to document and capture their learning experiences. We are also collaborating with our Technology Integration Specialist to help familiarize the students with technology. Students are involved and excited to explore the new technology and becoming part of the school community by learning about various aspects of American school and community.

Ready, Set, Hike!

The entire Middle School Student Body experienced a great team building activity this fall — hiking Mt. Mansfield. On October 2nd, the Winooski Middle School student body took to Vermont's green mountains in search of exercise, nature and team camaraderie. All students were expected to challenge themselves and seek physical and mental challenges.

In addition to sharing the pleasures of hiking with Winooski school children, teachers felt compelled to connect this experience to our curriculum and the ongoing work taking place in our school building everyday. The middle school schedule now includes a half-an-hour time slot dedicated to physical activity, appropriately entitled, “SIM” (Spartans In Motion). By increasing the daily amount of exercise and physical stimulation in each student's day, teachers hope to thereby increase working memory and overall academic performance. This regular exercise is aimed to promote active children and an overall fit community.

iLab Updates

As the iLab enters the second year of offering students personalized and proficiency-based learning, they are building on the strengths from last year and making adjustments to increase the value of independently-driven learning.

This year, the iLab requires 2-3 hours per quarter of work with or supervised by a Community Connection, as last year they found that the students who got the most out of their learning were those who had access to a mentor with expertise in the student's topic. Now that the iLab has their learning process developed, iLab advisors are spending more time helping students find and access community resources and opportunities. If you have knowledge or experience to offer students, please contact us at (802) 383-6111.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You Knights of Columbus

By Robin Hood, Director of Support Services & Early Learning

Many thanks to Jim Snyder and the Knights of Columbus for their generous donation of \$1,500.00 to Support Services at the Winooski School District. In the past, this donation was used to send students with disabilities to summer camp programs. This year, we will use the funds to support many more students in the Unified Sports Program, which is new in Winooski this year. This program allows children with disabilities to participate in sports with students without disabilities. The funds will be used to provide students with supplies and equipment to enable them to compete state-wide. Thank you Jim and the rest of the Knights!

School Pantry & Wellness Resources

By Jaycie Puttlitz, Wellness Coordinator

Mark your calendars: upcoming dates for School Pantry are as follows: December 5th, and December 19th. Also, keep in mind that Wellness has its own web page on the WSD web site: www.wsdschools.org/blog/wellness. Here, you will find up-to-date information and resources about Wellness activities in our school community.

Still On Track!!!

By John Malcovsky

The 21st Annual **Winooski Scholarship Train Show** is on track to arrive on **December 6**, 2014 at the Winooski Educational Center from 10am to 3pm. Come and see how much fun toy trains are. The show will feature operating layouts in a variety of gauges, Lego® trains and a Lego® display, railroad books and videos, railroadiana, toy train dealers, local railroad groups staffing displays and a food concession. This annual event raises money for the Winooski Dollars for Scholars program and student activities. Adult admission is \$5, Ages 6-12 pay \$1.00 while children under 6 are FREE when accompanied by an adult. Students will run the concession and a 50/50 raffle. This event is fun for young and old alike. There really is something for everyone at this show. Join us, contribute to scholarship, and have a great time.

Nobody Beats Us!

By Laban Hill, Dollars for Scholars

No other school can claim to be as successful as Winooski is in helping their high school graduates take the next step in life. Last June, Winooski High School and Winooski Dollars for Scholars awarded scholarships for college and vocational training to more than 50% of the graduating class. In order to achieve this remarkable goal, we partnered with many members of the community to help student prepare themselves for the future. These partners included the Winooski City Council, the Winooski School Board, Al's French Frys, Mule Bar, Sneakers, and many other generous contributors.

We ask you to join us to help our young citizens get the best start by partnering with Winooski Dollars for Scholars through a financial contribution. Go to <http://winooski.dollarsforscholars.org/> and click on the "Donate" button or contact WDFS directly to volunteer. Contact: Laban Hill, labanhill@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Learning Walk Calendar 2014-2015

By Kirsten Kollgaard

This year, Winooski principals Mary O'Rourke and Leon Wheeler, would like to invite families into the school district to get to know our programs better.

These Learning Walks will be offered on a variety of topics and will take place on the first Tuesday of every month (*unless otherwise noted) from 8am to 10am. Please meet us in the library for coffee at 8am. RSVP to kkollgaard@wsdschools.org

- **December 2nd:** Introduction to our schools and tour of the building
- **January 6th:** Introduction to our schools and tour of the building
- **February 3rd:** Graduation expectations and transitioning out of high school
- **March 10th*:** Introduction to our schools and tour of the building
- **April 7th:** Transitioning from elementary to middle school
- **May 5th:** Transitioning from middle school to high school



Above: Ana Cote, Alisha Allen, and Max Gordon work together to design the tallest tower with only clay and toothpicks on Maker Monday.

VISIT THE LEARNING MEDIA COMMONS WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION & RESOURCES



Quarter One

BY THE NUMBERS

The Learning Media Commons is in the first phase of redesign. Our goal is to create an environment that stimulates curiosity, fosters collaboration and inspires creativity.

IT'S WORKING!

We invite our community members to join our students and staff in Learning Media Commons.



Q1 WINOOSKI READER STATS



- An **170% INCREASE** in materials circulation from Q1 2013
- **17 Classes** visit for Book Talks
- **5,491 books** checked out

READER'S ADVISORY @YOURLIBRARY



Follow the WSD LMC YouTube Channel for book trailers!

K-5 News

By Mary O'Rourke,
JFK Elementary Principal

We want all of our students to be college and career ready and the Winooski School District is no different in that expectation! The district has identified the skills that are needed for our students to be college and career ready; we call them Graduate Expectations. Work on these graduate expectations begins the minute our students enter kindergarten. One of the ways we highlight the graduate expectations is our Winter Performance. This year we selected persistence and developed a show around that graduate expectation. Our performance this year is entitled "On Top of the World."

Each grade level sings a song to a packed house. Each grade level has selected a song that exemplifies persisting and persevering through challenges. The students are working hard to make this an exciting evening for all who attend. Our performance will be held on **Thursday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.** in the gymnasium. We hope many of you in the community can join us!

We were very fortunate to have the Vermont Symphony Orchestra visit JFK on November 13th. The students heard performances by the string trio called Symphony Reel. It is always great when the students can be exposed to cultural experiences.

JFK Winter Performance: Mark your calendars!

WHEN: Thursday, December 18

THEME: "On Top of the World"

TIME: 6:30 pm

LOCATION: Winooski Gym

Students from grades K-5 will be performing songs they have worked hard on since September. We hope to see you there!

What's Going On In the Guidance Program?

By Sarah Murphy, Guidance Counselor

The start of the school year has been filled with learning about two unthinkable thoughts, Worry Wall and Grump Grumpaniny. These unthinkable thoughts, essentially thoughts that cause us to do unexpected things, make people worry too much, or be too grumpy.

While it is normal to feel worried and grumpy from time to time, it can be overwhelming to feel these emotions in extremes. To help students use their superflexible thinking and defeat these thoughts, students have been reading books and discussing the strategies the character used. Some of the strategies the students have learned and are practicing are deep breathing, palm press, talking to someone, or taking a break. These seem to be helping students be superflexible!

Up next will be Mean Jean, an unthinkable thought that causes people to act mean or bossy towards others. Students will be reading various stories where the character gives power to their Mean Jean thoughts. Students will then develop strategies the character should have used to defeat Mean Jean and act in a nicer, expected way.

Winooski's Mayor Visits Third Grade

The third graders at JFK were lucky to have Mayor Mike O'Brien speak to them on the topic of "acceptance," which is their focus this year for their "Project-Based Learning" experience.



He talked to them about what he does as the mayor and how he views acceptance. He told them ways in which they could help their community become more accepting.

The third graders learned a lot and appreciated having the Mayor visit them.

Mayor Mike O'Brien spoke to JFK third graders about "Acceptance" for their Project-Based Learning Experience.





Cool Chemistry!

By Mag Thomas

On Wednesday afternoons after school, you can find a group of JFK chemists doing science experiments with Ms. Burrows and Ms. Lovejoy!

Each week the group does a new hands-on experiment using common household materials, such as vinegar, baking soda, milk, and dish soap.

They are planning on making a raisin dance and watch milk turn different colors. The students are having fun and learning about science at the same time.



A "Community Reads" SPOOKtacular!



On October 24th, Sergeant Nicole Burns from the Vermont Air National Guard joined approximately 75 students and their families for an afternoon of "Spooktacular" fun and reading! Thank you Sergeant Burns for spending time with us, parents and student council members who helped run Halloween "stations" and the PACTS committee for sponsoring the event.



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Winooski: A World Class Learning Community

By Leon Wheeler, Middle/High School Principal

Happy December!

During the first three weeks of the coming month the length of daylight grows continually shorter and the hours of darkness increase. The year's shortest day, the Winter Solstice, takes place on December 21st. This is also the official beginning of Winter. Many cultures and religions have celebrations during this season, affirming that light shines on, the darkness cannot long remain. As we enter the winter months the time seems right to celebrate the beams of light shining in and around the Winooski School District.

In the New Testament book of John, two friends, Philip and Nathanael were talking:

Philip: "You've got to come see this man I met... His name is Jesus, son of Joseph, and he comes from Nazareth."

Nathanael: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip: "Come and see for yourself."

- November 12th was the first high school "**Student of the Quarter Luncheon**" of this school year. Following a tasty meal at Waf's Westside Deli, we joined in a simple and affirming ceremony with each teacher sharing what their recommended student has been doing that is exemplary of what it means to be an engaged learner. When we were preparing to leave, a visitor, clearly moved by the celebration, shared with me that for years she's heard bad things about Winooski. "I'm speechless," she said with tears in her eyes. "What's happening in Winooski is amazing!" Thank you to the Winooski PTO for supporting this event.
- Early in November, as you will read on page 3 of this newsletter, the Winooski School Board was honored as the first "**School Board of the Year**" by the Vermont School Board Association!
- On November 14th, at the annual

Vermont Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance conference, our own Physical Education teacher **Sue Messier** was honored as their Vermont Teacher of the Year!

- 300 parents, students and staff filled the cafeteria the evening of October 22 for the first annual **STEM Family Fun Night!**
- 40 students publicly shared their iLab learning progress with parents and a variety of guests at the **Share It Night**, November 11.
- An **Artist Reception** for Winooski student Hom Pradhan on November 12 at the Essex High School library, where Hom attends the technical center!

Something amazing is happening throughout all levels of the Winooski School system! Come and see!

Happy Winter!



Aladdin — Wow!

By Lisa Goetz

Congratulations to the middle/high school cast of "Aladdin" for doing an amazing job! You are all so talented, and it was wonderful to see such great energy on stage. Thank you to everyone who participated.

And thanks as well to our generous sponsors for making the show possible: NorthCountry Federal Credit Union, Curtis Lumber, and the Winooski PTO.

We appreciated all the families, friends, and community members who were able to come out to see our Friday evening show.

Guidance News

By Emmy Charron, High School
Guidance Counselor

Here are a few items for your December calendars. Parents and students can stay up to date by following the new guidance Twitter feed: @WHSGuidanceNews.

- **December 6th:** SAT Test Date
- **December 10th:** TOEFL Test date @ St. Michaels College
- **December 13th:** ACT Test Date
- **December 29th:** Last day to register for January 24th SAT's

Questions about financial aid? Contact VSAC Coordinator Heidi McLaughlin at mclaughlin@vsac.org.

You'll find lots of information about planning for college, grades and transcripts on the district website at www.wdschools.org. Follow the links under the "Winooski HS" header tab, and you can get more information about graduation requirements, college resources, and much more. You can reach me at 655-3530 or at echarron@wdschools.org to set up an appointment.

Have a great vacation and a happy New Year!



November's Artist of the Month:

Suman Kadariya

... this month, it went to Suman Kadariya. Among his many talents, Suman is a great student and has shown amazing progress in Art class. He is always very helpful and kind to his fellow classmates, often helping others get caught up on work. Congrats to Suman!

iLab Update

By Matthew Webb

Happy first birthday to the Winooski iLab! As we enter our second year offering students personalized and proficiency-based learning opportunities, we are building on our strengths from last year and making adjustments to increase the value of independently-driven learning.

The successes we are carrying over include our iLab process for learning — Think It, Learn It, Make It, Share It — as well as individualized project goals, a non-graded format (until projects are complete at an A or B level), flexible timelines, an engaging, comfortable physical environment, and periodic Share It Nights, such as the one we held on November 11th, when the whole community can come talk to students about what they're learning.

We are also making modifications in response to what we learned last year. For instance, we found that it was too easy for students to lose sight of required assignments for the class. To help them keep track of their progress, and not procrastinate until quarter 4, students now have quarterly checklists of assignments that include research, writing, and oral presentation. This schedule is part of the iLab's implementation of a complex assessment for the Graduate Expectation "Effective Oral and Written Communication."

Also, we experimented over the last year with on-line systems that would help students monitor their own progress. Now, with the middle/high school's adoption of the Canvas learning



management system, we have a user-friendly way to keep track of work.

This year, we are also requiring 2-3 hours per quarter of experience with or supervised by a Community Connection, as we found last year that the students who got the most out of their learning were those who had access to a mentor with expertise in the student's topic. Now that we have our learning process developed, iLab advisors are spending more time helping students find and access community resources and opportunities.

Adding an element of flexibility, students are now able to pursue an iLab project for a semester as well as for the whole school year. At the semester mark in January, students will have the opportunity to reflect on their progress so far and then commit to deepening an existing project, adjusting the research topic, or taking a different semester class outside of the iLab.

Here is a sample of some of the projects students are taking on this year:

- **Science:** Coding in JAVA, Turtles, Careers in Cancer Research, Catapults, Building a Computer, Maple Trees, Forensics
- **Art:** Glass Blowing, Tee-shirt Design, Shoe Design, Personal Expression through the Arts, Drawing, Graphic Design, Photography, Book Binding and Type Setting
- **Performance:** Singing, Rap Music, Acting, Drumming, Slam Poetry, Music Recording
- **Languages:** American Sign Language, Polish, Swedish, Spanish
- **Writing:** Urban Exploration and Journalism, Graphic Novels
- **Culture:** The Holocaust, The Mafia, Paganism, Korean Influences in Nepali Culture
- **Skills:** Marksmanship, Parkour, Boxing and Martial Arts, Fire Fighting

If you have knowledge or experience to offer students in these or other areas, please contact us by e-mail or at (802) 383-6111. We hope to see you at our next Share It event!

The Winooski jiLab: Classrooms of the Future

By Chris Magistrale

This academic year the Winooski School District, in collaboration with the Partnership for Change is dedicated to creating an atmosphere of student-centered learning, innovation and technological integration within the school day. Team Journey (encompassing approximately half of the middle school student body) is underway with a unique focus to change the way learning happens. Afternoons are no longer dedicated to the same traditional style classroom structures: lecture format and teacher-designed curriculum have been replaced with student inquiry and personalized content. Students are deciding where their interests lie and seeking answers to complex problems that connect to their own personal passions.

Using similar, reputable techniques from the Winooski iLab, Team Journey is dedicating seventy minutes a day to this progressive learning style, conveniently named jiLab. The first project of this year asked students to design their own classroom of the future. Harking on ideas from Project Based Learning, or PBL, which emphasizes a hands-on approach to learning, students were encouraged to design their optimal learning environment. All students were asked to plan a “visionary blueprint” before commencing on their actual future classroom model. The majority of students choose to build models using supplies from around the school, with an additional influx of supplies from Creative Habitat. However, some students choose to modify the assignment: writing narratives from the perspective of classroom objects or even describing in great detail how their classroom would be set up. Others went the technological route, generating versions using advanced software like Minecraft. Following the completion of this project, Team Journey held a gallery walk; allowing all students to view and comment on each others work. Many were impressed and even borrowed ideas to improve their own work.

Team Journey is excited and optimistic about the opportunity to remodel the current educational system. We understand that while the jiLab is only a pilot program, it’s a step in the direction of personalization and individualized education. Provided the time, space and encouragement from the Partner-Teacher Program (P4C), Team Journey hopes to facilitate the spreading of iLab ideas and values to mainstream classrooms. This is an exciting time to be part of such a progressive movement. Students, teachers and community members will reap the benefits of a more engaged student body. Skills developed in Project Based Learning environments allow students to think critically, solve problems, work in team and make presentations. These skills will help students succeed in the future, both in school and in today’s work world.



Students are deciding where their interests lie and seeking answers to complex problems that connect to their own personal passions.



Music Matters

By Cathy Mander-Adams

The **District III Chorus and Band Music Festival** took place November 7 and 8. The Festival Chorus was 160 members strong and Winooski had four students participating. Oo Mai Be attended for the second year and Susmita Mangar, Zu Ti Nar, and Thong Nguyen experienced their first festival. They had a great experience. The Chorus sounded wonderful. It was so exciting for these four students.

There were four Middle School students that participated in a brand new **Middle School Jazz Festival** on Friday, November 14, at Brown's River Middle School in Jericho. Sa Me Lar, Kusa Daud, Madison Wright and Katie Berger sang in the Jazz Chorus. Jazz singing is something we haven't tried at our school, so we're all pretty excited and a bit nervous.

Believe it or not, our first concert is coming right up. On **December 11 at 7:00 pm** the music department will offer up all manner of music for our community. There might even be a chance for some audience singing if you're up to it.

I have been approached by some folks in the community asking if I might bring students to sing at events. The answer is "Yes!" I have students who would love to sing in venues in the community. Please feel free to contact me if you would like a group of students to come to your event. We have quite a variety of songs we would love to share. The students love to sing. My email address is: cmaderadams@winooski.k12.vt.us or you can call me at 383-6034.



Winooski High School Students Attend Athletic Leadership Conference

By Dennis Barcomb-Athletic Director.

Winooski High School proudly sent four students to the annual Student Athletic Leadership Conference on November 10th and 11th. **Eddy Lamson, Holly Turner, Abdirizak Hussein, and Mariah Metiver** represented the school.

Guest speakers taught the students how to become better leaders, and positive role models. The students also made many new friends from rival schools and learned a great deal about always giving your best effort!

All four students each play multiple sports at Winooski High School. Congratulations to these four students!



Afterschool Sewing Returns to Winooski Middle and High School Afterschool Program

By Barbara Russ

Every Tuesday afterschool you can hear the whirring of sewing machines as eight students make their own flannel pajama pants with Ms. Brosnan. Many of the program participants have been sewing with Ms. Brosnan since they were in sixth grade! It's a great time to catch up on news with friends, learn how to use a sewing machine, and have a healthy snack. Thanks to our students and Ms. Brosnan for continuing our afterschool sewing tradition!



Pumpkin Carving Season

By Chris Magistrale

To end the week on a positive note, while also contributing to a community project, Team Journey decided to carve pumpkins on Friday afternoon, 10/24. For many middle school students, this was their first time dissecting a pumpkin and carving a design of their own creation. Carving ideas ranged from school mascots and logos to middle school slang and pop music.

Following the carving session, these pumpkins were loaded into a pickup truck and taken to the Winooski Senior Center where they were added to the increasing collection of community jack-o-lanterns. Students were pleased to participate in this activity and we hope to make this an annual school ritual. Special thanks to the Conant farm in Richmond for donating the pumpkins to our school.

Reading Initiatives in the Winooski School District

By Donna Issenberg, M.Ed., Reading Specialist

Transitions are never easy yet once systems are firmly established, opportunities take hold. As the 2014-15 academic year unfolds, Winooski Middle/High School is once again gearing up to prepare all learners for personal advancement as they encounter the increasing demands posed by the 21st century. A key factor that presents a major contribution to success under change is the capacity to construct understanding and develop knowledge of complex text presented in academic as well as real life circumstances.

While all learners present with very personal and unique styles, they share one major feature in common — the power to thrive under customized learning opportunities. Capitalizing on this critical feature are three state of the art reading

systems currently being implemented in the Winooski School District: Lexia Learning, Read 180 and Reading Plus. Each of these programs offers distinctly customized instruction designed to meet the learner at his or her instructional level.

Teaching staff has carefully evaluated each learner, and, depending on the individual profile, program selections have been made. For those who are currently fortifying foundational skills in the realms of word identification, vocabulary and comprehension, Lexia is the program of choice. Students who have gained the skills that promote capacity to tackle more complex demands are enrolled in Read180, a system designed to provide students with personalized rigorous instruction for college, career,

and beyond. Lastly, Reading Plus, the “center piece” of Winooski Middle/High School’s reading initiatives, provides students with the latest research and up to date features that address the three dimensions of reading: capacity, efficiency and motivation.

These three reading programs will most certainly contribute extensively to the success of competency-based systems as members of the Winooski student body embrace and thrive under student centered learning initiatives. Winooski is well equipped to move forward. In closing, it is important to recognize that the 21st century brings exciting yet challenging demands. These are and will continue to be required of all individuals entering the world of work as well as higher-level academia.

A Season of Success

by Nancy Keller

“I was nervous, but when it was just me and my partner, I lost the feeling and felt focused,” reported Logan Stone, following her first place finish in the Vermont Open Grappling Championship, a major Brazilian JiuJitsu tournament held at Winooski Middle and High School twice a year. “I was tired after it was over,” Logan commented, “but I want to do it again.”

Logan and five other middle and high schools students were competitors in this biannual event. Since September, they, along with 10 other students, have been taking lessons in Brazilian JiuJitsu from Sensei David Quinlan, learning how to do “sweeps, passes, takedowns and holds.” In addition to Logan, Matthew Hayden, Shamir Gurung and Sean Angell took second place in their respective divisions and Keanna Evans took third. A special thanks to Rainbow Chen, a past participant and long-time supporter of the Afterschool JiuJitsu Club, who volunteered as a tournament scorekeeper for many, many matches throughout the afternoon.

In fact, the matches were the best part for Shamir when asked about the tournament. “I will do it, again, because I feel good when I’m practicing.”

And more ‘practicing’ is on the calendar for when the Afterschool JiuJitsu Club starts rolling again in March 2015, our Spring season! Congratulations to the competitors and sincere compliments and thanks to all the students who showed up, worked hard and did their best at each and every class. Winooski Middle and High School has a strong and growing Afterschool JiuJitsu Club!



Business Department: Quarterly Update

By Courtney Poquette

The first quarter in the WHS business department has been a whirlwind of student learning and adventure. Below you will find a brief update from each class that I teach.



Accounting: Students in this fast-paced class have been very busy – from learning Accounting cheers to attending field trips at Twincraft Manufacturing and a Vermont Foods and Business field trip with the Foods and Nutrition Students. Students have nearly completed all the steps in an Accounting cycle for a service business and have been working to start up an eBay business of their own. In addition, students have planned and researched the cost of taking a trip to Boston and have put their plan into action. Letters have been sent home regarding this field trip opportunity for business students.



Personal Finance: Students have been working on critical thinking and problem solving as they research, gather evidence and analyze their findings on a variety of different topics like budgeting, buying a car and renting an apartment. Their research has taken them to CCV where they learned about the cost of college and student loans, to Merchants Bank where they learned about savings and checking accounts. Students have also created resumes and covers letters, and then participated in mock job interviews



with human resource managers from Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. Throughout the semester students are putting together an in-depth, online portfolio with all of their research, which will be showcased during our final school expo week. I encourage you to ask your son or daughter to show you the work they are completing. It is quite impressive.



Effective Communications: Students in both sections of this class have been working on improving their communication skills through building relationships and public speaking. We have focused on what it means to be a good leader through the work of Dale Carnegie as well as other leadership videos, speeches and stories. Congratulations to Chanda, Jordan P, Riley, Mitchell, Elli, Holly, Reeve, Sean A, Jarod F, Idris, Hannah, Elisha, and Sarita who have all been recognized by their

peers and won awards for their public speaking skills this quarter!

Information Processing and Introduction to Computers: Students in these classes spent the first quarter of the year improving their typing skills. It is a tedious process, where students have to demonstrate persistence but the results are amazing! As a class average in Information Processing, students started the year typing 19 words a minute and ten weeks later on the same test they scored on average of 47 words a minute! Some students are now typing 90 words per minute and breaking records in the Business Department. In Introduction to Computers students still have a few more weeks of typing lessons, but most of them are typing five times faster than they were on the first day of class!

Make a Difference Day: Students in Effective Communications classes led the charge in getting students involved in Make a Difference Day. On Saturday, October 25th the Winooski High School community completed 125 hours of Community Service for the Pumpkin Carving and a Food Drive. We collected nearly 900 items for the Winooski Food Shelf! Close to 15% of our High School Students participated in this event! It was a great day of team building along with giving back to our community.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Update from your City Council

By Michael O'Brien, Mayor

Congratulations to the Winooski School Board for their selection by the Vermont School Boards Association as recipient of the 2014 Exceptional School Board Leadership Award.

Congratulations to Season's Greetings for another tremendous Halloween display at Smith Park. This year there were over 700 carved pumpkins on display!! In addition to the Smith Park display, our community services department put on a successful Halloween party at the O'Brien Community Center with about 300 attendees!

The Council will begin the budget adoption process in December. Following is the budget development schedule:

- **December 1** - Base budget with no changes presented to Council by City Manager.
- **December 15** - Budget workshop includes revenues, input from staff and commissions.
- **January 6, 12, 20** - Discussion and adjustments to budget.
- **January 26** - Adopt budget for presentation to voters on March 3.

We welcome everyone to participate in the budget process and encourage you to attend these Council meetings.

The Council has now appointed members to our Community Services, Public Safety and Public Works Commissions. The idea of the commissions is to provide community input into City operations. As these commissions get going, they will be directly involved in the budget process. Commission meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend.

The winter season is fast approaching! Remember that we have a winter parking ban in effect beginning December 1 that restricts cars from parking overnight on City streets. Please make arrangements for off-street parking. Parking is available in the municipal garage and at city hall. You may also apply to the police chief for a hardship parking permit if you meet certain requirements. We understand many folks either don't understand or don't like the parking ban. The newly appointed Public Works commission will be tasked with looking into this issue. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this ban is to allow our Public Works department to keep our roads clear and safe! And remember that it is a violation of City ordinance to pile snow in the City right of way, whether in the road or sidewalk.

Please remember your neighbors this winter. The City will keep streets clear. We also will plow sidewalks as soon as we are able, but street clearing is the priority, followed by main sidewalks used by school children, and finally neighborhood sidewalks. Clearing the sidewalk in front of your home is a big help to the City. And please help your elderly or disabled neighbors!

Did you know you can sign up with the City to get our weekly updates? Each week, staff sends out updates on things that are happening in the City. To get these updates, just go to our website at www.winooskivt.org.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact any of us on the Council. We wish you all a happy holiday season!



SAVE THE DATE

Free Throw Contest!

By Jeff Brosseau

The Winooski Knights of Columbus Council #2284 and St. Francis Xavier CYO basketball are sponsoring a free throw contest on **Saturday, January 24th 2015** for boys at 12:00 pm and girls at 1:00 pm at the Winooski High School Gym. The contest is open to all local girls and boys ages 9 through 14.

In the first round each participant has 15 attempts from the free throw line on the basketball court, the one with the most made will then move onto the next level. Proof of age (as of January 1, 2015) is required for participation. Winners on January 24th will move on to the district level, then onto participation in the state competition.

The Knights of Columbus is a national organization, and they hold this competition every January. For more information contact George Ashline at 654-2434 or Jeff Brosseau 233-5530.

Shopping Deals For Access Winooski Cardholders

Get yourself (or purchase as gifts), an **Access Winooski** card and you're eligible for all kinds of sweet deals at Winooski businesses!



This year-long event showcases the best of what Winooski has to offer. With a seasonally-changing list of member-only deals, card holders can save money, support Winooski, and get awesome breaks on food, drink, gifts, and services.

Check the Access Winooski page often to see the ever growing list of participating business and to keep track of the seasonally-changing offerings for card members only.

For more details, follow this link: <http://downtownwinooski.org/access-winooski/>

Keep up to date with announcements and news:

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK We are "City of Winooski - Government"

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

We are @winooskivt



Your City Officials	Email addresses	Telephone
Mayor Michael O'Brien	mobrien@winooskivt.org	802-655-4879
Deputy Mayor Sally Tipson	stipson@winooskivt.org	802-655-3894
Councilor Brian Corrigan	bcorrigan@winooskivt.org	802-999-9270
Councilor Seth Leonard	sleonard@winooskivt.org	802-777-3381
Councilor Brian Sweeney	bsweeney@winooskivt.org	802-734-6902
City Manager Deac Decarreau	deac@winooskivt.org	802-655-6410

Visit the city website at winooskivt.org or call 802-655-6410.

WCSPC Joins Counter Balance Campaign

It is estimated that tobacco advertising is responsible for 1/3 of teenage experimentation with smoking—being more influential on teenage smoking behavior than peer pressure. In response to the tobacco industry's powerful influence on Vermont's youth, The Winooski Coalition for a Safe and Peaceful Community is taking part in the Counter Balance campaign. Counter Balance is a web-media resource created by the Vermont Department of Health that aims to educate communities while countering tobacco advertising. Visit our Facebook page to learn more! <https://www.facebook.com/WCSPC>

The storefronts of businesses are another venue tobacco and alcohol companies use to advertise to youth. However, Winooski residents have the ability to reduce this exposure by regulating how much of storefronts are covered in signage. Doing so ensures uniform standards for all businesses in addition to well-placed signs. It also improves aesthetics which positively affects Winooski's landscape, economy, and community life.

Our contact information: 802.655.4565 | 32 Mallets Bay Ave, Winooski, VT 05404 | wcspc.org



Food Shelf Reminder

The Little Green Pantry (aka Winooski food shelf) distributes food on the second and the fourth Saturdays of the month. It is in the Methodist Church across from the police station. Hours are from 10-11. If people would like to donate items, they may be left at Sally's Flower Shop (upper Main St.) and volunteers are always needed. Interested folks can call Sally Tipson (655-3894) or Linda Howe (655-2411). Thank you!

Miss a School Board Meeting?

Did you know you can watch Winooski School Board meetings on the internet on your own schedule? Visit www.retn.org and click on "Board Meetings" under the "School Connections" heading. You can find Winooski alphabetically at the bottom of the list of area schools.

Stay in Touch with School and Community News: Join Front Porch Forum!

Front Porch Forum's mission is to help neighbors connect and foster community within the neighborhood. The service provides online forums for neighborhoods, based on a successful model six years in the making, and capitalizes on the founders' many years of community development work.

District administrators post information about events happening at school, members share stories, the media reports, and we investigate several ourselves. All of this great community-building is attracting local awards and national recognition. How does it work? Members and others contribute to this effort financially, and local businesses and other entities sponsor many of our neighborhood forums.

Go to www.frontporchforum.com to sign up for this free community resource.



CCTV Offerings Benefit Winooski

By Meghan O'Rourke

Did you know that you can watch Winooski meetings on TV? We are on local access channel 17. Also find us online at www.cctv.org/search/node/winooski and we have fun community programming as well. Check out this nice piece with Dan Higgins about Front Porch Forum posters in your city, at the Block Cafe: <http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/dan-higgins-photographs-response-postings-front-porch-forum>.

Channel 17 is more than just watching TV — we have cameras you can use for free, classes and events and live call-in shows! Get in touch to find out more. Call Meghan at 802-862-3966 or email morourke@cctv.org.

Community Center Coffee Hour

Please join us from 9:00-11:00 am on Fridays! Come have coffee, tea, sometimes juice, and a bite-size pastry, courtesy of Starbucks on Williston Road. Contact 655-1392, ext. 10 for more information.

Winooski Senior Center — December Update

By Jahnine Spaulding

Happy Holidays! The Senior Center would like to thank all those who supported our Bake Sale in November. It was a WONDERFUL success!

December brings Senior Club elections. Some folks aren't familiar with the Senior Club. They were the founders of Senior Center over 40 years ago. Management of the Senior Center and its programs are now the responsibility of the City of Winooski, but the Senior Club provides many volunteers, advice, and assistance for some of our programs. All our programs are open to any Winooski senior –whether or not they are members of the Senior club - but some seniors choose to join the club (\$5 dues per year) as a gesture of support.

Many thanks to the Senior Club Officers – Jim Ward - President, George Crowley – Vice President, Jim Read-Treasurer, Blanche Boissy – Financial Secretary, and Elaine Read – Recording Secretary, for their many, many hours of quiet service. It takes a lot of work to keep the Senior Club Bingo and other activities on a steady course. Thank you!

Our Senior Club Advisory Board should also be recognized for the work they are doing to revise the club's by-laws. The City appreciates their interest in working with the Senior Center Director, and the City of Winooski, to support the Winooski Senior Center's social, educational, and health/wellness programming goals. The advisors are: Blanche Boissy, George Crowley, Roland Dion, Mary Fitzgerald, Bev Guest, Theresa Kellogg, Lyle Remick, Nancy Savoy, and Marge Ward. Thank you all for your dedication.

All of these folks, and countless others volunteer so that you can enjoy

interesting programs and activities. So, come on out and join us for some lovely holiday-inspired events!

- **December 1st - Holiday Card Making** 10 am at the Senior Center – reserve your seat by Nov 28th
- **December 7th - Holiday Music Concert** at the Fleming Museum – 1 pm departure from WSC \$1pp
- **December 10th – Holiday Flower Arranging** – 2 pm – reserve your seat by December 5th
- **December 12th- Senior Club Holiday Dinner** – 5 pm Social, 6 pm Dinner and entertainment, cost TBD (typically 15\$ for members, \$25 for non-members) Paid reservations are due by December 5th!
- **December 12th- Cookie Drive** – drop off cookies between 7 am and 3 pm! Cookies will be added to the Little Green Pantry's Holiday Baskets for those in need.
- **December 16, 19, or 22nd – Holiday Lights Tour** – 4:30 pm– Join us for a hot beverage, light snack, and a tour of the best lit homes and businesses in the area. Free! Reserve your seat today!
- **December 17th – Holiday Lunch!** 11:30 am – A Roast Beef Dinner with wonderful holiday appetizers, sides, and desserts \$6 pp suggested donation – reservations due by December 12th

The Winooski Senior Center welcomes all community members 55 and older! If you have questions about any of the activities listed, please give us a call at 655-6425. Find us at 123 Barlow Street.





VOLUNTEER TUTORING IN WINOOSKI



Mondays – Thursdays, 6-9pm

The City of Winooski is looking for passionate community members who want to help Winooski High School students succeed with math, science, and writing at the O'Brien Community Center.

Go to winooskivt.org/communityservices
or call (802) 655-1392 x 10 to learn more.

**Work with
Winooski Youth**

**Become more
engaged in YOUR
community**

**Help students
achieve mastery
in science,
writing, and math**

**Experience
working with
English Language
Learners**

**High Energy
Environment full
of diverse learners**

**O'BRIEN COMMUNITY
CENTER**

32 Malletts Bay Ave
Winooski, VT
05404
(802) 655-1392

Overhauling Property Taxes

By Clem Bissonnette, Winooski Representative
to the Vermont Legislature

As I went door to door this fall I heard from many of you stating you cannot afford any more property taxes. I heard you loud and clear and I am committed to working on changing the current system which is dependent on property taxes. Our current system is a complex one and needs a major overhaul.

I am committed to working with my colleagues from any party to find a system that is not property dependent.

There are two or three proposed bills in the works. These bills will get assigned to the House Ways & Means and the House Education Committees.

Shap Smith, Speaker of the House, has told us that property tax will be a major agenda item this coming January.

Here is a press release that the House Democrats released:
Democratic Members Of The House Of Representatives Address Property Tax Concerns, Call For Immediate Reforms

MONTPELIER, VT. – Democratic members of the Vermont House of Representatives are calling for property tax relief to make the financing system that funds Vermont schools more equitable and sustainable. The group of lawmakers, including Representatives Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Maxine Grad, Dan Connor, Diane Lanpher and Sarah Buxton, explained that while Vermont's education system finances schools equitably, the underlying funding system should be more responsive to an individual's ability to pay. "Many of our constituents view large property tax increases as the State's number one issue," said Rep. Sarah Copeland Hanzas. "We share their concerns and are ready to lead. House Democrats are committed to a 2015 vote that brings Vermonters property tax relief."

Vermont lawmakers have made several recent attempts to restructure key areas of education funding. It was announced at the press conference that House Speaker Shap Smith intends to instruct his taxation and education committees to make property tax relief a top priority. Rep. Maxine Grad affirmed the commitment of House Democrats: "In engaging with constituents, we've collected important information the Legislature needs to craft a bill that addresses escalating spending, affords equity in educational opportunities to all Vermont children, is sustainable and creates a funding system that Vermonters can truly afford." Rep. Connor echoed Grad's urgency, noting that many of his constituents feel the funding system should be modified to more accurately track to a taxpayer's ability to pay. "A number of middle- and low-income Vermonters I speak with are struggling to pay their bills, even with the income sensitivity provisions the legislature has enacted," Connor shared. "We must act." "Both parts of our education finance system need to be under the microscope – the way we direct spending and the way we create funding," said Rep. Buxton. "I'm pleased that Speaker Smith understands our concerns and has pledged to work with us, in concert with the House Ways & Means and Education Committees, to bring this important issue to a vote in 2015." Rep. Copeland Hanzas noted that constituent input has and will continue to drive the reform. "We hear you," she concluded.

Thank You George Gamelin!

In November, WCAX TV featured a "Super Senior" story about our very own George Gamelin. For 55 years George has been a part of the Winooski Fire Department; and listening to him reminisce about his journey is priceless.



Photo Courtesy of WCAX

His mentoring skills, compassion, and love for firefighting can be felt by everyone in the 18 member squad. We are grateful to have such a dedicated volunteer, who has done so much for the City and the many men and women who have served on the Fire Department. Thank you George for your continued service to the City of Winooski!

Please take a moment to read the article or watch the clip at: www.wcax.com/story/27378108/super-senior-george-gamelin.



Tutoring at the O'Brien Community Center gives adults a chance to work with Winooski Youth and become more engaged in their community. Visit us online at winooski.vt.org/communityservices to find out more - or call 802-655-1392 x 10.



HEALTH CORNER

Health Office News

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Health Office Coordinator

Cold and flu season is upon us and the Health Office would like to remind you to please keep your child home if their fever is 100 degrees or higher. No student may return to school unless they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

Please remember to wash hands frequently and sneeze into your sleeve to help prevent the spread of germs.

There have been some confirmed cases of strep throat throughout the district. Please observe your child for any signs and symptoms of strep.

- red and white patches in the throat
- difficulty swallowing
- tender or swollen glands
- red and enlarged tonsils
- headache
- lower stomach pain
- fever
- general discomfort
- loss of appetite
- rash

If your child experiences any of these symptoms, please seek medical attention.

Reminder~ no student may return to school with a positive strep diagnosis until they have completed 24 hours of antibiotics.

On behalf of the Health Office staff we would like to wish you and your family Happy Holidays!

Tooth Tutor Update

By Diane Polson, RDH, Tooth Tutor

Your diet needs to include a variety of foods in order to have good overall health and good Oral Health. Sugary snacks, all sodas and sport drinks) can cause problems. Even sugar-free sodas contain acid which, with each sip, cause a 20 minute acid attack that may harm your teeth.

If you are in need of Dental Care or have not been seen by a dentist within the past year, Vermont Dental Care now offers a ride program for dental appointments! Please visit www.wdschools.org or stop by the Health Office for more information.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — DECEMBER

DAILY BREAKFAST OPTIONS: NEW: Abbey Breakfast Sandwich: Sausage

& Cheese on English Muffin – offered daily!!

MONDAY: Whole Grain French Toast Sticks • TUESDAY: Whole Grain Cinnamon Bun w/Cheese Stick • WEDNESDAY: Scrambled Egg & Cheese Wrap • THURSDAY: Healthy Breakfast Round • FRIDAY: Egg & Ham in a Basket OR Cereals w/English Muffin OR Bagels

** Fresh Fruit & Milk With all Meals**

PLEASE NOTE:

Lunch is available for all students on early dismissal days! Pick up yours at either door on your way out.

Important Dates

December 5: Taste Test Event
December 9: Early Release Grades 6-12
December 17: Delayed Start Grades K-5
December 18: Holiday Meal
December 24-31: No School

The Abbey Group's meal options are prepared home-style daily with fresh local products and comply with the new USDA Meal Patterns!

MENUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

DAILY BREAKFAST OPTIONS

Abbey Breakfast Sandwich
Sausage & Cheese on English Muffin offered daily!!

MONDAY
Whole Grain French Toast Sticks
TUESDAY
Whole Grain Cinnamon Bun w/Cheese Stick
WEDNESDAY
Scrambled Egg & Cheese Wrap
THURSDAY
Healthy Breakfast Round
FRIDAY
Ham & Cheese Bagel
OR
** Cereals w/English Muffin OR Bagels
Fresh Fruit & Milk With all Meals

Mon., Dec. 1	Tues., Dec. 2	Wed., Dec. 3	Thurs., Dec. 4	Fri., Dec. 5
Chicken Nuggets w/Dipping Sauce Rice Pilaf Carrot Sticks Baked Beans Dinner Roll Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Hot Turkey Sandwich w/Gravy Mashed Potato Steamed Peas Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Cheesy Breadsticks Marinara Sauce Butternut Squash Soup Garden Salad Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Taco Bar w/ The Works Seasoned Taco Meat, Mozz. Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa & Soft Flour Tortilla Southwestern Rice Pilaf Warm Black Beans Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Corn Dog Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges Steamed Broccoli Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk
Mon., Dec. 8	Tues., Dec. 9	Wed., Dec. 10	Thurs., Dec. 11	Fri., Dec. 12
Oven Baked BBQ Chicken Oven Baked Homemade French Fries Baked Beans Dinner Roll Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Early Release Grades 6-12 Macaroni & Cheese Steamed Broccoli Side Caesar Salad Homemade Cornbread Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Homemade Pepperoni, Cheese Veggie Pizza or Chef's Choice Chopped Green Salad Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Nachos Supreme Seasoned Taco Meat, Cheese Sauce, Salsa, Lettuce, & Corn Tortilla Chips Rice Pilaf Warm Black Beans Creamy Coleslaw Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	French Toast Sticks w/ Warm Syrup Scrambled Eggs Sweet & White Home Fries Green Pepper Strips Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk
Mon., Dec. 15	Tues., Dec. 16	Wed., Dec. 17	Thurs., Dec. 18	Fri., Dec. 19
Dress Your Own Hot Dog On a Bun Oven Baked Homemade French Fries Baked Beans Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Homemade Lasagna Squash Smiles Side Caesar Salad Twin Bread Slices Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Delayed Start Grades K-5 Homemade Pepperoni, Cheese Veggie Pizza or Chef's Choice Fresh Celery Sticks Hummus Dip Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Holiday Meal Oven Roast Pork Chef's Mashed Potato w/Gravy Seasoned Green Beans Homemade Dinner Roll Cinnamon Applesauce Holiday Dessert Fresh Milk Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Grilled Cheese Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Carrot Sticks Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk
Mon., Dec. 22	Tues., Dec. 23	Wed., Dec. 24	Thurs., Dec. 25	Fri., Dec. 26
Dress Your Own Hamburger On a Bun Oven Baked Homemade French Fries Baked Beans Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Spaghetti w/ Meat or Marinara Sauce Chopped Green Salad Twin Bread Slices Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	No School	No School	No School
Mon., Dec. 29	Tues., Dec. 30	Wed., Dec. 31	<p>Looking for a job that lets you be at home when your family needs you there? Come Join our Team!! Got to the link below. You can download an application or see what we have available through Careerbuilder.</p> <p>http://www.abbeygroup.net/careers.php</p>	

Vegetable of the Month Winter Squash

Butternut squash is a type of winter squash. It has a sweet, nutty taste similar to that of a pumpkin. It has yellow skin and orange fleshy pulp. When ripe, it turns increasingly deep orange, and becomes sweeter and richer. Butternut squash is a fruit that can be roasted and tossed and also be pureed or mashed into soups, casseroles, breads and muffins. It is an excellent source of vitamins A & E.

Home-style Butternut Squash Soup

5 tablespoons chopped white onions
1/2 clove garlic, ground
2 1/4 cup cubed butternut squash
3 tablespoons butter
1/4 cup vegetable stock
3/4 cup chicken broth
3 cups water
1/8 teaspoon ground thyme or basil
1 bay leaf
1/8 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
A pinch of ginger
1/3 cup light cream
2 potatoes, cubed

Sauté onions and garlic with butter. Add squash, potatoes, vegetable stock, chicken broth, and water, and bay leaf. Stir in peppers and thyme or basil. Add a pinch of ginger, and bring to a boil for about 18-20 minutes.

In blender, puree the soup with light cream and any additional ingredients you would like to add.

Whole grain options offered daily

PLEASE NOTE: Middle and High school menu information is available at www.abbeygroup.net/schoolmenus. You can also learn about options for managing your child's account at the website.

Newsletter of the Winooski School District

Winooski School District
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WSD ENDS STATEMENT

All students will graduate from the Winooski School District (WSD) college and career ready at a cost supported by a majority of the Winooski community. WSD students will lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community.

ABOUT OUR DISTRICT

The Winooski School District is a PreK through 12 system that is housed in one educational center. At press time, there were 405 students attending JFK Elementary (grades PreK-5), 155 attending Winooski Middle School (grades 6-8), and 227 attending Winooski High School (grades 9-12).

One of the most diverse school districts in the state of Vermont, Winooski's teachers and staff are highly involved in professional development programs that help increase student achievement, address the needs of a diverse student population, and allow students to thrive in an engaging environment with high expectations.

"District News!" is published by the Winooski School District, 60 Normand Street, Winooski, VT 05404. Anne Linton Elston, Editor. Phone: 802-655-0942. Email: aelston@wdschools.org