WINOOSKI SCHOOL

DISTRICT

NEWS!

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 7

APRIL 2012

Celebrating Our Achievements!

PeaceJam Club Hosts First Annual International Dinner

By Veronica Saffo and Melissa Clark

With the lights dimmed, tables set with cloths and centerpieces, and the tantalizing of Junior's Lasagna in the air, the Winooski High School cafeteria had the ambiance of an international café. The transformation was the work of the WHS PeaceJam Club which hosted this event to raise money for the annual PeaceJam conference being held this year

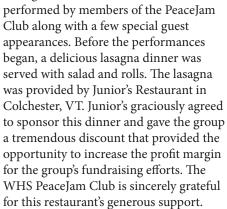


INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Notes from the Central Office	2-3
Announcements	3-5
Notes From JFK Elementary and Middle School	5-8
High School Highlights	9-11
Community News	12-14
Health Corner, Menu	u 15
District and Contact Information	16

at the University of Connecticut.

On February 25th about 60 people gathered at Winooski High School to enjoy entertainment arranged and



Following dinner, there were vocal performances presented by Arafat Omar, George Myange, Olivier Enwa and a special guest of Burlington High School. Agroup of African female students performed several traditional dances to the delight of many youngsters, who took the opportunity to join in the fun. A surprise fashion show presentation was orchestrated by Zahra Mohamed which featured traditional attire from around the world modeled by the students. There was even a special guest appearance by a very talented BHS dancer "Roderick" who performs regularly in the Burlington area and comes from a family of performers. The students planned, orchestrated and performed the entire production. The sound system was contributed by Mr. Bill Oetjen, to whom the club is very grateful.

The mission of the PeaceJam



Foundation is to create young leaders committed to positive change in themselves, their communities, and the world through the inspiration of Nobel Peace

Laureates who pass on the spirit, skills, and wisdom they embody.

The WHS PeaceJam Club meets once a week and has been working on the Call to Action project which they will present at the regional conference in March at the University of Connecticut. This year the students will hear, and be inspired by, the Nobel Peace Laureate Betty Williams. native to Ireland. Ms. Williams dedicated her life to finding peace in Ireland after seeing several innocent children killed, along with violence within her own family, due to religious conflicts that continually effected Ireland. Many members of the WHS PeaceJam Club are from areas of the world plagued by violent conflicts which lead to the deaths of innocent people and the ongoing horrors of armed oppression. This work has significant meaning to many of our students.

On March 23-25 a group of seven WHS PeaceJam members and two faculty chaperones will have the opportunity to travel down to UConn and attend the regional conference thanks to the generous support received from our community. The WHS PeaceJam Club would like to thank all who took the time to support our coffee sales, dinner, and food sales. The very exciting and rewarding experience would not have been possible without your support!

NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

Superintendent's Message

By Mary Martineau, Superintendent of Schools

On behalf of the students, administrators, faculty and staff, **thank you** for supporting our schools by voting yes on the FY 13 budget!

As mentioned in the March District News!, we have implemented a new safety feature in the schools. The buzzer system on the JFK and Main Lobby doors was installed in early March. We want our schools to be welcoming, and we also want to assure parents that their children are safe. The buzzer system helps to ensure that staff are aware at all times who is entering the building. Between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., parents and visitors will be using the buzzer system to sign in. As a reminder, JFK elementary teachers will be walking their classes outside to meet parents upon dismissal. We are requesting that parents wait outside for their children to allow for better flow of pedestrian traffic in the hallways. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!

Please visit the new WSD-BSD Partnership for Change

website for information on the implementation of the Nellie Mae Grant: www.partnershipforchangevt.org.

The 6-12 Principal Search is still underway. Various stakeholder groups that included administrators, students, faculty and staff, and parents/community/board members conducted interviews in late February. Each group developed questions for the interview process, and then completed evaluation forms during the interview. The Principal Search Advisory Committee reviewed the input from all stakeholder groups and made the decision to move forward with a site visit for one candidate. Information from the site visit will be shared with the Search Advisory Committee and a decision will be made on whether to move the candidate forward for a superintendent interview. The Superintendent will then make a decision on whether to recommend the candidate to the school board. This has been a thorough and transparent process, and has involved all interested stakeholders.

Thanks from Your School Board

By Jennifer Corrigan, Board of School Trustees

Happy Spring!

A BIG THANK YOU to Winooski voters for passing the budget. We appreciate your continued support of the School District. Thank you to our administrators and staff for their continued hard work in making Winooski Schools a great place to learn.

I welcome aboard our new school board member, Amy Booher. I'm sure she will find being on the board a great learning experience. I also welcome back Jay Lambert, who won his quest for his fourth term. Mike Decarreau has been voted the Board President. He will lead the group as we continue our hard work.

It's hard to believe that the school year will be done in just a few short months. This next year should prove to be one of our most obvious jumps forward in creating a more effective learning environment for our children. We should start to see the culmination of all our efforts. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions at all. Our school website, (located at www.wsdschools.org) has all the upcoming sports schedules, information about the principal search and details regarding the many ongoings of the district.

Thank you for your continued support of the Winooski School District.

Curriculum Coordinator's Report

By Stefanie Hamble

We have continued our work this month in learning about the Common Core and using assessment to drive instruction. During our first day of in-service day on March 5th, the K-5 staff had the opportunity to work with Sue Biggam in the area of the English Language Arts Common Core State Standards. Teachers learned about the important pieces that are included in the Common Core and even some instructional strategies that they can use in the areas of understanding complex text and vocabulary. At the middle school, content teams continued their work on developing and revising their common assessments and then spent some time working with a representative for the Middle Grades Institute. At the high school, teachers continued their work with Bill Rich in the area

of building writing assessments.

This past week, the team of teachers that have been attending the Math Common Core series with Bob and Judi Laird attended their second day of the series. During this time they had the opportunity to look at the standards and see how they progress from grade level to grade level. We also spent some more time learning about what the new standards mean for instruction and student learning.

Overall, we are continuing our work in learning about the Common Core and also using assessment data to drive instruction. We are looking forward to upcoming professional developments and continuing to work together as a K-12 staff.

How to Ensure Academic Success

By the Jensen Group*

What is one of the skills that matters most for a student's academic success? Prioritization and Ordering/Sequencing! To teach your students or your children prioritization, teach them prediction skills everyday. Not only can they be taught everyday in class or at home, but they can be used to strengthen understanding and deepen the processing of learning. Examples of prediction are:

- Predict how a character will act, what will happen next. This can not only be done in class during read alouds or independent reading, but it can also be done at home when they are reading a book or playing a game.
- Predict how an experiment in science is going to turn out. Check out some fun at home science experiments on scifun.org
- Predict a likely answer in math. This can be done anywhere by asking your child, "What do you think the answer to this math problem will be?"

With ordering and sequencing there are two types of sequencing: Cognitive Skills and Body/Mind. Examples of Cognitive Skills are:

- Writing a story sequence in writing
- Going through the Scientific Process in science
- Problem solving in math

Examples of Body/Mind sequencing are:

- Moving through a sequence of dance steps
- Playing an instrument
- Engaging in theater activities
- · Building something
- Cooking
- Knitting
- Cleaning

Sequencing can be really simple and can be done in the classroom as well as at home:

- Use songs that require listening and acting
- Use games that require using what just happened
- Use activities that call for a response
- Use projects that require extensive planning

All of these different things can positively influence the brain and a student's academic success. The brain can change for the better!

*The Jensen group is comprised of teachers and staff: Deb LaForce, Stefanie Hamble, Casey Hogan, Jen LaPointe, Jacie Knapp, Dave Muir, Nancy Timbers-Devost, Mag Thomas, Regan Charron.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kindergarten Registration and Screening

Kindergarten registration and screening at John F.
Kennedy Elementary School in Winooski, will take place on Wednesday, May 16, and Thursday, May 17. Children who will be five years of age prior to January 1, 2013, should attend this registration. Please call the J.F.K. school office at 655-0411 to make an appointment for one of the two days. You will need to bring your child's birth certificate, updated immunization record and his/her Social Security number to the screening.

WHS Scene Showcase

Marcy Edelstein

Save the date! Join us on Thursday April 19 at 7pm, in the Winooski Performing Arts Center for an evening of theatre. Tickets are free and all are welcome! Come support a group of talented high school students as they perform a variety of scenes and monologues from well-known plays.

Publicly Funded Prekindergarten

The Winooski School District supports Publicly Funded Prekindergarten for children between the ages of 3 and 5 who reside in the town of Winooski, Vermont. Applications for the 2012-2013 school year are due May 1, 2012.

What is publicly funded prekindergarten education?

Publicly funded prekindergarten education is defined as: Six to ten hours per week of developmentally appropriate early development and 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 2012 – June 2013).

Is my child eligible for publicly funded prekindergarten?

If your child will be 3 years old by September 1, 2012 and resides in Winooski, then your child is eligible to participate.

Please Note: If we receive more applications than we have funding to support, then we will need to use a random selection process to determine which children receive publicly funded prekindergarten education. We will inform you whether your child has a slot by June 1, 2012.

How do I apply?

Application forms may be picked up in the special education offices within the Winooski School District. Applications must be postmarked by May 1st in order to be considered for the May 15th preschool selection to fill 2012-2013 preschool slots. Please return applications to the Winooski School District Support Services Office. For further questions, please contact Deborah George at 383-6063.

Dollars For Scholars Update

By Morgan Kelner, Chair, Winooski Dollars for Scholars

Hi Everyone. The Scholarship Committee of Winooski Dollars for Scholars is working hard to organize all of the scholarships, including those of Winooski Dollars for Scholars for June 2012 graduation. Thank you Karen Greene, who works so hard throughout the year to make sure all of the scholarships are in place, students are chosen and the money is received. Winooski Dollars for Scholars sponsors and provides \$15,000-\$18,000 for the following scholarships: Service (service to the school an/or within the community) Maida F. Townsend scholarship (to someone showing a love of learning and openness to the richness of differences among people); Academic Scholarship (to 2 students who excel academically); Challenge Scholarship (to a motivated student who has overcome obstacles to achieve success); Leadership Scholarship (to a student who has outstanding leadership qualities) and the John J. Malcovsky Community Service scholarship (to someone who actively participates in community service). In addition Winooski DFS co-sponsors 12 other merit scholarships. Whew! It's a lot of work to pull all of this together and we thank Karen Greene and the scholarship committee for all of their hard work.

This year due to family needs and self employment commitments, Winooski Dollars for Scholars has experienced a reduction in our board. We are seriously asking for your support to help us continue to provide scholarship money to Winooski students. We would so appreciate your help and support for our next fundraiser, our Calcutta and Silent Auction. This year, we all are very excited to bring our biggest fundraiser back to Winooski and we will be holding it at The Regular Veterans Association (RVA) on Weaver Street, early in the fall. Will you help us? Would you be willing to send out letters for our Silent Auction? Sell tickets to the event? Donate your time or energy for an Auction prize or Silent Auction item? Serve on the board?

For more information, please contact Morgan Kelner at mkelner14@gmail.com or Lisa Graves at BPSVT@aol.com if you would like to be part of our wonderful and worthwhile organization. Happy Spring... the flowers are blooming!

The French are Coming... The French are Coming!

By Veronica Saffo

Over the last several months the Winooski High School French Club students have been working diligently to prepare for the arrival of their French guests. The time is fast approaching for the 15 students from Rouen, France to arrive in Winooski and experience our wonderful New England hospitality. It has been tremendous work

for these students and families, but the rewards have been equally significant.

Immediately following the Super Bowl the students conducted a bottle drive on one of the coldest days of the winter. Thanks to Front Porch Forum, who helped us spread the word, the students were well received and raised over \$300. On Super Tuesday, the Senior Center graciously allowed the students to conduct a bake sale outside the polling



area. The students raffled a gift basket and provided hot coffee, tea and baked goods to the Winooski voters. Many thanks from the French Club to the Senior Center for their hospitality and the Knights of Columbus for use of their coffee makers and thermos jugs. Additionally, the group truly appreciates the generous \$250 donation made by the

Knights of Columbus. The bake sale raised about \$340. These events, coupled with the earlier fundraising events, have earned us just over \$2500. The students are immensely grateful for all the support they received from the community.

Once the French students have arrived and get acclimated to their Vermont homes, they will be treated to a twelve day whirlwind tour of Vermont and all her splendor. A few of the excursions planned

Come to the JiuJitsu Tournament on April 7!

By Nancy Keller

The Vermont Open Grappling Championships are back! Come to the Vermont Open Grappling Championships on Saturday, April 7, and enjoy a snack at JFK Middle School Team Velocity's concession stand, and support our middle and high schools' martial arts programs by doing both!

Once again, Winooski Educational Center is the location for the Vermont Open, a major Jiu Jitsu tournament that draws athletes of all ages and experience from across New England and Quebec. Winooski middle and high school students will also compete, and are training for this April event with Sensei David Quinlan of Martial Way Self-Defense Center as part of Winooski's CCLC Afterschool Programs. While at the tournament, get a bite to eat, and make a donation. With your purchase, we can continue to offer martial arts programs, such as JiuJitsu and Bushintai Do, to Winooski students!

The tournament begins at 10:30 a.m. See you on April 7!

include a visit to the State House, Ben & Jerry's factory, the Teddy Bear Factory, Shelburne Farms, the ECHO Center, UVM and the Jay Peak Water Park. These students are sure to leave Winooski understanding that Vermont is a very special place to call home.

This culturally rich experience would not be possible if it were not for such a supportive community. The students and families are proud to be members of such a generous and thoughtful community.

Have You Seen It?

Chorus students of Mrs. Mander-Adams have created a PSA (Public Service Announcement) that promoted their March concert. RETN graciously agreed to play the PSA on their station to help promote the concert.

10th Annual Friends of WHS Golf Tournament

Come celebrate the return of the golfing season at the **Tenth Annual Friends of Winooski High School Golf Tournament** on Sunday, June 3rd. You'll be joining other Winooski and area golfers who have enjoyed this fun community event for the last nine years. The team entry fee is \$400 (individual is \$100) and the deadline for applications is May 4th. Registration fees include carts, time on the complimentary driving range before the event, contests, prizes, raffles, and a hearty barbecue lunch to follow. Sponsorship



opportunities are available to help support this event. Please call Anne at 655-0942 today to reserve your team or individual entry or



go to the school website at http://www.winooski.k12.vt.us/schools/hs/Friends to download your registration and/or sponsorship forms. Proceeds from the golf tournament benefit WHS students in ways that enrich their high school experience. These range from college scholarships, sponsorship of the Student of the Quarter luncheons, funding of field trips, Project Graduation, and many other worthwhile activities. We appreciate the generous corporate sponsorship we receive from so many local and area businesses, as well as our loyal golfer participation year after year. This continued support is what makes our mission of helping our school wherever possible successful, and we thank you very much for your help.

JFK ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

April News

By Mary O'Rourke, JFK Elementary & Middle School Principal

Come one, come all! Join us on Friday, April 6th from 3:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. in the school library for another **Community Reads** event. This month, our city manager, Deac Decarreau is the guest reader! Every child and his or her parents are invited to spend an hour with our city manager as she thrills the audience with literary magic. Refreshments will be served after you hear a wonderful story. Our last literacy event, held on January 20th, featured our Mayor, Michael O'Brien. This was exciting and so well attended. Let's do it again this month. We encourage parents of children not yet in school to come up to the educational center and become familiar with your child's future school. Meeting other parents with young children is a great way to become involved in the school community.

Our **kindergarten screening** will be taking place on Wednesday, May 16th and Thursday May 17th. If you have a child who will be five-years old before January 1, 2013, please call the JFK office (655-0411) to make an appointment to register that child.

We will be holding a **Welcome to Kindergarten** event for our new kindergarten parents and children on Thursday, May 24th from 4:30p.m. – 5:30p.m. By having this event in the spring, we hope parents can alleviate some of those first-day jitters kindergarten students have when they start school. A great way for youngsters to transition from toddlers to students is seeing the kindergarten classrooms and meeting other first-time pupils. So plan on joining other "new school parents" on May 24th in the kindergarten area.

SAVE THE DATE

April 12 is Arts Night at JFK!

By Arts House Teachers Mrs. Crandall, Ms. Koplinka-Loehr, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Barcomb, Mr. Lewis and Ms. Miller

The Arts House at JFK will be hosting the annual Arts Night on Thursday, April 12th, 2012 from 5–7 pm. This event will showcase student learning in the subjects of music, guidance, physical education and visual art.

We are excited to announce that the following key events and activities planned for that evening:

In the music room, Ms. Koplinka-Loehr will treat viewers to a slideshow and video of music activities.

We will find Mrs. Murphy, our guidance counselor, in her office where she will be sharing information on current summer camp opportunities.

Mr. Barcomb will be available in his office for consultations about the fitness gram testing.

We will find Mr. Lewis at the rear tennis court where "Bike Smart," a bike safety program, will be on display. Curriculum, bikes, and other equipment have been provided by Local Motion bike shop to help students learn safe bike practices.

A school wide Art show will brighten the lobby and the halls at JFK. Student led project demonstrations will be presented in the art room with Mrs. Crandall and Miss Miller, our UVM student intern.

We are all looking forward to seeing you and sharing our hard work. Please set aside this important date and join us to find out what your students have been learning. All friends and family members are welcome!

Digital Photography

By Mag Thomas

There is a new afterschool program happening at J.F.K. on Wednesday afternoons! In partnership with 4-H Tech Wizards, Digital Photography is being offered to a group of 4th and 5th graders. This program will introduce students to the world of digital photography. They will learn the basics of photography – how to care for and how to use a digital camera, which are being provided by the 4-H Tech Wizards.

The students will be learning new techniques for taking pictures. Some of the basics are how to use lighting, angles, and distance to create interesting, unique, and fun pictures. They will practice their new skills by taking pictures of friends and surroundings. At the end of this session, each student will have his or her very own photo album to share and show off all of the great pictures that they will have taken!





Applause, Applause!

Congratulations to the cast and crew of "The Wizard of Oz," on doing such a wonderful job on Friday March 9th! It was a fantastic show for all to enjoy!







JFK Guidance News

By Sarah Murphy, JFK Elementary School

In the second half of March, the Kindergarten, First, and Second grade classes began talking about healthy choices. We read several books about nutrition and exercise, and followed up each book with an in-class activity.

In the upper grades, we finished talking about feelings and began talking about healthy choices. We watched several video clips from a video series called "Natural High", and discussed our own natural highs.

Up Next in April: The Kindergarten, First, and Second grade classes will revisit the topic of friendship. In the upper grades, students will learn more about tobacco.

Middle School Update

By Katherine Jennifer Helm

The Study of Cells (MS)

Team Velocity has been working on plants and cells for science. Part of the learning was



not only fabulous, but also really creative. To celebrate the great work, Ms. Keller baked a cake but gave the job of icing the cake to a couple of deserving students. Check out the creative work by Bradley Senna and Jessica Riley.

worked very hard

and the models were

February Community Meeting (MS)

We had more music at the end of February Community Meeting. This time the high school orchestra played for the middle school. This time the students got to listen to one of their own students. Marie Ly, an 8th grader on Kaleidoscope,

practices and plays with the High School Orchestra. You can see Marie playing on her Alto Sax, bottom row, third from the right.





Team Eclipse handed out their P.R.I.D.E. awards (Back Row: Mon Maya Luitel, Niki Dang, and Sabrina Schmidt; Front Row: Abdullahi Sadik and Hussein Sadik).

Manga Book Club Returns to JFK Middle School

By Melissa Richard Students at IFK Middle School are discussing manga, one of their favorite genres of literature, every Wednesday with Mr. Magistrale. Students chose a manga series they wanted to read and discuss with the other students in the group. All students attending the program are very enthusiastic and passionate about manga. They are excited to share their extensive knowledge with Mr. Magistrale who is new to reading

manga. The

students are

currently reading

books from the

Blue Exorcist,

Bleach, Reborn

and Death Zone

series.







An Exciting New Class for Middle School Students!

By Nancy Keller

Thanks to the generous support from the Bay and Paul Foundation, JFK Middle School has added an exciting new class to its arts rotation courses: Martial arts taught by black belt instructor, Sensei David Quinlan!

In addition to art, music, Spanish, French, computer technology, family and consumer science, and physical education, students can now participate in a martial art called Bushintai Do (meaning the way of the warrior in mind and body). Middle school teachers and staff want to explore other ways to engage students physically, socially, and emotionally in school, and recently received extra funding to offer this martial arts class for sixteen students.



Research shows that one way to increase our ability to learn is to increase the amount of physical activity in our day. Physical activity not only helps build muscle, but helps your brain, too! Over 40 students applied for the sixteen openings in this pilot program, which began on February 20 and meets every day for a 45 minute class.

"I think it's very educational," said Kaitlinn Little, one of the middle school students in Bushintai Do. "It helps you control your weakness to anything that happens to you in normal life." Kaitlin was interested in participating in this new program because she saw it as a way to get out her energy and "calm down after a rough day" and "it sounded like fun."

Jacob Therrien, another student in the class, adds, "I'm learning how to control myself better and [Bushintai Do] will teach me self-defense."

"I like martial arts, and I like exercise," answered Bishal Bista when asked why he decided to participate in this new arts rotation class. "If I could, I would recommend it to other [middle school students]. It should be part of their



regular day."

Jeffrey Davis thinks, "It's very cool. I'm learning how to block punches and kicks, and I think it helps me to stay out of trouble because it relaxes me. I would recommend it to others because it could relax them, too."

Recently a small number of enthusiastic second-graders joined Bushintai Do, too, giving them a chance to not only experience the benefits of this physical activity, but have a whole class of middle school mentors to help them. "I have enjoyed seeing how well the different levels – experienced students, beginning students, and 2nd-graders – have worked together," adds Sensei Quinlan. "All students have responded well to the philosophy, as well as the physical training."

One of Team Fusion's students wrote about their recent experience on our field trip to the Flynn in March to see "The Golden Acrobats." We took public transportation and walked, a great combination for the kids!

The Golden Dragon Acrobats

By Hannah Little

The trip began with the splitting of the kids. Half of us would go on the first bus, the other half on the second. I was put in the first group.

We left the school together and took the short walk to the Winooski Mills. We waited patiently for the city bus to arrive.

This was the first time I'd ever used City Transit, and it was exciting. We waited until the others had boarded the bus, then made our way through the vehicle.

All the seats were full. Fellow passengers stared as the large group of kids slowly crowded the back of the bus. Stuck on the stairs that were placed halfway down the aisle, I held on to the nearest pole as we lurched into action.

I looked around, painfully aware of the tight space and the growing heat as all of us tried to take up as little space as possible. Our first stop was at the hospital, where some came in and some pushed past, struggling to get out. A couple of seats opened up in the front, so a few other kids and I moved up and took a seat. I couldn't help but notice how much cooler the air felt.

When we got off the bus in Burlington, we turned onto Church Street and made our way to City Hall Park, where we enjoyed a nice lunch.

Sun shining, wind blowing, and people enjoying the day all around us, I was glad to be there instead of in a classroom. Soon it was time to cross the street and go into the Flynn Theater. We were seated by an usher in the back.

The act began with a nice dance that highlighted the precision and timing that the performers practice every day. There were tricks, lifts, and unnatural flexibility showcases. But the act that really took my breath away was the chair stack.

Two people carried out a platform, which was raised on thin poles. A man put one chair on top and did a handstand. He carefully placed another on top, and did another handstand. One by one he added chairs, until they were so high, they nearly touched the red curtain. The man held himself up on a tipped chair, laying himself flat and keeping his balance with only one hand. I gasped, and had to look away. But he was successful.

On the way back, students had a choice. They could either take the city bus, or walk. I decided to walk. It was hot; very hot. But the exercise is good for me.

Over all, this field trip was exciting and full of new experiences. I know I will remember it for a long time.

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Bright Spots

By Justin Brown, Principal

On February 15th I found myself in Waf's Deli, surrounded by proud parents, students and their teachers. The occasion was the student of the quarter luncheon. Each quarter, students are nominated by their teachers for going above and beyond in their classes, the community, or just for improving themselves. As I looked around and listened to the kind words teachers were sharing about their students, I was reminded again of the power of celebration.

So far this spring, Winooski High School has had a students win an essay contest with a Senator, present at a financial literacy conference, and participate in a town meeting vote recount. As I write this we are also preparing for our annual faculty staff basketball tournament. We also had a surprise visit by the Commissioner Villaseca in which he was able to witness some amazing discussion in Mr. Webb's classroom

I am focusing on some highlights because change is hard. The types of change Winooski High School is engaged in is exceptionally challenging and without remembering the bright spots, it will be increasingly tempting to change course. The Heath Brothers write about change in their book, *Switch*. Their position is that meaningful change starts with focusing on "bright spots." Bright Spots are defined as **successful effort** worth emulating.

Winooski High School's writing work began in the 2010-11 school year. This work showed us (and hopefully the readers of this newsletter, as the results were published last spring) that our concentrated focus on writing generated improved student performance in writing. We are encouraging our students to become more involved in the community (the Sanders' writing contest, the vote recount, etc.)

So how does this jive with the recently released NECAP results, that have generated much discussion in the community? Let's be honest, all of us are aware of the discussions in the

community, on front-porch forum and in other venues about whether the school should remain open, or whether it should merge with other districts.

First, I'll share some important quotes that come from NECAP assessment guides:

- NECAP is administered only in 11th Grade in Vermont High Schools
- NECAP Grade 11 tests are designed to measure specific NECAP Grade Span Expectations for High School.
- NECAP was not designed to provide, in isolation, detailed student-level diagnostic information for formulating individual instructional plans
- A single year's test results provide limited information about a school or district....School and district results are most meaningful when compared with other indicators and when examined over several years for long term trends.

The NECAP scores for Winooski in 2011 reflect, at most 77students. In other words, our sample size is small, therefore each individual student carries a great impact on our overall score. As the faculty analyze the data, we are struck by two things. First, as always, we need to continue to better serve our struggling students. Second, several of our high performers either blew off or did not take

the test. And yes, in this case all scores count (even those for students who blow off or refuse to take the test)

Some of our students who have historically performed well, were either kept out of school during the testing window by parents (but the score of 0 still counts). Some students, who clearly knew the material going in wrote inappropriate answers. So, if a student blows off their test, or a parent refuses to allow their student to access the test, there is a significant impact on the overall results. And, in such a small school, this has a disproportionate negative impact. It gives the school and the student a false impression of failure.

But the NECAPs are the public face of education in Vermont, and in Winooski. So, while the NECAPs may be flawed, our response to them may also be. They are one indicator. And as we move forward, we have to remind ourselves that our students are more than a number, but the numbers still are an important indicator of how our students are doing and how we are doing.

And, if we want WHS to succeed, we have an important decision to make: do we want to focus on the negative, or the positive? Do we want to focus on successful effort that have an are being made and emulate it?

Winooski JV Basketball: End of Year Summary

By Noah Everitt

This was a strong year for the Winooski Junior Varsity team. Although the season presented struggles both on and off the court, the team pulled together to finish strongly with a winning record of 11 and 9. The team started with 15 players and ended the season with 6. All team members contributed to the success of the season, and demonstrated perseverance.

The final roster included freshmen Mark Billado, Connor Drown, Hunter Robare and sophomores Kassian Prior, Andrew Decarreau, and Dustin Wildes.

Additionally the team received part time support from varsity players Austin Mayo, and Jake Learned. Congratulations to a strong Junior Varsity team and season.





The High School students in the Government class wrote an oversized letter to President Obama last month.

Afterschool at WHS

By Kaitlin Moran

Happy Spring!
Afterschool Session
4 is going strong
and we are very
excited about the
programs being
offered. Tuesdays are
very busy because, in
addition to four Core
Support programs,
there is also Jiu
Jitsu! The four core
support programs
on Tuesdays are
Technology with



Jillian works on working on equivalent fractions in Math Core Support.

Ms. Poquette, Math with Ms. Clark, Instrumental Music with Mr. Argraves, and French / READ 180 with Ms. Saffo. Students continue to have unprecedented support from their teachers in Afterschool programs!

The Jiu Jitsu afterschool program will allow regularly attending members to compete for free in the Vermont Open Grappling Competition on April 7 at Winooski High School. This tournament is open to all martial artists of all ages and experience levels. It will definitely be worth a trip up to the high school to see our students showcase what they have practiced in Afterschool!

On Thursdays, we continue to offer Science Core Support with Ms. Bundy, Piano / Choral Music Core Support with Ms. Mander-Adams and Math Core Support with Ms. Mellen. Because of the continued work of Ms. Clark and Ms. Mellen students can receive support in all levels of math! In addition to Core Support on Thursdays, middle and high school students are becoming eloquent debaters.

Stay tuned for updates on Session 5, and remember, Core Support does not require a sign up, plus you do get a free snack!

High School Extras

By Katherine Jennifer Helm

(Left) Letter to the President

The High School students in Government class wrote to President Obama last month. With the artistic help from Ms. Jessica Bruce, the students wrote a letter to let President Obama know what the hot topics in Winooski are. Mr. McQuinn was going to deliver the rather large letter to Senator Bernie Sanders when he went with our students who won the Essay writing contest last month.

Registering to Vote

Half a dozen students took the opportunity just before break to register to vote in the upcoming election. Tying relevancy to what you are teaching always makes the learning easier and more practical.



WSD-BSD Partnership For Change Grant

Right before the February break, the official announcement of our winning the \$3.7 Million grant was announced at a press conference held at CCV in Winooski. The details of the grant were presented by teachers, principals and students from both districts. In addition to the \$3.7 million awarded to the districts, Voices for Vermont Children was awarded \$130,000 and the Tarrant Foundation awarded \$200,000 to further student centered, technology rich learning supported by the Tarrant Institute.



Matt Webb, English Teacher at WHS, along with Amy Mellencamp, principal BHS, spoke about the effect this grant is planned to have on the transformation of learning in our two schools.

Guidance Office News

By Emmy Charron, Guidance Counselor Here are calendar dates for April!

Monday, April 2nd: There will be a trip for any interested Sophomores and Juniors to attend a *College Fair* at Champlain Valley Union High School.

Tuesday, April 3rd: For all students who applied to The Center for Technology Essex for the 2012-2013 school year, they will be hosting a Step Up day. Students who applied will be receiving more information in the mail about this event.

Wednesday, April 4th from 7:00 - 9:00pm: *Consider Canada College Fair* at South Burlington High School

Friday, April 6th: Third quarter grades close! Grade Reports will be sent home by April 13th. <u>Plus this is the last day to register for the May 5th SAT date!</u> Make sure you sign up early!

Tuesday, April 10th: 7:00pm at Rice High School: *NCAA College Information Session*: For student athletes looking to continue play at the collegiate level.

Wednesday, April 11th: For any student interested, there will be a day trip to New York to visit (SUNY) Plattsburgh University, and Clinton Community College. Sign up with Heidi or Ms. Emmy!

Thursday, April 12th: From High School to College: An Information Session for Students on IEP's or 504's. 6:30-8:30pm at South Burlington High School.

April 12th & 13th: Parent teacher conferences will be held the afternoon of both dates. Please come visit!

April 30th: Course registration for Community College of Vermont summer classes is available. Heidi or Ms. Emmy would gladly help you with this process!

Course Registration for the 2012-2013 school year: This process will start in April. Students will have the opportunity to start pre-selecting courses, having conversations with teachers about appropriate selections, etc. Individual meetings will not happen until May to ensure we have the most information and data available before placing students in courses and providing schedules.

Junior College Night: Informational meeting for all college bound juniors and their families who have questions about what they should be doing NOW to prepare. Date is TBD. It will be put up on the website ASAP.

Music Matters

By Cathy Mander-Adams

As all of you are aware, all students at Winooski High School are asked to write in every class. Chorus is no exception. I have been asking my Chorus students to write Personal Essays for several years.

Often, not just every once in a while, I read papers that are truly good. This month I am submitting one of the essays I recently received. It speaks for itself. The student wishes to remain anonymous.

District III Choral Festival February 9 & 10, 2012 • Champlain Valley Union High School

Three Winooski High School students attended the District Choral Festival this year. For the first time ever, the format for this festival was brand new. On the first day of the festival all singers were presented with three never-before-seen choral pieces. We had eight hours of rehearsal to pull these pieces together for a performance that would be held the very next day. It was a very long day of rehearsal.

On Saturday, February 11, the festival choir, consisting of high school students from Colchester, Essex, Burlington, South Burlington, Rice and CVU, were also given a never-before-seen piece right on the stage during the concert. We were asked to sight-read this piece to the audience which consisted of a large group of family and friends. With only one day of practice all the pieces still came out beautifully and were rewarded by an energetic applause.

A student from South Burlington later commented how this year's District Festival was her favorite so far. While a student from Winooski who attended the festival commented on how she was very thankful for the learning experience of being in a mass choir though the "challenge" of breaking down the music and learning it appeared easy because of the work they do in class every day. "Sight reading has become such a natural thing for me since I joined Chorus in the 6th Grade. I'm not entirely perfect, but 9/10 I'm usually correct. Some students near me (at the festival) struggled with both rhythm and correct pitches. Some students even asked for MY help in rehearsal."

To be asked for help in an environment of kids who walk like they are the masters, by us, the little guys, is a big deal. It means we are doing something right!

The impact it has on students in Winooski, to attend festivals, is important because at times our confidence begins to decline due to the size of our chorus. We have only 8 students in our chorus while other schools have two or three chorus classes because of the massive amounts of student who want to sing. The positive to this is that because of our size, everyone is heard and everyone gets attention and support. Everyone in our chorus class is given equal opportunity while in large choruses the teacher must work mainly on getting all the voices to sound perfect instead of be perfect.

Another struggle is the constant threat of eliminating Chorus from our school. This can't happen! Music and all the arts are just as important (to some students) as sports and math. Being in Chorus isn't just singing words on a page. It's math and science and skills of memorization and finding the confidence in yourself to do what you love to do - sing!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Update from your City Council

By Sally Tipson

Happy Spring!!

On behalf of the mayor, manager and council I want to thank you for supporting our budget. As Sarah mentioned in the previous issue, the budget is the result of a long and intense process. We are very grateful for your support.

I also want to say a BIG thank you to Carol Barrett, Janet

Brouard and Angela Aldieri for running a very efficient and well organized election.

Now that the budget has passed we will be moving forward with several projects. The search for a Community Services Director will begin, the reorganizations of the office will start, the review of the charter will take place and a committee will form to look at ways we can increase our revenue. If you have any ideas or suggestions of ways we can do this, please let us know.

There are openings on some of the boards and commissions, if interested please contact the city manager.

A parking study of the downtown has been on-going since early fall. We are looking at the entire downtown to make the parking system as efficient, as accessible and as user friendly as possible.

It was the pleasure of the council to dedicate this year's town report to Sue Maynard, a longtime resident and a person dedicated to Winooski and who has given much to make this city a better place. Thank you Sue!

April at the Senior Center

By Lori L. Pinard, MS, Director

Spring has sprung! Here's what's going on at the Senior Center. April 3 is the next monthly lunch and meeting. We'll have baked ham with raisin sauce, potatoes au gratin, tossed salad, and fruited jello with cream. Join us for Maple Fest at Mt. St. Gregorie, a sit-down, family style brunch featuring maple syrup and all the fixin's. After enjoying the meal, we'll continue on to the Montreal Casino. \$45.00 for the entire day! On April 23, the center will host a AARP Driver Safety Course. And April 24 is the next Lunch 'N Stuff. Call 802-655-6425 to sign up or for more information.

April is volunteer recognition month, and the City of Winooski will be hosting a recognition event on April 18. All who volunteer at the Senior Center are welcome to attend. Location is still TBD, but watch for more information.

Please note, that the Senior Center will be closed, with the exception of Meals on Wheels, April 26-28. We are having new floors put in. Thank you for your understanding.

Your City Officials	Email addresses	Telephone	
Mayor Michael O'Brien	mayor@winooskivt.org.	802-655-4879	
Deputy Mayor Sally Tipson	sallysflower@comcast.net	802-655-3894	
Councilor John Little	jlittle@winooskivt.org	802-655-0106	
Councilor Megan Moir	mmoir@winooskivt.org	802-598-7922	
Councilor Sarah Robinson	sarah.kunz.robinson@gmail.com	802-734-6422	
City Manager Deac Decarreau	deac@winooskivt.org	802-655-6410	
Visit the city website at winooskivt.org or call 802-655-6410.			

OB Plant & Seed Swap

Happy Spring! Around this area of Vermont, mid-March is the traditional time to start your seeds indoors for the upcoming gardening season.

If you are a gardener, why not start a few extra flower or veggie plants to share with your neighbors and friends at the upcoming **7th Annual Operation Bloom Plant & Seed Swap?** This free neighborhood event is scheduled for **May 5** at Richards Park in Winooski (corner of Lafountain & Dion).

Please email or call Eileen at 655-1741 with questions or to volunteer.

Greater Burlington Y Hosts Healthy Kids Day[®] Event

On April 28, the Greater Burlington YMCA celebrates Healthy Kids Day[®] a free community event for kids and families. More than 1,900 Ys across the country also take part in the celebration, meant to get a jump on physical activity and learning throughout the summer – a critical out-of-school time for kids.

A national initiative of the Y to improve the health and well-being of kids, Healthy Kids Day is filled with fun, active play and educational activities that will help parents improve their kids' lifestyles for the long term.

Healthy Kids Day takes place at the Burlington Y from 10-3 p.m. and will include free goody bags and featured activities such as bicycle-powered fruit smoothies, make and eat sculptures, live music and traveling magic show, health screenings, car seat checks, bounce house, free swim and family gym and many community information booths.

The event starts at 8:30 am with the 1st Annual Champ on Church Street Fun Run. This fun activity kicks off the collaboration between the Y and RunVermont. This half mile course goes up Church Street to Pearl Street and back down Church Street to Main Street. The fun design of this course is suited for kids age four to thirteen. Its early start time will surely get the energy flowing for the rest of the day.

For more information, please contact Cal Workman, Director of Communications at 862-8993 x 137, or cworkman@gbymca.org

Little League Registration Deadlines Extended

Winooski Little League Baseball/ Softball & Babe Ruth registrations are continuing. Registrations fees are: One Child \$50.00, Family \$80.00. Children must be between the ages 4 and 12 prior to April 30 (baseball), December 31st (softball). Proof of age is required for new players. Babe Ruth fee is \$50.00 per player, ages 13-18. For more information and to register contact Jeff Brosseau at 655-3556.

Family BINGO Night

Save the date! The Winooski Teen Center is hosting an all-ages BINGO fundraiser on Saturday, April 21. There will be BINGO, music, food, cash prizes and more. The fun starts at 5PM and lasts until 9PM at the O'Brien Community Center. Bring your family and friends because it's going to be a great time!

Winooski Summer Youth Enrichment Program Dates Announced

By Ethan Hausman

The Summer Youth Enrichment Program, operated by the City of Winooski's Parks & Recreation Department, will be hosted at Winooski High School again in 2012. The day camp-style program is planned for six weeks, June 25th – Aug 3rd, with registration open to students entering First through Sixth Grade in the fall. Parents and guardians can choose to enroll their child(ren) in any or all of the six week-long sessions. Participants will be engaged in supervised learning, activities, and games for seven hours a day, Monday-Friday, and both breakfast and lunch are provided daily through the Summer Food Program. In keeping with a longstanding tradition, every Friday is reserved for playing, swimming, and picnicking at Landry Park.

Vermont childcare subsidy is accepted to help cover the cost of the program, and Winooski families who apply for subsidy will be charged on a sliding scale (based on subsidy eligibility, free/reduced lunch status, and the number of children from the same family attending). Parents are strongly encouraged to apply for subsidy now to ensure that children are eligible at the start of the program. Subsidy applications can be requested directly from Child Care Resource (863-3367) or picked up in the Youth Programs Office at the O'Brien Community Center.

Program registrations will be accepted starting April 30th. Please contact Ethan Hausman, Programs Coordinator, (655-1392 x21) for more information about the Summer Youth Enrichment Program or subsidy application process.



Community College of Vermont (CCV) Winooski News

www.ccv.edu (802) 654-0505

Register for summer classes April 30th - May 18th Classes begin Tuesday, May 29th, 2012

High school students! If you've successfully completed Introduction to College Studies and you're ready for college level classes, please note the following CCV Winooski classes will start in late June, just as you finish school for the summer. Graduated already? Get started with college coursework this summer. Apply now and speak with an academic advisor!

- Introduction to Nutrition
- Introduction to Business
- Interpersonal and Small Group Communications
- English Composition
- Natural History of Vermont
- Statistics
- Introduction to Psychology
- Human Growth and Development

Please join the CCV Winooski community for the 12th **International Food Festival** scheduled for Wednesday, April 18th from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm in the Sadie White room (108).

We invite you to share a dish, share a culture and sample food prepared by CCV students and local vendors. Want to prepare a dish? Please email or call Amy Stuart, amy.stuart@ccv.edu or 654-0542.

CCV recently received funding from the United States Department of Labor to develop **three new degree programs** to prepare students to meet increasing workforce demands in health, e-commerce and business. Associate degrees in Medical Assisting, Digital Marketing and Applied Business Practices will include two internships to help students prepare for jobs with projected annual growth rates ranging from 2% - 15%. Please walk or call in to speak with an academic advisor for more details.



March Update

By Kate Nugent, Director, WCSPC

NEW! Now we can offer an even MORE convenient time and day for Monthly Networking Meetings: First Wednesday of every month, 6-7 PM.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 4, from 6-7 at the O'Brien Community Center. Agendas and minutes are now posted on our website, WCSPC.org. All meetings are free, public, and for you, the Winooski community. The Winooski Coalition is here to help you get more involved and influence decisions made in your city.

Community Dinners at the O'Brien Community Center are now coordinated by the WCSPC and take place on the third Wednesday of the month. Food is served at 5:30. There are often discussions and or presentations following the meals. Free, open to the public, fun, and low-key. Get to know your neighbors. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Missed the fundraiser at Leunig's, but still want to participate? Purchase or renew a "Partner Card" in the month of March. Half the price of Partner Cards (\$25) will be donated to the WCSPC. This card gets you a 20% discount any time you eat at Leunig's for a year, for groups up to 6. They make great gifts!

As always, thanks to everyone who participates in our community building work. As a member and volunteer, you are one of the WCSPC's most valuable assets.

Contact information: 802-655-4565 | kate.winooskicoalition@ gmail.com | www.WCSPC.org

Girls Only! Report

By Donna Kohut, Community Development Department

Girls Only! would like to recognize Madhavi Nepal and Frankie Bahati for their participation in Afterschool for All Day back in February. They did an amazing job representing Girls Only! and the Teen Center as Youth Ambassadors! During their holiday, these two wonderful ladies traveled to Montpelier and spoke with our senators and representatives about the importance of afterschool programs for Winooski youth. We are very proud of them!

Girls Only! continues to offer academic tutoring and mentoring for Winooski girls every Wednesday afternoon from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Room 211 of the high school. All interested girls are invited to join us.

We will be offering a Special Event on Wednesday, March 21! We will be hosting a movie, crafts, and snacks at Saint Michael's College from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We will also be making plans for another trip for spring break. A van will pick up participants at the school at 11:30 to take them to Saint Michael's. That same van will drop them off at home between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. Girls must provide a signed permission slip to participate! We can provide them on request.

As always, Girls Only! is committed to providing both academic and social support for local high school girls. In order to offer appropriate and interesting programming, we would like to hear from you. For questions, concerns, or permission slips, please contact Donna Kohut at vista@winooskivt.org or (802)655-6410.

If you are interested in donating money to Girls Only!, you can send checks to Donna in City Hall: 27 West Allen Street, Winooski, VT 05404. As little as \$10 can make a huge difference in the services we provide!

Winooski YMCA Programs for Spring

By Kevin Hatin, Branch Director, Winooski YMCA

Teen Akido: (ages 13-17)

Akido builds strength, agility and positive social skills in a safe, inclusive environment. Other benefits include heightened self-confidence and increased respect for self and others.

Fridays: 4:14-5:15pm | Starts April 6th \$40 members / \$60 non - members

Youth Floor Hockey: (ages 8-10)

Play like the pros in our youth floor hockey program. Great activity and action for all abilities in this co-ed program.

Tuesdays: 4:00-5:00pm | Starts April 3rd \$15 members / \$25 non-members

Boy's High School 3 on 3 Basketball League (14-18)

Improve your skills and get in shape at the same time in this new league. Get your friends and form a team of up to 5 players and join in on the fun.

Mondays: 7:00 - 9:00pm | Starts April 2nd

\$25 members / \$35 non-members

Preschool April Camp: (ages 3-6) Looking for fun for your preschooler during the vacation week? These jam packed mornings will keep them busy with varying themes, gym time, crafts, outside play and group games. Snack provided. Sign up for 1, 2 or all 3

Tuesday, April 24 - Thursday, April 25 7:30am -6:00pm \$37 per child per day



HEALTH CORNER

Health Office News

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Coordinator

Springtime is upon us and that means mud! Please make sure that you are packing extra socks and pants and possibly even some extra shoes in their book bags. The health office does not have extra shoes and we have a limited number of pants that we normally reserve for kids who get sick or need a change of clothes.

We are hopeful that the sun will be shining brighter and longer in the coming weeks. Please remember to put on sunscreen to protect your child's skin from harmful UV rays.

Holly and I wish you all a wonderful April vacation and we will see you when you get back!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — APRIL

Choice of milk served with all complete meals:

Low-fat White & Low-fat Chocolate

AVAILABLE DAILY

*Hoagieville Deli Sandwich

*Garden Fresh

Salad Bar

*Cabot Yogurt Parfait & String Cheese

*Vegetarian Options

*Farm Fresh Milk

*Assorted Juice & Fresh Fruit

PRICES:

Breakfast

Regular \$0.85 Reduced \$FREE Adult \$1.75

Lunch

Regular \$1.75 Reduced \$0.40 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

Please note! You can get Middle and High school menu information at www.abbeygroup.net/ schoolmenus. Parents can also learn about options for managing your child's account.

DAILY BREAKFAST OPTIONS: (Cereal, Bagels, Muffins, Fruit, Milk and Juice offered daily) Mon: French Toast Sticks w/ Maple Syrup • Tues: "UBR" Whole Grain Breakfast Bar • Wed: Healthy Breakfast Pizza • Thurs: Sausage & Cheese Muffin • Fri: Egg or Yogurt w/ Bun



WINOOSKI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.winooski.k12.vt.us

Superintendent of Schools

Mary Martineau: 655-0485 mmartineau@winooski.k12.vt.us

John F. Kennedy Elementary and Middle School

Principal: Mary O'Rourke 802-655-0411, 802-655-3530 morourke@winooski.k12.vt.us

Winooski High School

Principal: Justin Brown 802-655-3530 jbrown@winooski.k12.vt.us

Board of School Trustees

Mike Decarreau, President: 310-4032 mdecarreau@winooski.k12.vt.us Jay Lambert, Secretary: 655-2942 jay.bird.2@gmail.com Amy Booher, 343-9790 abooher@winooski.k12.vt.us Tori Cleiland, 655-7678 tcleiland@winooski.k12.vt.us Jen Corrigan, 233-7642 jcorrigan@winooski.k12.vt.us

Mission Statement

The mission of the Winooski School District is to awaken in its diverse student body, a thirst for knowledge, a passion for learning, and a desire to become responsible members of the world community.

We offer a safe, supportive, educational environment. Our team of professionals recognizes individual strengths and needs and fosters academic excellence and personal growth.

Working together in partnership with families, and the community, we strive to instill shared core values – respect, responsibility, empathy – and a commitment to help every student reach his or her potential.

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 398 students attending JFK Elementary (grades PreK-5), 156 attending Winooski Middle School (grades 6-8), and 250 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 students achievemant, 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@winooski.k12.vt.us.

Newsletter of the Winooski School District

Winooski School District 60 Normand Street Winooski, VT 05404

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BURLINGTON, VT
PERMIT #361

POSTAL PATRON

****ECRWSS**

WINOOSKI, VT 05404