

ALSO INCLUDES
Community News!
 STARTING ON PAGE 12

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS!

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

JANUARY 2013

Celebrating The Holidays Together

Music Filled The Halls

By Danielle Koplinka-Loehr, Music Educator, John F. Kennedy Elementary

Congratulations to JFK on an inspiring Winter Show concert! We are so proud of all of your hard work, and are thrilled that each of you shone like the STARS that you are. Our whole school worked together to create a beautiful performance. On behalf of the staff and community, we congratulate each and every one of you. We hope you and your families have a safe and fun winter break.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|-------|
| Notes from the Central Office | 2-3 |
| Announcements | 3-4 |
| Notes from JFK Elementary | 5 |
| Middle/High School Highlights, Health Corner, CCV Interview | 6-7 |
| Afterschool Program | 8-11 |
| Community News, Lunch Menu | 12-15 |
| District and Contact Information | 16 |



Engaging our Students and Setting Learning Goals

By Mary K. Lundeen, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools

Last month I focused on how Winooski's future depends on our ability to help students acquire the knowledge and skills that will help them become full contributors to our community and beyond. Student-centered learning is the anchoring strategy in our efforts to remodel our education system, beginning at the secondary level. Student-centered learning encourages a high degree of choice and personalization in how students approach their studies, based on several bodies of research showing that students will invest more time and energy when they have a voice in their learning activities. In the next few years as we move forward toward a student-centered learning environment, students will begin working on what we call Personal Learning Plans.

What is a Personal Learning Plan (PLP)?

A Personal Learning Plan enables a student, with the help of a teacher advisor, to set ambitious, yet realistic learning goals that will ultimately meet the requirements for graduation. Typically, a PLP includes academic coursework, along with community-based learning experiences that may include an internship/job shadow or service learning. In the past, schools have tended to separate subject matter from the acquisition of skills; in a student-centered system, the two are integrated, thereby providing a more connected, compelling and rigorous experience for students. A PLP ensures that a clear and meaningful path toward graduation is being forged by the student—in partnership with his/her teachers, parents and the larger community. Students are assessed through multiple measures, such as oral presentations, exhibitions and written reports documenting their learning, along with more traditional testing.

At Winooski High School, every student will eventually have a Personal Learning Plan, one that values each student as an individual with distinct needs and aspirations, that encourages personal excellence, and that taps the considerable resources of our community.

If you are interested in learning more about the Partnership for Change, the organization that is helping Winooski and Burlington redesign public education to align with what our young people will need to thrive in a complex global society, please visit the website: partnershipforchangevt.org. If you would like to learn more about student-centered learning and participate in a process of study and exploration that is open to the community please contact partnershipforchangevt@gmail.com.

School Board Message

By Amy Booher, Board of School Trustees

Happy New Year to all! It has been a very busy budget season. The school board would like to thank Brian Corrigan and Robert Millar for their help in the budget process. We would also like to thank our administration for doing such a wonderful job at bringing the budget in with just a 1.7% increase over last year's budget. The Fiscal Year '14 budget that will be presented to the voters is \$12,629,200. The initial budget proposal had a 3.36% increase, but when asked to go back and remove \$100,000 and \$200,000, our administration was able to come back with a budget that worked for everyone, but assured us that any further cuts would start to impact our students.

To provide the community a budget that was fiscally responsible, under the Governor's 2.2% inflation rate, and that was still able to provide our students' with a quality education, we had to eliminate the Spanish Program due to the State mandated class size policy because our class enrollment was low and a .5 FTE position in the Middle/High School. The board and administration were also very conscientious of the Tax Commissioner's recommended five cent increase to the Homestead Base Tax. This would raise the Homestead Base Tax from eighty-nine cents to ninety-four cents, if approved by the Legislature. This has the potential, if approved by the Legislature, to raise the Winooski Educational Tax Rate from \$1.19 to \$1.24. We were also able to remove \$129,000 from the budget and encumber these funds in the reserve fund to cover maintenance and facility projects.

Items that are set to be replaced with the reserve fund monies are reaching the end of their useful life. The number one item to be replaced is the dishwasher in the kitchen. It was installed in 1992. We are also continuing to replace the unit ventilators. While JFK was completed this year, we will start by replacing 8 unit ventilators in the Middle School and continue to update them in future years. We will replace the rooftop controls and the circulator pump. The final thing we will use the funds on is to begin the design process of the boiler.

The School Board feels very confident in the budget and we feel that after the over seven percent increase we asked for last year, we needed to bring the community a budget that met the students' needs and kept in mind that the community was very generous last year by passing the budget on the first vote. While these are trying economic times for everyone, we as a board in conjunction with our administration did not want to ask for more than we absolutely needed.

We would also like to thank the community and our educators for the wonderful turnout at the December Board meeting with The Commissioner of Education. It was a spirited conversation, one that we hope will continue as we move forward under Policy Governance. We would also like to encourage parent and community involvement with the Nellie Mae Implementation Teams.

Partnership for Change Invites Community Participation in Reshaping Burlington and Winooski Schools

The Partnership for Change is offering several opportunities for the community to learn about what's happening in the schools and contribute their ideas for ensuring that our young people receive a world-class education.

"We believe that each and every person is entitled to have a voice in reshaping our schools for the coming decades so that our young people will be fully prepared for a world that continues to grow in complexity," said Jill Jacobelli, the Partnership's Family School Partnership Fellow. "It really does take a community to articulate and implement a vision we can all embrace."

To deliver on this promise, the Partnership for Change is hosting a regular series of neighborhood-based Learning Conversations, small-group meetings in homes and public venues that will introduce some of the core elements of "student-centered learning," a set of strategies and principles that are grounded in science and best practice.

"Until now, education has been primarily teacher-centered, with the teacher at the front of the classroom

delivering the curriculum," said Sarah Bertucci, the Partnership's Personalized and Proficiency Based Learning Fellow. "We now know from brain research and the trailblazing work of exceptional innovative schools that the best learning strategies are ones that more actively engage students. Student-centered learning acknowledges that every learner is different and offers a wide variety of tested strategies that enable all students to gain mastery of the knowledge and skills required for 21st century success."

At the Learning Conversations, which typically run for an hour and a half, participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and help inform the work of the teams charged with leading the innovation efforts in the schools.

The first set of Learning Conversations will lead up to a community meeting for Burlington and Winooski on Saturday, February 2, from 10:00 am-1:00 pm at Burlington High School. Titled "A Community Learning Conversation: What Do Our Graduates Need to Succeed?" the event is the first of an ongoing series intended to engage a large

and diverse group of stakeholders in conversation about the hopes, dreams and expectations we have for our young people. Lunch and childcare will be provided.

One highlight of the agenda will be a report out from a group of 30 parents, teachers, students and community members who will have recently returned from a two-day tour of innovative schools in New York City. More school site visits will be available to community members in the coming months.

Funding for all of these efforts comes from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the largest foundation in New England devoted exclusively to education. Last year, the Foundation awarded the Partnership for Change a \$3.7 million grant to jumpstart a meaningful change process in the Burlington and Winooski school districts.

For more information about the Partnership for Change, please visit www.partnershipforchangevt.org or call the Project Manager at (802) 363-2342.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2012 Dollars for Scholars Fundraiser Most Successful Ever!

By John J. Malcovsky

Thanks to increased attendance and extra donations, the Winooski Dollars for Scholars Train Show was able to raise over \$5000 (so far) for the Dollars for Scholars program and the Freshman Class Treasury.

Set up and take down went very rapidly with the basketball teams, the freshman students, the class advisors, and Dollars for Scholars volunteers shouldering the majority of the burden. Many hands made light work. The weather cooperated, and the show was well attended.

We had many new vendors/ displays this year and they lavished compliments on the Freshman Class and their advisors.

The show is supported by the Winooski school district, Saint Michael's College, Hall Communications, and various digital and print media outlets. The Burlington Free Press did a nice follow up photo essay, which should generate even more interest for next year's annual show.

We hope to see you on December 7th 2013 for our 20th annual show.

Christmas Tree Pickup January 5th

From the Winooski Fire Department

Hello everyone, this is a reminder that our tree pickup will be take place Saturday January 5th. Everyone must have their orders for pick up in no later than Friday January 4th by calling the fire house at 655-6420 and leaving your information on the answering machine. Due to the time constraint we will not be able to take any calls following that Friday. Hope everyone had a great and safe holiday!

Winooski Early Childhood Screening Feb. 22!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd, 2013
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
JFK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need help filling out college financial aid forms?

By Heidi McLaughlin, VSAC Outreach Counselor

One hour individual appointments are free and available to all that would like help completing the FAFSA & VSAC Grant forms. Contact Heidi McLaughlin, VSAC Outreach Counselor by email at mclaughlin@vsac.org or call 802 655-9602 ext. 401.

Date: January 9th 12:00-6:00 or by individual appointment on Mondays & Tuesdays during the month of January.

DO NOT WAIT!!! Financial aid deadlines are early and you will not receive college aid if you miss them!!!

Congratulations Hannah Little!

Hannah Little, a freshman at WHS decided to go for the adult challenge and write a 50,000 word novel in 30 days. This in and of itself is a tall order, but to do so while school is in session and basketball season scheduled to commence toward the end of the month made it especially challenging.

Hannah had an idea for the story and started a short outline in preparation. Throughout the month of November, she logged in her word count on the official website. At times it seemed she would never be able to keep the pace of the 1667 words-per-day average needed to reach her goal. At the end of the day on November 29th, she had over 2500 words to go. She was determined to finish, though and with her friends and family cheering her on (thanks to email and Facebook!) she cracked 50,000 at around 9:15 PM on November 30th. She continued and finished the novel a short while later that evening with over 50,300 words!

In early December, the website posted a list of winners of this 'contest' and she found that she was one of 38,636 successful authors. Congratulations Hannah!

Dollars for Scholars Update

By Morgan Kelner, DFS Chair

Hi everyone. Once again Winooski Dollars for Scholars is so very grateful to Mr. John Malcovsky for donating over \$5,000 in profits from the annual Train Show to our organization, as well as to the Freshman Class concession. This is the kind of fundraiser that everyone loves...all the train aficionados who get to show their wares, people from far and wide who attend and who are captivated by intricate train scenes full of tunnels, moss and little people emerging from houses and fairs and the appreciative students who benefit from this fundraiser. It's a win-win for all! This was a banner year for the train show and we thank everyone who made it out to the show.

Ever year, Winooski Dollars for Scholars provides between \$15,000 and \$18,000 to Winooski seniors who will be attending post secondary education; these scholarships also include 5% of DFS money which goes to Winooski Middle and High school students who wish to enhance their education (music or art camps, leadership programs or even classes such as Latin). We are moving forward with new FUNraisers, one of which will be a Dance-athon at the Winooski Welcome Center in early spring. Stay tuned for the specifics in the *District News!*, on Front Porch Forum and in posts to the Winooski School District website. We are also beginning to form alliances with businesses who are interested in supporting scholarships for Winooski students.

Winooski Dollars for Scholars would welcome your energy, ideas and even minimal time commitment to help us attain our goal of financially contributing to Winooski students' education. We strongly believe that all students who wish to go to college should NOT be hindered by a lack of funds. We want to increase the money we give in our scholarships, increase our part-time scholarships and truly have community support to help our students achieve their goals. If you would like to join our board or help out with increasing our business and community support or help with the Dance-athon, please contact: Lisa Graves at bpsvt@aol.com; Morgan Kelner at mkelner14@gmail.com 655-4184; Elizabeth Stillwell at ESTillwell@hbinsurance.com or Cathy Resmer at 825-1099.

Our next mtg is on January 2, 2013 at the Learning Center (school library) and will begin after our Awards Ceremony at 7:00. (Our mtgs are usually at 6:00 only every other month). Thank you for your potential interest.

Digital Story Project Included in Upcoming Book

The work of two teachers associated with the Winooski School District has been accepted for publication by Information Age Publishing in a book titled *Creating Collaborative Learning Communities to Improve English Learner Instruction: College Faculty, School Teachers, and Pre-service Teachers Learning Together in the 21st Century*.

The chapter— "Exploring writing with English language learners (ELLs) through the digital story: A collaborative service learning approach" —describes a service-learning-based classroom project completed by Winooski ELL teacher Bill Clark and Dr. Cynthia Reyes of the University of Vermont. The article documents the original classroom assignments and the digital stories produced by middle school students during 2010. Bill taught the classes as part of his regular curriculum and Cynthia organized the research project, which involved thirteen middle school students. Dr. Reyes and her UVM students assisted the middle school students with the development of their digital stories.

"We're delighted," said Cynthia Reyes. "This chapter is a significant bookmark for all the digital story instruction we've done over the years, and will hopefully encourage other teachers to do this kind of literacy work with ELL students. In our university classes, many of our pre-service teachers view these digital stories to gain a better understanding of ELL pedagogy."

The two writers spoke from both an academic research perspective and from that of a classroom teacher. The article focuses on how the literacy aspects of the project changed the students' writing.

"We really touched on all aspects of literacy," said Bill Clark. "Students moved from writing reflections to examining "This I Believe" essays, to writing a script, recording a narration, assembling images into a digital story, and finally presenting it. Their writing became stronger as a result."

Happy New Year!

By Mary O'Rourke, JFK Elementary Principal

It's hard to believe that we are almost half way through the school year, but we have accomplished so much in so little time! The students at JFK Elementary have been working hard learning expected and unexpected behaviors, as well as understanding the strategies needed to defeat the "unthinkables." There has definitely been a positive educational cultural change at the school that is apparent as I walk the hallways.

Our winter performance, "Reach for the Stars," held on December 20th, was once again a great success. The theme this year tied into our social thinking work and celebrated our students reaching for the stars. This long-standing tradition is a wonderful way for the school community to come together and celebrate. I would like to thank the many community members who introduced our performers: Julian Portilla, Roberto Mathys-Vallario, Hala Mohammed, Ray Coffey, Michael Decarreau, and Officer Chris Machavern.

The new year is the best time for our students to *Strive* for excellence. In January, we will be striving of excellence as a school. It is the last letter of our *STARS* acronym that we need to spend time on. Teachers will give their students a challenge a day in either reading or math. The challenge will be different for each child depending on his/her individual needs.

Our resolution this year will be to continue our social thinking by Striving for excellence, being *Thoughtful, Accepting, Responsible* and *Safe*.

JFK ELL Students Make College Connections

by Kirsten Kollgaard

Over 30 ELL students from JFK Elementary School partnered with Saint Michael's College freshmen this fall, forging connections that have made a strong impact on everyone involved. This is the third year that college students from St. Michael's "Peace and Justice Freshman Year Seminar" have been visiting JFK every Friday to provide academic support to ELL students and to build relationships with them. This college seminar explores how individuals build a just society and it included visits with the Winooski ELL students as a community-based learning experience. Professor Mahmoud Arani and Professor Laurie Gagne worked with JFK ELL teachers to set up the student partnerships.

At the elementary school, first and third grade ELL students received one-on-one support from their buddies during math. The students enjoyed getting to know their partners, getting academic support and making new friends. As the semester drew to a close the Saint Michael's students invited the elementary students to visit them at St. Michael's, as a celebration of the connections they have made this fall. On Friday, November 30th, the Winooski ELL students went on a field trip to Saint Michael's College to see the college and spend some quality time with their buddies, playing games and eating lunch in their cafeteria. Everyone enjoyed themselves and when the time came to go back to school there were plenty of sad goodbyes. Luckily, we plan to continue this service based learning program next year. The Winooski students are already looking forward to it!



Guidance Update

By Sarah Murphy

The first few months of school have been a really busy time for us here at JFK! We have been spending most of our time in class learning about how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are connected. We've spent time learning about our brains, our individual strengths, and areas each of us need to work on. We'll be continuing to explore how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are connected throughout the rest of the school year, using different stories, activities, and games to further our learning.

As always, should you have any questions, please feel free to stop by my office or call me at 383-6064.

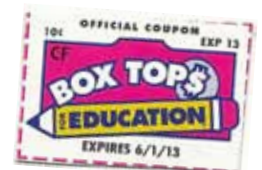
Second Grade News:

In science students are working to build knowledge about how and why we have day and night. They are learning how the earth's rotation makes this happen. They will also learn how the earth's revolution around the sun makes the seasons. We will then observe, record and construct the phases of the moon. We are hopeful for some clear night skies to assist us with this observation!

In writing we have just finished up with our first personal report of the year! We used the painted essay as a format to help us with organization and elaboration. Our next piece is going to be a research report about animals that are active in Vermont in the winter! We encourage you and your child to look for animal tracks while out and about in the snow!

You Can Help!

The PTO is continuing to collect Box Tops and Campbell's Soup Labels this year. Please save them and bring them to school. Your child's teacher can send them to the office for collection. Thank you!



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Personalizing Education

By Leon Wheeler, Middle/High School Principal

Personalize. Discover individual talents. Environment where students want to learn. Discover their true passions.

It's fair to say that the commitment of the Winooski School District (at least in the past) hasn't been motivated or guided by these values. Like virtually all schools, we have talked about getting our students to do well on tests, especially those assessments (NECAP) used by state and federal agencies to "grade the school system." That's been our focus...and we haven't much progress toward achieving it.

The foundation of a significant remodeling process is now underway, however, and education in Winooski is beginning to be revitalized.

For the coming school year, beginning in August, 2013, there will be a team of teachers dedicated to supporting students in designing and pursuing high interest, skills-based, personalized learning opportunities. These will include community-based, business-based, higher education and online learning opportunities. Aligned with the Partnership for Change, this "21st Century

Sir Ken Robinson, an education researcher I have incredible respect for, notes that the key to revitalizing educational systems "...is not to standardize education, but to **personalize it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions.**"

— Ken Robinson,
"The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything"

Learning Lab" will allow students and staff alike to explore models of education that will empower our students with the skills needed for career, college, and citizenship, while nurturing their dreams and aspirations. It will not only allow, but compel us to partner together as school, students, parents, and community in the work of teaching and learning.

One small and significant step in our remodeling process is that we recently hired Anera Foço as our half-time Family School Partnership Coordinator. Anera began her new duties on December 17, and is working initially to get to know the diverse groups within our community,

with the goal of understanding how we can increasingly work together for the good of our youth.

I am very hopeful and enthusiastic about the journey ahead, as we walk forward together. It's great to be here.

Happy and safe holidays to one and all during this New Year season!

Guidance News

By Emmy Charron, High School Guidance Counselor

Here's what's on the January calendar, everyone. Please contact me if you have any questions or need help with any of these items. I can be reached at 655-3530 or by email at echarron@wdschools.org.

- **Tuesday, January 1st:** Marks the first day you can officially start filling out financial aid information through FAFSA.gov. The first step is making an online 'PIN' number, which can take up to 2 weeks!
- **Friday, January 11th:** Last day to register for the February 9th ACTs
- **Monday, January 14th:** Kick off to mid-term exam week
- **Friday, January 18th:** Quarter 2 grades close
- **Saturday, January 26th:** SAT test date
- **Wednesday, January 30th:** The start of spring Virtual High School courses

High School Mid Term Exam Schedule – January 14-18, 2013

The mid-term exams are scheduled from January 14-18, 2013. Remind your students that we only do big exams two times a year, so use this week wisely by getting a lot of rest and eating well. The schedule was built so that students could sleep in and have times to meet with teachers to get help. Good luck to all HS students on their exams. Report cards will be mailed out the following Friday.

| Date/Time | Mon. January 14 | Tues. January 15 | Wed. January 16 | Thurs. January 17 | Fri. January 18 |
|--|---|---|---|---|------------------------|
| Block 1 8:00-9:25 | No students at school. Sleep in and be rested. | | | | |
| 9:25 - 9:40 | Students may arrive to get breakfast. | | | | |
| Block 2 - 9:40 - 11:00 | Green Day Block 1 or Green Day Period 1A & 2A | White Day Block 1 or White Day Period 1A & 2A | Green Day Block 3 or Green Day Period 3A & 3B | White Day Block 3 or White Day Period 3A & 3B | Schedule Make-Up Exams |
| 11:00-11:33 | Lunch | | | | |
| Block 3 - 11:40-1:05 or 11:40-12:22 and 12:23-1:05 | Green Day Block 2 or Green Day Period 2A & 2B | White Day Block 2 or White Day Period 2A & 2B | Green Day Block 4 or Green Day Period 4A & 4B | White Day Block 4 or White Day Period 4A & 4B | Schedule Make-Up Exams |
| 1:05-1:35 | Meet with teachers for support. Tech students may schedule exams that do not work with the exam schedule. | | | | |
| Block 4 - 1:35-3:00 or 1:35-2:17 and 2:18-3:00 | | | | | |

Band Notes

By Randy Argraves



Congratulations to the band, orchestra and chorus students in JFK Elementary, as well as, the middle and high school students. Great concerts! It is always great to see the finished project come to fruition in front a crowd of family and friends.

Our next band, orchestra and chorus concert will be Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 PM in the auditorium. This concert will feature patriotic songs, fanfares and some rock and roll tunes.

I want to remind everyone that the High School Band and Orchestra will, once again, be putting on our Jazz Dinner on Sunday, February 10 at 6:00 PM. This is our seventh annual Jazz Dinner. It is always a highly entertaining evening, and you can't beat the music while you are enjoying your meal that will be provided by Papa Frank's.

Last but not least, Alayna Boucher, Rebecca White and Brianna Moore were accepted into the Middle School District Orchestra Festival and Marie Ly and Rainbow Chen made it into the Middle School District Band this year. Congratulations to all of them. This year's concert is at Essex Middle School on Saturday, February 2 at 2:00 PM. They would love to have you come and cheer them on as they perform with many other talented musicians from all over Chittenden County.



High School "Students of the Quarter" Honored

Students are recognized at the Honor's assembly that takes place shortly after the quarter ends. In addition to the recognition, students are invited, along with their parents, to a luncheon sponsored by the Winooski PTO. These luncheons take place at Waf's Westside Deli. Being honored as a Student of the Quarter means that you have worked very hard and done your best to exemplify the kind of student that we would like everyone to aspire to be. The staff and students would like to thank the Winooski PTO for their generosity in sponsoring this special event.



The following students were honored on Wednesday, December 12th, 2012:

| | |
|--|--|
| Leadership | Cara Casier and Kaitlyn Callahan |
| Character and School Citizenship | Abdirahman Kadawe |
| Arts and Humanities Scholarship | Ledania Taylor, Edmund Do, Kevin Pham, Serina Phuong, and Faiza Hassan |
| Social Sciences Scholarship | Hunter Robare |
| Math, Science, and Technology Scholarship | Oo Mai Bi, Ra Mat Bi, and Isho Sadik |
| Special Recognition | Fartun Mohamed |
| Most Improved | Robert Romprey and Halima Mohamed |

Got Skills? Thinking about Quitting Smoking in 2013? There's a New Group Starting!

Quitting smoking is not easy. Without motivation, skills and a solid support system, it's extremely challenging—nicotine is highly addictive. It's also one of the leading causes of preventable death and a contributor to a host of chronic illnesses in the United States. Second hand and environmental smoke also poses a health risk for others living in the home, particularly young children and those with compromised immune systems.

Winooski has a new skills group starting in January for students who are interested in decreasing their use or quitting altogether. Some potential benefits of the group are:

- Meet others who are facing the same challenge
- Health benefits start almost immediately once you reduce your use or stop smoking
- More \$\$\$\$ in your pocket when you stop buying cigarettes
- Learn skills that carry over into other areas of your life

The group will meet on Wednesdays from 3-3:45pm. It's a 10-week group starting on Wednesday, January 16th. Meetings will take place at the school.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Danielle Jatlow, Student Assistance Counselor, 383-6093 or stop by Danielle's office down by the School Social Worker offices. I look forward to meeting you!

On Friday, November 30, high school French and Spanish students attended the Vermont International Festival in Essex with Ms. Basille and Ms. Saffo. Students enjoyed a variety of foods, music, dance, arts and crafts from around the world. We had a wonderful time and learned about some of the cultural products and practices of the people who live here in Vermont, both native and new.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM NEWS

Happy 2013 and Welcome to our Afterschool Programs!

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant (21C), in conjunction with the Kids First! afterschool program provides many afterschool opportunities for K-12 students throughout the school year and during the summer. We have included some examples of the very exciting programs we have offered during the first half of the school year. We are thrilled that students are participating and enjoying their programs, and we are continuing to develop new programs with exciting learning opportunities for our students! We are interested in working with parents and community members—so if you would like to be a part of the afterschool program, please contact:

Barbara Russ, 21C Program Director at 802-383-6041 or bruss@wdschools.org

Thank you for your ongoing support and see you afterschool!





JFK Amazing Animals Page 2 JPG: Rylee shares her book that is being read in **Amazing Animals** with Ms. Bryan.

Miami is discussing the "Unthinkables" in **Be a Social Detective** with Mrs. Murphy.



Brenden and Sierra learn the basics in **Making Music with Violins** with Mr. Carpenter.



Ms. Legault is tutoring Kyla, Austin, and Khalid afterschool in **Math**.



Graham is pleased with his experiment in **Science Fun** with Ms Bushey.



Kyreasia and Isabelle are trying to guess what they are in **Strategy Games** with Mrs. Blair.



Taylor and Jason practice for the **Junior Iron Chef Competition** with Mrs. Gilhooly and Mrs. Bray.



Aeman, Connor and Mrs. Mellen discuss mathematics during **Math Core Support**.



Ms. Bundy helps Mina and Durga during **Science Core Support**.

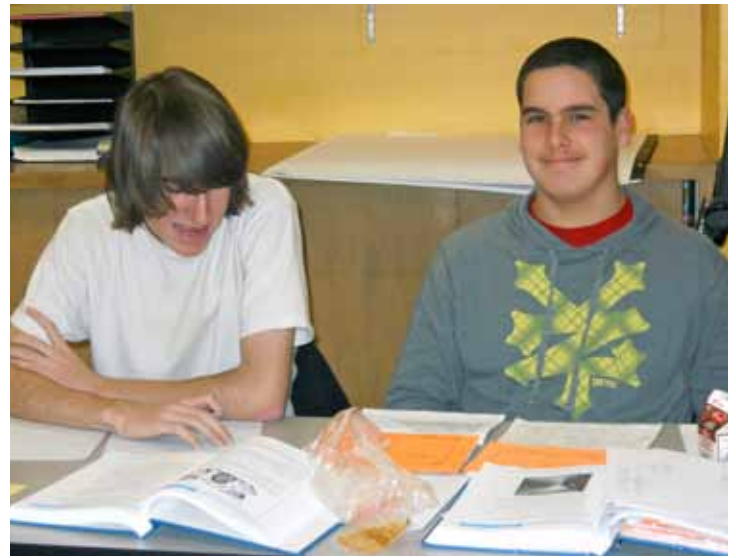


Rachel and Riziki relax before the **Vermont Open JiuJitsu Tournament**.

Rainbow and Destiny enjoy their **Stuff It** sewing projects with Ms. Brosnan and Ms. Soliz.



Alex, Phat, Jaret and Evan build rockets with Mr. Forman. Whoever said that science couldn't be FUN!



Update from your City Council

By Megan Moir

Hello fellow Winooski lovers!

With the arrival of appropriately (finally) wintery weather also comes the arrival of budget season. While admittedly it is not my favorite part of the “council experience” it is nevertheless one of the most important parts of our time as councilors. Though I don’t believe that money necessarily makes the world go around, how we spend our tax dollars is an important reflection of what we want our world to look like as Winooski continues to move forward. In the end, we always have to make hard decisions that balance 1) what basic services we need to continue to offer 2) the improvements that we need to make to keep moving forward and 3) not increasing the tax burden upon Winooski Citizens. It is important that we hear from you during this time about what City services you appreciate and what additional City services you would like to see provided. Even if we can’t find the money to make something happen this year, it is good to get on the radar for future budget years. We hope that you will take the time to attend a City Council meeting or two or at least watch us on Channel 17 and let us know what you think about how we should spend your tax dollars.

Also in preparation for the March elections, we are working on a number of revisions to the City Charter. The Charter is essentially the constitution for our 1.4 square miles. It grants and limits the legal authority of our City and its officers such as the mayor, City Council and City



Manager. While some of the charter changes are related to cleaning up antiquated language (including gender references), we are also considering changes such as whether to increase the mayor’s term to 3 years, the inclusion of specific language regarding debt limits, and providing the City the authority to institute a local sales tax as a way to provide an alternative revenue stream. Please consider attending one of the two public hearings on our proposed changes (January 14 and January 28) to provide input before we make our final proposal for what will be listed on the ballot in March.

Lastly, I am guessing that if you are reading this article/newsletter, then you probably are someone who is interested in the well-being of our fine city. Right? Good! Are you ready to take your interest a step further? Have you ever considered running for City Council? For family reasons, I will not be running for a second term in March L and I want you all out there to start thinking about whether or not being a Councilor is something that you might be interested in. You will need to collect 50 signatures and file your intent to run in late January. If it is something you are interested in, please contact me at mmoir@winooskivt.org and I would be happy to meet up with you to talk to you about time commitments, challenges, rewards and answer any other questions you might have. It takes citizen involvement to keep this City great. Please consider stepping up to serve your community in this way!

The Winooski Community Partnership Needs You!

Introducing the WCP Design Committee, whose mission is to create a safe and vibrant atmosphere in the commercial district with a focus on historic building preservation, pedestrian friendly streets, and enhancements which support the business community.



This group is looking into attracting local artists for potential new sculptures to be situation in the downtown. Surveying lighting, safe walkways & other amenities to better our community lives are just a few things they are focusing on. Are you in interested in participating?

Check our web site for more details: downtownwinooski.org
To contact us: info@downtownwinooski.org.

Free Throw Contest

The Winooski Knights of Columbus Council #2284 and St. Francis Xavier CYO basketball are sponsoring a free throw contest on Saturday, January 12th 2013 for boys at 1:30 pm and girls at 2:30 pm at the Winooski High School Gym. The contest is open to all local girls and boys ages 10 through 14. In the first round each participant has 15 attempts from the free throw line on the basketball court, the one with the most made will then move onto the next level. Proof of age (as of January 1, 2013) is required for participation. Winners on January 12th will move on to the district level, then onto participation in the state competition.

The Knights of Columbus is a national organization, and they hold this competition every January. For more information contact George Ashline at 654-2434 or Jeff Brosseau 233-5530 .

| 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.

City of Winooski to Offer Infant and Toddler Playgroups

In an effort to increase its range of offerings for families, The City of Winooski's Community Services Department is planning a series of free parent-child playgroups that will begin in late January. Geared toward families with infants and pre-toddlers, these playgroups will provide an opportunity for parents to meet and mingle while watching their children play together in a safe group setting.

This programming is intended to be parent-driven: the City will provide a community space and light refreshments, while families should plan to bring toys and share supervision. Details, including dates and location, will be announced in the coming weeks, but the City would like to hear from interested parents now about how the playgroups can best fit their needs and schedules.

Questions or comments about these planned playgroups can be directed to Ethan Hausman, Programs Coordinator, at coordinator@winooskivt.org or 655-1392 x21. Input from any Winooski parents is encouraged. More information about the playgroups will be made available on the City's website (<http://www.winooskivt.org>) and announced on Front Porch Forum in January.

WCSPC Community Dinner – Wednesday, January 16th

Celebrate the New Year with your community at the Winooski Coalition for a Safe and Peaceful Community's first community dinner of 2013! The event is free to attend, open to the public, and family-friendly. Dinner will be served on Wednesday, January 16th, from 5:30pm-7:00pm at the O'Brien Community Center (32 Malletts Bay Avenue). We hope to see you there!

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

If you are a senior citizen who needs transportation, please call Jim Ward (802) 373-1955 by the Tuesday before the Community Dinner to arrange a ride to the community center from where you live in Winooski.

Girls Only! Update

By Alaina Wermers, AmeriCorps VISTA Grant Facilitator and Volunteer Coordinator

The Winooski Teen Center's Girls Only! program has a new location; we will be in room 201 this year! Girls Only! will be a place for high school girls to hang out with each other and do fun activities. We are planning to have cooking, arts & crafts, dancing, and anything else that may interest you!

Come visit us on Wednesdays from 3PM to 4:30PM in room 201. We will be starting again on January 9th.



Community College of Vermont (CCV) Winooski News

By Amy E. Stuart, LICSW, Coordinator of Academic Services
Advisor, Johnson State College External Degree Program

Register through
January 11th 2013!

www.ccv.edu
(802) 654-0505

Happy New Year! In January, we often make resolutions (promises) to improve our lives. CCV may help you take your first step in keeping your promises and reaching your personal goals for 2013!

New Year's Resolution #1: Go to college!

If you're a high school sophomore, junior or senior, you may register now for **Introduction to College Studies (ICS)**. It is a free, weekly class scheduled for late afternoons; so, it doesn't conflict with high school classes! And, if you pass ICS, you get a voucher (worth \$700) to take a college course for FREE - as long as funding lasts. For more information, please call 654-0505 or check out our website <http://gotocollegevt.org/> or our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/ccvics?v=wall&ref=search>

New Year's Resolution #2: Get a job, or get a better job!

The Governor's Career Ready Certificate (GCRC) is a class that helps you:

1. improve your skills to get a job and enhance your career plans
2. Compare your skills to those needed for different jobs
3. Earn a recognized credential

Free to participants, the GCRC is state funded and will be offered at CCV Winooski on:

- Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:45 am – 2:45 pm
- February 6th through April 12th 2013

For more information please call Amy E. Stuart at 654-0542 or read our website <http://www.ccv.edu/careerreadyvt> and complete the online application.

New Year's Resolution #3: Learn something new!

Anyone is welcome to apply to CCV and many applicants sign up just to explore a new area of interest or deepen their knowledge in their field. CCV tuition ranks lowest among all Vermont colleges and universities. And, senior citizens 65 years or older may attend CCV tuition free! Discover the power of your digital camera in **Digital Photography I**, get on stage in **Acting I**, sing in **Fundamentals of Singing** or learn about both causes and effects of **The Civil War**.

There are 100s of courses to choose from. Complete CCV's online application, call or come into our center to complete a paper application; then, speak with an advisor and register for classes!



Teen Center Update

Happy 2013 Winooski Residents! Read this if you're curious about what goes on in the Teen Center!

The Winooski Teen Center is a space inside the O'Brien Community Center on Malletts Bay Avenue. We're often dubbed "the YMCA" because a lot of teens who come to our space also visit the YMCA in the front of the Community Center. We've recently expanded our space in the building and we have more room for hanging out, playing pool, watching movies, or helping with homework than ever before.

We help teens with their homework as well as offer free dinners and fun drop-in time.

Our Spring 2013 Schedule will be up on our Facebook Page so search for the Winooski Teen Center!

HEALTH CORNER

Health Office News

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Health Office Coordinator

It is that time of year again to remind everyone that during these cold wet winter months we are in need of extra pants size 5T-12. We get a lot of JFK kids in from recess asking for dry clothes and we just don't have enough to meet the demand. We would also ask parents to pack an extra set of clothes in their child's backpacks especially in grade K-2. Thanks and Happy New Year!

Tooth Tutor Update

Diane Polson, RDH, Tooth Tutor

Don't wait, it may be too late !!!

Once you turn 18, you may lose your parent's dental insurance coverage. Only your insurance company knows for sure. See me for Dental Information. Also, if you are in need of DENTAL CARE or have not been seen by a Dentist in the past year, please stop by and see me. I am in the Health Office on Thursdays or you can reach me at 383-6094.

Winooski Y Open House

Saturday, January 12 from 10-3pm

- Take a tour
- Meet our staff
- TRX Demo
10am
ZUMBA
11am
- Raffle prizes and healthy snacks
- One day membership special – join and enjoy the rest month on the house.
- Free tee shirts to new members while supplies last.



A2VT Releases Music Video on YouTube – “Winooski My Town”

By Cadoux Fancy

We are three young guys originally from three different countries in Africa. Cadoux Fancy (Republic of Congo), Mg Man (Tanzania), and Said Jilib (Somalia/Kenya). The “Winooski My Town” song is about celebrating diversity in this community and also being thankful to be welcomed in this new culture that embraced us and gave us the opportunity to make a difference in the world. This celebration is also about bringing everyone together to work as one in order to be more stable. We have recorded our first album, “Africa, Vermont” with grant funding from the Vermont Community Foundation. And with your help, we can share our music with the world! To support our campaign, you can donate at our indieGoGo site: <http://www.indiegogo.com/A2VT?a=581061>.

You can also like us on facebook -- <http://www.facebook.com/A2VTmusic>

Winooski eNewspaper Subscriptions Available

This summer, Guy Page began publishing the *Winooski Bridge*, a Winooski-only community e-newspaper. It is published monthly on the first and third Thursdays. To be added to the mailing list or to submit a news story, send an email to winooski@yahoocom.

Page is the founding publisher of the Winooski Eagle, a longtime community newspaper. He is also the former editor and publisher of the Colchester Chronicle (1988-2002). At present he is a public affairs consultant.

The Bridge evolved from a conversation with Police Chief Steve McQueen at the Vermont State House, and is intended as a community service. It features news from the City Council and School Board; upcoming events; city history; and anything that will build bridges of communication between the city's diverse communities.

Published in English, French and Arabic, it is meant to complement, not compete with, the school district news letter, Front Porch Forum, and other Winooski media. Past issues are available also on Facebook, just search for "Winooski Bridge".

Stay Connected: School and Community News on Front Porch Forum!

Front Porch Forum's mission is to help neighbors connect and foster community within the neighborhood. The service provides online forums for neighborhoods, based on a successful model six years in the making, and capitalizes on the founders' many years of community development work.

District administrators post information about events happening at school, members share stories, the media reports, and we investigate several ourselves. All of this great community-building is attracting local awards and national recognition. How does it work? Members and others contribute to this effort financially, and local businesses and other entities sponsor many of our neighborhood forums.

Go to www.frontporchforum.com to sign up.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — JANUARY

DAILY BREAKFAST OPTIONS:

(Cereal, Bagels, Muffins, Fruit, Milk and Juice offered daily)

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sausage/Cheese on English Muffin | Hearty Fruit-filled Muffin | Ham & Cheese on Bagel | Whole Grain Breakfast Bar | Breakfast Burrito with Egg/Cheese |

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

| | Tues., Jan. 1 | Wed., Jan. 2 | Thurs., Jan. 3 | Fri., Jan. 4 |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| No School | | Dress Your Own Hot Dog | Taco Bar w/ The Works <small>Seasoned Taco Meat, Cheese Sauce, Lettuce, Salsa & Soft Flour Tortilla</small> | Grilled Cheese Sandwich |
| | | Marinated Tomato Cucumber Salad Baked Beans | Rice Pilaf Rainbow Slaw Chocolate Chip Cookie | Hearty Country Vegetable Soup Steamed Corn |
| | | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk |
| Mon., Jan. 7 | Tues., Jan. 8 | Wed., Jan. 9 | Thurs., Jan. 10 | Fri., Jan. 11 |
| Chicken & Cheese Fajita | Meat or Cheese Lasagna | Early Release 6-12 Cheesy Breadsticks | Nachos Supreme <small>Seasoned Taco Meat, Cheese Sauce, Salsa, Lettuce, & Corn Tortilla Chips</small> | Chicken Nuggets w/Dipping Sauce |
| Spinach Salad w/ Apples & Maple Vinaigrette Red Roasted Potatoes | Side Garden Salad Celery Sticks <small>Happy Birthday Royal Brownies</small> | Marinara Dipping Sauce Garden Slaw | Rice Pilaf Warm Black Beans Steamed Corn | Savory Butternut Squash Baked Beans Dinner Roll |
| Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk |
| Mon., Jan. 14 | Tues., Jan. 15 | Wed., Jan. 16 | Thurs., Jan. 17 | Fri., Jan. 18 |
| Localvore Day Chicken Patty Sandwich | Spaghetti w/ Meat or Garden Marinara Sauce | Homemade Cheese or Veggie Pizza | Chicken or Cheese Quesadilla on Soft Flour Tortilla | Pancakes w/ Warm Syrup |
| Local Roasted Potato Wedges Local Roasted Root Vegetables | Chopped Green Salad | Fresh Carrot Sticks Hummus Dip | Warm Black Beans Roasted Zucchini Oatmeal Cookies | Twin Sausage Links Sweet & White Home Fries Celery Sticks |
| Fresh Local Apple Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk |
| Mon., Jan. 21 | Tues., Jan. 22 | Wed., Jan. 23 | Thurs., Jan. 24 | Fri., Jan. 25 |
| No School | Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets w/Dipping Sauce | Delayed Start K-5 Homemade Cheese or Veggie Pizza | Taco Bar w/ The Works <small>Seasoned Taco Meat, Cheese Sauce, Lettuce, Salsa & Soft Flour Tortilla</small> | Hot Turkey Sandwich w/ Gravy |
| | Roasted Butternut Squash Green Pepper Sticks Honey Apple Crisp | Roasted Zucchini Sticks Steamed Carrots | Rice Pilaf Rainbow Slaw | Steamed Peas Two Potato Mash |
| | Fresh Fruit Wedge Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk |
| Mon., Jan. 28 | Tues., Jan. 29 | Wed., Jan. 30 | Thurs., Jan. 31 | |
| Dress Your Own Burger Sliced Tomato and Lettuce | Italian Pasta Bake | Cheesy Breadsticks | Ham & Cheese Toastie On Soft Flour Tortilla | |
| Oven Baked Potato Wedges | Fresh Carrot Sticks Hummus Dip Dark Green Garden Salad Snickerdoodles | Marinara Dipping Sauce Side Caesar Salad Celery Sticks | Creamy Tomato Soup Roasted Broccoli | |
| Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | Fresh Fruit Hood Milk | |



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.

Newsletter of the Winooski School District

Winooski School District
60 Normand Street
Winooski, VT 05404

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

POSTAL PATRON
*****ECRWSS**
WINOOSKI, VT 05404

WINOOSKI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.wdschools.org

Superintendent of Schools

Mary Lundeen: 655-0485
mlundeen@winooski.k12.vt.us

John F. Kennedy Elementary School

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

Winooski Middle and High School

Principal: Leon Wheeler
802-655-3530
lwheeler@winooski.k12.vt.us

Board of School Trustees

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

Mission Statement

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

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

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

About Our District

The Winooski School District is a PreK through 12 system that is housed in one educational center. At press time, there were 398 students attending JFK Elementary (grades PreK-5), 156 attending Winooski Middle School (grades 6-8), and 250 attending Winooski High School (grades 9-12).

One of the most diverse school districts in the state of Vermont, Winooski's teachers and staff are highly involved in professional development programs that help increase student achievement, address the needs of a diverse student population, and allow students to thrive in an engaging environment with high expectations.

"District News!" is published by the Winooski School District, 60 Normand Street, Winooski, VT 05404. Anne Linton Elston, Editor. Phone: 802-655-0942. Email: aelston@winooski.k12.vt.us.