



WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS!

FEBRUARY 2012

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Celebrating Our Achievements!

Winooski Mayor Mike O'Brien Kicks Off First "Community Reads" Event

By Robin Hood

On Friday, January 20th, Winooski Mayor Mike O'Brien read to a full house of elementary children and their families in the library at JFK Elementary School. The theme was Dr. Seuss books, some of which were favorites of the mayor that he used to read to his own children! Mayor O'Brien's reading was entertaining, as he was complete with a Dr. Seuss hat!

Afterward, children spent time viewing all of the Dr. Seuss books that are available in the children's section of the library. They were treated to some yummy hot chocolate and cookies. Each child also received a special Dr. Seuss bookmark to take home.

This event is the first in a series of *Community Reads*, sponsored by the literacy committee and the newly formed parent and community group (formerly called the PIRC committee). The goal of this event is for children and families to get to know people in the Winooski community, and to see that all of us can enjoy reading. The group is also working hard to build and strengthen school, family and community partnerships.

We are seeking parents and community members who would like to work with our group or join one of the sub-committees. We have four sub-committees: School Climate, Student Behavior, Literacy, and Math. We would like our committees to be representative of this wonderful community! You don't need to have a child at the school to help us out. There are many ways you can be involved with the Winooski School District and children's learning. If you are interested in joining a committee, helping out at event, or would like to learn more, please contact JFK Elementary and Middle School principal Mary O'Rourke at 655-0411 or High School principal Justin Brown at 655-3530.



Mayor Mike O'Brien enjoyed reading to elementary school children and their families on Friday, January 20th. This was the first of many "Community Reads" events planned for our community. Watch this newsletter for the schedule of future events, or check out the school's website at www.winooski.k12.vt.us.



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NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

Superintendent's Message

By Mary Martineau, Superintendent of Schools

At the February board meeting, the Board heard a presentation by Mary Jane Shelley of TriFocal Consulting. Mary Jane has helped numerous school districts throughout Vermont facilitate an administrator hiring process that includes: input from all stakeholder groups; a structured system for evaluating candidates' applications from the experiences and skills desired by stakeholders; facilitation of the interview process; and a feedback system that reports back quantitative and qualitative stakeholder input to the decision making team.

The Board voted to hire Mary Jane to work with the superintendent to implement this process in the hiring of the next Principal for grades 6-12 of the Winooski School District. **Interviews of the two finalists will be scheduled on Feb. 21 and Feb. 23 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the learning media center. All are welcome!**

Budget Part I

By Jay Lambert, Board of School Trustees

Greetings fellow community members. In this month's *District News!*, I will focus on the first of a two-part series on this year's proposed budget for the Winooski School District. In this month's issue I will talk about the "what" in our budget, while in next month's issue our Chair will focus on the "how much" portion of our budget presentation. The major reason for this approach is that not all factors affecting the final budget numbers are available at the time of the writing of this article (mid-January). With that said, I want to be as honest as possible and inform you that the proposed fiscal year 2012-2013 budget would likely mean *an increase to the local tax rate*. The following bullets are a few of the highlights as to why this proposed increase is necessary.

- **Increased costs and contractual obligations:** As some of you may be aware, education is a personnel heavy industry. Currently over 80% of our district's total costs are salaries and benefits. Since it is one of the first years of our new negotiated agreement with our professional staff, this will be a substantial part of this year's increase. In addition, our share of healthcare costs is projected to rise 3.5 percent and our share of dental costs is projected to rise 2.5 percent.
- **Two new English Language Learner teaching positions:** Also as many of you in the community are aware, our New American population has been on the increase over the past several years and now makes up thirty percent of our student population. The board feels it is in the best interest of all students to increase the number of English language specialists in the school district.
- **One and a half new math teaching positions at the high school:** The board is finding that as we proceed through the turnaround processes that "differentiated instruction" (the level that a teacher must teach at to reach all students effectively), especially at the high school level, with only two staff members has proven to be impossible to achieve effectively. The board feels that adding more staff in this area will help alleviate this difficulty.
- **Matching Grant funding:** The school district has applied for a grant funding stream which requires a fund match for the technology part of the grant. This grant, if obtained, will provide one-to-one laptop computers for every student in the high school, among many other advantages.

These are some of the major cost increases of our proposed budget; please watch for a more detailed explanation of the "how much" aspect of our budget in the March edition of the *District News!*, due out in late February.

As always, the board of school trustees would like to invite all of you to our public presentation the night before the polls open on Monday March 5th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interested In Running For The School Board?

There are two positions up for election in March:

- Jay Lambert – 3 year term
- Robert Millar – 2 year term

If you'd like to run, you need to:

- Pick up a petition at Winooski City Hall (655-6419).
- State your name, the office you are running for and the length of the term.
- Get the petition signed by 50 legal registered Winooski voters. Their names must be legible or they cannot be considered.
- Submit your petition between January 26th and Friday February 3rd, 2012 (5 p.m.)

If you are planning to run, we would like to introduce you to readers of this newsletter in our March issue.

Please provide the following information by February 13 for publication in the March issue of the *District News*. We intend to run this information to give Winooski voters a chance to get to know the candidates. Please submit the following information to newsletter editor Anne Linton Elston at annelinton@mac.com:

- Name
- Address & Telephone
- Work
- Education
- Hobbies/activities
- Community service
- Reason for running (75 words or less)

Save the Date for The Wizard of Oz!

Coming soon to our Performing Arts Center: "The Wizard of Oz!" It will be performed by a very talented group of 4th and 5th graders on Friday, March 9th. Show times are at 9:00, 10:30, and 7:00 p.m. The performances are free and open to the public. Please join us!

WHS French Exchange Program Seeks Host Families

By Veronica Saffo

In April, the Winooski High School French Club will be hosting 15-17 students from Rouen, France as part of a French exchange program. These students, all around the age of 15 years old, will stay with local families. The visit will last twelve nights and include several afternoon and daily outings to visit attractions in our city and surrounding areas, to introduce the students to life in Winooski and life in Vermont. The students will experience the daily routine of our students by accompanying them to school as well as attending their extracurricular activities. They will have the opportunity to enjoy typical American cuisine when they dine each evening with their host families. And they will spend time with their host families on the weekend to experience how our families spend their leisure time. In June, nine of our students will travel to Rouen, France and have the same type of experience with their French counterparts. This international cultural exchange promises to be a great experience for everyone involved.

To that end, *the WHS French Club is looking for seven Winooski families to host a French student from April 14th-26th*. Ideally, we are looking for families who have a high school student who would like to enjoy the rich experience of hosting an international student. The French families who are sending these students would prefer their children not be placed in homes together as that will increase the chance of them speaking French rather than using this opportunity to practice and improve their English. The students will go to school each day during the first week, and then during the second week, we will have planned day trips. There are many reasons to host an exchange student. Participants form personal relationships that often last for years or a lifetime.

If you are interested in helping the WHS French Club make this exchange an experience of a lifetime, please contact Madame Saffo at 655-3530 or vsaffo@winooski.k12.vt.us. *Merci Beaucoup!!*

Winooski Early Childhood Screening To Take Place

DATE: Friday, February 24th, 2012

TIME: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

LOCATION: JFK Elementary School

If you have concerns about your child's development, our Early Childhood Team will screen them in the areas of Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Social Skill Development, Cognitive/Pre-Academic Concept Development, and Self-Help Skills. This screening is play based and free to children 3-5 years old, living in Winooski. Also, if you have a child 0-3 and are concerned about their development, we will be happy to schedule a screening for them. Please call Deb George at 383-6063 to schedule an appointment for you and your child.

NOTE: There were errors in the Honor Roll that ran in the January issue — our apologies. Here is the corrected list of students that made the Honor Roll. Congratulations, everyone!



Bill Sibley presents Mary O'Rourke with a grant from Exxon Mobil. This Educational Alliance Grant is to be used for math or science. The grant was awarded to the middle school this year. Thank you Exxon Mobil!

Honor Roll – First Quarter: 2011-2012

HIGH SCHOOL

Seniors

First Honors

Alex Brown
Katelyn Decarreau
Bethany Trainque

Second Honors

Heba Abdulkhaleiq
Shelby Lynn Alger
Christopher Fountain
Jason Gerred
Caleb Kimber
Travis Martin
Myles Moran
MonBahador Rai
Devon Rollins
Miranda Rouille
Jacob Roy
Alicia Russell
Jennifer Sikorski
Rebecca Spittle
John Truong

Juniors

First Honors

Yen Canary Ly
Gwendolyn Mongeon

Second Honors

Ashley Antoniak
Amanda Billado
Coralyn Boivin
Ashley Bushey
Kaitlyn Callahan
Vedad Cicak
Dino Dzinic
Krysta Jacobs
Moriah Leary
Chandra Luitel
Hari Luitel
Rijad Mezetovic
Naima Mohamed
Hala T Mohammed
Brianna Robare
Isho Sadik

Sophomores

First Honors

Cara Casier
Luke Fountain
Serina Phuong

Second Honors

Januka Acharya
Matthew Chamberlain
Austin Mayo
Fallon Perrault
Skyler Trayah
Ku Say Wah

Freshmen

First Honors

Randall Knox
Adam Lawson
Amanda Nattress
Nhung Nguyen

Second Honors

Uyen Bui
Kylee Burt
Conner Drown
Dawa Drukpa
Christopher Francis
Ram Gurung
Michaela Metivier
Chanefer Nheb
Victoria White
Ro Ze Yar

MIDDLE SCHOOL

High Honors

Noah Alger
Edmund Do
Andrew Durkin
Colton Lavalette
Hannah Little
Mariah Metivier
Sierra Thompson

Honors

Lai Lar Bi
Ryan Brothers
Mitchell Chadwick
Rainbow Rui Chen
Riley Corrigan
Niki Dang
Dhan Maya Dhamala
Hau Dong
Jarod Fountain
Faiza Hassan
Christina Larose-Terry
Wakeme Littlejohn
Marie Ly
Eh Man
Lydia Nattress
Zeneth Nheb
Maryam Omar
Alan Priebe-Carter
Noah Rouille
Taia Smedley
Shyanna Sweeney
Ledania Taylor
Dylin Traverse
Olivia Treadwell
Faith Villa
Rebecca White
Ball Wit

Open House at Essex Center for Technology

By Cheryl Brosnan, Guidance Counselor

On Saturday, February 11th, Middle School students and their parents are invited to attend the Open House at the Center for Technology, Essex. VSAC will provide a free bus leaving the school at 10:00 and returning at 12:30. The Center offers the following programs to students during their high school years. Building Technology, Engineering/Architectural Design, Automotive Technology, Natural Resources & Agriscience Technology, Pre-Technical Education, Business Academy, Computer Animation & Web Page Design, Computer Systems Technology, Graphic Design & Digital Publishing, Health Information Management, Dental Assisting, Childhood Education/ Human Services, Cosmetology I & II, Ophthalmic Medical Assisting and Professional Foods. If you have questions, call Cheryl Brosnan at 383-6107.

Volunteers Needed for Winooski High School

By Phet Keomanyvanh, Coordinator,
United Way of Chittenden County

A need exists at Winooski High School for community volunteers to support struggling students in their academic setting. The "tutor" would listen to the students read, and subsequently help the student respond to the assignment that follows. For example, a student might read a section of his or her text book and then respond to questions that are based on the reading. The subjects covered would include: English Language Arts, Social Studies, and basic science. If an interested volunteer prefers math, this need would also be available. Your support would mean all the difference in the world to a needy student. The rewards are truly great! Morning and after school time slots available.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Phet Keomanyvanh at the United Way Volunteer Connection, Phet@unitedwaycc.org, or call 860-1677.

Curriculum Coordinator's Report

By Stefanie Hamble

In curriculum this month, K-12 is continuing to move forward in acquiring knowledge in the Common Core State Standards. With day five of a five day series with Karin Hess coming to a close in the area of English Language Arts on January 9th, and the first day of a five day Math series starting on January 4th, the knowledge is going to keep building. Teachers are becoming more and more familiar with the standards in the area of English Language Arts and Math and are having conversations around what is the same and what is different, when comparing the Common Core Standards to the Grade Level Expectations.

In the area of assessments, teachers are continuing their work on building common assessments in the disciplines of Science and Social Studies, K-8. In doing so, teachers are looking at making adjustments to what they do during instructional time and what they cover in their units of study. In grades 9-12, teachers are wrapping up their work on building the first writing assessment of the year. Through their work with Bill Rich and Joey Hawkins, the teachers have looked at different ways to embed a writing assessment into their content areas and are also building rubrics to match what their areas of focus are and what outcomes they want to be seeing from students.

We are looking forward to obtaining even more knowledge in the area of the Common Core these coming months and applying it to our practices and curriculum.

Dollars For Scholars Update

By Morgan Kelner, Chair

Hi Everyone. Happy New Year and we join the Winooski community in wishing that WHS will find a wonderful new principal and that the transition will be easy. Winooski Dollars for Scholars appreciates that Justin Brown has served on our board and we wish him the best in his new endeavors. We have the final count from the Model Train Show. Winooski DFS has once again benefitted from all of Mr. Malcovsky's efforts and hard work to put on this event.

This year, our organization was given \$3,084, which provides scholarships to graduating students who are pursuing a post-graduate degree. Thank you Mr. Malcovsky!

WDS held it's annual Award ceremony at the Learning Center and 10 WHS graduates returned to receive their checks and catch up with their fellow students. These students were recipients of Winooski Dollars for Scholars scholarships and each student has successfully completed a semester of college. We were all impressed with the high level of competence and confidence that Winooski graduates carry with them once they graduate. Clearly these students have received an excellent education here.

Winooski Dollars for Scholars IS MOVING OUR ANNUAL CALCUTTA/SILENT AUCTION BACK TO WINOOSKI and our event will be held at Winooski's very own Regular Veterans Association on Weaver Street! We also are changing the date of our event and will hold it during a non-summer month. Stay tuned for our new date.

Once again, please consider joining our board or volunteering to help with one project during the year. We stay committed to the principle that all students who want to attend college, deserve to be given that opportunity. And don't forget, we have 5% of our money set aside for middle and high school students wishing to participate in additional educational activities outside of the Winooski district.



10th Annual Friends of WHS Golf Tournament

Be sure to save the date for this one, folks! Friends of Winooski High School is hosting it's 10th Annual Golf Tournament on Sunday, June 3rd at 9:00am. Details to follow in the next newsletter!

Welcome Scholars Lab!

By Kelly Fitzpatrick

With the school year almost half over the Learning Lab is seeing the regular increased need for student assistance. Typically this time of year the Learning Lab sees an increase in student needs, however this year, with the creation of the Scholars Lab, the workload is much more manageable for all. Bob Didyoung and Deb Light are both certified teachers employed by VSAC. Bob is licensed in math and Deb is licensed in math and science. Both work diligently with our middle and high school students three days per week during and after school hours. Deb and Bob each spend some time in the math department during math classes assisting students and both also spend time in the Learning Lab offering one to one or small group assistance.

Over the course of the last several months Bob and Deb have formed relationships with our students and often a student will come to the Learning Lab looking specifically for one or the other of them for help with school work. Students who need assistance can contact the high school guidance counselor, Emmy Charon at 383-6099, or ask a teacher to make a referral to the learning lab.

Both Bob and Deb are a huge asset to our district and the work they do with our students is exceptional and appreciated by all staff and students.

Thank You, Volunteers

By Phet Keomanyvanh, Coordinator,
United Way of Chittenden County

January was National Mentoring Month. This is a great time to thank and appreciate all the mentors who volunteer in schools. In addition, we would like to extend appreciation to all the wonderful staff and students who support mentoring initiatives. Whether directly involved with mentoring or not, we all find that we're effected by each other's successes.

The path to success takes growth, exploration and navigation. Fostering a child's character and confidence is an investment that's long lasting and leads to a vibrant and healthy community.

To learn more about mentoring, contact Marissa Wilkens at Mobius at 658-1888.

JFK ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

February Update

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

At our January in-service, the elementary teachers focused on the common core in mathematics in the morning and common core in language arts in the afternoon. The common core will replace the Grade Expectations in 2014. As a K-8, we are beginning to look at the common core in language arts and math. In order to be ready for this transition, we are beginning to make small changes in instruction, so by 2014 we will be ready for the change.

In the Middle school, science and social studies content teams continued their work on building common assessments. This is a task that will be completed by June.

The middle school was the lucky recipient of two grants. The Bay Paul Foundation grant focuses on the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of middle school students. The second grant was an Educational Alliance grant from Exxon Mobil. These funds must be used for math or science.

Thank you to all who participated in the community forum held January 28th. We appreciate your time, energy and effort.

"Working Memory" Explained

By the Jensen Group*

Did you know that working memory is a plausible mediator in predicting mathematics achievement in primary school age children? Did you also know that if a child has a weak working memory, you can build this skill?

There are 3 key skills that build academic success:

- Working Memory
- Attentional Focus
- Processing

The one that we will focus on first is working memory. Working memory is the driver of cognition. It's required for problem solving, language, math, prediction and every higher order processing. To build working memory, we should be giving students practice in this daily. In fact, students should be getting at least 5-30 minutes, 3-5 days a week. Here are some things that both teachers and parents can do to help build that working memory:

Games: (Simon Says, card games, matching)

Clapping games: (do a clapping pattern and have your student/child clap the same pattern back to you) When giving directions, have your students/child repeat the directions back to you

Math Games: Have two students face each other and give one a number, and then the other student has to give a new number that is higher. The first student has to figure out how many the second student added to the original number and increase their number by the same amount, and so on.

If a computer and the Internet is available, go the website www.cogmed.com, and find some scientific, research based online games that build working memory.

Remember, building working memory is fun and can be done at any time of the day! Research shows that school will be easier for kids with a good working memory!

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



Colors Of Us

By Mrs. Keough, Mrs. Bissonette, and Mrs. Greve

Fourth grade classes read the book *Colors Of Us* by Karen Katz during the holiday season. Using the various colors described in the book such as cinnamon, french toast, chocolate, peach, and autumn leaves the children had a lot of fun exploring colors using paints and describing them. The students then used a combination of red, brown, black, white, and yellow and mixed them to make their own handprints to make a class mural for a hall decoration.

Students were amazed to see that although they all used the same colors of paint when mixed they became different shades unique to themselves. The lesson enriched their rooms by teaching community, diversity, art, perseverance, cooperation, and responsibility.

The community was able to see the final product during the holiday performance, which focused on unity. The wall hanging can now be seen outside the fourth grade classrooms.

JFK Guidance News

By Sarah Murphy, JFK Elementary School

January Update: This month, the Kindergarten, First, and Second grade classes worked on self esteem and confidence. Students were read books about different characters with very different backgrounds and stories. They followed up each book by thinking about and doing several activities about themselves and their families. In the upper grades, students learned about bullying and cyber bullying. They spent time learning exactly what bullying and cyber bullying is and why it can happen.

Up Next in February: The Kindergarten, First, and Second grade classes will be learning about team work and cooperation. In the upper grades, students will continue to learn about cyber bullying and bullying.

JFK Afterschool Programs: Session Three Gets Underway

By Mag Thomas

Happy New Year! As we welcome the New Year here at JFK, we are also beginning a new session of afterschool programs.

There are sixteen programs being offered this session. There are new and exciting programs

happening (PowerPoint Tails, Window Farming, Playful Puppets, Winter Stories and Activities, Winter Read Alouds, Painting and Crafts, Fun with Arts and Crafts, and Friendship Bracelets) along with the favorites (Strategy Games, Snack Attack, Card & Board Games, Kindergarten Literacy Program (KLP), Tessellations and Mosaics, Predators on the Prowl, and Big Chef/Little Chef). The children and afterschool teachers are very excited about attending their programs each week!

We are very excited to have over 120 JFK students participating in afterschool programs this session. We also have seven teachers tutoring students in the area of literacy or math. A total of 25 students are being tutored and you will find them each week working on complex math problems, learning sight words, and reading, writing and discussing books from the 2011-2012 Dorothy Canfield Fisher book list (You can check out the list at <http://www.dcfaward.org/>. Click on current list to view the list along with a summary about each of the books). The tutoring groups meet one or two afternoons a week.

We are so glad so many students love to participate in afterschool enrichment and tutoring programs at JFK! Please call us at 655-0411 if you have any questions.





Middle School News

By Katherine Jennifer Helm

Chaos to Order

On the last day of school before the holiday break, all the Middle School students and staff got together in the gym to take a picture for the yearbook. It was a fun but crazy idea. The students had spent the afternoon celebrating the last day before the holiday by watching movies and having parties. Then just before the end of the day, we asked all the kids and everyone that worked with middle school to meet in the gym for the picture. You wouldn't know it from the picture but getting it was CHAOS.

By the end of this picture taking session, everyone, kids, teachers and staff were all ready to get out of here and go home for the holidays!

Summer International Camp Experience



Last year, Winooski hosted a two-week Language and American Culture camp for Chinese students. Some of our students participated, but for the most part the Chinese students were on their own while at the school, and then with their host families in the evening and on the weekends.

This year we are hoping to develop a camp experience where both the Chinese kids and local kids do the program together and learn from each other. The planning for this years Language and American Culture Camp is in it's infancy but soon, middle school students are going to be told about it and be offered the opportunity to participate, not only in the planning, but in the participation of the camp. We are hoping that our students will be here the last two weeks in July. Keep your eyes open for further information, as we will also be looking for host families to place the Chinese students while they are here.

Afterschool at JFK Middle School

by Melissa Richard

The Chess Club at JFK Middle School is starting their second session this year as an afterschool program. The students meet every Wednesday with Mr. Andrews. This is becoming one of the middle school's most popular programs as nine students meet weekly to challenge each other in games of chess. Students are matched to play other students that are the same level. At the end of the session students will play in a tournament that



will determine the chess champion of the program. The students in the program all agreed that they come to Chess Club because they like being able to play one of their favorite games with their peers.



Time Bandits

By Justin Brown, Principal

Happy February! Winooski High School and Burlington High School continue to work on the grant through the Nellie Mae Educational Foundation. We remain committed to doing the work outlined in our proposal, regardless of the final decision made. The implementation plan can be found at: (see www.bsdtv.org and/or <http://www.winooski.k12.vt.us>). Our focus for our work over the next several years will be:

- Youth Leadership and Involvement
- Family-School Partnership
- Community-Based Learning Opportunities
- Effective Team Practices
- Personalized and Proficiency-Based Learning Plans

Representatives from the original planning team continue to meet regularly to refine the implementation of our project. The administration from both districts met with some community leaders on January 7, 2012 to continue a dialogue that had begun in the fall of 2011. In Winooski, our steering committee process also met to gather input from community stakeholders on January 28, 2011. This will also inform the planning of our grant work.

Along with continued work of this grant process, we have continually focused on refining our work within our school (building on research based practices, curriculum alignment, and assessment development). As our work with the Burlington Schools is progressing we are engaged in transforming our education delivery for all students.

One of the steps to transforming our education model is to look at our schedule for our students. To start this process, we looked to the research.

Doug Reeves (<http://www.leadandlearn.com/about-us/biography/douglas-b-reeves>) is an educational researcher and teacher who has focused on struggling schools that have succeeded despite significant odds. He has

focused on schools with the following characteristics:

- More than 90 percent of the students are eligible for free and reduced lunch, a commonly used surrogate for low-income families.
- More than 90 percent of the students are from ethnic minorities.
- More than 90 percent of the students met or achieved high academic standards, according to independently conducted tests of academic achievement.

According to Reeves (*High Performance in High Poverty Schools: 90/90/90 and Beyond*)

"...the schools with large gains made dramatic changes in their schedule... At the secondary level, they routinely provided double periods of English and mathematics."

In the current schedule at WHS, we have implemented Math and English Language Arts every day for all students; double periods of intensive reading support for struggling readers; Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) throughout the high school. We have also designed and implemented intensive in-class (and outside of class) supports for math, and for students who struggle.

While we feel emergent successes in our current schedule, we believe that we can still do better. To this end, the faculty has been working together since November to address the continued need for improved student learning through improving our scheduling. We plan on having an updated schedule for improved learning in February 2012. The characteristics that we are building for are: Math and English Language Arts every day for all students; supporting tech center access; working with shared staff; better managing the frenetic pace of courses; and exploring a Year-End Studies Program. I look forward to providing an update in the coming newsletter.

Two supports that we built into the budget for the coming year are increasing our math support along with adding ELL

teachers. According to the most recent NECAP data available, 11% of our Juniors in the fall of 2010 scored at proficient or better. While we have significantly updated our curriculum, instruction and assessment, it is imperative to target this area for all learners in the coming years. And as a result I have advocated that we add personnel to further bolster our work in this area. Please remember to vote on March 6!

On the topic of scheduling, a reminder that February break begins on Saturday, February 25 and goes through March 6. The first student day back will be Wednesday March 7.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, comments or concerns. You can reach me at jbrown@winooski.k12.vt.us.

WHS Guidance Office News

By Emmy Charron, High School Guidance Counselor

Now that the second semester is now underway, any senior who has not yet met with Ms. Charron regarding post secondary college plans needs make an appointment to do so! It is getting late in the game and I still want you to have a plethora of choices and options!

Scary to think but in four short weeks 3rd marking period grades close (February 24th). Second semester is a great time to start fresh and really encourage your students to have a strong finish throughout the remainder of the school year, so please be supportive of their efforts. If your student is struggling we have many tutoring options available and Core Support available after school, we would be happy to help make that connection.

Winter recess is from February 27th through March 2nd. Enjoy the time off!

SAVE THE DATE

Multicultural/Peace Jam Club Italian Dinner Event



Come enjoy a pleasant evening of dining, music and dancing at Winooski High School on February 25th at 6 p.m.

The Multicultural/Peace Jam Club is hosting a lasagna dinner for the community. The students will serve and entertain you so you can relax and enjoy some time with your neighbors.

Proceeds of this event will support their participation in the annual Peace Jam Conference.

Tickets are \$10 per person, \$15 per couple (if purchased in advance) or \$15 per person, \$20 per couple (purchased at the door).

Our Italian Dinner menu will include lasagna, tossed salad, bread, coffee, tea, lemon water and dessert.

To purchase tickets contact mclark@winooski.k12.vt.us or vsaffo@winooski.k12.vt.us. They can be reached by telephone at 655-3530 (ext 6195).

Band Notes

By Randy Argraves

Believe it or not, we have just passed the half way mark for this school year. And with that milestone, we start the beginning of what is going to be a very busy and exciting second semester for our music programs.

How busy? Well, we start off the third with our **6th annual Jazz Dinner on Sunday, February 12th at 6 pm in the cafeteria.** Dinner will be provided by Papa Frank's, and the music will be provided by several very talented young musicians who will entertain you with some wonderful music. Tickets are ten dollars for adults and five dollars for children twelve and under.

Next up is our **March Concert, which is Thursday, March 22nd at 7 pm in the PAC.** We will be playing a wide array of music ranging from Vivaldi to the Village People. Hey, don't be embarrassed if you have a strong urge to stand up and do the YMCA dance at some point during the concert.

May is our busiest month! We start the month off by hosting the **All State Parade.** Deac Decarreau, Steven Palmer and several other civic leaders in our community have come together to help put this amazing event together right here in our town on **Wednesday, May 9th at 6 pm.** You literally can't miss this event because it is most likely going to take place on or near the street where you live. I am really looking forward to the parade this year - I hope you are too.

We are ending the month in typical fashion by putting on our **Pops Concert on May 22nd at 7 pm in the PAC,** and marching in the **Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 26th.** Step off is at noon. Wishing you all a great second semester!

World Language Students Create Holiday Greetings

By Veronica Saffo

During the weeks before the December break, WHS French students spent time learning about the culture of France and Quebec. They learned about the holidays celebrated and the customs practiced. Students learned vocabulary associated with these holidays and traditional foods served at family gatherings. They created paper shoes to replicate those the French children leave out for St. Nicholas on December 6th and they crafted greeting cards and ornaments with traditional holiday greetings. The culmination of all their work was a crepe party. The students each brought in an ingredient, made the batter, and took turns cooking the crepes on the griddle. Crepes topped with Nutella, jam and powdered sugar, were enjoyed by the

students and the teachers with whom they proudly shared. But it was clear, that the most relevant part of all the cultural activities were the French greetings and ornaments the students created for our French speaking friends at Our Lady of Providence. Just before Christmas, a bundle of hand-crafted messages were delivered to the nuns to brighten their holidays.



Spotlight On Student Writing

In 2011, WHS began assessing students in writing. Our first prompt elicited the following wonderful student piece:

Crumpled, muddy and wet. Yes, it's unrecognizable, but once I smooth it out using my forefinger and thumb, Andrew Jackson's eyes meet mine. A burst of excitement suddenly hits me as I stuff the bill in my pocket and hurry down the street; pondering what to spend it on. It must have been my good actions, I thought. Karma is in my favor not, I knew why this happened. But let me tell the story...

We were riding along, in our old 15 mpg minivan, when we spotted a homeless man standing on the street holding a soggy cardboard sign in what looked like a third grader's scrawl: will work for food. It was pretty cold spring day, about 40° and the man was wearing just a T-shirt.

"Aw. Mom stop for him." I said.

"I don't have any money," she replied

"I have ten dollars."

"Are you sure? You worked hard for that."

"I know, but I think he could use it more than I can." A smile spread on the man's face once he saw we were pulling over. I handed my mom my money and she cautiously got out and approached him. I could see them talking but I couldn't hear anything. She got back in and told me she was going to give him a ride to Burger King or something but we were right down the street. He thanked her (and me) "from the bottom of his heart." And I felt really satisfied for what I did. Turning my head to watch the man as he left, I saw he was gone.

"Where'd he go?!" I exclaimed. My mom peered around the passenger seat.

"I don't know..."

"Was that a miracle or something?"

"He was probably an angel, coming to test us."

We rode away in silence and wonder. He really wasn't there. Maybe it was true. Maybe she was right...

The next day, as I was walking, I saw a \$ bill in the slush left over from winter. It was a reward from the previous day I believe. But who knows. To this day my mother believes it was an angel. If I didn't act with kindness and didn't get my mom to stop that day I wouldn't have had that experience. I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision.



Magazines Still Needed!

Winooski High School is looking for donations for collage projects in the art room. Any magazines will do — they just need to have lots of pictures for students to cut out.

Magazines can be brought to room 214 or left in the Middle School/High School office. Thank you!

OMNI Students Provide Community Support

By Kimberly Ead

There are some amazing things happening here at Winooski High School.

Over the last semester students are making a difference in our school, our community and our world.

In December, OMNI seniors and juniors developed a project that brought them into the field to play an original game with middle school students. Stress was reduced and many laughs were had. I don't think anyone won that game or figured out all of the rules.



On August 29th 2011 Vermont sustained devastating floods sweeping away homes, businesses, roads, bridges and farms. Although it's been over five months since the disaster, many people are still in limbo. The cost of rebuilding may not be known until well into 2012. Farmers are unsure if they should replant in areas now in the floodplain. A local yoga studio, Evolution initiated Vinyasa for Vermont- a fundraiser for Vermont



farmers. OMNI students interviewed farmers created a short video and poster to advertise for the event. Over 200 people did yoga and raised \$20,000 for the farmers. Thank you to the students that helped make this happen.

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday students traveled to the Big Picture Theater in Waitsfield to be a part of the MountainTop Film Festival, a human rights film festival celebrating MLK's life and work. They watched two films and discussed serious current issues facing our world. The festival will be happening this spring here at Winooski, more details to come.

What is happening now? OMNI sophomores are collecting dog toys to donate to the Humane Society. We need your help to make it happen. Drop toys off in the high school main office.

In addition, the TIPS club is gearing up for more internships and job hunting. We currently have students at Winooski City Accounting office, Our Lady of Providence Senior Center, Sears, Sniders Auto Shop, St. Michael's Girls Group, Enniskerry Farm, and many more to come. The next internship or job could be yours.

I am proud of all of the hard work and motivation shown by WHS students.

Afterschool at WHS

by Kaitlin Moran

It's hard to believe the school year is half over! The High School Afterschool Program was able to grow even more in Session 3! From January 9- February 24 we are offering 9 programs. On Tuesdays, there is a new Math Core Support with Ms. Clark. Ms. Clark is helping students in all levels of Math Foundations. On Tuesdays we are continuing to offer French, READ 180, Technology, Science, and Instrumental Music. On Thursdays, we are continuing to offer Spanish, Social Studies, Choral Music, and Debate Club! Although Debate Club will not be



competing this year, there is a committed group of students excited to learn and practice the art of debate.

The Afterschool program would like to thank our committed educators

who have worked in the program so far this year: Randy Argraves, Lisa Basille, Shannon Bundy, Melissa Clark, Bret Kernoff, Cathy Mander-Adams, Rebecca Mellen, Courtney Poquette, and Veronica Saffo. Without the consistent efforts of these talented professionals, the Afterschool program would not be able to do the work we set out to do. The relationships they are able to build with students in Afterschool are essential to the development of both skills and confidence.

Thank you for all you do! You are appreciated!

Missing from photo: Lisa Basille, Randy Argraves, Cathy Mander-Adams

Welcome to Read 180

By Veronica Saffo

There is something relatively new happening at Winooski High School which is proving to be a very positive part of our students' daily learning. Last year, Scholastic's Read 180 program was introduced to the Winooski School District. Ms. Issenberg and a handful of other educators were trained to administer this reading intervention program. Read 180 is a comprehensive curriculum, proven to help struggling readers improve their skills. This year there are five teachers facilitating Read 180 in the high school: Ms. Issenberg, Mr. Litterer, Ms. Bruce and Ms. Saffo.

Each day the students begin class with Whole Group Instruction, students engaged in discussion about critical reading, vocabulary, writing, 21st Century learning, and grammar skills. After the group instruction, students break into groups and rotate through independent reading, computer based learning and small group instruction. It is in the small group instruction.

Many of the students taking Read 180 this year in high school are English Language Learners. The target vocabulary instruction is proving to be relevant to these students in their daily lives as build their English vocabulary. Cooperatively and independently students practice using the vocabulary in appropriate context

Students also continue to build upon the basic skills needed to successfully communicate in writing. Each writing assignment often takes many drafts and painstaking editing to achieve the final version. However, in the end, the final product is a personal achievement for each student and proudly displayed.

Nestled on cushions and a futon in the Silent Reading Zone, one finds students with their faces buried in leveled paperbacks. Read 180 offers leveled paperbacks from which students can pick a book that is age appropriate and can be read successfully based on each student's individual reading ability. The Read 180 library titles include a wide range of genres from which the students can find something of personal interest.

The Read 180 program is somewhat new to Winooski High School, but the sense of community and pride-in-learning that is growing within the walls of these classrooms, is certainly nothing new!



Update from your City Council

By Mayor Mike O'Brien



It's mid-January as I write this, and where's the snow!! Maybe by the time you read this, we will have some snow on the ground. When it does snow, please do what you can to help any neighbor who has trouble with their shoveling. As noted in last month's newsletter, the Teen Center is organizing a shovel brigade to help those in need. We'd love to get an even larger group of volunteers to help those in need clear their driveway and walks. If you'd like to help, or if you need help with your snow, please call City Hall and we'll get something set up. If you request help, please remember that this is a volunteer group, so please be patient because volunteers may not get to you right away.

Are you stuck in the house and can't think of anything to do? How about sliding at Landry Park? Or, if Mother Nature cooperates, ice skating at either Landry Park or next to the Champlain Mill? Join the YMCA and work out at the O'Brien Community Center! How about cheering on our high school basketball teams? Look for their schedules at our city website or on Front Porch Forum. But most of all, enjoy all that winter brings!

Have you noticed the activity downtown? My Web Grocer continues to rehab the Champlain Mill and expects to be occupying the top two floors in February, which will bring 150 or so employees into our downtown. The owners report strong interest in the rest of the space. We have signed a contract with Redstone to develop the last two lots of the Cascades project. Plans are being developed to include apartments and condominiums, and if successful, a grocery store! We will share more

information as plans evolve.

We are currently working on the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2013. City Manager Kathy Decarreau presented the City Council with a level budget that includes proposed cuts to certain programs and to some personnel. The Council is going through the budget and deciding which of the proposed cuts to restore and which cuts to accept, as well as looking at our projected revenues and all of our projected expenses. As we work through this process, we weigh the cost with the benefit of each program, the impact on the City's ability to provide necessary services, and the impact on each of us as tax payers. I know the school board is going through the same process. Our City Council meetings are covered by Channel 17, which airs each meeting several times. Each meeting is also available on line at www.cctv.org. If you have any questions on the City budget, please feel free to call or email any of the city council or the city manager.

Town meeting day is March 6th this year. This year we have two City Council seats and two school board seats open. And of course, we vote on the City and School budgets. **The City Council and School Board will be holding budget information sessions on Monday the 5th at the Performing Arts Center at the school.** Please come out to our budget presentations and vote on the 6th at the Senior Center. Absentee ballots are available at City Hall. If you need to make special arrangements because you wouldn't otherwise be able to vote, call the City Clerk's office at 655-6419 and you will be accommodated.

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee continues its work and is currently collecting input from its on-line survey. If you have not responded, please take the survey that is available on the

City website.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of Winooski becoming a City! Wouldn't it be nice to celebrate this milestone. A small group has begun to plan for such an event, but more volunteers are needed. If you are interested, contact City Hall.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me by phone at 655-4879 or email at mayor@winooskivt.org. Or you can contact any of your city councilors. Our contact information is available below, or on the city website at www.winooskivt.org.

Request for Proposals

The City of Winooski is requesting solicitations for funding from service agencies that are active in Winooski.

Each year, the City Council allocates funds to a number of organizations that provide direct service to Winooski. New and on-going programs are considered. Proposals are competitive and will be evaluated according to the degree of benefit to the community.

The proposal must include:

- A description of the services provided by the organization to Winooski residents;
- Evidence of the organization's capacity to provide the proposed service;
- An organizational budget for the current year;
- A financial report from last year;
- A commitment to provide a report on the use of the funds within 10 months of the award.

Interested parties should submit their proposal electronically before 11:00 AM, on Wednesday, February 8, 2012. The City Council will consider the proposals during its regular meeting, on Monday, February 13, 2012. A representative for the proposal should attend that Council meeting, at 6:00PM. Funding awards will be announced on or before March 5, 2012. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.

Proposals and any questions related to this RFP should be directed to Ms. Mary Beth Boe, City Hall, 27 West Allen Street, Winooski, VT 05404 or at mboe@winooskivt.org. *The City of Winooski is an equal opportunity provider.*

| 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.

February at the Winooski Senior Center

By Lori L. Pinard, MS, Director

February brings the AARP tax preparers to the Winooski Senior Center. From the beginning of Feb. through mid April, free tax services for seniors are available. Please call 655-6425 to make an appointment.

Our next monthly meeting will be a pot luck. February 7 at 11:30 for lunch, followed by the meeting.

The computer lab at the center is up and running. If you are interested in learning how to use a computer, including how to simply turn it on, call to find out more info. Have fun "surfing the web." Find coupons, check sports scoop and scores, watch tv shows you missed, watch news and weather, read papers and publications, play games and the list goes on.

The Senior Center will be closed February 20 in observance of President's Day.

Stop in for a complete schedule of activities for the month of February.

Congratulations, Free Throw Contest Winners!

By Jeff Brosseau

Winooski Knights of Columbus Council # 2284 and Saint Francis Xavier CYO jointly sponsored a free throw contest on Saturday, January 8th at the Winooski High School Gym. Congratulations to all fifty local youth who participated in the event! The winners were:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Age 10 Boys: | Merese Niyonsaba |
| Age 11 Boys: | Tyler Daniels |
| Age 11 Girls: | Bailey Luter |
| Age 12 Boys: | Gregory Bolger |
| Age 12 Girls: | Olivia Lesage |
| Age 13 Boys: | Austin Mitchell |
| Age 13 Girls: | Stephanie Langlais |
| Age 14 Boys: | Mathieu Bergeron |

Each winner was invited to a Council reception to receive a Knights of Columbus winner's certificate and prize (a bookstore gift card). Each winner is eligible to participate in the District level free throw competition in February 11th in South Burlington.

WINOOSKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 12, 2012 - 2:00 p.m. Symposium in Winooski at the Winooski Senior Center

Dan O'Neil is the Executive Director of the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum in Burlington, VT, and is also an Adjunct Instructor at two local colleges. Mr. O'Neil has a Bachelor's Degree in History from Plymouth State College and a Master's Degree in History from the University of Missouri- Kansas City. He will use primary source documents to talk about individual acts of resistance during Vermont's Revolutionary War Period, describing how Revolutions usually last longer than many people think.

The general topic will be the American Revolution in Vermont; revolutions tend to follow a longer cycle than people think. The discussion will include Ethan Allen and some of his contemporaries. Ethan Allen's funeral was held on Feb. 12, 1789 in Downtown Winooski, and a re-enactment is being planned for 2013.

Sunday, March 11, 2012 - 12:00 p.m. following the Sunday Brunch at the Winooski Senior Center

The Winooski Historical Society is pleased to announce that Donna Toneatti an avid doll and teddy bear collector will be our guest speaker. Donna has been a member in good standing of the Green Mountain Doll Club for the past 29 years and has given numerous talks on the history of doll collecting throughout Vermont. She has also served as the Chair for both the 1989 and 2006 Regional Conventions held in Vermont. Ms. Toneatti will be speaking on the doll as both an art form and a historical artifact.

Additionally she will bring over 50 of the dolls in her personal collection to share with us and will be happy to answer any questions you might have on the subject.

There will be an opportunity to have your dolls and teddy bears appraised after the program. Appraisal fee will be three dollars per doll/teddy bear and all monies will benefit the Winooski Historical Society. Come and join us for a fun filled venture into the fantasy world of toys at 1 P.M. on Sunday, March 11, 2012. The dolls are eager to meet your acquaintance!

Volunteer Service Position Available at YMCA

Program and Recreational Sports Leader — Winooski Community Center

This position, located at our Winooski facility, provides guidance, instruction, coaching and supervision to younger members through programs, activities and recreational sports. Acts as a liaison between the members and staff, serves as a role model for youth and is an effective communicator with parents. The purpose is to foster personal growth, social skills and character development in the Y's teenage members.

Responsibilities:

Under the supervision of the Branch Manager, this position leads the development and operation of programs, activities and recreational sports for high school age members. This position demonstrates an empathy and understanding of diverse cultures while modeling the Y character values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. The position is expected to ensure high levels of participation, retention and satisfaction of program participants through listening to the participants' interests and providing good customer service.

Qualifications:

- Must be 18 or older, with experience coaching youth ages 12 to 18 years old.
- Must be able to formulate lesson plans and strategies to accurately teach skills and techniques of basketball, baseball, soccer and flag football to the children
- Must be able to effectively communicate with peers, youth, parents and staff.
- Must have leadership skills to organize teams, coordinate schedules and ensure fair play.
- A clean criminal background check, a valid driver's license and current CPR /First Aid certification.

Time Commitment:

This position's hours are typically evenings between 6:00pm and 9:00pm and weekends.

February Update

By Kate Nugent, Director, WCSPC

The Winooski Coalition is happy to remind people that potlucks at the community center will be held regularly on the third Wednesday of the month, except for December and a month in the summer. Many thanks to Vermont Works for Women's Fresh Food program for sponsoring the January potluck. **The next potluck will take place on February 15, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm.**

Please contact Kate Nugent for more information, to volunteer, to donate to, and to be included in the email newsletter. You can email kate.winooskicoalition@gmail.com, call 802-655-4565, or visit our website: www.WCSPC.org. Front Porch Forum-- <http://frontporchforum.com/> is another great way to be notified of potlucks and other community information and events.

Men's Sunday Basketball League Has Begun!

From January 8 thru April 29th this year, from 2:00 to 5:00, the City of Winooski sponsors the Men's Sunday Basketball League at the Winooski School. There is a \$3.00 fee per day. Players do not need to pre-register. For more information, call Mr. J. Ladd at 655 6410.

Teen Center Update

Happy leap month to all of our fellow Winooskians! This past month has seen many fun things at the Teen Center. Our indoor soccer teams have both started coming together and they have been working hard on and off the turf. Those teens that were selected to be a part of CHILL, the Burton Snowboard program, got off to a great start and are being chaperoned by our volunteer Matt Werrbach. The amount of times these teens have fallen on their butts should assure everyone how hard they are working to learn a new discipline! In other news, Punxsutawney Phil also wanted to remind all the local teens to stop by the Teen Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 to 9:00 and on Fridays from 6:00 to 11:00!

Girls Only! Report

By Donna Kohut, Community Development Department

Girls Only! 2012 will be full of helpful homework sessions, interesting field trips, and fun arts & crafts projects. We now meet every Wednesday afternoon between 3 and 4 p.m. in Room 211 in the High School. Homework supplies and snacks are provided.

Girls Only! will also meet on Early Release Wednesdays – February 15, March 21, and May 23 between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. On these days, we will offer fun field trips around the greater Burlington area. The Girls Only! van will pick up girls at the High School at 11:30 and will drop them off at their homes after 2:30. Permission slips are required for field trip participants! They can be picked up in the High School office, at the Teen Center, and you can call or email Donna Kohut for them. See contact information below.

There will be a Girls Only! Slumber Party on February 24th at the Teen Center. Girls can arrive at 7 p.m. on Friday and leave at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. Activities planned include games, dancing, music, and a movie. We will provide snacks and breakfast. Girls need to bring blankets, pillows, pajamas, and a toothbrush. Permission slips are also required for this event.

2012 will be a great year for Winooski girls! Girls Only! is committed to providing both academic and social support for local high 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@winooski.vt.org or (802)655-6410.

We look forward to another year of adventures and laughter!

Winooski YMCA Programs for February

Youth Floor Hockey: (Ages 8-10) Play like a pro in our new youth floor hockey league. We have all the equipment you need. This co-ed program is perfect for all levels of experience. Tues 4-5pm; starts 2/28/12; call for fees. 6 wk session.

Youth Pickleball: (Ages 10-13) Come try this exciting new racquet sport that anyone can enjoy. Games are played in our basketball court. Mon 4-5pm; starts 2/27/12; call for fees. 6 wk session.

Adult Drop-In Dodgeball! (Ages 21 & up) This co-ed activity is a classic favorite for many. Fri 6pm; members: FREE / non-members \$3 per night. Ongoing.

Self-Defense For All: (Ages 12 & up) Learn how to utilize your mind and body to protect yourself. This class teaches the fundamentals — no matter your size, age, gender or fitness level. Tues 6:30pm; members: FREE / non-members \$40 6 week session.

B-Fit-4-Life (Ages 55 & up) Feel younger and stronger with this FREE physician referred exercise program designed to combat most chronic diseases and the aging process. Certified Personal Trainers provide instruction and motivation. Tue/Thu at 9am Burlington Y pool; Wed/Fri at 9am Winooski Y. Register anytime, year round program. Sponsored by FAHC Community Health Improvement

Colon Cancer Survivor Exercise Class: Exercise has shown to increase the survival rates of colon cancer patients and helps improve overall health. Our certified personal trainer follow the American College of Sports Medicine guidelines. Before attending class please consult with your physician. Fridays: 12pm; FREE

Free Teen Zumba: (ages 12 – 18) Come have fun with your friends and get a great workout at the same time. This fast paces class is a great way to learn new dance moves and develop coordination. Thursdays: 4:15pm; FREE to all Winooski Teens; Ongoing program, no need to register.

Free Family Gym For Winooski Residents: Active indoor playground fun for families with children ages 7 years and younger. Thursdays: 10:30am – noon; Free for all Winooski Families, drop in ongoing program.

O'Brien Community Center Rental Space Available: If you are planning a family reunion, reception, birthday party or company meeting, the OCC has space for you. Our fully equipped commercial kitchen and community room can hold up to 80 people. We also have catering available from Vermont Fresh Network who can meet your needs for any size group or function. Contact: Kevin Hatin at the Y, khatin@gbymca.org or 655.9021 for more info.

HEALTH CORNER

Health Office News

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Coordinator

Holly and I are always so grateful when we get phone calls from parents asking us whether or not to send their kids to school when they are sick. We encourage these phone calls and we are always willing to help guide you in the decision making process for your sick child. Here are some helpful reminders about when to keep your sick child home from school. 1. your child has a fever of 100 degrees or higher 2. your child has active vomiting or diarrhea 3. your child has a confirmed case of strep throat in which case they need to be on the antibiotic for 24 hours before returning to school.

With cold and flu season upon us please remind your student the importance of washing their hands with both soap and water. Encourage your child to cough or sneeze into their sleeve and please seek medical attention for your child if they have been sick greater than 5-7 days and are running a fever.

Holly and I are enjoying looking out our window and watching the little kids

Little League and Babe Ruth Signups

By Jeffrey Brosseau

Winooski Little League Baseball/ Softball & Babe Ruth are holding registrations on Monday March 5th & Tuesday March 6th 6:30 pm -8:30 pm High School Cafeteria & Friday March 16th 3:00 pm – 5:00 in the school library . Registrations fees are: One Child \$40.00, Family \$70.00, late fee \$10.00 per player after March 31st. 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; bring a copy of your child's birth certificate. Babe Ruth fee is \$50.00 per player, ages 13-18 . For more information and to register early contact Jeff Brosseau at 655-3556. A registration form can be obtained on the Little League website. <http://www.littleleague.org>

Click on forms & publications, scroll down to League & District Administrators, player registration form.

play in the snow. Please remember that the health office has a limited supply of hats, mittens, snow pants and boots and therefore we ask that you send your child to school with these items and if possible some extra pants and socks in case they get wet outside.

One thing I have always loved about my job as a school nurse is some of the things that kids say when they come into our office and thought that occasionally I would share with you some of the "bloopers" that your children have said so you can enjoy a laugh with us! Here are a few of the most recent bloopers~
"I broke myself"

"Help my eyeball is falling out and I won't be able to see to catch it"

Tooth Tutor Update

By Diane Polson, RDH

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

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — FEBRUARY

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

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

| Mon., Feb 6 | | Tues., Feb 7 | | Wed., Feb 8 | | Thurs., Feb 9 | | Friday, Feb 10 | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | | Branch For Lunch Waffles w/ Warm Syrup Sweet & White Home Fries Sausage Links Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Fiesta Taco Bar w/ The Works: Seasoned Taco Meat, Shredded Cheese, Lettuce, Onions, Salsa, & Soft Flour Tortilla Spanish Rice Creamy Coleslaw Low-Fat Dessert Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Itza Pizza Homemade Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Fresh Broccoli Sprigs w/ Hummus Dip Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | | |
| Chicken Mania Oven Baked Chicken Zesty Lemon Couscous Fresh Carrot Sticks w/Dip Wheat Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | American Made Hearty Macaroni & Cheese Roasted Beet Wedges Homemade Cornbread Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Localvore Day Local Baked Potato Bar Chili, Homemade Cheese Sauce, Fresh Steamed Broccoli, Cabot Sour Cream & Fresh Chives Spinach Salad w/ Apples & Maple Vinaigrette Local Apple Muffin Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Fiesta Chicken Enchilada Or Bean & Cheese Enchilada in Soft Flour Tortilla Brown Rice Pilaf Steamed Peas Happy Birthday Cake Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Itza Pizza Homemade Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Side Caesar Salad Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | |
| Summertime Fun Dress Your Own Burger on Wheat Roll Ketchup, Mustard, Relish, Cheese Crispy French Fries Steamed Peas Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Happy Valentines Day Wheat Spaghetti or Spaghetti Squash w/ Meat or Garden Marinara Sauce Chopped Green Salad w/Herb Dressing Homemade Garlic Breadsticks Be Mine Valentine Dessert Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Early Dismissal Grades 6-12 Chicken Patty Sandwich on Wheat Roll Fresh Baby Carrots Chocolate Chip Cookie Fresh VT. Apple Farm Fresh Milk | | Fiesta Cheesy Quesadilla or Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla on Soft Flour Tortilla w/ Salsa Brown Rice Pilaf Rainbow Coleslaw Beetnick Cake Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Itza Pizza Homemade Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Dark Green Garden Salad w/Dressings Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | |
| Chicken Mania Oven Roasted Chicken Seasoned Sweet Potato Wedges Oatmeal Muffin Squares Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Mardi Gras Taste Test! Chicken Jambalaya Branch For Lunch Pancakes w/ Warm Syrup or Sweet & White Home Fries Baked Ham Slice Mardis Gras Sugar Cookies Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Delayed Start Grades K-5 Soup & Cheesy Breadsticks Homemade Cheesy Breadstick Marinara Dipping Sauce Hearty Chicken & Vegetable Noodle Soup Somali Stew Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Fiesta Nachos Supreme Seasoned Taco Meat, Nacho Cheese Sauce, Lettuce, Salsa & Corn Tortilla Chips Rice w/Black Beans & Corn Broccoli/Carrot Salad Low-Fat Dessert Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | | Itza Pizza Homemade Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Side Caesar Salad Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk | |
| Winter Break | | Winter Break | | Winter Break | | PLEASE NOTE: Lunch is available for all students on early dismissal days! Pick up yours at either door on your way out. | | | |

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

Superintendent of Schools

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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 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@winooski.k12.vt.us.

Newsletter of the Winooski School District

Winooski School District
60 Normand Street
Winooski, VT 05404

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