

WINOOSKI SCHOOL

DISTRICT NEWS!

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 2017

Celebrating Our Achievements!

2017-18 Vision-Driven, Learner Investment

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools

"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."

The WSD Ends Statement above clearly states the high expectations we have for our students. This past November, December and January the WSD administration worked with the Board of School Trustees to tackle the challenging task of determining the proposed budgetary investment in our school for the upcoming year based on the WSD Ends Statement. Thanks to board members Mike Decarreau, Tori Cleiland, Jen Corrigan, Matt MacNeil and

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Julian Portilla for their student-centered and forward-thinking approach to budget development. During this budget cycle I gave board members a baseline budget and data about enrollment, staffing, Special Education, English Language Learners (ELL), Information Technology and Operations. All of this information can be found on our website at wsdschools.org

Three years ago we began investing in creating a PreK-12 systemic approach to supporting student needs and monitoring student progress with positions such as Wellness Coordinator, Data Manager, Director of English Language Learning & Curriculum, Reading Specialists and Home-School Coordinator. Now we can confidently say we have established a strong foundation that provides food security, wellness opportunities, rich learning support, access to technology and a system that can track the attendance, behavior, reading and math levels of every student. Also, we were an early investor in Pre-Kindergarten with four half-day programs on campus so we can begin to engage students and parents as soon as possible.

Overall, our enrollment is currently 882 PreK-12 students and we expect this number to grow by 10-15 students for the 2017-18 school year. WSD is in the third year of Act 166 which requires universal PreKindergarten programming for all children who are three, four or five by the date established by the district of residence for kindergarten eligibility. Act 166 will also provide \$3178 per child to offset the costs of providing universal PreKindergarten.

While we have kept our teacher staffing levels flat year-to-year even with an increase in student population, we are experiencing more students with disabilities in the higher-need "Intensive" category than ever before and our ELL population continues to grow.

JFK Elementary is making wonderful progress with Responsive Classroom, Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBiS), our School Wide Expectations- HEART, and Project-Based Learning (PBL). WHS continues moving toward meeting Vermont law of providing proficiency-based graduation requirements by 2020 through the growth of our Graduate Expectations (GXs), Graduate Progressions (GPs) and the iLab. As you will see, the FY '18 budget reflects a significant investment in the Winooski Middle School (WMS). In general, middle school is a challenging and fascinating time as students explore who they are and how they fit into the world with a tremendous focus on peer relationships and independence. WMS has a talented and dedicated staff that works diligently, patiently and creatively each day to help shape our WMS students into intelligent, curious and persistent learners. We need to provide the resources to support our staff in meeting the needs of our WMS students.

Therefore, this budget reflects investments in WMS in the following areas: Music, ELL, Special Education and Behavioral support. Also, this budget includes funds to support a student transportation pilot which will transport students to school each morning from December through March who live over .75 miles away from school. A series of increases and decreases, including these new investments results in a 6.8% expense increase or a 4.6% increase in equalized per pupil spending with an estimated tax increase of 2.36%.

Over the years, your Board of Trustees has put forth fiscally conservative budgets

NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

when compared to the rest of the state as evidenced by our Educational Spending Rank being in the bottom quartile the past five years (211/282 in FY16), over \$1200 less per pupil compared to other PK-12 districts in VT. I think you will see that the Board of Trustees has constructed a thoughtful, vision-driven investment in Winooski children that continues to move us forward to meet the high expectations

of our WSD Ends Statement! We are blessed with a diverse student population who also require a high level of support to meet our high standards. Our staff and leadership team clearly understand the strengths and challenges of our students and forge ahead with creativity, collaboration and compassion.

Please watch the FY18 budget presentation on Channel 17 from 5:25-

5:55pm on Wednesday, February 8th and/ or join me on Wednesday, February 15th at 6:00pm at the O'Brien Community Center and/or Monday, March 6th at 7:30pm in the WSD Performing Arts Center for more information about our proposed investment in Winooski students for the 2017-18 school year. Thank you for working with WSD to benefit our students!

February Update

By Mike Decarreau, President, Board of School Trustees

Welcome to February. We are already on the warming side of winter. This has been an extremely busy school year for the board. We have recently finalized the FY18 Budget as well as being in the middle of contract negotiations with the teachers and the support staff.

We began the budget conversations with presentations from the Leadership team looking back on the past several school years and budget cycles to tie budget actions to changes in the school environment. As opposed to most of the state districts we have a student population that is growing and is expected to grow as we move over the next four to five years. With this growth, the leadership team has kept a close eye on changing areas of need.

Last year we inserted a Behavior Coach in the elementary school. Over the latter half of last year systems of support were put in place to improve the classroom environment to make for better learning. The data we see from the first part of this year is that referrals for behavior issues have dropped noticeably. This is important, in my view, for two reasons. First, a better classroom environment will lead to better outcomes for our students as there is more time on task for learning with less distractions. Second, and less obvious but no less important, is that we can see the results in data with comparisons from year to year.

When I started on the board nearly 6 years ago I asked many times in these budget sessions "How will a certain budget item affect the outcomes and how will we know?" The answer came back that "We don't have the data for

that." If this is the case then how do you know that the money we are being asked to spend as a community is being well spent? To that end, two years ago we hired a Data Manager. As he has started to boil the multitude of data down we can now see the results of many of our budget actions. One of those is mentioned above in the behavioral data.

On **February 15**, we will be cohosting a **community dinner** with the City to present our FY18 budget proposals. We would like to invite you to this presentation so that you may ask any questions about the budgets you will be voting on in March. **PLEASE COME OUT TO VOTE**. We need to hear from you through your voice on February 15 and your vote in March. I would love to see the O'Brien Center be too small this year for this meeting.

The Budget for this year is projected to be a 2.36% increase in the tax rate (how this affects you specifically depends on your household adjusted gross income) with an increase on the spending side of 6.8%.

Some highlights in this years' budget: Winter transportation to school for our students on the west side. We heard from many parents about the difficulties getting their children to school on the cold and/or stormy days. This is a pilot to see if we can maximize the learning opportunities for all our students by ensuring they are in the classroom every day. We will analyze absenteeism and tardiness data as we move forward to understand the effectiveness of this program. As our population is growing it is also changing. We continue to balance our staffing to ensure our ELL program

is staffed at student ratios that will give our newcomers the best chance for success. *Special Education* continues to be an area of focus as small changes in our population can have disproportional impacts on our budget.

We greatly appreciate the support from this community over the past several years with respect to approving budgets. Our staff has a very challenging (and rewarding) job in this district and I can say from personal observation over the years that they are extremely dedicated and caring for both the students and our community. We have put together a budget that we believe will help them help us educate great future citizens.

As with each budget cycle we reflect on our position in spending from around the state in districts that operate full Pre-K - 12 districts. Data from FY16 shows that our overall spending per equalized pupil was \$17,028. Overall spending is total budget divided by Equalized pupils. We ranked 24 out of 29 districts in this spending category. This is \$2040 less per Eq Pupil than the average of all 29 districts is just under \$1.9M less on the bottom line for total spending. A slightly different perspective on this is to look at Education Spending per equalized pupil. The difference between these two is the Ed Spending is direct support of students and removes the remainder. We rank 25 out of 29 in this space as well. This represents spending \$1260 less per Eq Pupil and \$1.17M less than average for the overall budget. (Data from http:// education.vermont.gov/documents/dataper-pupil-spending-fy2016).

Preschool Skills Screening

By Maybeline Lopez

- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017
- 9:00 AM 2:00 PM
- Preschool room in JFK Elementary School

If you have concerns about your child's development, our Winooski Early Childhood Program team will screen your child's development in the areas of Speech & Language Skills, Motor Skills, Adaptive Skills, Personal/Social Skills, and Academic/ Cognitive Skills. This screening is play based and free for 3 and 4 year old children, living in Winooski. Please call Maybeline Lopez at 383-6063 to schedule an appointment for you and your child to come to the screening on February 17, 2017.

Teachers will also be filling out applications for all preschool slots at this time.

The Winooski School District Supports Act 166 Publicly Funded Prekindergarten for Children Between the ages of 3 and 5 who Reside in the City of Winooski, VT

Complete an application for the 2016-2017 school year!

What is publicly funded prekindergarten education?

Publicly funded prekindergarten education is defined as: Ten hours per week for 35 weeks of developmentally appropriate learning experiences that are based on Vermont's Early Learning Standards. Children who reside in Winooski and are between the ages of three – five are eligible. Prekindergarten education is limited to the academic year (September 2016 – June 2017).

There are still openings that accept ACT 166 funds:

- Greater Burlington YMCA Preschool -862-8993 x148
- The Children's School -862-2772

Is my child eligible for publicly funded prekindergarten?

If your child was 3 years old by September 1, 2016 and resides in Winooski, then your child is eligible to participate.

How do I apply?

First enroll your child in a qualifying program and then complete an ACT 166 application. Application forms may be picked up in the support services offices within the Winooski School District or printed off of the Winooski School District website (under Support Services, Pre-Kindergarten link).

Please return applications to Sandy Castle at the Winooski School District support services office at 60 Normand St. Winooski VT, 05404.

Please contact Maybeline Lopez at 802-383-6063 with any questions.

Can We Talk?

By Hal Colston, Partnership for Change

I came of age during the civil rights movement in the 1960's growing up in post – Jim Crow York, PA, The



United States was very fractured then as I witnessed it being on fire every summer. I truly feel that our country is approaching an historic divide.

Many of our students find themselves living in fear after the presidential election. They fear because of being Muslim. They fear because of being new to our country. They fear because of being treated differently. What can educators do in the face of this challenge?

In response to fear we must talk with one another and turn this challenge into an opportunity. Facilitating dialogues are critical. A discussion is about throwing our ideas at one another like a "disc," and then defending our point of view. Dialogue is about deep listening while suspending our judgment and biases. In dialogue we may not agree with a position, but the goal is to seek understanding. Dialogue is about moving beyond tolerance.

Our students need to be in dialogue to process their feelings and be assured that school is their community, family and a safe place to be. Help them understand what action they can take to share their feelings. This gives them a sense of control as opposed to helplessness. Show our students that reaching out to someone different to understand their beliefs becomes the fiber that holds our community together. Can we talk?

Are You Running for School Board or City Council?

We would like to introduce you to readers of this newsletter in our March issue. Please submit the following information **by February 13** to editor Anne Linton Elston at annelinton@mac.com: 1) Name, 2) Address & Telephone, 3) Work, 4) Education, 5) Hobbies/activities, 6) Community service, 7) Reason for running (75 words or less)



Miss a School Board Meeting? Watch it Online!

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

Dollars for Scholars Award Recipient Ceremony – January 2017

By Linda Gregoire, Dollars for Scholars Committee

Thank you to everyone who was able to come out to our great event and to tell us about the many things college has done for you and is encouraging you to achieve more. We are so proud to call you our Alumni. May the years ahead bring you much prosperity and joy!

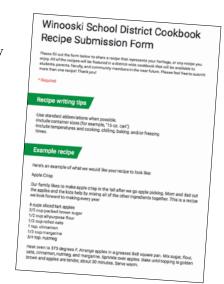


Front Row – Bal Wit, Oo Ma Be, RoZe Yar. Back Row – Edmund Do, Ganash Rai, Taylor Langlais, ZuTi Nar, Susmita Mangar, Lubna Abdulkaleiq.

Calling All Submissions to the Winooski Community Cookbook!

By Lisa Goetz

The Winooski PTO is creating a community cookbook and we need your help! All recipes will be featured in a community wide cookbook that will be available to students. parents, faculty, and community members in the near future. Please submit your recipe online (bit.do/ winooskicookbook) or submit your recipe by email to lgoetz@ winooski.k12.vt.us



Please submit your recipe by February 24th.

SAVE THE DATE!

JFK Fun Fair

By Lisa Goetz

The annual JFK Fun Fair will be held on Friday, March 24th from 4:30 - 6:30. Please join us!



Celebrating Winooski's Talent

Auditions for "Celebrating Winooski's Talent" show will be on Monday, March 13th and Tuesday, March 14th from 3:00 - 4:00 in the Performing Arts Center (PAC). There will also be auditions on Saturday, March 18th from 10:00 - 12:00 in the PAC. The show will be on April 14th at 6:00pm.

Any questions, please e-mail Lisa Goetz at lgoetz@winooski. k12.vt.us.





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/.

JFK ELEMENTARY NEWS

JFK Elementary Update

By Sara Raabe, Principal

It is February, which means the staff at JFK is participating in the Big Change Roundup. The Big Change Roundup is run by WOKO, and supports the University of Vermont's Children's Hospital. The money goes to support the patients, as well as their families. The UVM Children's Hospital consists of the maternity unit, the Children's Specialty Center, Pediatric Primary Care clinics, and parts of the Emergency Room. Many of the students in the Winooski School District, and in the Winooski community, have accessed the UVM Children's Hospital to stay healthy, or to deal with complicated medical issues. This connection to our community is the reason that the staff at JFK want to support the hospital through The Big Change Roundup.

To raise money, several brave staff members at JFK have volunteered to participate in the Hair Challenge. Sara Raabe, Angela Moulton, Lisa Goetz, Jacie Knapp, Sally Bissonette, Lisa Bushey, and Joshua Neilson have volunteered so far. Each staff member has a jar in the JFK office. The staff member that raises

the most money by February 22nd has to dye their hair a fun color or two! People can donate by adding their spare change to a staff members jar in JFK's office, or by donating online at www. BigChangeRoundup.org.

WOKO came to school on January 20th for a Kick Off Assembly. We began collecting change that day, and will continue to collect until February 22nd. We will have an All School Assembly on Friday February 24th to reveal the "winner" of the hair dye contest!

Girls on the Run is coming to JFK Elementary School and we need volunteers to help. GOTR is a spring, 10 week program that starts at the end of March and runs through the first week of June. Sessions meet twice a week for 90 minutes each. You do not need to have running experience to coach. If you are interested in volunteering contact Sara Raabe or Suzanne Skaflestad at JFK (802) - 655-0411

PTO Hosts Pancake Breakfast and Gift Wrapping

By Lisa Goetz

Many thanks to the Winooski PTO for hosting our first Pancake Breakfast. We had a great time serving pancakes, eggs, and sausages to many families. We appreciate all the volunteers who helped make it possible and the families who came to the event. We look forward to continuing this fun event next year











MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

February Update

By Leon Wheeler, Principal, WMHS

The first semester came to a close the week of January 9th with the celebration of our January Exposition, or JanPo as it's affectionately known. Each student in grades 6-12 shared two projects from the semester, each one demonstrating the student's learning in one of our graduation/gateway expectations.

Winooski students tend to step up and excel in these events, and this past JanPo affirmed that. Across the middle and high school, students made speeches and shared displays that represented the skills of Communication; Critical Thinking; Well-Being; Persistence; Creativity; and Culture & Community.

These expo events will continue to be part of how we celebrate the end of each semester here in Winooski, and assure that we keep our eyes on the prize: College and Career Ready! That's the end goal! As our school board has stated, "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." (ENDS Statement)

Our students really do step up and excel during special events. In the middle of JanPo week our high school students had a morning of community-building activities. One group went to the Edge in South Burlington. Following the trip we received the following feedback from the director: "They were one of the best behaved groups we have had rent the pool. They listened to the rules, asked questions, and corrected their actions when we asked them. They all looked like they were having a great time." This is not at all unusual. Frequently Winooski students are praised for their responsibility and engagement when on field trips...and also when we have guests visiting our school!

With appreciation for our amazing students, and hopes for an excellent second half of the year, I wish all a great February!

Academic All-Stars: Winooski High School

By Eve Thorsen, Burlington Free Press

Marie Ly | Age: 17

Parents: Hon Ly and Ky Nguyen **Top 5 accomplishments:** Being accepted into National Honor Society, being a HOBY alumni since May 2015, receiving the Directors Award in Band and Orchestra, was named a 2013 New England League of Middle Schools Vermont Scholar Leader, and receiving the Little Spartan award for student athletes.

In the community: Volunteering at the senior center, door to door fundraising for charities, and working with Upward Bound to volunteer for various Vermont state colleges.

Favorite spare time activity: Listening to K-pop

After graduation: Go to college to study biology

Career plans: To become an ophthalmologist

Dead person to meet: Ho Chi Minh

(1890-1969) I want to discuss with him about his ideals and how he thought about certain situations that he had to deal with. I also want to know why he thought creating the Viet Cong was a good solution to stopping imperialism in Vietnam.

Overrated/Underrated: Sports are overrated. Instrumental music is underrated.

Three luxuries on a desert island: My mom, my saxophone and all the sheet music I can get.

Personal motto: "Life is C between B and D." Jean-Paul Sartre

Mariah Metivier | Age: 17
Parents: Gerald and Randi-Kay Metivier
Top 5 accomplishments: Being
accepted into the National Honor Society,
receiving the Lady Spartan award of 2016,
receiving the All State Mountain division
2nd team award, finishing the color



Artist of the Month

By Jessica Bruce, Visual Arts Teacher

Please join me in congratulating Sara Schmoll as February's Artist of the Month from Winooski Middle High School! Sara exhibits many of the artist habits of mind in the art room, especially developing her craft, envisioning, expressing, and reflecting. Sara has done an excellent job at staying motivated through her artistic challenges, exploring new resources to improve her craft, and observing others' works to implement in her own works. Awesome job, Sara!

run, and passing my senior project with

In the community: I volunteered at the festival of pumpkins and at the Winooski school musicals

Favorite spare time activity: Playing video games

After graduation: VTC Career plans: To become a dental hygienist

Dead person to meet: I would meet Michael Jackson because he was a musical genius. I would love to spend time talking to him about what inspires him and how he incorporates that into his music.

Overrated/underrated: Candy canes are overrated and quesadillas are underrated

Three luxuries on a desert island: My cat named Ziggy, a camera, and a radio Personal motto: "A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval" — Mark Twain

COMMUNITY NEWS

City Council Update

By Seth Leonard, Mayor

Happy New Year Winooski Community!

A big thanks to the Season's Greetings crew for all of their work to make the city look festive through the holiday season! It was also fantastic to watch the community support our retail, restaurants, and service businesses during the holiday season.



January is an important month in Winooski's government. As I write we are in the middle of our budget presentations. Winooski budgets a bit differently than most communities. City Council asks that the City Manager work with Division Heads and staff to draft a "net-zero tax impact" budget in December. Staff works hard to make difficult decisions around priorities, programming, and staffing needs for operations. That hard word results in City Council reviewing initial department budgets that have absorbed the natural annual cost increases in providing level services to the community. Items that were cut to get us to that zero-increase budget, along with any items that are considered potential additions that may be needed to better served the community are placed on a list for consideration during budget presentations and discussions. This process very carefully focuses our conversations about where we might consider investment towards continuing to support programming or potentially adding new services. As we wrote last month, we take each department of operations and spend one meeting focused only on the operations and budget items related to that department. This all culminates in Council voting on a budget proposal to send to voters on Town Meeting Day! We hope you will follow this process, review information available at www.winooskivt.org and feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns as we head toward Town Meeting Day on Tuesday, March 7th. This year there two City Council seats and two School Board seats up for election. I am sure you will hear from candidates as we get closer to March 7th. Don't forget, this year you can register to vote online via the Secretary of State, at the City's Clerk's office, and can actually register to vote on election day! We look forward to seeing you at the polls!

Your City Officials	Email addresses	Telephone		
Mayor Seth Leonard	sleonard@winooskivt.org	802-777-3381		
Councilor Brian Corrigan	bcorrigan@winooskivt.org 802-999-9270			
Councilor Nicole Mace	nmace@winooskivt.org	802-363-7777		
Councilor Robert Millar	rmillar@winooskivt.org	802-238-0089		
Councilor Brian Sweeney	bsweeney@winooskivt.org	802-734-6902		
Interim City Manager Ray Coffey	rcoffey@winooskivt.org	802-655-6410		
Visit the city website at winooskivt.org or call 802-655-6410.				

Keep up to date with announcements and news:



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Free Meals for Anyone 18 and Under

By Colleen Sullivan

The City of Winooski is providing free meals at the Winooski Memorial Library from 6 pm to 9 pm, Monday through Thursday. The meals will be provided in conjunction with the Homework Help program, which provides academic support to Winooski students. The meals are free for anyone 18 and under and are both nutritious and delicious! Anyone is welcome to come enjoy dinner - attendance at Homework Help is not required.

New Voter Registration Law Now In Effect

By Carol Barrett, Winooski City Clerk

Effective January 1, 2017 you will be able to register to vote on the same day as the election. There is no longer a deadline.

What do you need to bring for identification? According to the Secretary of State, "When registering a voter on Election Day, no identification or other documentation proving residency is required to be presented. These applications should be accepted and processed in the same manner as they are on any day prior to the election. This was thoroughly debated at the legislature. The voter him/herself is swearing under the pains and penalties of perjury that they meet the requirements to register to vote in Vermont (U.S. Citizen, VT resident in the town/city in which they are registering, have taken the voter's oath, and are 18 by the time of the election). The oath may be self administered by the applicant at the time they apply (it appears on the application)."

Town Meeting Online

By Meghan O'Rourke

Town meeting is just around the corner. As the temperatures thaw, we turn our hearts and minds towards school budgets, city officials and our local government.

Tune to Channel 17/Town Meeting TV through the month of February to meet your local candidates and learn about the issues you will see on your ballot this upcoming March 7, 2017.

Don't get Channel 17 on your cable dial? All of our programs are available live and archived on our website at http://www.Ch17.TV. Channel 17/Town Meeting TV is here to open the doors to your local democracy.



Monthly Community Dinner

By Jackie Hoy

Please join the Winooski School Board and the Winooski Coalition on February 15th at the O'Brien Community Center for our monthly community dinner. There will be food and a presentation with interpretation and childcare services, and it's free and open to the public!



Winooski Above the Influence Group Now in the School

Exciting news! On January 10th, the Winooski Above the Influence (ATI) group met in the school for the first time with a great turnout. We will continue to meet in the Winooski School from 3:00-4:00pm on Tuesdays. This group is for 5-8th graders. ATI supports youth by providing clear and factual information and empowers them to make a difference in their community. Interested in joining? Contact Rachel at rswanson@wcspc.org.

Want another way to get involved in ATI? The Chittenden County Above the Influence Retreat is being held February 10-11th. This is a great opportunity for middle school AND high school students to learn leadership skills and meet new friends. Interested in applying? Contact Rachel at rswanson@wcspc.org.

What is ParentUP Vermont?

Research shows parents are still the #1 influence on teens' decision making. ParentUP VT advocates talking to kids about alcohol and drugs early and often, and they provide useful information on how to start the conversation on their website, www.parentupvt.org. The site offers tools such as video tips, conversation starters, and commonly asked questions about substance abuse.

According to the 2015 Vermont Youth Behavior Risk Survey, 30% of teens in Vermont reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days, and 16% reported binge drinking (5+ drinks in a row). In the same time period, 7% of students reported driving after drinking, 22% reported smoking marijuana, and 15% reported driving after using marijuana. Conversations between parents and children can play an important part in helping to keep our kids safe and supporting them in making healthy decisions.

Winter Wellness Photo Competition

Thank you to everyone who participated in our #winterwellness photo competition, we received some great entries! Thank you to Blossom Whole Food Kitchen and Catering and Crow Bookshop for donating gift cards to the winners.

The Winooski Coalition promotes wellness during the winter months to keep people active, both mentally and physically. Even though the competition has ended, please feel free to upload your wellness photos and include @wcspc throughout the year to promote healthy activity!

Are You Running For School Board or City Council?

If you are planning to run, we would like to introduce you to readers of this newsletter in our March issue. Please provide the following information by **February 13** for publication in the March issue of the District News. We intend to run this information to give Winooski voters a chance to get to know the candidates. Please submit the

following information to editor Anne Linton Elston at annelinton@mac.com:

- 1. Name
- 2. Address & Telephone
- 3. Work
- 4. Education
- **5.** Hobbies/activities
- **6.** Community service
- **7.** Reason for running (75 words or less)

Winooski Family Center



Winooski families are invited to join our weekly playgroups at the O'Brien Community Center. Come and play with young children, socialize with other parents and learn about resources.

TUESDAYS:

- Baby playtime: 9:00AM 9:30AM (0-12 months old)
- Playgroup: 9:30AM 11:30AM (0-5 years old)

WEDNESDAYS:

 Arts and Crafts: 2:30PM – 3:30PM (2-6 years old)

THURSDAYS:

• Playgroup: 9:30AM – 11:30AM (0-5 years old)

All programs are free of charge and open to anyone! Please call Martina at 655-1422, if you have questions!

Join Us For Coffee and Socializing!

By Sister Pat McKittrick

Please join us Friday mornings from 9am-11am for a **free coffee hour** at the O'Brien Community Center. Friendly atmosphere, great way to meet your neighbors. Everyone is welcome.

We also provide blood pressure screenings on the first Friday of the month.

(Coffee and pastries are provided by our friends at Starbucks on Williston Road).

Police Department Outreach

By Scott D. McGivern, Lieutenant, Winooski Police Department

I held a neighborhood watch meeting to form a new group in early January. The turn out was smaller than expected. It could be that people are satisfied with the level of service the police department is providing, but perhaps folks didn't hear about it or were busy.

I would like to offer the opportunity to contact me so we can discuss the possibility of interacting with the police department in keeping our neighborhoods safe through a neighborhood watch or some other program. You can reach me at 802 655-0221 or by email at smcgivern@winooskipolice.com.

February News from Girl Scout Troop 30167

By Sarah McGowan-Freije

Our troop had a great time helping the PTO with their pancake breakfast on Saturday, December 17th. The girls started off the morning with a hearty breakfast, then got to work greeting people at the door, collecting money and making change, and cleaning up dirty plates. They also discovered the box of bows at the gift wrapping table, and had fun turning themselves into human presents.

The girls earned the Pottery badge in December. They discovered that clay and clay minerals show up everywhere, such as in mugs, bowls, printing on magazines, tennis courts, flower pots, and porcelain tubs. Each girl also got to create her own pinch pot and decorate it with paint, sequins and glass tiles.

In January, the girls earned the Senses badge. They learned all about the fives senses, why they are important and how to use them to explore the world. We created a smelling station where several items were placed in paper bags, including an onion, an orange, garlic, chocolate, a banana and cinnamon.





The girls smelled the items then tried to identify them by their scent.

We also created a tasting station, which was by the far the most popular activity for this badge. The girls learned that taste buds in different parts of the tongue recognize different types of tastes – sweet, salty, sour and bitter. They got to test this out by eating marshmallows (sweet), pretzels (salty), Sour Patch kids candy (sour) and dark chocolate (bitter).

Our troop has also been busy selling cookies. The girls voted to use the money we earn from cookies sales to go horseback riding, take a camping trip and going to dinner at a Chinese restaurant.

The Girl Scouts in Troop 30167 are in second and third grade. For more information about our troop, please contact Sarah McGowan-Freije at 802-598-4280.

Library Update

By Amanda Perry, Director

Thinking of starting a book **group?** Is your group looking for new titles to read? Check out a book discussion kit from the Library! Each book group bag contains 10 copies of a selected title and discussion questions to get the conversation started. Available titles include All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr, Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates, Commonwealth by Ann Patchett, Georgia by Dawna Tripp, The Guest Room by Chris Bohjalian, H is for Hawk by Helen MacDonald, Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance, Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi, Lab Girl by Hope Jahren, A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman, and The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead.

Homework Help The Library is hosting Homework Help Monday-Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00. Come in and get help with any assignments or projects you have for school. We have friendly, knowledgeable tutors, supplies for projects and presentations, computers, and WiFi.

During Homework Help, anyone under 18 can stop in and get a free, nutritious meal as well, Monday-Thursday 6-9.

Story Time for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers is every Friday at 10:30 in the Children's area. Join Elsie for stories, rhymes, songs, activities, and play. Meet other parents, and make new friends. No signup required.

The Winooski Memorial Library is located at 32D Malletts Bay Avenue, Winooski, VT 05404. (802)655-6424

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday: 10AM to 6:30PM Wednesday: 10AM to 6:30PM Thursday: 10AM to 6:30PM Friday: 10AM to 6:30PM Saturday: 10AM to 2PM

Sunday: Closed Monday: Closed



Girl Scout Troop 30187 Update

By Amy Lothrop

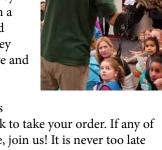
Troop 30187 made holiday cards for US military personnel to celebrate Christmas and Chanukah as our end of the

year community service project. The Red Cross distributed our cards through their Holidays for Heroes program. The girls really enjoyed hearing from one of our own leaders about her experience receiving a card from a Girl Scout while stationed overseas. They were full of questions for her about life in the Army.

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts selling cookies. Our girls are super excited about the debut of the new S'mores cookie in layers of graham, marshmallow and chocolate. The girls were able to sample it and decided that it was delicious! To celebrate the 100th anniversary, we had a HOOT of a time at the 2017 Kick Off Cookie Rally. The girls moved between booths to learn about goal setting, money management, product info and participated in a pep rally. The leaders were treated to a little "Thank You" reception by council which was appreciated! The undisputed best part of the event was a live owl demonstration by VINS. We met Troy and Aurora, a barred and barn owl respectively. I am not sure "hoo" was more exited - the girls or the leaders!

Selling cookies is an opportunity for the girls to learn 5 essential financial literacy skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics. They set goals for themselves and decide how to budget the money that they will raise. Their goals are between 100 and 1,000 boxes each. They budgeted to earn their Bronze Award for helping animals, go to Jay Peak's water park, have a camping trip and so much more. To work on our money management skill, we have begun a unit on wants vs. needs, taxes and how to budget the money that they earn into categories of spend, save and donate.

If you'd like to help them out by purchasing cookies, contact us and a Girl Scout will call you back to take your order. If any of this sounds like a great adventure, join us! It is never too late to volunteer, share your talent or join our troop. We welcome everyone. Call Amy Snow Lothrop at 802-373-7288 or email



Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for February

By Linda Howe

The Food Shelf regularly provides food to over 300 people each month. We are especially proud that we can offer help to Winooski children and seniors. We are grateful for the support of many, many local businesses including My Web Grocer, the Beverage Warehouse and McKenzie.

Wednesday, February 8th	2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Pantry staples, meat and eggs
Saturday, February 11th	9:30 a.m. to 11:30 am.	Fresh fruit, veggies, bread, pastry and deli items
Wednesday, February 22nd	2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Pantry staples, meat, and eggs
Saturday, February 25th	9:30 a.m. to 11:30 am.	Fresh fruit, veggies, bread, pastry and deli items

Food Shelf policy: Winooski residents may access the pantry staples one Wednesday each month. Folks can come both Saturdays to stock up on bread, pastry and some fresh fruit and veggies. Hannaford's provides Saturday's food. New clients should bring proof of Winooski residency such as a utility bill.

Any Winooski resident in need is welcome. You might have just lost a job, become ill or injured and can't work, had a new baby or have large medical bills. We all have experienced sudden life changes. The Food Shelf is here to help support you. For questions call 318-0460.

Where to find us: The Winooski Food Shelf is located in the United Methodist Church at the corner of West Allen and Follett Streets. There is a bus stop on that corner. We do not provide rides so please bring a wheeled cart or suitcase and some reusable bags to lug your food home. The church phone number is 802-655-7371.

AmyLothrop@Comcast.Net for more information."

Donations needed: The food shelf is growing rapidly. More and more food must be purchased since current food donations cannot meet the demand. Donations can be mailed to The Winooski Food Shelf, P.O. Box 53, Winooski, VT 05404. Thank you!

Volunteers needed: The Food Shelf is a full time effort and since many hands make light work, we are always looking for more volunteers to join our team! We need to raise funds, write thank you notes, shop for food, unload vehicles and stock shelves, check in and serve clients. We need volunteer translators such as French, Arabic, and Swahili. Please consider this very needy cause. We presently serve about 300 Winooski residents each month.

Senior Center News

By Barb Pitfido, Winooski Senior Programs Manager

"Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching."

— author unknown

Learning at any age is extremely beneficial for the brain. When you learn something new, your brain grows new cells and builds new connections which has proven benefits for problem-solving and memory skills. Learning can help improve cognitive ability and memory function and can help ward off Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Consider all the local possibilities for lifelong learning...

Senior Centers - There are many senior centers in our area that offer free and/or reduced fee classes in languages, the arts & music, exercise and more! Check out our monthly offerings!

Libraries - In addition to traditional books, The Winooski Memorial Library offers Ebooks and Audiobooks, free online learning classes, genealogical sources, and so much more for FREE! Website: winooskilibrary.wordpress.com

Computer Learning Resources - The Fletcher Free Library offers free computer workshops and self directed learning through subscriptions to many resources. Website: www.fletcherfree.org

Education & Enrichment for Everyone - (EEE, formerly Elder Education Enrichment) in So. Burlington presents 12 weeks of interesting and diverse programs each Fall and Spring. Each semester includes lectures related to one or more of several themes. Website: eeevermont.org

College classes - Students who are 65 years or older are able to audit one class per semester with no tuition charge and take additional courses at a reduced tuition rate at any Vermont State College institution. Check out the options for classes at The Community College of Vermont (CCV) Website: ccv.edu and OLLI at UVM is a community of adult learners who enjoy year-round courses and events that are diverse, interesting, fun, and affordable. Website: learn.uvm.edu/osher-life-long-learning/

Learning is not restricted to the young and the benefits of learning for seniors can make a huge difference in mental and cognitive health, social connections and overall happiness. Consider adding education to your to-do list this year.

The Winooski Senior Center offers low cost community meals and many free ways to participate and learn such as: wellness events, technology classes, art time, exercise groups, coffee time and much more! Van trips to grocery stores, the mall, the Food Shelf and the library, every Thursday we offer an AgeWell Community Lunch for \$4.00 at 11:30am and BINGO! at 12:30pm.

Reservations for all meals are now required. Call the Center by NOON the day before the meal to make your reservation. Call 655-6425 for the details.

Please call or email us to receive our monthly calendar of events and programming or go to the Senior Center calendar at: www.winooskivt.org/senior-programs/

COMING UP:

- **Feb 7** Go RED! for Women Wellness Event
- **Feb 14** Senior Committee Lunch & Meeting•
- **Feb 17** FREE International Lunch with WSD's ELL program•
- Feb 20 Center Closed for President's Day•
- **Feb 23** Theme BINGO! 50's Flashback

The Winooski Senior Center.... the most exciting place in Winooski! We are located at 123 Barlow Street. You can reach us by phone at 802-655-6425 or by email at seniorcenter@winooskivt.org









Islamic School News

By Janice Battaline

The 2nd trimester of the Weekend Islamic School has been an exciting and fun one for students and teachers. With almost 100 students currently enrolled, Sundays at the school are very active!

Our Sunday school classes are progressing well with eager students working hard and successfully balancing all of their schoolwork with some vacation/break time! Smiles were plentiful this month with even the youngest having fun learning about the importance of the 5 Pillars of Islam!

Our first community service activity for the new year was our 5th grades class visiting the Ronald McDonald House to bake for the residents. While there, the students learned about the history and important purpose the RMH serves in our community.

Further plans for students over the next month include another class visiting the Ronald McDonald House and younger students making toys for homeless shelter animals. We hope to work on an activity for a local food shelf in the spring.

Our students are looking for more opportunities to help in the community.... if you have an idea, let us know how we can help!

Contact us anytime at board@ vtweekendschool.org





Legislative Report

From Representative
Clem Bissonnette

I would first like to thank everyone for their votes to send me back to Montpelier to represent you for another two years. I am available to discuss any of your concerns and can be reached on 802-598-0229 or by email



@ cbissonnette@leg.state.vt.us. The first two weeks of the legislative session have been all committee work and very little action on the House floor except passing a few resolutions concerning operation of the House. The House Transportation committee has been hearing from the various Agency of Transportation managers and supervisors on all the activities that has occurred since the session ended in May. The committee will receive and begin reviewing the budget right after Governor Phil Scott's budget address. The process will be to hear from every manager and supervisor about their budget request which will have the Governor's approval by this time. The committee spent a couple of hours this week listening to our plow drivers who told us of their needs and concerns. One of the needs are attack plow trucks which are smaller plow trucks (F-550 at a cost of \$70K per truck) which can get to a road which needs to be plowed, salted and sanded easier than a normal plow truck. The need is for about seventy of these vehicles state wide. A normal plow truck has trouble getting to a road that is jammed with vehicles due to the road conditions. Our drivers also told us that most of the accidents involving our trucks happen on the left-hand lane of the interstate. This happens as vehicles are passing our plow vehicles. The drivers also thanked us for putting State Troopers out on work crews this summer to help battle the speeding in work zones, also thanked us for working with DMV officers who rode in State Trucks taking pictures of drivers who were texting and then radio ahead to a DMV officers who stop and ticketed the driver. The committee also heard discussion on our 4001 bridges state wide. The breakout of the bridges are as follows: interstate, state highways, and town highways bridges. In 2005 we had 12.8% of our bridges in structural deficiency and in April of 2016 we had 6.2% in structural deficiency.

From Representative Diana Gonzalez

The 2017 session is underway! I returned to my same committee; Housing, General, and Military Affairs. The "General" includes a lot of different topics such as alcohol, labor, and cemeteries. A big task for us this year is to make technical changes to our alcohol laws. Since prohibition, we have made numerous changes to our statute that governs alcoholic beverages. How these laws were written has, at times, been a little confusing. This past summer one of the legislative lawyers took the statute, re-ordered and cleaned it up, and is now presenting the proposed changes to the committee. This process is akin to moving into an apartment building that had rotating tenants for many years; someone had put a flower pot in the basement years ago, someone else had put the winter salt in the attic, someone had left mismatched dishes in the panty, etc. One day, you hire a personal organizer to come in, map all the items in the building and make suggestions on how to organize everything. That is similar to what we are doing with the alcoholic beverages statute. As a committee we are reading through the 180 pages of the statute to see the suggestions on how to organize it. We will then take testimony from different interested parties to see if it is clearer, easier to use, and matches current practice. It is a big job and super interesting!

Clem and I will continue our monthly coffee times at Scout, and will post the time and day on Front Porch Forum, so stay tuned. You can also reach me at 661.4053, diana@dianagonzalez.org, and www.facebook.com/GonzalezforStateRep/.

HEALTH CORNER

Health Office News

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Health Office Coordinator

Did you know that it takes 2 weeks before the flu shot becomes effective? Call your primary care physician today to see if the flu shot is right for you and your child.

Here are some helpful hints to minimize the spread of germs:

- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue and then throw it away.
- Wash your hands often, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- Use alcohol-based hand wipes and gel sanitizers if soap and water are not available.
- Stay home from work or school if you are sick. **Here at Winooski we ask that you not send your student to school is they are running a fever of 100 degrees or higher. Please make sure they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before allowing them to return to school.**

For more information, visit healthvermont.gov or call 211 for a list of flu clinics available.

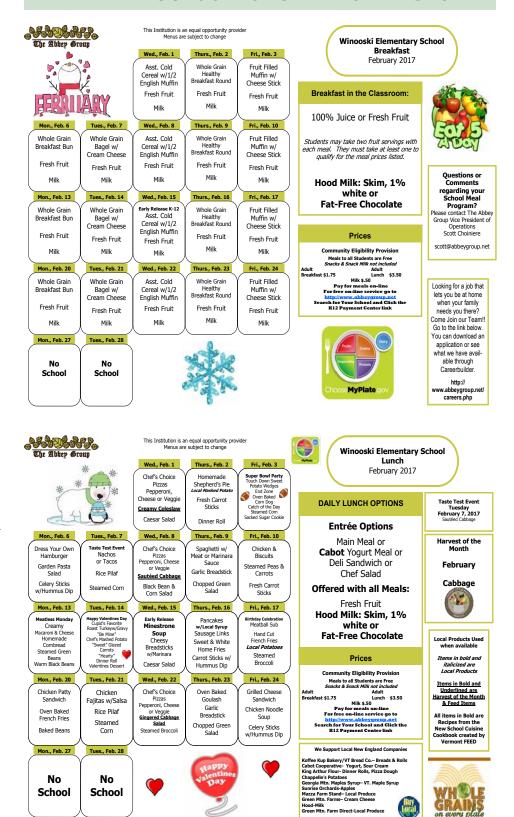
Tooth Tutor Update

By Diane Polson, RDH, Tooth Tutor

February is DENTAL HEALTH MONTH. What you do NOW can PREVENT many problems from occurring in the future. By investing only six minutes each day, both tooth decay and gum disease can be prevented by YOU! That's two minutes twice each day spent on brushing and two minutes once a day for flossing. Remember to Brush, Floss and Visit your Favorite Dentist at least once a year!

If you are in need of dental care, remember to visit www,wsdschools.org or stop by the Health Office for information on our school based dental program with Vermont Dental Care.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — FEBRUARY



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

ALSO: 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.

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Winooski Middle and High School

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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 410 students attending JFK Elementary (grades PreK-5), 161 attending Winooski Middle School (grades 6-8), and 234 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@wsdschools.org