

ALSO INCLUDES  
**Community News!**  
 STARTING ON PAGE 14

WINOOSKI SCHOOL

# DISTRICT NEWS!

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 8

MAY 2014

## *Celebrating Our Achievements!*

### Green Up Winooski is May 3!

By Stewart Ledbetter

Hello neighbors -- The winter that seemed like it would never end is finally ending -- and three weeks from this Saturday a great Vermont tradition returns. Green Up Day is May 3rd, and the Winooski Environmental Board volunteers hope you'll save the date! Green Up Winooski is from 9 a.m. until NOON -- it's one morning that makes a BIG difference to how our little city looks for the rest of the year.

We will meet at the Block Gallery Coffeehouse at the top of the roundabout at 9am. We will have bags and maps of the city.

Green Up Winooski's seen a great turnout the last couple of years -- dozens and dozens of people joining in to pick up trash and make our community look much better. Myers Containers has helped us out. Block Gallery has helped us out. Green Up provides bags and we provide enthusiasm.

Reach us at winooskieboard@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

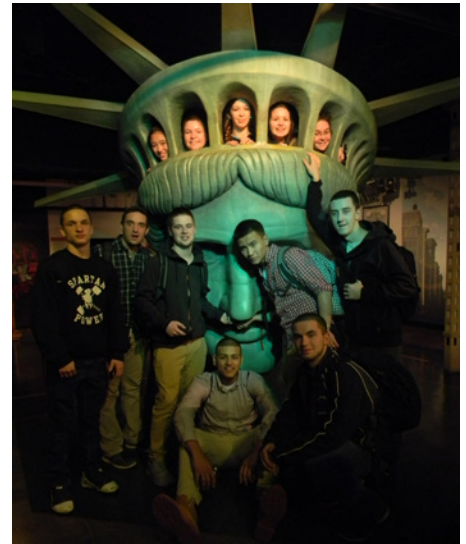
### Winooski Business Trip to New York City

By Courtney Poquette and Matthew Webb

At 5am in the morning on Thursday, April 3rd, twelve Winooski Business Students gathered at the Burlington Airport to travel to New York City for the 5th annual Business Trip. Students had worked diligently for two years to fundraise for this opportunity by selling raffle tickets as well as working at a School Store. The students' eyes sparkled in the city lights as they stepped off of the subway. The majority of students had never traveled to New York before so seeing the city lights and the bustling traffic was a bit of a culture shock. Highlights of the first day included: Lunch in Little Italy, a walking Tour of Chinatown, a bus tour of Lower Manhattan, a great view of the Empire State Building, and the highlight might have been the seeing Aladdin on Broadway.

Students still had energy on the second day after waking up in their Times Square hotel to walk up the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, as well as run around the island so they didn't miss the boat back to Manhattan. Students made a quick stop at Wall Street before heading to Madison Square Garden. At the Garden they were able to tour behind the scenes and visit the Knicks' and Rangers' locker rooms as well as learn how the courts are changed over between each big event. Students enjoyed a late lunch at an Italian Pizzeria and had time to visit Madame Tussauds Wax Museum before arriving in Vermont at midnight Friday.

It was a whirlwind trip and one which students will never forget.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Notes from the Central Office	2-4
Alumni Corner	3-4
Announcements	4-6
Notes From JFK Elementary	7
Middle and High School Highlights	8-13
Community News	14-16
Health Corner, Menu	17
District and Contact Information	18



## NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

### Hope!

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools

According to the US Census Bureau over 46 million Americans were living in poverty in 2012. The good news is that since 1960 the percentage of Americans living in poverty has declined from 23% to 15% with lows of ~11% in the 1970s and late 1990s. The bad news is that over 24% of our community is living in poverty including more and more children. However, there is hope! Hope arrives in many forms but I would like to describe three pieces:

1. The concept of "Income Mobility"
2. Understanding the research on income mobility and
3. Utilizing local resources and support

Income mobility is generally accepted as "the movement of an individual or group from one income level to another". The chart below shows that nearly 58% of people in the lowest income group (or the poorest 20% of Americans) moved into a higher income group over the course of nine years. Clearly, moving out of poverty does not happen overnight but it can happen.

According to the "Moving On Up" report by Pew Charitable Trusts in

November 2013, research tells us about the importance of education, employment and savings:

- College graduates are over 5 times more likely to leave the bottom income group than non-college graduates.
- Dual-earner families were over 3 times more likely to leave the bottom income group than single-earner families.
- 86 percent of college graduates, 84 percent of dual-earner families, and 64 percent of people who were continuously employed left the bottom income quintile (20%).
- Parental savings can have a significant impact on income mobility. Families with \$10,000 in savings have a much higher probability of moving out of the lowest income group.

There are a multitude of local resources available to start putting together an income mobility plan. The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) is a great place to start. You can peruse their website (<http://www.cvoeo.org/>) with a full

*"Hope is like the sun, which,  
as we journey toward it,  
casts the shadow of our  
burden behind us."*

— SAMUEL SMILES

listing of resources or call them at 862-2771. They provide support in the following areas and more:

- Developing plans to manage money & increase savings
- Navigating health insurance
- Small business planning
- Assistance with basic needs such as housing, food, and heat
- Support related to domestic violence & sexual assault

I am hopeful for our city, our families and most importantly, our children. The Winooski School District (WSD) will do everything possible to graduate students with the skills, behaviors and knowledge to be college and career ready which opens the door to upward income mobility. Let's do everything we can as the adult leaders in our community to leverage the key research points and our local resources to brighten the future for our children. Thank you for working with WSD to benefit our students!

### Are We Paying Enough For Our Education?

By Julian Portilla, Board of School Trustees

The citizens of Winooski recently voted to approve the proposed 2014-2015 school budget. Thank you Winooski! Many of the state's school budgets were not so fortunate. Even here in Winooski the budget passed by only a narrow margin. In our efforts to talk to the community before the vote, school board members encountered many arguments for and against passage of the school budget. Most were quite reasonable. Those against passage of the budget cited what they viewed as the unsustainable nature of the yearly rate hikes. Even at single digit increases every year, it adds up over the course of ten or twenty years. Those in favor of passage cite the importance of education as a vehicle for socio-economic mobility. After all, there is no greater predictor for success in life than a quality education, especially in the early years. A lot of people also talked about the promise of WSD's recent initiatives like the Partnership for Change and its look at individualized learning, the social thinking program in the elementary school, the 1-to-1 technologies in the middle school, mindfulness trainings and morning exercise routines for the older grades.

Whatever your view on whether or not the budget should have passed, the fact remains that Winooski enjoys one of the lowest tax rates in the county. The flip side to this is that WSD is in last place when it comes to spending per equalized pupil. There are at least two conclusions one could draw from this: either the district is highly fiscally responsible and stretches its dollar further than other communities OR we aren't spending enough on our children's education. I argue that it's both. Winooski's fiscal discipline should be admired throughout the state. The results we achieve with our budget and our unique population are remarkable. And I think we don't go far enough. Why is it after all that wealthier towns end up spending more money on their children's education than poorer towns? Shouldn't the opposite be true? Shouldn't we invest the most in the children that need it most?

Our children deserve the best and our citizens deserve to know that every penny we spend in our schools is being allocated responsibly and strategically. Let's invest more in our children, their future and the future of our town.

# Continuing the Conversation: What do our graduates need to succeed?

By Megan Behrend, Partnership for Change

In December 2012, the communities of Winooski and Burlington began a conversation about what our graduates need to succeed in today's complex and rapidly changing world. Hundreds of students, educators, parents, and community members weighed in at a community-wide learning conversation and more than 60 smaller gatherings in local homes and community spaces throughout the winter. By spring, we had decided on the overarching habits and dispositions that are most important to the success of all students in college, career, and civic engagement.

## These skills became our new Graduate Expectations and, in Winooski, they include:

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Cross-Cultural Understanding and Community Engagement
- Effective Oral and Written Communication
- Engagement in Learning
- Persistence
- Physical, Social, and Emotional Well-Being

Having reached consensus on the Graduate Expectations, this school year has been about tackling the next big question: How do we ensure that all students meet these expectations and show that they are ready to graduate?

Since September, Winooski students, teachers, administrators, school board members, parents, and community partners have started to answer this question in various ways. To start, the Winooski School Board used the Graduate Expectations as a starting point for their ends statement, which describes what our community wants out of its schools. In addition, Winooski High School faculty members are beginning to implement Graduation Expectations



*The Winooski GX Team envisions a school-wide system that supports all students to meet our new Graduate Expectations and leave high school ready for the 21st century.*

in their classrooms. Most teachers are focusing on just one Graduate Expectation this year. For example, 9th grade humanities teachers have been exploring how students might work toward and show that they have learned persistence.

Alongside the work of school board and faculty members, the Winooski Graduate Expectations (GX) Team—a group of diverse stakeholders that drafted the Graduate Expectations based on community input as well as education research and best practice—continues to think deeply about these questions. This spring, the GX Team has been working toward a new charge: to envision a school-wide system that ensures all students meet the Graduate Expectations and leave high school ready for today's world.

Already, the GX Team has brainstormed a couple of models of what this system could look like. The next step is to share these models with our community and gather feedback. The first question we'll ask the community is about how our schools should assess whether or not students have met the Graduate Expectations. We hope to engage all stakeholder groups in this conversation and collect their input for the GX Team to consider as they revise these models. Stay tuned for more information about how you can take part in this conversation.

## ALUMNI CORNER:

### Where Are They Now?

Interview by Heidi McLaughlin, VSAC

Our third alumni featured is School Board member Mike Decarreau! Here are our questions and his replies.



Mike Decarreau

#### How many years did you attend Winooski

**Schools?** 7 years. I attended St Francis School for grades 1-5 and grades 6-12 at JFK/WHHS

**Were there any adults in the Winooski schools that had a really positive impact on you?** Mrs Leary and Mr Stone, English and Science respectively, for being the two teachers that pushed us so hard to be better students. It was with these teachers that I began to learn how to study and would soon find that I would have to get much better at it.

**What was your favorite learning experience during your time in the Winooski schools?** In hindsight, it had to be the move from St Francis to the Winooski schools. I believe that this move made me more tolerant and accepting of a much wider variety of viewpoints and personalities.

**Did you feel prepared for college? Work/career?** I was not prepared, coming out of the Winooski schools, for the large class sizes in college nor was I fully prepared for the academic workload required. I did learn HOW to study eventually. A college course in the High School curriculum for college-bound students should be mandatory to start to prepare our students for both of these issues.

I feel I was fully prepared for work life as I had a very strong work ethic instilled in me from the time I was very young.

**Where do/did you go to college? What did you study? Degree?**

I graduated from UVM some time ago with a B.S. in Business.

**Where do you work? What do you do?** I am employed by IBM in the Outbound Supply Chain as an interface to our original equipment manufacturer

*(Continued on next page)*

(ALUMNI CORNER continued from page 3)

(OEM) clients. My main role is to match our clients' needs to our manufacturing capability and to communicate the issues to both the client and our internal IBM team.

**What advice would you give Winooski high school students about college and career if you knew then what you know now?**

For college bound students, learn HOW to study in High School. The WHAT will keep changing through your life. For both college and career, be tolerant of differing viewpoints as some of your best learning will come from very unexpected sources. Be open.

**What other activities were you involved in during college? Did you try anything new? What did you learn about yourself in college?**

Unfortunately I did not get involved with different groups or clubs and looking back, that would have been a positive addition to my experience.

What did I learn about myself in college? An awful lot. You tend to feel, coming out of high school, that you are mature and ready to take on the world. Real growth begins when you make your own decisions and work through the consequences of those decisions. Be wise.

**Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?**

Still paying off college tuition for our kids and beginning to ponder life after work.

**Project Graduation To Hold Bottle Drive Fundraiser May 17**

Please save your bottles and cans! Project Grad is planning a bottle drive for Saturday, May 17th. Those able to help should meet at the school on the 17th at 8:45 am to plan our routes.

If you have bottles to donate, and would like us to stop by your home or place of business, please call Linda Casier at 655-0411 during school hours or Anne Elston at 655-0942.

Thank you for your support! Project Grad is a sober celebration of graduation and will take place June 14th.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Kindergarten Registration and Screening**

Kindergarten registration and **screening for your child** at John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Winooski, VT, will take place on **Friday, May 9**, and **Monday, May 12**.

Children who will be five years of age prior to January 1, 2015, should attend this screening.

Please call the J.F.K. school office at **655-0411** to make an appointment for one of the two days. You must bring your child's **birth certificate, (or I-94 if your child was born in a country that doesn't issue birth certificates), updated immunization record** and his/her **Social Security** number to the appointment and **register your child while he/she is being screened**. Thank you.

**Honor Roll – Third Quarter: 2013-2014**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**Seniors**

**High Honors**  
Luke Fountain  
Kevin Pham

**Honors**

Natalie Bailey  
Har Wa Bi  
Kyle Bigelow  
Cara Casier  
Serina Phuong  
Kassian Prior  
Steven Truong  
Ku Say Wah

**Juniors**

**High Honors**  
Mina Dhamala  
Avah Eaton  
Hasan Ko  
Amanda Nattress  
Ro Ze Yar

**Honors**

Khada Acharya  
Sumeya Ali  
Uyen Bui  
Jake Corrigan  
Conner Drown  
Maryam Kadawe  
Zu Ti Nar  
and Ran Pokwal

**Sophomores**

**High Honors**  
Edmund Do  
Taylor Langlais

**Honors**

Sumitra Acharya  
Haroon Al Sammarae  
Ra Mat Bi  
Brandon Bigelow  
Hau Duong  
Trevor Gaboriault  
Kinzang Gurung  
Hannah Little  
Susmita Manger  
**Freshmen**  
**High Honors**  
Rui Chen  
Colton Lavalette  
Mariah Metivier

**Honors**

Muna Ali  
Ennis Horozovic  
Anab Mohamed  
Hamdi Muya  
Liliane Ndizihiwe  
Thong Nguyen  
Roshan Pradhan  
Kim Soukone

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**High Honors**

Shennelle Bailey  
Xavier Clark  
DhanMaya Dhamala  
Sophia Do  
Jarod Fountain  
Adison Granger  
Nicole Laplante

**Honors**

Mukhtar Abdulkhaleiq  
Heaven Clogston  
Vijayata Dahal  
Alex Do  
Kyla Duong  
Evan Eaton  
Faith Evans  
Keanna Evans  
Jazmyn Farlow  
Abigail Hayford  
Calvin Hayford  
Brianna Holton  
Ines Horozovic  
Omar Hussein  
Parker Kane  
Rebekkah Lambert  
Sa Me Lar  
Elisha Limbu  
Kaitlenn Little  
Mayange Mayange  
Bailey Miller  
Brianna Moore  
Caleb Moore  
Lydia Nattress  
Zeneth Nheb  
Riziki Numbe  
Maryam Omar  
Tiffany Phuong  
Faisal Shabaan  
Steven Shover  
Sean Soukone  
Kyle Sweeney  
Destiny Syharaj  
Olivia Treadwell  
Rebecca White  
Kayle Willard  
Azee Zar

# 18th Annual Winooski Spartan Hoop Camp

Hoop Camp Registration Forms are available online at [www.wdschools.org](http://www.wdschools.org)

Contact info: Camp Director: Dennis Barcomb-383-6096  
dbarcomb@wdschools.org

**DATES** - June 16-20 for students entering grades 2-5 - June 23-June 27 for students entering grades 6-8 – August 4-8 for students entering grades 8-10 (juniors and seniors are not eligible)

**TIMES** – The camp hours are 9:30 – 2:30. Please pick kids up promptly at 2:30

**FACILITIES** – Winooski High School gymnasium and cafeteria (lower baskets will be used for younger kids in the first session )

**FEE** – The fee for each camper is \$90. Any parent sending more than 1 child will pay \$85 per child (i.e. \$170 for two kids). The three weeks will overlap as far as payment goes so if you are sending 1 child to the first session and 1 to the second you will pay \$85 per child. The fee includes: T-shirt, trophies, and prizes. (Free lunches will be available through the summer lunch program) Please make checks payable to the Winooski School District and mail to Dennis Barcomb at Winooski Middle – Senior High School 80 Normand Street, Winooski VT, 05404.

**\*\*Registration will be cut off at 40 students per session\*\***

**STAFF** – Camp Director: Dennis Barcomb. Dennis is entering his 19th year in the Winooski School District. He is serving the district as Athletic Director, Elementary Physical Education Teacher, and Middle School Boys' Basketball Coach. Barcomb has coached the boys for the past eleven years, prior to that, Barcomb served as the varsity boys basketball coach for seven seasons. Barcomb led Winooski to 70 wins during his Varsity tenure, including a trip to the "Final Four" in 2000. Barcomb was selected as "Coach of the Year" in 2003 for the Mountain Division. Barcomb played/captained the varsity basketball team for the Essex Hornets from 1990-1992. After graduation Barcomb left for Springfield College in MA. to pursue a degree in Physical Education. While there he coached J.V. basketball for two seasons. Barcomb has now had 23 years experience working at basketball camps, and 18 years directing men's basketball leagues in Essex Junction.

The remaining staff may consist of area coaches and college players. Coaches that have worked in the past:

Eric Werntgen – Men's Coach at the University of Maine at Fort Kent • Shawn Montague – Varsity Girls at Essex High School • Brian Chandler – MMU High School • Chris Dumouchel – Essex Middle School • Cory Payson/Sue Messier/Chris Magistrale/Kyle Blindow – Winooski Middle School • Bernie Cieplicki – Former Assistant Coach St. Michael's College • Matt Mahar – Head Men's Coach at Assumption College • Josh Safran/Jeff Robinson – Winooski High School • Kristen Shaffer – St. Michael's College Women's coach • Nicole Conley – Vaughn College.

To get this information (including printable registration form) on the internet visit: <http://www.wdschools.org>. Click on the athletics tab and you will find it there.



**Join the Celebration**

Exciting things are happening! During the week of May 19th, 2014, there will be Winooski student performances, including dancing, vocal performances, and more.

Student artwork will be up for display in the O'Brien Center and at Winooski School District.

Come out to support our young, budding artists!

*We are a community.  
We are One.*

Monday, May 19	Tuesday, May 20	Thursday, May 22
4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Spring into the Arts Kick-Off Event	7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Concert	4:45 p.m. Empty Bowls Dinner prior to the JFK concert at 6:30 p.m.
Student and teacher performances at the O'Brien Community Center. K-12 student and teacher artwork will be displayed throughout the month of May, beginning on May 6.	Refreshments will be available for those parents who drop off their musicians early, and available for the performers after the concert.	Donations collected at the dinner and will be used to support the Winooski Food Shelf.

## Fall Prevention Volunteer Coaches Needed

RSVP, a program of United Way of Chittenden County, is seeking volunteer "coaches" age 55+ for the Matter of Balance program. Matter of Balance coaches help frail elders overcome their fear of falling so they can lead more active, less isolated lives. This award winning, evidence based program is designed to help older adults through a structured combination of small group discussion, problem solving and gentle exercises. Volunteer coaches do not need to be "athletic" but must have good communication and interpersonal skills, patience, and a willingness to lead a series of small group classes for older adults. Coaches are expected to attend an 8 hour volunteer training provided at no charge by FAHC and lead one class session within one year of certification. A background in education, health or public speaking is helpful but not required.

Screening requirements: Application, Interview (phone or in-person), Background Check (VCIC, DAD, SRS, FBI), Confidentiality Statement and Tuberculosis Testing (no charge). If interested contact: Ruthann Hackett 861-7831 or [Ruthann@unitedwaycc.org](mailto:Ruthann@unitedwaycc.org)



# Winooski Dollars for Scholars Creates New Skills Certification Scholarship

By Cathy Resmer, Winooski Dollars for Scholars Publicity Chair

This year, for the first time, Winooski High School graduates don't have to be enrolled in a traditional college or university to receive scholarship funds from Winooski Dollars for Scholars. In April, the board of the volunteer-run organization voted to create a Skills Certification Scholarship. This award was designed to recognize and support a Winooski High School graduate who will be attending trade school or a skills certification program after graduation.

This new scholarship is one of 20 awards that Winooski Dollars for Scholars will present at the graduation ceremony on June 14. Each year, Dollars for Scholars gives away between \$15,000 to \$18,000 in scholarship funds. By the time you receive this newsletter, seniors will already have applied for the scholarships; the application deadline is May 2.

But graduation day isn't the only time we award scholarships — Dollars for Scholars also funds enrichment activities for middle and high school students all year long. In 2014, the organization has given money to business students who attended a conference in Montpelier, and to students pursuing educational opportunities through the iLab. If your child is seeking funds for an educational project, we may be able to help! Please contact Middle/High School principal Leon Wheeler for more information.

None of these awards would be possible without support from local businesses and community members like you. Want to donate to Winooski Dollars for Scholars? Please visit our secure website, [www.Winooski.DollarsForScholars.org](http://www.Winooski.DollarsForScholars.org), to make a donation online or to find contact information. We will not be hosting a Calcutta this year, so don't wait for that event to give!

If you'd like to give your time, please join our volunteer board. We meet once a month for about an hour and a half and we'd love to have you join us — **our next meeting is on Monday, May 19, at 6 p.m. at the high school, in room 127.** For more information, contact publicity chair Cathy Resmer, at [cathy@sevendaysvt.com](mailto:cathy@sevendaysvt.com).

Happy Spring!

# YouthBuild Program Offered to Winooski Residents

By Ally Croteau, AmeriCorps Community Partnership Coordinator

## ReSOURCE YouthBuild: Building Futures

ReSOURCE YouthBuild, an education and job skills training program, is recruiting.



Based in Burlington, YouthBuild serves 16-24 year old men and women looking for an alternative to completing high school while gaining construction and weatherization training. YouthBuild graduates earn industry recognized certificates, like PACT, OSHA-10, First Aid and CPR, and Work Keys, while completing their high school diploma or GED requirements. Students serve their community as AmeriCorps members, and can qualify for an education award to use towards college or training programs. Graduates have access to resources and support to assist them as they advance their careers, go to college, build assets, and become role models.

If you, or someone you know is ready to build their future, apply today by calling (802) 658-4143 x 27 or visiting us at 266 Pine Street.

Check out what some of our Winooski students have to say about the program.

“YouthBuild is a family oriented place where you get a second chance at being successful in life.” — Dustin Wildes

“Traditional high school just was not working for me. YouthBuild was a great option for me because it's more hands on, and the class environment is more to my liking. I got friends, and I am able to get my work done on time, and learn job skills.” — Jordan Ashe

“YouthBuild has affected me for the better. When public school was not working out for me, YouthBuild welcomed me with open arms, and they care about me and my future.” — Trevor Guilmette

## SAVE THE DATE!

### WHS PRESENTS **SENIOR EXPOSITION**

**Friday, May 16**  
at the  
Winooski High School

WHS Seniors show off  
the results of their year-long  
Senior Projects.

**3 - 4 pm**  
**Community Open House,**  
in WHS classrooms

**4:00 pm**  
**Awards Ceremony**  
in the Performing Arts Center



At their March in-service day, Winooski staff were treated to a healthy breakfast buffet featuring overnight oatmeal and yogurt bar. Chef Bob Hildebrand of The Abbey Group conducted healthy snack workshops. The day ended with Mango Lassi (yogurt mango smoothies) and fruit pizzas prepared by the group.

## May News from JFK Elementary

By Mary O'Rourke, Principal

The entire student body was invited to a concert at the Elley-Long Concert Hall, sponsored by the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association. We can see that our mindfulness practice, social thinking and STARS acronym are truly paying off. The students were attentive, focused, and curious as they sat for an hour listening to the concert. It was obvious to me that they were thinking of each other and the group performing. They listened attentively and asked insightful questions.

This year we have been focusing on "Best Practices in Mathematics." This work has helped us develop common instructional practices and a common language. Teachers have been working really hard on these new strategies. We can see that our practices are paying off. The biggest payoff is the level of student engagement: student engagement will lead to improved student outcomes.

We will be hosting summer school again this year. This summer we will expand our program and adding an additional week. The three weeks will run June 23, June 30, and July 7. Summer school is a great opportunity for our kids.

## Reading Book Club

By Mag Thomas



On Tuesday afternoons, there is a group of students who come to relax with Mrs. Knapp. The students are in the

JFK afterschool program called Reading Book Club. They choose a book and then decide to partner read, silent read, or read it aloud. They can also do an art project relating to the story. Reading has never been so much fun!



## The Lorax Visits Kindergarten

by Kirsten Kollgaard

The kindergarten students at JFK have been reading and writing about Dr. Seuss for the last several weeks and on March 31st they got a special visit from one of his most beloved characters. The Lorax came to read them his story and talk about the importance of taking care of the environment. Students were excited to see the fuzzy,

orange champion of the trees as he walked down the hall and popped into their rooms. In addition to *The Lorax*, the kindergarten students read several other Seuss classics such as *Horton Hears a Who*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *The Sneetches* and others. They practiced retelling the beginning, middle and end of stories and they worked on inferring character traits and predicting. Keep your eyes peeled next time you're in the kindergarten wing, you never know who will drop by to visit. The kindergarteners hope the *Cat in the Hat* will be next!

## ELL Students Enjoy American Culture at the Fun Fair

by Kirsten Kollgaard

On Friday, March 21st, the JFK ELL team sent thirty of their newcomer ELL students to the PTO sponsored Fun Fair. Every year the ELL team invites the new ELL students who have come to JFK in the last year or are now attending 1st grade to the Fun Fair. That way each ELL student gets the chance to attend at least once during their school years at JFK.



The action packed afternoon began with a movie and snacks. After that the students were picked up by chaperones who showed them around the fun fair and held their tickets for them. The chaperones included Winooski high school students and St. Michael's College students.

The kids had a great time playing games, winning prizes, having their faces painted, eating popcorn and of course, jumping in the bouncy castle. The Fun Fair is a great way for our ELL students to participate in an important part of American culture and build stronger relationships with the school community. It also helps build important background knowledge for these students. Fairs, festivals and carnival games are often part of stories and math test questions that students encounter in class. Students who have never participated in an event like this have trouble understanding the context of these stories and test items. Once they have attended the Fun Fair they are able to make the connection between these stories and a real life event they have participated in, promoting a better understanding of the school environment in general.

The JFK ELL Team would like to thank the PTO and teachers for putting together the Fun Fair, along with thanks to all of our volunteers and liaisons who helped the children attend the event. We already have many students looking forward to next year!

## MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

### The Potential for Greatness

By Leon Wheeler, Principal, WMHS

Happy May! Bright flowers and budding trees grace our fair city as the long winter fully gives way to this season of renewal. Life is good!

The theme for this month's thoughts is, as noted above by Wilma Rudolph, is that the potential for greatness lives within each of us as we find and follow our spark, our inspiration. I will share about three high school students who were recognized this past month for their creativity as budding chefs; a number of high school students who are making a difference for elementary and middle school students and in the process discovering new leadership potential; and to invite you to celebrate with the senior class as they share their senior projects.

Congratulations to our Junior Iron Chef Team Alyssa Winegar, Shyanna Sweeney, and Jason Truong. The trio of chefs and coach Jacie Knapp competed Saturday, March 22 with 270 students from around Vermont at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds, and won the Crowd Pleaser Award, given to the chefs whose creation is the favorite with the judges. Amazing!

The business program has a leadership class where the students are learning the principles of Dale Carnegie. A new addition to the class in early April was preparing the students to become mentors during the school day with younger students. After the first day of mentoring, all involved were deeply moved by the experience. JFK teachers spoke of the powerful impact the high schoolers had on their children. Elementary students who saw their mentor in the cafeteria enthusiastically ran up to them and said hello. And the young leaders gave glowing reports to their teacher, Courtney Poquette. It's exciting and affirming to see our youth growing into true leaders.

There are many celebrations happening during the month of May. I want to especially invite you to our senior expositions. This is the culminating event of their year-long study of a topic of interest to them, and it is a requirement for graduation. It's an impressive event and important part of our school traditions, especially as we strengthen our programs. I encourage you to visit the school Friday, May 19 and see the exciting and inspiring exhibitions and presentations.

There's much to celebrate! Have a great month!

*"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us."*

— WILMA RUDOLPH,  
Olympic gold medalist



**March's Artist of the Month:**

### Kinzang Gurung!

Please join me in congratulating her for all of her hard work and dedication in the arts. She has been an exemplary student, an innovative explorer, and an ambitious learner. Great job, girl!

—Jessica Bruce, Fine Arts Educator



### Congratulations Mina!

By Jessica Bruce, Fine Arts Educator

Our own Mina Dhamala was selected as a finalist for this week's "Artist of the Week" award for the 10th-12th age group through the artist portfolio platform site "Artsonia.com" Congrats, Mina!

### Happy Spring!

By Anera Foco, WMHS Family School Partnership Coordinator

Please come and join us for a Learning Walk. This is an opportunity to:

- Walk in your child's shoes and experience Winooski Middle and High Schools from your child's perspective;
- Build relationships between schools' staff and families with our students at the center of this partnership.
- Get hands on experience on how Winooski Middle and High Schools operate.



**Next Learning Walk will be held on May 8** from 10 to 12. We would love if you could join us. Please call or e-mail me if you would like more info and if you would like to sign up. Contact me at (802) 316-6240 or afoco@wsdschools.org.



## Music Matters

By Cathy Mander Adams

SITA.

So..... do you know what SITA is?

Let me help, just in case: **Spring Into The Arts!**

Last year Jan Willey, our district curriculum coordinator, helped the Arts teachers to create this yearly, week long celebration that focuses on the Arts. The team, consisting of all Arts teachers from K-12, created the title and Jessica Bruce created a logo. Last year was the first presentation of the festival with great results.

The "festival" focuses on the Arts with presentations and performances presented by students in the district. Visual arts items will be on display, for the month of May, in the O'Brien Center. Student performances will take place at the O'Brien Center on Monday, in the Performing Arts Center, on Tuesday (Middle High School Pops Concert), and again on Wednesday (JFK Concert).

This year we are changing things a bit in an effort to have more presentations. There is so much talent in this district that we are encouraging all students to consider participating. Right now, we have a few "artsy" students who are already getting their performances polished for the big Kick-Off Celebration that will take place on Monday at the O'Brien Center. This is kind of our own "Winooski's Got Talent" opportunity.

The opening performance, for the Kick-Off Celebration on Monday, will be when we (those courageous ones) will all sing "We Are The World" together at the O'Brien Center starting at 4:00 pm.

Please consider attending any and all of these performances. Look for our SITA Logo throughout the community and on our web site as we get geared up for this exciting celebration. We're hoping to see a lot of our community there cheering on our performers.

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## Band Notes & Calendar

By Randy Argraves

Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter! I want to give everyone a quick reminder about our upcoming performances. Here they are:

### All State Parade in St. Johnsbury

Wednesday, May 7 at 6 PM

### SITA performances and Art Exhibit at O'Brien Center

Monday, May 19 4 - 6 PM

### Pops Concert in PAC

Tuesday, May 20 7 PM

### JFK Chorus, Band and Orchestra Concert in PAC

Thursday May 22 6:30 PM

### Winooski Memorial Day Parade

Saturday, May 24 12:00 PM

### Guitar Night in PAC

Wednesday May 28 6:30 PM

### Jazz Fest on Church Street in Burlington

Wednesday, June 4 1:15-2:15



## Winooski High School Starts Mentoring Program

By: Courtney Poquette Business Educator

My proudest moment in eight years of teaching happened on Wednesday, April 9th. Two years ago, I visited BFA St. Albans and discovered that their Business Department had developed an amazing Leadership course. I thought a class like that would be a great match at our high school. Anxious to learn more about it, I enrolled in a class on Dale Carnegie's Leadership Principles. That class was a life changer for me.

Once I graduated from the course, I was so inspired that we switched my Business Topics class to focus on leadership skills. The class revolved around five themes: self-confidence, people skills, communication skills, leadership skills and improving attitudes while reducing stress. The Leadership Class at Winooski encourages students to step outside of their comfort zone, while practicing public speaking and building stronger relationships with their peers. I was thrilled last year to see the class work together to self-direct, choreograph, and perform a group dance in front of the whole school. It was amazing to see how close the students grew as friends, when at one point they didn't even know one another's names.

This year the Leadership class took time to build on the current program and put their leadership skills into action by working as mentors to younger students in our district. On April 9th, 13 high school students matched up with a student in kindergarten to sixth grade with the mission to build relationships, while encouraging them to pursue higher education. This is a great opportunity for younger students to connect with a role model and for upperclassman to develop their leadership skills. After the first day both younger and older students were excited for the next opportunity to meet. It was a wonderful time for me as an educator to see the Leadership students really making a difference in another student's life and the younger students eyes light up when their mentor walked in the room. Mentors will be working with the younger students for two months with the hope that this program can expand next year to impact more students in our district.

# Exciting New Summer Program Offered FREE for Middle School Students!

By Barbara Russ

We are excited to announce collaboration with the Sarah Holbrook Community Center and Burlington Afterschool to provide summer program opportunities for our Winooski Middle School students this summer.

Here are some of the details:

- The summer program is a five-week program (June 30th-August 1st) with 12-15 programs offered each week and is **designed specifically for middle school students**.
- ALL of our middle school students are invited to attend the summer program.
- Students who would like to attend will be able to choose the week or weeks that work in their schedules, and can attend either half days (mornings or afternoons) or full-day programs.
- **Lunch will be provided and there is no cost to the students.**
- Programs will take place in Burlington and Winooski and transportation will be provided.

- Fliers will be mailed out in mid-May at the latest.

We are pulling together the program offerings and wanted to give you a preview of what some of the programs will be.

Two Winooski Middle School teachers will be teaching this summer:

- Steve Forman is going to be teaching two weeks of **Lego Robotics** in mid-July, and **Cycling and Bicycle Repair** the last week of the summer program
- Chris Magistrale is going to teach **Manga Book and Drawing Club** in July.

Other programs include: **Sailing & Science, Fashion Design, Chess & Ultimate Frisbee, Cooking and Community, Basket Ball and Statistics, Volley Ball, Pottery, Silk Screening, Farming, Print Making & Drawing, Painting & Book Making**, a hiking program called "Let's Go!", **Geo Caching, Water Rocketry, Young Writers Project, Safe Sitter** – a

babysitting course, **Nature Journaling, Poetry Workshop, Fly and Bait Fishing, Explore VT, Running and Yoga, Book it to China, Knitting, Beading Workshop, Website Design, Analogue/Digital Photography, Filmmaking, "This Vermont Life"** –students will interview people in Burlington/Winooski, take the interviews and stories, and make them into a radio show similar to *This American Life*, and **Young Hacks Academy**—students will learn to code and learn the basics of creating their own games.

Still in the planning are programs in **Woodworking, Shakespeare, and Circus Arts with Circus Smirkus & Cirque du Soleil**.

Interested? Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and parents/guardians — **please look for the flier in your mailbox by mid-May**. We look forward to seeing many middle school students participating in this exciting summer program!

## Strong Support for the Afterschool JiuJitsu Club

By Nancy Keller

Since the beginning of March, 18 middle and high schools students have been meeting weekly to learn and practice the martial art of Brazilian JiuJitsu with black-belt instructor David Quinlan of Martial Way Self-Defense Center. Brazilian JiuJitsu (BJJ) is a grappling art in which students learn throws, take-downs and holds, it is also an excellent form of exercise, and, potentially a sport for competition.

Practice sessions focus mainly on repetitions of sequences of Jiu-Jitsu techniques. There is little time spent on routine exercises; after a brief warm-up, the students get loads of moderate to vigorous physical activity simply by performing the moves. The techniques are taught singly at first and then built into a sequence that encourages a natural flow of technical options.

Eight Winooski Middle/High School martial artists from the BJJ Club chose

to compete in the Vermont Open Championship on Saturday, April 12, a major BJJ tournament held at Winooski Educational Center and hosted by Sensei Quinlan.

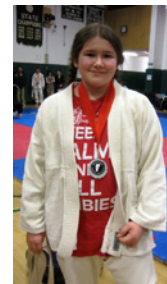
Congratulations to Bradley Senna and Xavier Bouvier for first place finishes, Hannah Poirier and Sean Angell for second place finishes and Corbin Lawrence and Shaun Sylvestre for third!



The Winooski Middle/High School Team



Corbin, Bradley, Xavier & Dylin



Hannah



Sean

# 1-to-1 Computing Update

by Drew Blanchard, Technology Integration Specialist

This year, students in fifth grade began using iPads in their classrooms. They focused on some of the basics, such as how to search safely and effectively online for accurate information, how to tell fact from fiction, and how to share their work with teachers via Google Docs and school Gmail. We're preparing students for life in the middle school, where teachers expect most work to be done electronically; familiarity with the iPad and apps will make life easier for all involved.

At the middle school, our 1-to-1 iPad initiative has been a tremendous success – and learning experience. It's taken time for everyone to become familiar with the different apps used to demonstrate learning, and it can be an overwhelming process. To make things easier, we focused on mastering a few apps that form the backbone of the work in middle school: Google Drive (also known as Google Docs), Evernote (a portfolio app), Explain Everything (a do-it-all tool) and iMovie. The idea of "workflow" has been critical – how to get work off the iPad and into a place it can easily be accessed by teachers, shared in a group, or assessed. There are hundreds of different ways to accomplish these tasks, but we simplified the process to always use one of three options (often used in combination): send the work to Google Drive and share it with the teacher (or collaborators), get the project out of the app and save it to the iPad's *Camera Roll*, or import the work to Evernote. Being consistent with these workflows is critical, or much time is lost trying to find new/alternate ways to accomplish the same task. It has also been important students use their school/professional Google and Gmail account for this work. Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Thompson or Mr. Malcovsky can reset passwords lost or forgotten for these accounts, but we have no way of helping students who have forgotten passwords for their own, personal accounts.

In June, we have a different task for middle school students: preparing the iPads for summer. One of the things we learned this year is the fact there is a better, wireless way to "manage" the iPads. Currently, iPads that are locked

out because of forgotten passwords, apps that are accidentally deleted, or new apps that needed to be added must all be fixed by hand. It's a time consuming process. Next year, we will implement a system that allows us to wirelessly connect to the iPad and resolve these problems from a control panel. To facilitate this, though, the iPads will need to be returned to their carts and left for the summer. Setting up this new system first requires a physical/electronic connection to each iPad, to make changes at a deeper level, then spending time testing this new system and fine-tuning. This can only happen during the summer months. Current sixth and seventh graders will receive their iPads back in the fall and will find that, for all intents and purposes, it's exactly as they left it – albeit with fully updated apps. Current eighth grade students will work with Mr. Blanchard and the classroom teachers to transfer all content from their iPads to Google Docs or other places where they can easily access this work next year – and continue to build upon the evidence of their learning.

At the high school, things continue to move smoothly. We went from 13" MacBook Pros to 11" MacBook Airs. The Airs are a bit smaller, a lot lighter, faster, and have *much* better battery life. Next year's incoming freshmen will again receive MacBook Airs, and will have to make an adjustment to life without iPads.

The decision to continue with laptops at the high school was made in large part because there are currently some Websites and applications used there which are not yet compatible with iPads and iOS. This is a rapidly changing area, though, and we expect freshmen in future years will be able to select either a laptop *or* an iPad Air as their device for high school. After all, if we're personalizing learning, it starts with selecting a device that works best for the individual student.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at [dblanchard@wsdschools.org](mailto:dblanchard@wsdschools.org) or by phone at 802-655-3530.

## Summer ELL Transitions Program: July 7 to August 8

The **Winooski Summer Transitions Program** for middle and high school ELL students begins on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Join us for English, math, and field trips!

**English Classes.** We write and read every day, with extra activities for editing, proofreading, academic writing, and grammar. You can tell your personal stories and improve your writing for the fall.

**Math Classes.** In the summer session, math involves having fun. Last summer, students built a model with marshmallows, pasta, tape, and string to test how shapes support structure. Other classes reviewed geometry, finance, fractions, and decimals.

**Field Trips & Community Service.** Our summer days include time to travel. In 2013, we took a cruise on Lake Champlain, visited Echo, and the libraries in Winooski and Burlington. We spent time earning community service hours at the Intervale and VYCC.

### Why Participate?

Paying attention to reading, writing, and math helps you remember things when school begins in the fall. Summer Transition students spend a few hours learning every day, then take time to play soccer, badminton, basketball, and go on trips. It's work—but it's fun too.

Middle School students earn a Certificate of Completion for attending and passing the class. High school students receive one Humanities credit.

### Who Attends?

The Summer Transitions Program is open to middle and high school ELL students who want to improve their learning. If you are entering grade 6 through 8 this fall, or will be a high school student in grades 9 through 12, we have space for you.

For Information, contact Bill Clark, ELL Teacher, Winooski Middle High School. Phone: 802-383-6091. Email: [BClark@wsdschools.org](mailto:BClark@wsdschools.org).

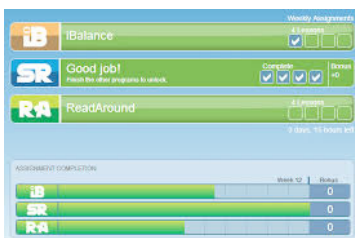
# Winooski Middle School Students Going for the Goal!

By Donna Issenberg, M.Ed., Reading Specialist

Winooski Middle School students are collectively working hard to accomplish a goal of 500 combos in the Reading Plus program. To earn a combo, a student must achieve two consecutive scores of 80% or above on comprehension questions that follow reading passages. Once their goal is realized, the students will be treated to a very special presentation given by the well-known local author, Laban Hill. Mr. Hill's works qualified him as a 2004 Finalist for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature. Dave the Potter and Harlem Stomp! A Cultural History of the Harlem Renaissance are among the many distinguished works he has written. Additionally, students will be given opportunities to apply their academic skills to an authentic inquiry session. Just prior to the presentation, individuals will formulate two "who, what, when, where, how, why" questions that address areas of Mr. Hill's professional life as an author. Student names per class will be drawn giving several very lucky individuals an opportunity to put their public speaking skills to work.

What are students saying about Reading Plus? Here are the responses I received after asking that question.

- "I like Reading Plus because it helps me with my seeing and reading. I like how it gets harder every level and just think it's cool."
- "Students will learn more and the more you learn reading the more you learn spelling and other things."
- "Ever since I started Reading Plus, I read better."
- "Reading Plus has helped me on my reading. I have noticed big changes ever since I started Reading Plus."



# Jr. Iron Chefs Cook Up a Storm!

By Barbara Russ

The Three Spartaneers—Alyssa Winegar, Shyanna Sweeney, and Jason Truong, all Winooski High School students— competed on March 22nd at the Jr. Iron Chef Competition at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds. They prepared their famous Stuffed Spartan Tomatoes with kale chips on the side. Jacie Knapp (5th grade teacher at JFK) had been working after school with the chefs since late November/early December as they perfected their recipe. They had a fabulous and fun time cooking together and walked away with the Crowd Pleaser Award. This award is given to the team that best incorporates color, texture, and taste, for a true crowd-pleasing dish. It was very exciting and the chefs each received a bag full of cooking goodies along with some cookware for the afterschool program and a year's subscription to Eating Well magazine.



In addition, The Three Spartaneers were invited to cook for the legislators in Montpelier on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. In the morning they were recognized in the House of Representatives and at lunchtime they created their famous Stuffed Spartan Tomatoes for the legislators to sample. We would like to extend a big thank you to Representative Clem Bissonnette and Representative George Cross for taking time out of their very busy schedules to meet with our chefs. The chefs are already thinking about what recipe they will cook at next year's competition. In the meantime, they wanted to share their winning recipe with you. Bon Appetit!

## Stuffed Spartan Tomatoes

### Recipe Ingredients:

- 3 cups chicken broth
- 3 cups Quinoa
- 1 bunch of Kale (local)
- 8 oz. Cabot Cheddar Cheese, shredded (local)
- 8 oz. Monterey Jack Cheese, shredded
- 1 garlic clove, chopped fine (local)
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- salt, pepper, and garlic powder to taste
- 4 Tbsp. olive oil
- 14 oz can of corn
- 1 onion, minced (local)
- 8 medium sized tomatoes (local)
- 2 larger tomatoes (local)

### Recipe Preparation Instructions:

- 1) Cut tops off tomatoes in zigzag pattern. Hollow out the middle. Throw away the insides, and then set aside.
- 2) Wash, then shred 3 Kale leaves. Place in a saucepan. Add 3/4 cup both cheeses. Melt on low heat until cheese is melted.
- 3) While waiting for cheese to melt, cook Quinoa by boiling 3 cups chicken broth. Once boiling, add Quinoa, reduce heat, cover and simmer until softened.
- 3) Place corn, garlic, and onion on a cookie sheet. Broil 3-5 minutes.
- 4) Stir corn mixture and Quinoa, into Kale and cheese mixture. Stir until combined. Add 1/4 tsp. salt & pepper.
- 5) Scoop mixture into tomatoes to tops.
- 6) Sprinkle tops with left over cheeses.
- 7) Broil in oven until cheese just browns. Take out and set aside.
- 8) Prepare Kale chips for the plate. Toss left over kale, salt, pepper, and garlic powder with olive oil.
- 9) Place on a cookie sheet and bake at 300 degrees until just crisp (10-15 minutes).
- 10) Place Kale chips in center of plate, then place tomato on top.

Serve and enjoy!



## PROM 2014! It's Coming... (May 23)

By Kelly Fitzpatrick

Administration thought it may be helpful to have one adult accept responsibility to work with the class of 2015 to plan prom. As it turns out, I am that person. Working together with a very small group of hard working and motivated students: (Hunter Robare, Avah Eaton, Nathalie Bray, Michaela Metivier, Amanda Nattress and Victoria White) Each of them has been invaluable in their expertise. These six kids have done an amazing job and I believe this year's PROM will show their hard work and dedication has paid off.

Rather than the traditional end of the year dance when everyone gets dressed up in expensive clothes and rents limos to head to a fancy restaurant for an expensive dinner followed by a dance at a local hotel... We decided this year will not be about the expensive clothes, fancy food and limos ...This year will be about having a good time, a good time that includes *all* of our students. For those who chose to purchase fancy dresses and rent tuxedos, who spend the day washing and waxing the family minivan so it will be ready as shiny as can be and for those that don't! Those with economic privileges and those without. This year we will have a MADE IN VERMONT themed PROM...a good

old fashioned barn dance! Complete with a buffet style meal made with donated Vermont products.

This year we will also provide transportation from the school parking lot, to and from Prom. For those that do not have transportation and those that do, but would rather not drive! Prom Committee thanks PTO for donating the funds needed to rent the bus. All those who chose to ride the bus will be given a discount on the price of their prom ticket.

Lastly we will be hosting a dress and suit swap. We are currently accepting donations of new or used gowns, dresses, suits and dress clothes for students who either can not afford or chose not to purchase or rent prom outfits. Our dress code is more casual than in the past...Ladies will wear dresses or suits that are well fitting and comfortable as well as somewhat formal, this could be a traditional prom gown or a nice dress, or even traditional clothing from the student's culture as was demonstrated in our fashion show. Gentlemen will wear suits or dress pants with a tie.

In closing, the Prom Committee wants to thank all of the students who helped with the fashion show as well as the many supporters and sponsors.

## Guidance News

By Emmy Charron, Guidance Counselor,  
Winooski Middle High School

Here are upcoming March events to mark on your calendars!

- **May 1st:** College Deposit deadline for Seniors attending college (other than CCV).
- **May 3rd:** SAT Test Date
- **May 9th:** Last day to register for the June 14th ACT's (act.org)
- **May 15th:** AP World History exam date
- **May 16th:** Senior Project presentations
- **May Dates TBD:** High School and 8th grade class registration for next year.

You can reach me at 383-6099 (direct), 655-3530 or at [echarron@wdschools.org](mailto:echarron@wdschools.org) to set up an appointment.

Questions about financial aid? Contact VSAC Coordinator Heidi McLaughlin at [mclaughlin@vsac.org](mailto:mclaughlin@vsac.org). Also, you'll find lots of information about planning for college, grades and transcripts on the district website at [www.wdschools.org](http://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.

## News from the iLab -

By Will Andrews, iLab Teacher

**Community Connections** - Many of our iLab students have spent some time connecting to our community in a variety of ways. We have had students observing graphic design classes and talking with academic advisors at CCV, touring Burton's snowboard production building, working to help clean up the Winooski community during the Global Youth Service Day, having conversations with members of city government during a bi-weekly lunch talk, learning about the medical field through the UVM Medical School's Med Mentor Program and our upcoming tour of the UVM College of Nursing, participating in dog-training courses, and being a part of iLab planning for next year. Hopefully next year will bring even more of these opportunities for our students to reach out and connect

to the local community.

**May 2nd Neighborhood Learning Conversation at CCV** - On May 2nd, from 3:30 to 5:30 at CCV, iLabbers, CCV students, and Winooski community members will be sitting down for a conversation about the state of education in Winooski. iLab students will be talking about their experience this year as well as what they hope their educational future looks like. This event is open to the public and designed to be a way of making more community connections and spread the iLab word. Please join us.

**Final Share-it Night** - The iLab will be holding it's final Share-it Night in the Winooski Cafeteria on June 11th from 5:30 - 8:00PM. The night will include interactive student presentations and exhibits, a community dinner,

performances from students working on music projects, and an end of the year award and recognition presentation.

**Current iLab Projects** - Many of our iLabbers are getting close to the end of their projects, and we are feeling it in the classroom. Students are finishing up their homemade snowboard project, completing their second draft of their novel, working on fixing bikes within the classroom, producing original music, designing graphics and games, and planning events relating to their projects. We are excited to see how all of these projects will look by the end of the year!

If you are interested in reaching out to the iLab with ideas or services, please email me at [WAndrews@wdschools.org](mailto:WAndrews@wdschools.org).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Update from your City Council

By Seth Leonard

Spring has finally sprung! As we all rush outside to take advantage of our community's wealth of natural resources, we want to thank everyone who took the time to respond to the Winooski Parks and Trails Survey. The results can be found online at the city's website, and our newly formed Community Services Commission will be working with staff to design future projects based on community responses. Please also look forward to opportunities to participate in Green-Up Day on May 3<sup>rd</sup>!

As we quickly move through the first half of the calendar year, we are also moving nearer to the end of the City's fiscal year. That means we will also turn our immediate attention to "special funds" that are not part of the General Fund; like our Water Fund, the



Community Services Special Funds, Waste/Storm Water Fund, Parking Garage, and a few other special revenue funds. Check the city website for a full schedule of upcoming agenda items.

The City Council proudly listened to as our independent audit firm gave a clean Audit Report for the handling of city finances for the past year, finding no significant issues. A clean Audit Report is a testament to the very diligent work on behalf of the staff in City Hall over the past several years.

Enjoy spring everyone!

As always, if you have any questions about what's going on in the City, feel free to contact any of the city council or call city hall at 655-6410. And again, thank you for your support.

### Free Weekly Playgroups offered at Winooski Family Center!

Playgroups are an opportunity for children to build social and literacy and skills and engaging in fun activities that will help build a foundation for future learning and Kindergarten readiness. It is also a place where parents can gain support, learn about and access resources and meet other parents from their community. Our Thursday Playgroup includes a nutritious lunch prepared by "Fresh Foods". Our playgroups are funded by Building Bright Future and the Children's Trust Foundation.

All parents, caregivers, grandparents with children 0-5 years are welcome. Playgroups are held Mondays from 10-11:30am and on Thursdays from 11am-1pm at the Winooski Family Center in the O'Brien Community Center at 32 Mallets Bay Ave. Please call us at 655-1422 or email [karenp@howardcenter.org](mailto:karenp@howardcenter.org) for more information.

### Farmers Market Coming June 1

The Winooski Community Partnership is pleased to say that the Winooski Farmers Market will be held on the green, in front of the Champlain Mill, running from June 1 – October 12. We are anticipating a fabulous season with many of our vendors returning & some new folks to please us all.

The Winooski Farmers Market is still seeking season and day vendors for this upcoming season! We're especially looking for berries and other fruit, cheese and other dairy products, bread, honey, eggs, jams and perhaps other unique additions!

Send an email to [winooskimarket@gmail.com](mailto:winooskimarket@gmail.com) for an application!



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

Visit the city website at [winooskivt.org](http://winooskivt.org) or call 802-655-6410.



Keep up to date with announcements and news about City activities:  
**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK** We are "City of Winooski - Government"  
**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER** We are @winooskivt

### Youth Celebration Planned for May 17th

By Sarah Campbell, Winooski Youth Programs

It seems as if Spring is finally upon us and we are more than ready to enjoy the nice weather. Winooski Youth Programs will be partnering with Operation: Military Kids, a UVM Extension program, to host a May Day Event in celebration of spring and the upcoming summer season. On Saturday, May 17th from 12-4, we will be having field games including a huge kickball tournament, barbecue food, a water balloon toss, t-shirt stenciling, and much more! Location is TBD but will be in Chittenden County. Please stay tuned to Front Porch Forum for upcoming details. We hope you'll join us to welcome Spring!

# March/April Excitement at the Senior Center!

By Jahnine Spaulding, Director, Winooski Senior Center

The rough winds, ice, and snow of early Spring kept our Winooski Senior Center volunteers on their toes as they delivered over 1,000 Meals On Wheels each month, prepared taxes for over 350 Winooski residents, prepared a massive St. Patrick's Day feast, and welcomed the arrival of better weather with an afternoon of comedy starring Rusty DeWees. Some volunteers are able to give hours, and hours of service. Others only have an hour or two to spare each month. We are grateful for EVERY hour served by EVERY volunteer minute they give with us makes possible, or enhances, the programs, activities, and friendships we share here.

Special thanks to our very own St. Patrick's Day Leprechauns – Rita Martel, Norma Audette, Terri Blackston, George Crowley, Helene Poulin, Blanche Boissy, Theresa Kellogg, Gail Hance, Terri Norton, and Mary Fitzgerald. Over 80 people enjoyed succulent corned beef and cabbage (or Irish Potato bar), and Celtic inspired desserts – and it takes the magic of many hands to set up for, prepare, and serve such an extraordinary meal! A big thank you to everyone who came down and shared in the fun and feasting!

On April Fools Day nearly 80 people packed the center for a wonderfully funny and thoughtful performance by Rusty DeWees (aka The Logger). Many thanks to Mr. DeWees for serenading and entertaining us, and many thanks to Eileen Hausermann, the Winooski Housing Authority SASH Coordinator for bring us all together! Thanks also to George Crowley, Theresa Kellogg, Dave Kozak, Ethan Haussman, and Terri Blackstone who kept the everything running smoothly!

So what's on tap in May? Tons of stuff! We invite every Winooski resident 55 or older to join us for any of our on going programs, or for any of the following "specials:"

- **May 6th** – Members meeting, discussion of Senior Survey Results, and presentation by HomeShare Vermont – starts at 11:30 Meal Cost: \$4
- **May 15th** – By special request the VNA of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties will be giving a presentation on the new "COLST" end-of-life directive – you may have thought a DNR (do not resuscitate order) was all you needed, but Vermont has a new type of end-of-life option. Come find out more. Starts at 11:30, lasts 30 minutes. FREE Lunch Cost \$4 suggested donation
- **May 16th** – Stroke Prevention Workshop 1-2 PM FREE
- **May 21st** – Medicare Jeopardy presented by COVE – learn about the latest Medicare changes while playing Jeopardy for prizes! 12 PM FREE
- **May 28th** – Medicare Bingo – find out more about medicare, enjoy some bingo and snacks. We promise you will learn something new! 12 PM FREE
- **May 30th** – Game Day! Bring your friends and come down to the WSD for games of all kinds – board games, cards, dominos- snacks, and 3-5 PM FREE

Need more information? Stop by the Winooski Senior Center any morning Monday through Friday.



*Norma A and Rusty DeWees - Many thanks to Rusty for visiting us and providing a FABULOUS introduction to April!*



*Our Winooski Senior Center Leprechauns - They Make the Magic Happen! From left to right: Mary F, Theresa K, George C, Blanche B, Norma A, Rita M, and Terri B.*



*Jane, Rita, and Liz attended the VNA's Start The Conversation Program that helps everyone define their end-of-life wishes and let those they love what they want.*

## WCSPC Update

By Kate Nugent, Winooski Coalition for a Safe and Peaceful Community

The Winooski Coalition is hosting a **Community Dialogue Night** on May 15, from 6 to 8 PM. This event will be held at the O'Brien Community Center. Childcare is available (must call by Tuesday, May 6 to request). Food will also be provided. This is a free and public event. We look forward to seeing you there! Look for more details on our

website and newsletter.

The **May Community Dinner** will this year be hosted by the Winooski Family Center again! Featuring (adorable and wonderful) preschool art and good food, this dinner will take place the third Wednesday in May, on the 21, from 5:30 to 7. This event is free and open to the public. We look forward to seeing you!

For more information, please visit our website [WCSPC.org](http://WCSPC.org) and note the new email address for our executive director: [katenugent@wcspc.org](mailto:katenugent@wcspc.org).

Happy spring!

Sign up for our e-newsletter! Call 802.655.4565 | 32 Malletts Bay Ave, Winooski, VT 05404 | [wcspc.org](http://wcspc.org)

# Thrive Summer Youth Enrichment Program

By Kirstie Paschall, Program Director

Thank you to all those who have already turned in your enrollment forms for the 2014 Thrive Summer Youth Enrichment Program! We are so excited by the turnout and are looking forward to a fantastic summer!

This year, the Thrive Summer Youth Enrichment Program is proud to announce that we will be hosting the Children's Literacy Foundation Summer Readers Program on **Monday, July 14th** at 3pm! This fantastic event will include a read-aloud by one of the Children's Literacy Foundation's skilled storytellers, and the event will round out with a book give away, ensuring that every child leaves with a new book! All attendees of the Thrive Summer Youth Enrichment Program and their families will be part of this event, but we encourage all Winooski families to join us!

If you would like to enroll your child in the Thrive Summer Youth Enrichment Program, forms are available in the main office of JFK Elementary School. You can also contact Thrive directly, and information about Child Care Subsidy through Child Care Resource including applications for financial assistance. Contact us at [thrive@winooskivt.org](mailto:thrive@winooskivt.org) or by phone at 802-316-1552. If you would like to apply for Subsidy through Child Care Resource, you can find more information on their website at [www.childcareresource.org](http://www.childcareresource.org) or contact them by phone at 802-863-3367. As a reminder, all Winooski families who qualify for full or partial subsidy can participate in all seven weeks of the Thrive Summer Youth Enrichment Program, completely FREE! All families who qualify for free and reduced lunch during the school year but do not qualify for Subsidy can participate in Thrive for a discount. Apply for Subsidy with Child Care Resource before June 1st to ensure your spot at Thrive!

Thank you again to all of our families participating in the 2014 Thrive Summer Youth Enrichment Program. If you haven't signed up, there's still time! Be on the look out for more information about our Children's Literacy Foundation Summer Readers event on **Monday, July 14th** at 3pm!

## SAVE THE DATE:

### Healthy Kids Day

- **Saturday, May 3rd** from 9-2p.m at the Pomerleau Family Y on College Street in Burlington  
*Free Family Fun for Everyone!* Details online at [gbymca.org](http://gbymca.org).



### Join us for May programs at the Winooski Library

By Jessica Summer,  
Children's Librarian

- **Saturday, May 2** from 10:30 - 11:30am is Story Hour. Join us for stories, songs, crafts and fun. Appropriate for children birth to age 6, though all are welcome.
- **Saturday May 9** from 1 - 3pm is Lego Club. We'll supply the legos, you build whatever you want!
- **Saturday May 16** from 1 - 3pm is Tabletop Game Day. Join us for board games and fun! We have many different games available for all different ages.
- **Saturday May 23** -- closed for Memorial Day Weekend.
- **Saturday May 30** from 1 - 3pm is Magic: The Gathering. Bring your own decks, or use a library deck or build your own from our supply.

The library is located at 32 Malletts Bay Avenue and open Tuesday 10-7, Wednesday 3-7, Thursday & Friday 10-6 and Saturday 9-5. You can reach us by phone at (802) 655-6424.



## Global Youth Service Day A Success

By Alaina Wermers

Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out for Winooski's first Global Youth Service Day! You made it a great success and got so much done for the community!

We had 26 volunteers who served for a total of 57 hours. Volunteers served in a variety of ways: trail maintenance, invasive species removal, decorating the library and a Little Free Library, and cooking at our barbecue.

We would also like to thank Costco and Sherwin Williams for their generous donations to our event.



Global Youth Service Day





# HEALTH CORNER

## Health Office News: A Day in the Life of Your School Nurses

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Health Office Coordinator

Recently I had the amazing opportunity to participate in a class that taught New American moms about who the school nurse is and what she does here in the district. It occurred to me while preparing for this class that parents and community members might not be fully aware of what the school nurse does on a daily basis. I had always thought a school nurse gave out Band-Aids, ice packs and called parents when their kids were sick or because they needed proof of vaccinations. Since becoming a school nurse I realized that was only the tip of the iceberg.

May 7<sup>th</sup> is National School Nurse Day so in honor of that I would like to present to you a day in the life your Winooski School Nurses.

Our primary goal is to keep your kids healthy and in school. On an average day we see approximately 100-150 students. This does not include staff, parents and outside community members who stop by for a visit or call. We administer approximately 20 daily prescription medications in addition to inhalers and multiple over the counter medications throughout the day. Keeping track of life-threatening allergies and working closely with staff to educate them on these special medical needs is a top priority of our job. We are able to screen the students for potential hearing and vision problems and help make doctor and dentist appointments when needed. Helping students who have headaches, earaches, sore throats, stomachaches and a host of other ailments are a daily part of our routine. We administer first aid as needed, but no matter how hard we try we just don't have x-ray eyes to see if that bone is truly broken so we call parents encouraging them to seek medical attention. The Health Office is known as a one-stop shop from blood pressure checks to dry clothes, super glue and shampoo! TLC is a HUGE component of our job

and the part that we love the most!

Holly and I both came from other nursing jobs out in the community where our primary focus was saving lives. You went to work; you kept your patients alive and went home. Very rarely if ever did you get to see the outcomes of what you did in the life of a person/family and that is the primary reason why we love being school nurses. You don't just keep students alive, you teach them how to live! Together with their teachers, we get the opportunity to make a difference in their lives. We instill coping mechanisms so they can learn how

to handle discomfort and stress without always seeking medicine as their primary option. Teaching them that laughter is the best medicine and yes sometimes a spoonful of sugar does help the medicine go down! We get to watch your children grow from day to day and year after year and learn how to succeed in life. Holly and I are incredibly thankful to be able to be a part of their lives and this district. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for allowing us to be your Winooski School Nurses! We love you!!

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — MAY

Choice of milk served with all complete meals:  
Low-fat White & Low-fat Chocolate

### Available Daily

1. The Abbey Groups Main Menu Entree
2. Hoagieville Made to Order Deli Bar
3. Garden Fresh Salad Bar
4. Yogurt Parfait & Cheese Bun [substitute your main entrée]
6. Little Italy Pizzeria and Abbey Express Daily Specials

### PRICES:

Breakfast  
Regular \$1.25  
Reduced \$FREE  
Lunch  
Regular JFK \$2.00  
Regular WMHS \$2.25  
Reduced \$FREE  
Adult \$3.25

### Beverages

Milk \$0.50  
Juice \$0.50

Pay for your student's meals with our easy on-line bill pay system. Go to: [www.abbeygroup.net/lunch/prepay](http://www.abbeygroup.net/lunch/prepay)



### DAILY BREAKFAST OPTIONS: (\*\* Fresh Fruit & Milk With all Meals\*\*)

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

<b>NOTE:</b> Lunch is available for all students on early dismissal days! Pick up yours at either door on your way out.	<b>PLEASE NOTE: Middle and High school menu information is available at <a href="http://www.abbeygroup.net/schoolmenus">www.abbeygroup.net/schoolmenus</a>. You can also learn about options for managing your child's account at the website.</b>				<b>Thurs., May 1</b> Burrito Bowl  Steamed Corn Homemade Cornbread  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Fri., May 2</b> Sloppy Joes  Oven Roasted Potatoes Rainbow Slaw  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  <b>Chocolate Chip Cookie</b>  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk
	<b>Mon., May 5</b> Chicken Caesar Wrap  Oven Roasted Sweet Potatoes Steamed Broccoli  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Tues., May 6</b> Mini Sea Shell Pasta w/Cheese Sauce  <b>Mixed Greens Salad</b> Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  <b>Taste Test: Mixed Greens w/Maple Balsamic Vinaigrette</b>  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Wed., May 7</b> Homemade Pepperoni, Cheese or Veggie Pizza  Caesar Salad Fresh Carrot Sticks Hummus Dip  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Thurs., May 8</b> Chicken Fajitas Chicken, Sautéed Onions & Peppers, Soft Flour Tortilla, Salsa, Cabot Sour Cream  Rice Pilaf Warm Black Beans Steamed Corn  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  <b>Happy Birthday Cake</b>  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Fri., May 9</b> 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 Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	
<b>Mon., May 12</b> Dress Your Own Burger on A Bun w/Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato  Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Tues., May 13</b> Pasta w/Meat Sauce or Garden Marinara Sauce  Side Caesar Salad Italian Bean Salad Garlic Breadstick  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Wed., May 14</b> <b>Early Dismissal 6-12</b> Homemade Pepperoni, Cheese or Veggie Pizza  <b>Mixed Greens Salad</b> Wheat Sugar Cookie  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Thurs., May 15</b> Taco Bar w/ The Works Seasoned Taco Meat, Mozz. Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa & Soft Flour Tortilla  Rice Pilaf Rainbow Slaw  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Fri., May 16</b> Chicken Parmesan Sandwich on Toasted Wheat Roll  Potato Wedges Roasted Zucchini  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk		
<b>Mon., May 19</b> Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets w/Dipping Sauce  Roasted Potato Wedges Green Pepper Sticks Banana Bread Square  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Tues., May 20</b> Goulash Tomato, Macaroni & Beef Bake  Steamed Broccoli Carrot Sticks Wheat Bread Slice  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Wed., May 21</b> <b>Delayed Start K-5</b> Cheesy Breadsticks  Hearty Country Vegetable Soup Marinara Dipping Sauce Side Caesar Salad  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Thurs., May 22</b> 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 Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Fri., May 23</b> <b>End of Year BBQ</b> Grilled Hamburgers & Hot Dogs w/All The Fixings  Summertime Salads Chilled Watermelon Slices Patriot Pop  Fresh Milk		
<b>Mon., May 26</b> <b>No School</b>	<b>Tues., May 27</b> Chicken Patty Sandwich Lettuce, Tomato & Cheese  Rice Pilaf Steamed corn  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Wed., May 28</b> Homemade Pepperoni, Cheese or Veggie Pizza  <b>Mixed Greens Salad</b> Fresh Carrot Sticks Hummus Dip  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Thurs., May 29</b> Cancun Chicken Wrap  Roasted Sweet Potato Confetti Corn Salad  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  <b>Brownies</b>  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	<b>Fri., May 30</b> Pancakes w/ Warm Syrup  Scrambled Eggs Sweet & White Home Fries Celery Sticks  Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Bar  Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk		

**PLEASE NOTE: Middle and High school menu information is available at [www.abbeygroup.net/schoolmenus](http://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  
60 Normand Street  
Winooski, VT 05404

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### WINOOSKI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[www.wdschools.org](http://www.wdschools.org)

#### Superintendent of Schools

**Sean McMannon:** 655-0485  
[smcmannon@wdschools.org](mailto:smcmannon@wdschools.org)

#### John F. Kennedy Elementary School

Principal: **Mary O'Rourke**  
802-655-0411, 802-655-3530  
[morourke@wdschools.org](mailto:morourke@wdschools.org)

#### Winooski Middle and High School

Principal: **Leon Wheeler**  
802-655-3530  
[lwheeler@wdschools.org](mailto:lwheeler@wdschools.org)

#### Board of School Trustees

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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](mailto:aelston@wdschools.org)*