# DISTRICT NEWS!

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 9

JUNE 2012

Celebrating our Achievements

### Winooski High School Hosts Fifteen Students from France

By Veronica Saffo

Winooski High School recently hosted fifteen students and their two teacher chaperones from Rouen, France. Rouen is located on the western coast of France in Normandy. Each French student stayed with a local family and attended classes with a student at the high school. The focus of the visit was to experience full immersion in American culture and the English language and to see the sites of Vermont. The group spent nearly two weeks in Winooski and then travelled to Boston, MA for a couple of days to experience the Heritage



Trail. This was the first exchange between the Jean-Baptiste de La Salle Catholic school and WHS, but it is not likely to be the last! The Winooski host families put together a busy schedule of events for the French students. The group met Governor Peter Shumlin as well as Winooski State Representatives Atkins and Bissonnette. The entire Winooski contingent was recognized by the House of



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Representatives at the State House during their tour and visit. Other attractions visited were the ECHO Center, Teddy Bear Factory, Ben & Jerry's Factory, University of Vermont, Champlain Chocolates, Church Street and a private tour of Shelburne Museum. Several of the host families also made a day trip to Montreal to introduce the French visitors to Old Montreal and poutine! The finale event was a day trip to Jay Peak's new water park.

The exchange was invaluable for students like Cara Casier, a 15-year-old from Winooski, who said the visit made her realize the value of foreign languages. "Before this visit I had a lot of misconceptions about France and their culture I also was unsure about how my French student, Agathe and I would get along, but it turns out that no matter where you live, teenagers are still teenagers. All of them spoke great English so it was really easy to get to know everyone. They were all really open to trying and seeing new things so it was really easy to take them to places. All in all, I can't wait to go to France!"

The French students shared Cara's excitement about this opportunity. The group presented the WHS students with a hand-painted poster adorned with souvenirs of the visit and messages of gratitude for a wonderful visit. The friendships formed during the visit continue to flourish as the students communicate through Facebook and email. The French are now back home in Rouen preparing for exams and making plans for the ten Winooski students they will host in June. In the meantime, the French students are brushing up on their vocabulary which they will be able to put to use during their visit to Rouen.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this exchange such a meaningful experience.
 We truly believe that when you foster exchange programs, you are developing lifetime relationships!

### Important School Dates to Remember

**Last Day of School:** Due to this winter's snow days, the last day of school has changed to Wednesday **June 13**. School will let out at 11:00 AM.

**2011 Graduation:** Winooski High School is pleased to announce that graduation will take place, Saturday, June 16 at 1:00 PM. See page 3 for full end-of-year calendar items.

# Superintendent's Report

#### By Mary Martineau, Superintendent of Schools

The 2011-2012 school year is quickly coming to a close. In June we will say good-bye to retiring teachers and support staff: Susan Flahive, Nancy Pecor, Betty Allen and Bob Bennett. We wish them all an enjoyable retirement, and thank them for their years of dedication to the children of Winooski!

This year the JFK Elementary teachers participated in professional development based on the work of Eric Jensen in the area of brain research. Each month in the *District News!* a group of teachers reported out on the strategies being used in classrooms to increase student engagement in learning. This work will continue during the 2012-1013 school year. In addition, teachers at JFK have participated in professional learning communities (PLC). The delayed start times each month were used for teachers to meet in PLCs and vertical teams to start cross grade level discussions focused on using data to improve student outcomes.

The Middle School focus this year was around the 1:1 initiative through a grant from the Tarrant Foundation. In addition, teachers worked to align the core subjects of literacy, math, science and social studies and created common assessments. This spring a group of Middle School teachers attended an Eric Jensen conference to incorporate some of the brain research strategies being used at JFK into their instructional practices. This will continue to be a focus for next school year.

The second year of the School Improvement Grant (SIG) at the High School focused on writing across the curriculum. All teachers participated in professional development around incorporating written language into the curriculum. Other areas of focus this year were the development of pre and post assessments to inform instruction, training in a new student data management system, professional learning communities, and brain research.

The Nellie Mae grant award was the big news for the High School this year! Teachers from the High School will participate in various professional development activities this summer focused on teaming, technology, and proficiency based learning. In the fall, the Freshmen and Sophomore classes will begin using 1:1 computers to enhance their learning.

District-wide, we have spent this year working on a new strategic plan that will be completed by August. This work has included a community forum, a steering committee, and sub-committees. This plan along with the individual school action plans and the Nellie Mae grant will guide our work as we move into a new school year.

Best wishes to everyone for an enjoyable and relaxing summer!

# **School Board Update**

#### By Michael Decarreau, Board of School Trustees

The school year is winding down. We have seen some changes that will affect us as we move into next year. Our High School principal, Justin Brown, is leaving at the end of the year and Leon Wheeler will succeed him. Mr Wheeler comes to us from Mt Abraham Union High School where he was co-principal of the 7-12 school. We look forward with great anticipation to Mr Wheeler taking the reins and leading us into the next phase here at Winooski. I would also like to thank Mr Brown for his 2 years of service at WHS and wish him well in his future endeavors.

A very exciting aspect was also closed during the past year. With the hard work of many folks at WHS and Burlington High the schools have won a Nellie Mae grant to embark on an exciting journey that will reshape the way we teach our children. If you look back over the past 50 years, education has not changed considerably. If you look at the future that faces our entering freshman class and compare this to the entering freshman class from the 1960s there are some very stark differences. In the 60s we were taught what to learn so that we could join the workforce, get a job, and work for 35-40 years before retiring after working an entire career for a single employer. In the 21st century those entering the workforce face a much different outlook.

Joyce Lain Kennedy of Tribune Media Services states "What is true is that most people can expect to make many changes during their working lives and that flexibility begins with a quality core education and set of skills upon which to base future options." These skills are not the same for every student. This new learning environment requires a dramatic shift in the way education is delivered. Students in the near future will be taught HOW to learn and not as much WHAT to learn.

This is the essence of the Nellie Mae Foundation grant: Changing the way education is delivered. The Foundation has a clear focus on training our teachers to be able to deliver a quality education to not the classroom of students they have but to each student in their classroom. The professional development dollars in the Nellie Mae grant will allow for this in depth training. We look forward to this initiative and the tremendous impact it will have on our students.

# **Curriculum Coordinator's Report**

#### By Stefanie Hamble

Representatives from K-12 are attending the final day of the Common Core Math series with Bob and Judi Laird in June, focussing on lesson design and the elements that are important to every Math lesson. Teachers are also continuing their work in polishing Science and Social Studies assessments that they use.

At the high school, teachers are closing up their year of work with their content-based writing assessments. The continued focus is on assessment and looking at data to inform instruction.

At the middle school, teachers will be prepping to attend the Middle Grades Institute, which will be held June 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Teachers are very excited about this opportunity!

Overall, it has been a great year on the curriculum front. We look forward to a well deserved vacation and next year's work.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Graduation Calendar**

**June 8-13:** Final Exams will take place June 8, 11, 12 and 13. Please find enclosed a copy of the final exam schedule. Be sure to clean out your locker, return all books to the LMC if any are due, and check in the office for any obligations that need to be cleared up before the last day of school. (Ex. Texts not returned, missing team uniform, etc.)

June 13: Honors Dinner 5-8 pm at the Windjammer Restaurant, So. Burlington.

**June 15: Rehearsal for Graduation** will take place from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, or later if needed, in the gymnasium. We will go over the lineup and seating, practice marching, and answer questions about the ceremony. Please be prompt and ready to pay attention. The smoother the rehearsal goes, the fewer times we need to run through the exercise.

**June 15: Caps and Gowns** will be distributed at WHS in the gym lobby. Students need to bring their payment of \$20 and pick up their cap and gown from the Balfour representative starting at 3:30 pm. Please make checks payable to Balfour.

**June 16:** Senior Breakfast will take place at the Holiday Inn on Williston Road in South Burlington from 8 am to 10 am. Seniors' who plan to attend should pick up their complimentary (free) tickets from Ms. Poquette by June 8<sup>th</sup>. Additional tickets for family members cost \$14. It is recommended people purchase tickets in advance by contacting your TA. We encourage everyone to attend; it is a great start to a memorable day and a positive reflection on the past 4 years in our school system. The Guest Speaker this year is Ms. Cynthia Orfe, WHS retired Art Teacher.

**June 16:** Graduation is at 1:00 pm in the gymnasium, <u>but we expect all seniors to</u> <u>be at school by 12:00 pm</u>. We will line up in the cafeteria and go over any last minute questions. The graduation ceremony usually lasts about 90 minutes. We ask people to observe the celebration by dressing formally. Our Guest Speaker is Ms. Kesha Ram, she is a member of the Vermont House of Representatives and is the youngest state representative in the nation.

**June 16: Project Graduation** is a chaperoned, substance-free, all night party that is designed to keep our students safe as they celebrate their high school graduation. The celebration is being held at Saint Michael's College from 8 pm to 6 am. **If any student leaves for any reason, they will not be allowed back in and their parents will be called.** This celebration is absolutely FREE! Seniors who want to attend but have not yet signed up should speak to their TA immediately.

### Athletic Banquet Scheduled for June 12

#### By Lori Lambert

Winooski High School's 67th Annual Athletic Banquet sponsored by the Winooski Boosters and the Athletic Department will be held this year on Sunday, June 10th at 6 pm. Dinner will take place in the cafeteria with the awards ceremony following in the Performing Arts Center. Freshman and Senior athletes' parents are asked to bring a cold dish to share. Sophomore and Junior athletes' parents are asked to bring a hot dish to share. Parents of athletes should have received an email or call about the banquet and what they will need to bring. If not they can call Lori Lambert @ 324-2019 or lorill68@gmail.com.

Reminder: Athletes should not wear shorts to this event! :)

### Three Great Ways to Watch the Graduation!

Doug Dunbebin, RETN Community Relations Associate

1. Watch the 2012 WHS Graduation LIVE ONLINE at www.retn.org 2. Watch it again on the Champlain Valley's education station — RETN Channel 16 on Comcast and Burlington Telecom. Tune in on Wednesday, June 27, at 8 p.m. and again on Saturday, June 30, at 5 p.m., or watch online at www.retn.org after June 27. (http://bit.ly/IJHkzp) 3. Order a DVD and watch it anytime! SAVE \$5 when you buy your DVD prior to graduation. DVDs are \$20 starting graduation day. For more information, contact RETN at 802-654-7980, or info@ retn.org A portion of the proceeds benefits Winooski High School.

### Dollars for Scholars Calcutta is October 6

#### By Morgan Kelner

Hi Everyone. Winooski Dollars for Scholars is very excited to bring our annual calcutta/silent auction back to Winooski and during the school year. Our calcutta is a great event with a delicious sit -down dinner for 2 for only \$65.00; a prize for everyone and a chance to win \$1,000. It's also a fun, dynamic night as people have time to socialize and bid on wonderful items in the silent auction. Eli Harrington, graduate of WHS, will once again be our MC and he keeps the evening going at a lively pace. The event will be held on Saturday, October 6th at the Regular Veterans Association (RVA) at 84 Weaver Street. This new place and date will no longer be a conflict for people on summer vacation and will make it easier for Winooski residents to attend. This is our biggest fundraiser for providing scholarship money to graduating seniors for post education and using 5% of our money to support middle and high school students who wish to attend enrichment/educational programs during the summer and school year (see Marc McQuinn at WHS for more information). We sponsor and co-sponsor 15 scholarships and give out between \$15,000-\$18,000 a year.

Even though October seems like a long time away, our goal is to sell tickets before the summer and have time to work on our silent auction. If you have an item, a skill (teaching French, art, music, math) or time to donate (running errands, fixing a car, landscaping) you can help us to raise money. Please consider buying a ticket sooner than later for our wonderful community event. You can contact Morgan Kelner at mkelner14@gmail.com or Lisa Graves at BPSVT@aol.com for ticket/silent auction information. Tickets will also be sold at the school. Please call 655-4184 for more information. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our very worthy organization.

# Fore! FWHS Golf Tourney June3

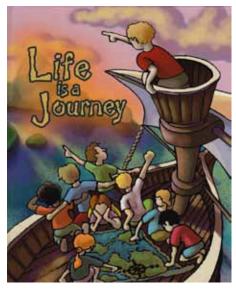
Come celebrate the return of the golfing season at the TenthAnnual Friends of Winooski High School Golf Tournament on **Sunday, June 3rd**. You'll be joining other Winooski and area golfers who have enjoyed this fun community event for the last nine years.

Entry fees are \$400 per team/\$100 per individual, which includes carts, a complimentary driving range before the event, contests, prizes, raffles, and a barbecue dinner to follow.

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.

# 12,960 Box Tops!

The Winooski PTO would like to thank everyone for bringing in Box Tops this year. We collected 12,960 Box Tops which made us \$1,296.00 which goes right back to the children of Winooski. It helps pay for field trips and supplies that are needed throughout the year. Please continue to collect Box Tops over the summer and bring them to school in September. Even if you don't have a child in the schools, you can send them in with a neighbor and they will get points for their class. Thank you so much!!



### JFK 2012 Yearbooks Are Now Available!

They are on sale for \$10.00 and can be purchased in the office or in room 15.

# Take Me Out to the Ballgame (with Firefighters!)

#### By Nicole Grohoski

The Winooski Firefighters Association is now selling tickets to a Vermont Lake Monsters game on **Friday, July 20th** at 7:05 PM. Tickets are \$6 each (save \$1) and proceeds support our Association. The Lake Monsters will be playing the Tri-City Valleycats and it should be a fun night! If you're heading to the ball field this summer, why not buy your tickets from us? For more information, please email <u>grohoski@gmail.</u> <u>com</u> or call 655-6420 and leave a message. Thanks and hope to see you at the field!

# Join The Winooski Swim Team!

#### By Melanie Nattress

Join us in putting the "WIN" in Winooski! Our summer season runs June 18th – August 7th. This summer program is open to ages 6-18 with all abilities and residents of all communities. The Greater Burlington YMCA is partnering with the current Winooski Swim Team again this year to build a team where sportsmanship, teamwork, your personal best and FUN are the goals. Practices are at the Myers



Memorial Pool in Winooski at 40 Pine Street; across from Landry Park. Season costs are \$125 for 1 child, \$180 for 2 children and \$200 for 3 or more children. Our returning coaches are Chris Cochran, and Avery Pittman. We welcome Caitlin Shaw as she will be helping coach this season . Melanie Nattress and Jess Lukas along with all the coaches look forward to another exciting, fun and successful season. Our goal for this team is to increase our team size. Please help us get the word out "Winooski Swim Team" is a great Swim Team. We are Division 5 State Champions for the past 3 years. We look forward to the season. Please contact Chris Cochran at:cochran@gbymca.org or 802 862 8993 X192, Jess Lukas at : <u>jlukas@gbymca.org</u> 802 862 8993 X143 or Melanie Nattress at <u>Nattress96@ comcast.net</u> or 802 655 1616

# Girl Scouts Offer Summer Camps 2012 — Open to All Girls!

**Camp Twin Hills** (Richmond, VT: Grades K-8). Sessions available between July 2-27 (closed July 4th) Monday-Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm Before and after care is available for an additional fee. Day camp price range \$190-\$360

Camp Twin Hills features recreation fields, nature trails and plenty of sunshine and cool breezes. Girls will have the opportunity to participate in general program activities listed in the day camp overview. Campers will travel one day each week to Waterbury State Park for swimming and canoeing.

**Open House:** Saturday, May 19, 2011, 1:00-4:00 pm. For more information call 888-474-9686 or visit girlscoutsgwm.org Financial aid and busing is available.

**Resident Camps:** (Camp Chenoa, Antrim, NH, Camp Farnsworth, Thetford, VT, Grades K-12), June 24 - August 10. Resident camp price range: 4-day, \$245-\$260; 1-week, \$410-\$550; 2-weeks, \$710-\$900.

Want more information? Contact 888-474-9686 or visit us www.girlscoutsgwm.org.

### June Update

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

As the end of the school year approaches, we begin to make plans for next year. At the elementary school we will be focusing on Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). This is not a "program," but a school-wide behavior management system. This year we started "How Does Your Engine Run" which was the beginning of developing a system whereby all practitioners use a common language with common expectations. We need to build upon and expand our system to impact all adults who work with students. Hence the logical step to our PBIS initiative.

During our August in-service, Nancy Clements, a consultant in social thinking, will be working with the entire K-5 staff. She will help us understand the seven principles of social thinking, which is now considered a cognitive skill and needs to be taught just like reading, writing and math. Additionally, she will help us further develop a common language. Nancy is not a PBIS trainer but will help us get our system running. She will facilitate our two days of training, and will instruct, model and debrief us throughout the year on these principles and the common language.

In the middle school, the teachers will be attending the Middle Level Institute. This will give teachers time to work together to plan for next year.

I am sure all of you are aware that the administrative structure has changed. Beginning in July, I will become the PreK-5 principal and Leon Wheeler will be our new 6-12 principal. I enjoyed my three years in the middle school and will work closely with Leon as we transition to the next phase. I will continue to cross the lobby and stay in touch with the middle school teachers, staff and students.

### **JFK Guidance News**

#### By Sarah Murphy

It is amazing that it is already June and almost the end of the school year. My first year at JFK was a wonderful year! I enjoyed getting to know each of the students, and working with all of the classes. In the final month of school, we will be wrapping up the year and begin the transition to the next grade for all of the classes. We will review the major points of the year, and look toward the future, talking about summer and the following school year.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing all of our returning students in the fall!



#### by Barbara Russ

On **Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** we will be having a Reading Party and Book Giveaway at JFK Elementary School! The Afterschool Alliance selected the JFK Elementary School Afterschool Program as one of four sites in the nation to receive the TD Charitable Foundation book grant and reading party. We have received a \$2,000 grant that we are using to purchase several hundred books. First Book will be providing these high quality books.

TD Bank employees will be coming to our school to read books with first graders and throughout the day all JFK students will be choosing books to celebrate the end of the school year and to kick off summer reading. The books that the students choose are theirs to keep to add to their home library collections.

The JFK afterschool program also received an additional \$1,000 grant from the Afterschool Alliance and TD Charitable Foundation to purchase even more books—so our students will have many book titles to choose from that day! A *huge* thank you to the Afterschool Alliance, TD Charitable Foundation, and First Book, the organization providing the books to our students, for recognizing our afterschool program and generously supporting our students by providing them with a wide variety of wonderful books.



# The Lorax Visits JFK

#### by Kirsten Kollgaard

On the most recent school spirit day, Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, a special visitor came to read to several of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms at JFK. It was "Dress Like Your Favorite Character Day" and "The Lorax" from the Dr. Seuss book of the same name was seen roaming the halls and popping into classrooms. Many of the students were already familiar with the character from reading the book in class and from seeing the movie adaptation that came out earlier this spring. They still enjoyed hearing the book read again by The Lorax himself and had lots of questions for him. The Lorax also enjoyed meeting other literary characters including Pippi Longstocking and Harry Potter. He even ran into his good old friend, The Cat in the Hat, in one of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms. After a fun-filled day, he hopes to be back next year to share his love of reading with more JFK students!

# Middle School Update

By Katherine Jennifer Helm

### International Summer Camp Update

We are still looking for some families to host students from China. They will be arriving on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July and staying until the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. They need to be driven to the school for 8am on weekdays (excluding July 4<sup>th</sup>) and picked up at 4pm. Lunch will be provided for them at the school. Host families will provide dinner and weekend meals along with some family fun. Stipends will be issued to host families to help with the additional expense. Please email khelm@wsdschools.org or call Katherine Helm at 802-655-3530. Thank you!

### **MS Community Meeting**

Seventeen students won the P.R.I.D.E. award this month. P.R.I.D.E. stands for Patience, Respect, Inquiry, Desire to learn, and Excellence. See the worthy recipients below. Congratulations, everyone!

**Team Eclipse:** Bishal Bista, Kim Soukone, Dylan Gardner, Hau Doung

**Team Velocity:** Alexis Utter, Estavan Alveraz, Finn Homan, Willie Burns

**Team Fusion:** Edward Lamson, Ledania Taylor, Branden Urbanek, Samar Jameel, Ra Mat Bi

**Team Kaleidoscope:** Rachel Wilondje, Semir Kostic, Marie Ly, Suman Gurung.

### Take a Stand, Lend a Hand



In addition to the P.R.I.D.E. awards we had the Take a Stand and Lend a Hand

award. Fusion's Jared Fountain is the proud recipient of this award. At a recent Track Meet, Jared stepped up and filled an empty spot so that Winooski could compete.

### **Band Notes**

By Randy Argraves

Did you happen to see the 26 marching bands parading through Winooski on Wednesday evening, May 9<sup>th</sup>? Well, if you did not, then you missed something pretty spectacular. These bands represented elementary, middle, and high schools from all over the state.



A particularly memorable moment for me was when we turned right on to Bellevue Avenue. I was looking down the street and noticed that there were not an overwhelming number of spectators waving to us on the sidewalks, but as I looked closer I was amazed to see countless residents in (and hanging out of) their windows and doorways waving to us as we marched past. Of course, the biggest turnout was at Richard's Park where Jamie Magowan was introducing all of the bands and dignitaries who were brave enough to come out into the drenching rain.

I hope you all had as much fun at the parade as we did. The band room smells pretty musty right now with all of the uniforms hanging about, but I am proud of our students who marched valiantly through the puddles and were soaked to the bone when we got back to the band room. Great effort, everyone!

# **Rob Mermin, Artist-in-Residence**

#### By Lisa Goetz

Third, fourth and fifth graders were lucky to have Rob Mermin, the creator of Circus Smirkus, visit them the first week of May. He focused his residency on science magic. His goals were to engage kids' interest in science by providing hands-on experiences that were fun. He also asked them what they wonder about the world around them. Children are naturally curious and Rob wanted them to ask questions and stimulate a scientific way of thinking.

In grade 3 the children participated in experiments with matter. In grade 4 the children learned about forces and motion and in grade 5 they worked on experiments with Newton's Laws. He used everyday objects for his experiments so the children could repeat the experiments at home and he made sure to encourage the children to question, observe, predict, experiment, and come up with a theory.

The science terms he used throughout the week include the following:

gravitational force and the center of gravity\*sound and vibration\*conservation of energy\*centripetal and centrifugal forces\*surface tension and cohesion\*changing states of matter\*inertia and friction\*pendulum forces of velocity, mass, gravity, momentum\*Bernoulli's principles of air pressure\*and Newtons Laws of motion.

The children enjoyed their time with Rob and learned so much about science. Mrs. Keough's class said, "I really enjoyed learning science from you, Rob. You made learning



fun for me. My favorite trick was the lava lamp and the cartesian divers." "My favorite trick was when you used bubbles to teach science. I liked the bubble in the jar, the merry-go-round bubbles, the brain, and the caterpillar."

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders would like to thank the PTO for sponsoring our artist-inresidence.

# The Role of the "Social Brain"

#### By the Jensen Group\*

Did you know that the social brain runs your kid's lives? But how, you may ask! First, we will start with the answer to the question, "What is a social brain?". A social brain is something that we have developed over time to help strengthen our survival capacity in social groups. Social groups have a greater chance of having 1) a greater collective awareness, 2) a capacity to pool resources, and 3) a greater intellectual, cultural and genetic diversity. Next, let's answer the question, "How does the social brain run our kid's lives?"

- For a baby: Their first job is finding and managing relationships (which equals security)
- For children: Their job is acceptance by peers (which equals socialization)
- For adolescents: Their job is to compete with peers (which equals pursuit of status)

For each of these stages we need to invest time in our kids differently as their social brain matures:

- At the K-2 level: Focus on relationship building (Ask kids about their lives, give them respect, build on their strengths, let students display talents)
- At grades 3-5: Continue the focus on relationship building and affiliation (Set up clubs for kids to join, establish teams in

#### your classroom or get kids involved in team sports)

• At grades 6-12: Continue the focus with both relationships and affiliation and also facilitate status building (**Create academic mentors in your class, give kids the opportunities to be positive leaders**)

Relationships are so important! The basic drivers include wanting to be loved, being a part of a group, being respected and feeling important. We are the ones to make all of these things positive and possible. These changes are powerful because kids often do things like graduate and pursue positive goals because of the relationships in their life.

Before we close out our year, there's one more important point to pay attention to for the summer. When kids have a large amount of reading at home it means:

- Kids stay in school 2.4 years longer in the U.S.
- The long-term educational attainment effects are greater than having professional level or university-educated parents.

The long and short of it? Get your hands on some great books for your kids this summer (and lots of them!) at the local library. It's a great way to get a large amount of reading at home...free of charge! Have a great summer!

\*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.

### AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

# **Celebrating Our Afterschool Programs and a Thank You!**

By Barbara Russ, 21C Program Director

This year the 21st Century Community Learning Center program, in partnership with the Kids First afterschool program provided more than 185 enrichment and academic support afterschool programs during the school year. We are excited that over 450 K-12 students participated in a wide variety of afterschool programs since September. Thank you to all of the teachers and students who participated this year. And, a special thank you to the administrators and community for your on-going support!

We are looking forward to next year and are very eager to continue to expand our afterschool program offerings! We are very interested in working with parents and community members—so if you would like to be a part of the afterschool program, please let us know! You can reach me by phone at 802-383-6041 or via email at bruss@wsdschools.org.

Again, many thanks for your continued support and please look for our fall afterschool fliers in late August!





Sujit and Mukhtar are reading Chomp by Carl Hiaasen in 5th Grade Book Club.



Students are listening to Ms. Bryan while she reads Woolbur by Leslie Halakoski in Adventures in Read Aloud.



Maddie proudly shows off her handmade clay bowl, which she created in Clay Bowls: Empty Bowls.







Alexis is creating her very own PowerPoint presentation about animals in **PowerPoint Tails.** 

The boys are testing their working memories by playing memory games on computers during Memory Games.



An intense game of Skip-Bo is being played in **Strategy Games**.



Our JFKMS students and Mr. Muir are ready to go find another cache in Winooski in their **Geocaching** afterschool program.



**The JFKMS Softball Book Club** is back! Team members and Coach Hemingway are reading and talking about *Throwing Like a Girl* by Weezie Kerr Mackey.



Jaret and Hau work on their projects with Sachi, Stuart, and Mrs. Lapointe during their **Woodworking** afterschool program.



Olivier is working hard to read and analyze music in Ms. Mander-Adams **Choral Music and Piano Core Support**.



Sunita completes a **READ 180** quiz in Ms. Saffo's Core Support. Core Support offers students extended time to finish exams and projects!



Connor works in **Science Core Support** with Ms. Bundy. Teachers are always available to help students during afterschool programs.



























### Commencement

#### By Justin Brown, Principal

Some people refer to the event that will take place on June 16 as graduation. Some prefer to call it commencement. One is reflective of the past and speaks to closure. The latter speaks to what is next. As our students prepare for the big day it is important to balance reflection on what was and build toward a brighter future.

As we ramp up for graduation I would like to offer some reflections from a very important book by Chip and Dan Heath: *Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard.* 

The conventional wisdom in psychology, in fact, is that the brain has two independent systems at work at all times. First, there's what we called the emotional side. It's the part of you that is instinctive, that feels pain and pleasure. Second, there's the rational side, also known as the reflective or conscious system. It's the part of you that deliberates and analyzes and looks into the future (see page 6 of *Switch*).

On June 16, nearly 70 students will be sharing the stage together, looking out into a sea of faces—family, friends, community members and teachers. This will be the last event of their high school career, but it will be the beginning of the next chapter of their lives. It has been all of our work to get them ready for this moment for the past 12 years of schooling.

According to extensive research, "People find it more motivating to be partly finished with a longer journey than to be at the starting gate of a shorter one." (p127)

There are "...two basic models of decision making: the <u>consequences</u> model (and) the *identity* model. The consequences model...assumes that when we have a decision to make, we weigh the costs and benefits of our options and make the choice that maximizes our satisfaction. It's a rational, analytical approach. In the identify model of decision making, we essentially ask ourselves three questions when we have a decision to make: Who am I? What kind of situation is this? What would someone like me do in this situation? ... How can you make your change a matter of identity rather than a matter of consequences?" (pp 153-4)

For the graduates that you know, please wish them well and ask them where they see themselves in 5 years, 10 years or 15 years. When students are asked where they want to be in the future, we are helping them to define not only their goals, but giving them a frame within which to define the steps along their journey.

The Heath brothers cite extensive research (and a great book) by Carol Dweck. Dr. Dweck reminds us that:

"You need to create the expectation of failure. If you are someone with a fixed mindset, you tend to avoid challenges, because if you fail, you fear that others will see your failure as an indication of your true ability and see you as a loser...In contrast, people who have a growth mindset believe that abilities are like muscles-they can be built up with practice. That is, with concerted effort, you can make yourself better at (whatever you are working on)...people with a growth mindset-those who stretch themselves, take risks, accept feedback, and take the long-term view-can't help but progress in their lives and careers. (pp 163-5).

I include this last point to remind us that, in our conversations with graduates, and in our own lives, we need to expect set-backs. And, we need to remember to learn from them—because that is how we truly grow. And, after all, isn't continual growth what we hope for as we think about the students who will be commencing the next chapter of their lives on June 16?



### **PeaceJam Students Raise Funds for COTS**

#### By Veronica Saffo

On behalf of the PeaceJam group, the advisors Ms. Clark and Ms. Saffo would like to thank everyone who sponsored our PeaceJam members for

the COTS walk. Our WHS PeaceJam group raised over \$400 for the homeless and represented our school community well in Burlington. We are proud of their efforts and the statement their presence made about our school's commitment to the greater community.



### Students of the Quarter Honored at Luncheon

The Student of the Quarter program is one in which students are nominated by the staff at the end of each ranking period based on academic improvement or success and character. Those students selected are invited along with their parents to a luncheon where the nominating teacher speaks on the student's behalf as to why they were selected.

These luncheons are completely funded by the Friends of Winooski High School. This volunteer group works throughout the year to support special needs of our students. Congratulations everyone!

On Wednesday, May 2, 2012, the following students were honored:



Leadership: Claudine Nkurinziza; Character and School Citizenship: Brandon Shortsleeve; Most Improved: Samantha Bushey, Kylie Bryant; Arts and Humanities Scholarship: Brittany Provost, Brianna Robare; Social Sciences Scholarship: Mina Dhamala, Hasan Ko, Har Wa Bi; Math, Science, and Technology Scholarship: Omar Fidow, Januka Acharya, Ro Ze Yar, Hala Mohammed, Amanda Nattress; Special Recognition: Alew Adiem

### A Busy Summer for Winooski's English Language Learners

Instead of trips to the beach and sleeping late, about one dozen middle and high school English Language Learners (ELL) plan to attend a summer program that includes English, math, and Social Studies—plus field trips to local attractions. The program has expanded this year to include eighth graders transitioning to high school, as well as middle and high school students. A credit recovery program allows high school students to make up a failed class.

Students will write essays, improve their grammar and mechanics, read, learn about American culture, work with a variety of mathematical functions, study U.S. History, and enjoy field trips to area museums, libraries, and universities. They will receive one elective credit for successful completion of their sixweek learning experience. Even more importantly, they hope to arrive in September ready to meet the new year's challenges.

The six-week program begins on Monday, July 2 and continues through Friday, August 10. For additional information about the ELL Summer Session, contact Bill Clark, ELL Teacher, at bclark@winooski.k12.vt.us or 802-383-6091.

### Winooski Juniors Attend Summer Medical Program

Three Winooski High School juniors will address health care issues in their own special ways this summer. Bimala Bista, Sunita Gurung, and Chandra Luitel successfully applied to the competitive CollegeQuest to Health Careers program and will begin their course work in June. The program introduces students to health care professions in behavioral health, pharmacy, and primary care.



These students will join other high school seniors from across Vermont. They have high goals for themselves and for their education:

"I want to be a nurse," said one student. "I want to help other people not hurt."

"My goal is to be a surgeon because my mother got sick. From that time, I wanted to help people."

"I want to know more about medical systems because I want to be a doctor."

Bimala, Sunita, and Chandra will attend the six-week program at the College of St. Joseph in Rutland. Professionals from the Vermont AHEC coordinate the program as a way to help young people explore careers in health care and prepare them for entry to college in a medical field. This summer the students will hear lectures from health professionals and policy makers from Vermont, visit other colleges, and participate in a college curriculum.

While a little uncertain about leaving home for the summer, they are excited about visiting new places and meeting new people. In their quest to learn more about medicine, they maintain a distinctly positive attitude:

"Learning things that I don't know is challenging. If I go there and learn new things it will help my future," said one student.

CollegeQuest to Health Careers is funded by the federal HRSA Health Careers Opportunity Program and is supported by the Vermont AHEC Network: Northeastern Vermont AHEC, Champlain Valley AHEC, Southern Vermont AHEC and the UVM AHEC Program Office.

"These students bring a strong work ethic and high energy levels to the classroom," said their teacher, Bill Clark. "Each of them handles the most difficult assignments with grace and class. They show leadership and display great insights into the educational process. Having this college-level experience can only improve their academic performance."

# **City Councilor's Report**

By John Little, Winooski City Council



Hi everyone! It appears that spring has decided to join us with some unusual circumstances. The unseasonably warm temperatures and

drought-like conditions have certainly been replaced by plenty of rain and more normal temperatures.

One sure sign of spring is the return of Winooski's amazing Farmer's Market. This year's kickoff will be on Sunday June 3, 2012 and will once again be held in front of The Champlain Mill. The plan is to continue with this tradition every Sunday from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm through October 21, 2012. Come on out, enjoy our great downtown and support our local vendors!

The following are some highlights of other things that have been going on in our great city this last month or so:

**Redstone** continues to develop plans for Lots 7B & 7C east of the Cascades. As a reminder, there will be opportunities to stay in touch with this development as they present their status to the Council.

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee has continued to meet monthly and is working closely with the School District in an attempt to align both entities in the same direction. Stay tuned for notices of upcoming opportunities to weigh in with your opinions and ideas.

As noted by Councilor Robinson in last month's article, there have been **committees** selected to look at (among other things) the City Charter, alternative revenue streams, etc. Your input is appreciated as these groups work toward planning and improving our City. We hope you will get involved!

**The Publics Works Department** has been extremely busy preparing for the paving of a number of streets throughout the City. They are repairing or replacing utilities in the roads which will ensure less disruption over the coming years. Please be patient with this process and please drive safely around the workers!

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is revising diagrams and reports to reflect the recently updated High Crash Location (HCL) data within the Circulator downtown as published by VTrans. The latest reports list this area as the number one HCL in the State. Winooski wants to be a leader in a lot of venues, but this is not one of them! The safety of our residents as well as the traveling public is very important. If this issue interests you, I strongly encourage you to stay in touch with when the upcoming meetings are scheduled and please plan to attend. Whether you are a resident, a business owner, a commuter, a bicyclist or a pedestrian, your view is important. Thank you for your interest and input!

At a recent City Council meeting, Jeff Tanguay and Lauren Pyatt (representing the **Burlington Lead Program**) presented the opportunities available to ensure the safety of Winooski's residents. The following are some guidelines and contact information for your use:

**Lead Paint Poisoning** is the #1 Environmental Health Threat to children in the U.S. It is also preventable. Homes and rental properties built before 1978 still contain lead paint dangers. Learning disabilities, ADHD, Lowered IQ, and Anti-social behavior have all been linked to lead poisoning in children. Lead impairs children's behavior, coordination,

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.		

and their ability to learn. Lead paint dangers are typically found in:

- Dust from friction areas on painted windows and doors
- Peeling, chipping, flaking, and deteriorated paint
- Bare, contaminated soil
- Salvaged building components

The Burlington Lead Program's goal is to protect families. With funding available through the Burlington Lead Program, eligible Winooski households and rental properties may qualify for FREE home improvements to help ensure a healthy living environment.

Services provided by the Burlington Lead Program include:

- In-Home Assessments
- Lead Paint Testing
- HEPA Vacuum loans
- Window Replacements
- Education Materials
- Soil testing

There are things you can also do to help protect your family from lead poisoning. Eating foods high in calcium and iron; regularly washing window sills, wells, and floors; using raised beds placed away from buildings for summer gardening; talking to your doctor about lead poisoning and testing children ages 1-6 for lead all help reduce the risk of lead poisoning in children.

For more information about Lead Paint Safety and Lead Poisoning Prevention, please contact the Burlington Lead Program at 865-LEAD or visit us at http://burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/ LeadPaint/Dangers-of-Lead/. Be sure to drop by our table at the Winooski Farmer's Market this summer for more information as well.

On Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, Winooski hosted the **Vermont All State Music Festival**. Although the weather didn't really cooperate, it did not appear to dampen the spirits of the marching bands who performed! It was great opportunity for residents to see the talent of our young people from across the State. Thank you to the many folks who made this event possible.

As always, feel free to contact any or all of your City Councilors with any questions, concerns or if you have any ideas on how to make our City better.

# Story Time at the Winooski Library

Please join us for storytime on Saturdays from 10:30-11:30am! June 16: Old MacDonald Had a farm full of puppets June 23: Books that sparkle, things to celebrate

Join us for stories, songs, music, games, arts and crafts and fun with books, especially for preschoolers, ages 3-5.

**DID YOU KNOW:** The library has free passes to the ECHO Center, Shelburne Farms, the Birds of Vermont Museum and a Day Pass to the Vermont State Parks available. *These passes provide free or reduced entrance fees to these great area attractions!* 

We are in the Champlain Mill, Second Floor. Call us 655-6424 or visit us on the web at http://winooskilibrary.wordpress.com/.

# **Thank You for Greening Up!**

#### By Ali Kenney

The Winooski Environmental Board wants to give a huge thanks to everyone that came out for Green Up Day. We had over 120 participants, which is more than four times our numbers in the past, and our city is looking green, clean and beautiful! Extra thanks to Myers for donating their dumpsters/hauling and to Block Gallery for the free coffee for everyone that participated.

Keep looking to see more events and great stuff happening with your friendly Winooski Environmental Board as summer approaches. Feel free to email us any time with comments/ suggestions/ideas/etc: winooskieboard@gmail.com

Or look us up on facebook to see all the latest updates! (Search: Winooski Environmental Board)

# WCSPC Update

#### By Kate Nugent

The WCSPC meets on the first Wednesday of the month, from 6 to 7 PM, at the O'Brien Community Center. The next meeting will focus on substance abuse, and will take place on June 6.

Community dinners continue on the Third Wednesday of every month--and the next dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 20, food served at 5:30. It will be hosted by the Faith Community in Winooski. Much thanks to the Winooski Family Center for a great May dinner! Please contact Kate Nugent at the WCSPC if you'd like to volunteer, 802.655.4565 or kate. winooskicoalition@gmail.com.

# **Splash Into Summer**

The Greater Burlington YMCA is hosting a fun event at Myers Memorial Pool (40 Pine Street, Winooski) on **Sunday**, **June 17** from 12:00pm-5:00pm. Free BBQ from 12:00-1:00pm! This is an open swim. Please remember, adults - bring your suits to swim with your children.

Summer "Open Swim" Pool Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 12-6pm, Tue., Thurs., Sat., Sun. 12-7pm

**Day Rates:** Resident Children (under 18): \$1; Resident Adult: \$2; Resident Family: \$5 | Non-resident Children: \$2; Non-resident Adult: \$4; Non-Resident Family: \$8

**Season Pass Rates:** Resident Children (under 18): \$10; Resident Adult: \$20; Resident Family: \$35 | Non-resident Children: \$20; Non-resident Adult: \$30; Non-Resident Family: \$50

Use of Myers Pool is FREE for YMCA Members. Contact Jess Lukas at 862 8993 x143 for more information.

### Free Summer Meal Service Schedule In Winooski

The City of Winooski will once again be providing free meals to children through the Vermont Department of Education's *Summer Food Service Program* (SFSP). Funded by the USDA, the program is designed to ensure that children who rely on low-cost meals during the school year continue to have access to healthy food throughout the summer. Meals will be provided to all children without charge, and no child will be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, or disability.

This summer, in an effort to encourage parents to bring their youngest children to the meals, The City of Winooski is promoting *Family Lunch Days* on Fridays. Parents (or other adults) who accompany small children, age 6 or younger, can eat a free lunch with their kids at either the Landry Park or O'Brien Community Center sites. This is a chance for parents to try one of the nutritious lunches that FRESH Food (an enterprise of Vermont Works for Women) provides for Winooski's Summer Food Program. Fridays from June 29 - August 3 will be *Family Lunch Days*.

**Children do <u>not</u> need to be enrolled in any recreational or childcare program in order to receive free meals.** All children 18 years of age or younger will be served meals at the locations and times listed below, Monday-Friday, unless otherwise noted. Please contact Ethan Hausman in the City's Youth Programs Office (655-1392 x21 *or* coordinator@ winooskivt.org) for more information.

Winooski School District 60 Normand Street Winooski, VT 05404	JUNE 18 - AUGUST 3 Breakfast 8:30 - 9:00am (Mon-Fri) Lunch 11:30am - 12:30pm (Mon-Fri)
<b>Landry Park</b> Pine Street Winooski, VT	JUNE 29 - AUGUST 3 <b>Lunch</b> * 12:00 - 1:00pm (Fri only, weather permitting) *This is an outdoor site; lunches will not be served in rainy or stormy conditions. In the case of inclement weather, a notice will be posted at Landry Park, and lunches will continue to be available at the WHS and Community Center meal sites.
<b>O'Brien Community Center</b> 32 Malletts Bay Avenue Winooski, VT 05404	JUNE 18 - AUGUST 17 Breakfast 9:30 - 10:00am (Mon-Fri) Lunch 12:30 - 1:00pm (Mon-Fri) Dinner* 5:30 - 6:00pm (Tues, Thurs & Fri) *served by the Winooski Teen Center

#### Meal Site Locations & Dates

### HEALTH CORNER

# **Health Office News**

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Health Office Coordinator

Here are some helpful hints to keep your kids safe and healthy this summer. **1. Sun Protection:** Protect your kids this summer by putting sunscreen on them whenever they are outside. Remember to reapply the sunscreen if your child gets sweaty or has been swimming. Kids should be protected with a SPF of at least 30.

**2. Swimming:** Always supervise your child around water even if they are great swimmers. Teach your child not to dive or jump in shallow water.

**3. Hydration:** Remember to drink plenty of fluids this summer! Water is the best source of hydration. Kids get hot and sweaty and could get dehydrated fast so allow them to carry water bottles with them whenever they are outside.

4. Bike Safety: Kids need to wear properly fitting helmets even if just driving around their neighborhood.
5. Other Tidbits: Never leave your children in hot cars. To protect against bug bites place your children in light weight light colored clothes whenever possible. Keep watchful eyes on them when they are playing on playground equipment!

Holly and I want to wish you all a safe, healthy and happy summer. See you next school year!

# **Tooth Tutor Update**

By Diane Polson, RDH, Tooth Tutor

Besides tooth decay, harmful habits or activities can damage



your teeth. Don't use your teeth to: cut things, hold onto pens/pencils, bite nails, crack nuts, crunch ice or popcorn kernels, or open bottles or hairpins. Need dental assistance? See me in the Health Office or call 383-6094.

# Winooski Summer Youth Enrichment Program

Registrations are now being accepted for the City of Winooski's Summer Youth Enrichment Program. Enrollment forms are available at the O'Brien Community Center or in the main lobby of the Winooski School District complex, near the visitor sign-in area. Completed forms and the \$10 registration fees (for Winooski families) should be dropped off at the Youth Programs Office in the Community Center to reserve children's spots in the program.

The six-week program will operate from June 25<sup>th</sup> – Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, with registration by weekly session. Program hours are 8am to 2:30pm each day, Monday-Friday, and both breakfast and lunch are provided daily through the Summer Food Program. The option for extended childcare, until 5:30pm daily, is available for an additional charge.

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 Programs Office at the O'Brien Community Center.

Please contact Ethan Hausman, Programs Coordinator, (655-1392 x21 *or* coordinator@winooskivt.org) to request forms or for more information about the Summer Youth Enrichment Program, session costs, or subsidy application process.

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — JUNE

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 \$1.50 Lunch Regular \$1.75 Reduced \$0.40 Adult \$3.25 Beverages Milk \$0.50 Juice \$0.50 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: Eqg or Yogurt w/ Bun



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.

#### WINOOSKI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### www.wsdschools.org

#### **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**

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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 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

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