

* DO YOUR PART *
VOTE!
 MARCH 5, 2013



ALSO INCLUDES
Community News!
 STARTING ON PAGE 14

WINOOSKI SCHOOL
DISTRICT NEWS!

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 6

MARCH 2013

celebrating Our Achievements!

Partnership for Change Engages over 300 people in Community Learning Conversation about Reshaping Education for the 21st Century

By Lindsey Cox, Partnership for Change

On Saturday, February 2, over 300 members of Winooski and Burlington communities came together to discuss how the educational system can best prepare our communities and our young people for a rapidly-changing global world. We would like to thank everyone who joined the conversation about remodeling the educational system for the 21st century. Parents and community members made up 48% of those who attended.

We began our panel discussion with introductions from Steering Committee Chair, Martha Maksym and Burlington High School Senior, Emma Galvin. We heard panelist Tiffany Bluemle ask how adults can best equip young people for life and nurture their talent, while legislator George Cross spoke to the need to help young people learn how to learn, how

to ask questions and utilize technology to seek answers. Chancellor Timothy Donovan encouraged exploration and asked our students to “be willing to try things that you’re not comfortable with yet.”

Carina Driscoll said we must ensure that young people will come to know “what lights their fire,” while Wanda Hines emphasized compassion and integrity. Panelist Joyce Judy highlighted the importance of “grit,” defined as the ability to get through tough times. Mary Alice McKenzie talked about the commitment needed from the community to work hand in hand with the schools to support all young people and Marion Lawler supported the ability to embrace change, to be adaptive, to solve messy problems, to be culturally aware.

National education consultants from Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center, a highly esteemed organization that has worked with more than 100 schools and thousands of educators over the last few years, facilitated the Community Learning Conversation. Director Michael Soguero commented that Burlington/Winooski’s community-wide process of determining how schools get young people ready for life was the most inclusive they’ve ever seen!

As we move forward with articulating how our educational system can best



foster the knowledge, skills and habits of mind that are essential for college, career and citizenship, we will continue to engage the Burlington and Winooski communities to support this work. We are excited to continue to host neighborhood learning conversations in homes and community hangouts. Please contact partnershipforchangevt@gmail.com or 802-363-2342 if you are interested in learning more.

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Save the Date for Alice in Wonderland!

Coming soon to our Performing Arts Center: “Alice In Wonderland!” It will be performed by a very talented group of 4th and 5th graders on Friday, March 8th. Show times are at 9:00, 10:30, and 7:00 p.m. The performances are free and open to the public. Please join us!

Moving Towards Student Centered Learning

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

Welcome to Vermont: Home of a world-class public education system dedicated to fulfilling the aspirations of each student! The Vermont Superintendents Association, School Boards Association and State Board of Education are enthusiastically moving this framework forward.

Two years ago, the Vermont Superintendent's Association was charged with defining a quality education. The question posed: "If we don't have a common understanding of what a quality education entails, then how can we actually be accountable to students for a system that ensures a quality experience?" Recognized educators from Vermont formed a task force to create a framework that reflects what students need to be successful in a rapidly changing world. The resulting framework reinforces the principles of the Personalized and Proficiency Based Learning Goals and Objectives within the Partnership for Change. The conclusion of all is clear: we must move toward student centered, proficiency based learning. Our guiding questions:

- What do students need to know and be able to do?
- What are the best ways to structure student learning to enhance success?
- How will we know if we are doing it right?

To answer these questions, we must identify rigorous proficiencies, create and implement effective learning designs, and develop meaningful measurements to keep everyone accountable. These 3 pieces in synchronization are required to ensure a quality education for all students.

Here in Winooski, we are working toward bringing this vision alive. On Saturday, over 300 Burlington and Winooski residents and business owners gathered at Burlington High School for a Learning Conversation, hosted by the Partnership for Change. A panelist consisting of elected officials, agency directors, business leaders and higher education representatives contributed to a community conversation around "what do high school graduates need to succeed?" The work on Saturday was translated into eight different languages, and many of the multi-lingual liaisons were present, interpreting the panel discussion for their communities.

From these conversations in Winooski, Burlington and through the vision of the state, engaged citizens have identified critical areas needed for our students to be successful. These critical areas under discussion include:

1. Effective oral and written communication
2. Creativity
3. Curiosity and imagination
4. Accessing and analyzing information
5. Agility and adaptability
6. Collaboration
7. Active local and global citizenship
8. Persistence
9. Critical thinking and problem solving

Our young people must develop a strong set of skills, competencies and habits to navigate a world that is growing in complexity. Business leaders call these 21st century skills: creativity, the ability to solve problems, to analyze and synthesize data, to communicate effectively, to work in diverse teams, and the ability to utilize technology. Join us in creating a world class learning environment right here in Winooski and Burlington! Visit www.partnershipforchange.org to learn how to get involved.

Support at the Polls and new Policy Governance Model

By Mike Decarreau,
Board of School Trustees

By this time we are in early March and looking at much longer days along with, hopefully, warming temperatures. Along with thoughts of spring, early March brings voting at the polls. I would like to remind everyone to get out and vote on March 5th. The budget we will present to you will reflect a 1.7% increase in spending year to year. We expired a bond this year which allowed this modest increase in the tax rate. Last year this community approved a budget that was larger than we have seen in recent years. Those same items (Math intervention and additional ELL support) are still in place and providing the support we sought. That allowed us to hold the line this year. We also have two current School Board members (Jenn Corrigan and Tori Cleiland) running for re-election and we ask you for support there also. The continuity of the Board will help us move into our new Governance model more smoothly.

For those of you who watch our Board meetings on RETN, you will begin to see much different discussions among the Board and the Administrators as we move into the Policy Governance model that we have been working toward these past 3 or 4 months. We have, as of the February meeting, approved our Executive Limitations, Board Management Delegation, and Governance Process policies. Next we will eliminate the current policies that are not legally required so as to not have conflicts with the new ones. In April, you will begin to hear a few terms that are the foundation of this new model. You will hear "ENDS" many times in the first few meetings as we discuss and formulate a statement that will become the focus for the school. These ENDS will require much input from the community (parents as well as non-parents).

continued on next page

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(DECARREAU continued from page 2)

The Board will be putting together these ENDS (a set of outcome expectations) for the School district. Here is a sample mission statement from another District:

“Students have the knowledge, skills and tools to be prepared for the next stage of their lives, which justify the resources invested by the community.”

The next stage of their lives can mean the transition from Elementary School to Junior High, Junior H.S. to Senior H.S., or the transition to the workforce or higher education.

The other term you will hear is MEANS. What you will hear is that the MEANS are not “Board work.” The Board is out to define the ENDS (what do we want as outcomes) and the MEANS are HOW the district gets to the ENDS. The MEANS are defined by the Administrative team. **How** do we work to get to the ENDS that the community has defined? By this definition then the Board will work on the ENDS and the Administrative team will define the MEANS to get to those ENDS. The Board will be defining and measuring the outcomes not focusing on the HOW.

This endeavor will focus the work of the district and move the Board to a higher level of Governance (defining and measuring ENDS) and much less time related to the MEANS (actually running the school system to achieve the ENDS).

In my next article I will talk in more detail about Executive Limitations, Board-Management Delegation and Governance process policies.

Catch Us on RETN

Did you know you can watch Winooski School Board meetings on the internet on your own schedule? Visit www.retn.org and click on “Board Meetings” under the “School Connections” heading. You can find Winooski at the bottom of the list of area schools.

Winooski Welcomes the First Annual Spring into the Arts Celebration

By Jan Willey, Consultant/Interim K-12 Curriculum Coordinator

Last fall, the K-12 music and visual arts teachers agreed to work with me to create and implement what we hope will be the first annual *Winooski Welcomes Spring into the Arts* celebration. Not only will such an event highlight the many talents of Winooski’s students and teachers, but it will also serve to bring the schools out into the community. At our first planning meeting in late September, the teachers and I were envisioning an art display and a few small-group student performances to be offered in a community space around the middle of the day during the week of May 20. We received wonderful encouragement and support from staff members at the O’Brien Community Center, so we immediately wrote a small grant proposal through the Vermont Arts Council. To our delight, the proposal was funded and we set about making further plans.

We had not gotten too far in the planning process before it became quite clear to me that I would need others to help me provide support to the fine arts teachers. I was part of a conversation that focused on the JFK parent group, and I learned that parents were quite eager to become in their children’s school but were not certain how to do that. I immediately seized that opportunity and asked Mary O’Rourke, JFK principal, to introduce me to a few parents so I could share the idea of *Spring into the Arts* with them.

On January 31, there were three parents and Ray Coffey, Director of the O’Brien Community Center, in attendance at a planning meeting with the five K-12 fine arts teachers and me. Needless to say, there was no shortage of creative ideas. Out of this brainstorming sessions came a list of activities that will comprise this first *Spring into the Arts* celebration. Here’s what we know to date:

- On **Monday, May 20**, there will be a kick-off event held at the Winooski Welcome Center on the circle. A gallery displaying artwork from K-12 students will be ready for viewing, and there will be a few small-group student performances serving as a backdrop for this art display.
- On **Tuesday, May 21** there will be a middle/high school concert performed in the Performing Art Center (PAC) at the school. Prior to the concert, there will be a dessert/tea reception held in the school cafeteria. Students will be invited to make desserts, and a few may be present to help serve.
- On **Thursday, May 23**, JFK students will perform a concert in the PAC. Prior to this concert, there will be hunger bowls and soup available for purchase at a nominal cost. (More information about this particular event will be available as the date nears.)
- A K-12 exhibit of Hope Flags will be on display at the school for the entire week of May 20. Everyone planning to attend either (or both) of these concerts is invited to come early to view the art and to participate in the dessert/tea reception on the 21st or the hunger bowls/soup event on the 23rd.
- Winooski businesses will be invited to display student artwork in their storefronts beginning on **May 27**. The artwork will be moved from these locations into the O’Brien Community Center during the month of June.

Spring into the Arts flyers will be created and distributed around town as we get closer to the week of May 20. The planning committee will also develop other marketing strategies so the word will get out to a broad audience. Parent volunteers will be in great demand to help with the various activities being planned, especially with the moving and hanging of student artwork in the various locations. Once the arts teachers have developed their lists detailing what specific assistance they will need, the parent groups will be contacted.

Stay tuned for more detailed information about *Winooski Welcomes Spring into the Arts*. If you would like to volunteer to help with any aspect of this school/community celebration, please contact me at jwilley@wsdschools.org.

WARNING

WINOOSKI INCORPORATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 4 MARCH 2013 AND 5 MARCH 2013

The legal voters of the Winooski Incorporated School District in the City of Winooski, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Performing Arts Center, Winooski Educational Center on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening to act on Article I, Article II, and Article III and to conduct an informational hearing on Australian Ballot questions, and the meeting to be adjourned to reconvene at the Winooski Senior Citizen Center, Barlow St., on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 to transact any business involving voting by Australian Ballot, said voting by Australian Ballot to begin at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon and to close at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The legal voters of the Winooski Incorporated School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17 and §473 and 553 of Title 16, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

ARTICLE I: Elect a Moderator and Clerk.

ARTICLE II: Shall the District accept the 2013 Annual Report and all included sub reports?

ARTICLE III: Shall the Board of School Trustees be authorized to allow appropriate groups and agencies to use school facilities and equipment in accordance with District policies?

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLES

ARTICLE IV: Shall the District accept and expend the sum of One million, Four hundred ninety-eight thousand, and Nine hundred sixty-three dollars (\$1,498,963) or whatever sum is provided by federal programs for the support of compensatory education and special programs? Said sum shall be exclusively federal funds received by the District. *(No local or statewide school property taxes included in these funds.)*

ARTICLE V: Shall the District vote to appropriate the sum of Twelve million, Six hundred twenty-nine thousand, Two hundred dollars (\$12,629,200) for the support of public schools for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014? Said sum shall include the amount anticipated from state and federal education aid and reimbursements, except as provided in Article IV above, and all other sources of revenue.

ARTICLE VI: Shall the Charter of Winooski School District be amended as follows (new material underlined; deleted material strikthroughed):

§ 23.3 Annual District Meeting

1. Monday:

a) To elect a Moderator and Clerk ~~and Treasurer~~, the term of office to start July 1st.

2. Tuesday:

(d) Elect a school district treasurer for a term of three (3) years whose duties, authority, and responsibilities shall be those established by law.

Winooski School District
Winooski, Vermont
February 11, 2013
James J. Ticehurst, District Clerk

Meet The Candidates

Here is information submitted by the candidates to help you get to know them a little better. You are also invited to attend a meeting March 4th, 2013 in the Performing Arts Center at the Winooski Educational Center, for a full review of the city and school budgets, in addition to meeting the candidates, beginning at 6:00 p.m with a discussion about city issues. Discussion about school issues is scheduled to begin at 7:30.

Please do your part and become informed, and vote on March 5, 2013 at the Senior Center on Barlow St. between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

MICHELE (BOURDEAU) BOULET

Running for: 3-year seat

Contact: 22 Lafountain Street
email: surfr7@myfairpoint.net

Education: I graduated from WHS in 1985 and have an Associates Degree in Business Administration from CCV

Work: I have worked at Queen City Printers for 24 years.

Reasons for running: I have two children in this school district. If elected, I will bring open and honest communication, new ideas and a fresh perspective. We need to improve student outcomes and expect accountability. Our curriculum needs to adjust so we can help each child reach their potential. Students need to be more prepared for whatever they choose to do after high school. We all want our children to be successful in life, and that starts with a solid foundation in education.

TORI CLEILAND

Running for: 2-year seat

Contact: 34 Audet Street, 655-7678

Work: Mom and Director of Thrive After School

Education: Masters in Education

Hobbies: Enjoying my second childhood -- playing, dancing, singing at the top of our lungs, and watching movies with my girls; Yoga and breathing deeply

Reason for Running: I'm running for the board for the same reason I did two years ago; to actively puzzle on how to create something extraordinary in our schools for our kids that would mutually benefit our Winooski community. Winooski School District is in the midst of extraordinary work for the benefit of kids and families. I'm ready to continue digging deep and working hard for the better of the whole community. Please vote on March 5th.

JENNIFER CORRIGAN

Running for: 3-year seat

Contact: 75 Hickock Street, 802-233-7642

Work: Childcare provider; owner UBU Childcare

Hobbies/activities: I spend time with my family and pets, walking, running, and when I can, reading a great book

Community service: Due to the fact that I am a business owner, I am in the background soliciting for many of the parent (PTO) and athletic functions (Boosters).

Reasons for running: I am seeking re-election to continue helping bring about the great changes going on in our school district and to serve in providing continuity in negotiations with the WEA (Winooski Educators Association).

DR. JAMES TICEHURST

Running for: 2-year seat

Contact: 11 Cedar Street, 655-3718

Work: Retired

Hobbies/activities: Gardening

Community Service:

Current – School Treasurer, City Rep to Chittenden Solid Waste District, City Finance Committee. *Previous* – Board of Trustees, Catholic Diocese of Burlington, various non-profit boards over 30 years

Reason for running: I am running for school treasurer is to give back to the community some on my public finance and accounting skills and experience that I believe will be helpful to the district. I trust that my experience and background can assist the school district to maintain creditability and accountability with the citizens of Winooski, and to forge a more transparent financial system to the betterment of the school district and for citizens to understand.

Honor Roll – Second Quarter: 2012-2013

HIGH SCHOOL

Seniors

High Honors

Dino Dzinic
Yen Canary Ly

Honors

Amanda Billado
Coralyn Boivin
Kaitlyn Callahan
Maryan Hassan
Moriah Leary
Naima Mohamed
Hale Mohammed
Brianna Robare
Isho Sadik

Juniors

High Honors

Indra Acharya
Duc Dang

Honors

Januka Acharya
Cara Casier
Luke Fountain
Abdullahi Mayange
Serina Phuong

Sophomores

High Honors

Uyen Bui
Avah Eaton
Randall Knox
Amanda Nattress
Nhung Nguyen
Ro Ze Yar

Honors

Khada Acharya
Mina Dhamala
Chanfer Nheb
Hunter Robare
Samuel Treadwell

Freshmen

High Honors

Edmund Do

Honors

Oo Mai Bi
Ra Mat Bi
Faiza Hassan
Brianna Knox
Hannah Little
Yasin Malawia
Austin Mitchell
Ball Wit

MIDDLE SCHOOL

High Honors

Rui Chen
Marie Ly
Mariah Metivier
Zeneth Nheb
Maryam Omar
Destiny Syharaj
Olivia Treadwell
Alexis Utter

Honors

Mukhtar
Abdulkhaleiq
Tiba Al Jarah
Najlaa Aref
Matthew Bailey
Shennelle Bailey
Lai Lar Bi
Cassandra Brosseau
Jaret Chagnon
Riley Corrigan
Natalie Cross
Vijayata Dahal
Dhan Dhamal
Jarod Fountain
Abigail Hayford
Calvin Hayford
Ismail Hussein
Rebekkah Lambert
Edward Lamson
Nicole Laplante
Christina Larose-Terry
Kaitlenn Little
Sumitra Mangar
Onna Morgan
Haley Morits
Lydia Nattress
Riziki Numbe
Emilia Nunez
Tiffany Phuong
Keshav Pokhrel
Chanda Pringle
Noah Rouille
Abdullahi Sadik
Swastika Sharma
Sean Soukone
Holly Turner
Faith Villa
Phat Vo
Rebecca White
Rachel Wilondje
Yousef Yahya

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winooski School District Annual Report Distribution

As a cost savings measure, the Board of School Trustees will not mail out the Annual Report to each household in Winooski. The Annual Report is available at the following locations:

- City Hall
- Winooski Family Center
- Winooski Memorial Library
- Senior Citizen Center
- All School District Offices
- O'Brien Center

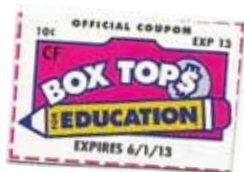
The reports will be available on or after February 11th, 2013.

Youth Baseball/Softball Registration

Winooski Little League Baseball/Softball & Babe Ruth will hold registrations Monday March 4th & Wednesday March 6th 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm in the High School Cafeteria & Friday, March 15th 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm in the library. Proof of age is required for all new players, who must be within age limits: April 30th is the cutoff for Baseball, December 31st for Softball. Little League is for ages 4-12, Babe Ruth for ages 13-18. Little League fees are \$40 for one player, and \$70 for a family. Late fee is \$10 after 3/31. Babe Ruth fee is \$50.00 per player. Info: call Jeff Brosseau at 655-3556.

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!



Mentoring Program Aims to Get Girls Hooked on Hoops

Each season for the past decade the Winooski Middle School girls basketball team has participated in a program aimed at keeping the girls involved in sports and reinforcing the positive aspects sports play in their lives.

Sisters in Sport is a mentoring program with the St. Michael's College women's basketball team. The teams attend each other's games and go to each other's practices throughout the season. The girls also hear from a sports nutritionist about the importance of eating well and are visited by a professional woman who shares how the lessons she learned playing sports benefit her in her career. This year Carolynne Erwin, a police officer who heads up physical training at the Burlington Police Department, spoke to the girls. Carolynne was also a standout basketball player at Mt. Abe High School.

"*Sisters in Sport* is all about getting girls hooked on a healthy activity that teaches them important lessons and gives them health benefits that last a lifetime," said Leslie Wright, founder of the Stride Foundation, a Vermont-based non-profit devoted to giving girls and women opportunities through sports mentoring. "Recent research shows that, by the age of 14, girls are dropping out of sports at twice the rate of boys. We'd like to change that through mentoring."

The program is in its eleventh year at Winooski and is sponsored locally by Twincraft Soap.

"The girls really look forward to spending time with the college players. The college players are great student-athlete role models and are truly inspirational for these girls, getting them excited about playing in middle school, high school and beyond," said Winooski Middle School Coach Sue Messier.

About Stride: Stride: The Wright Foundation for Female Athletes is a nonprofit organization based in Ferrisburgh, Vt. founded in 2001 to provide opportunities for girls and women through sports mentoring programs. We believe that sports and mentoring can make a difference in the lives of girls and women. Female athletes achieve better grades, have higher self esteem, are less likely to get pregnant or try drugs, plus they enjoy health benefits that last a lifetime. For more info, go to www.stridefoundation.org.



Sisters in Sport Mentors Attend WMS Home Game

By Leslie Write

The Saint Michael's women's basketball team made a surprise visit to Winooski Middle School's home game mid-February. The girls were thrilled to see their mentors in the stands, each with a sign with their mentee's number and name on it!

Thank you Saint Mike's for taking time out on your day off to visit Winooski and cheer our students on. The Spartans won, too!



Foster Grandparent Program Needs You!

Learn more about or sign up for the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)!

FGP volunteers are making an impact towards helping children who are pre-elementary to 21 years achieve their potential by contributing to schools and organizations to accomplish goals.

FGP is a great public service to be involved in and there are children in Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties that are waiting and eager for a Foster Grandparent!

FGP volunteers receive a non-taxable stipend, mileage reimbursement, and some other benefits. Volunteers must serve a minimum of 15 hours a week, be age 55 and over, meet an income eligibility requirement, and complete background checks.

If you are that someone -- or if you know someone -- who wants to make a difference in a child's life, then FGP may be the right opportunity!

For more information about the Foster Grandparent Program please call the United Way of Chittenden County Volunteer Connection at 802-860-1677 or visit our website at www.unitedwaycc.org/volunteer/55-volunteer-initiatives/

*** DO YOUR PART ***

VOTE!

MARCH 5, 2013

Spring Fever? Winooski Dollars for Scholars DANCE-ATHON!

By Morgan Kelner, Chair, Winooski Dollars for Scholars

Hi Everyone. *Get Ready for Some Spring Fun!* **Put Saturday, April 13th on your calendar** and get out your dancing shoes, because the very first "Spring Fever? Winooski Dollars for Scholars Dance-Athon" is happening! This is our newest fundraiser, which will help us provide scholarships for Winooski high school graduating seniors who want to attend post secondary education. The Dance-Athon will be held at Winooski's own beautiful Winooski Welcome Center and Gallery (top of the round-about) from 2-8pm. This means you can raise money to dance for 1 hour or 6 hours and can either pay a flat fee...or think walkathons... and ask people to sponsor you. We are hoping everyone will participate: individuals, families, students of all ages and community people as well as teams. We could have the boys basketball team competing against the girls; the art dept vs the music department, St Mikes competing against CCV or teacher teams vs students teams. Anything goes! Teams will consist of 1-5 people and each individual or team will raise at least \$25.00. We will have a variety of music going all the time, which will appeal to all ages, have fun activities and provide snacks and non-alcoholic drinks for the duration of the dance.

So...we could use your help to make the Dance-Athon a success. Would you be willing to create a team with friends, family or co-workers? Are you part of an organization that would like to compete or just dance? Are you willing to get sponsors? Are you part of a band ..or are you a DJ? Winooski Dollars for Scholars has pledge sheets and you will see our posters and flyers around town. Please contact Elizabeth Stillwell at ESTillwell@hbinsurance.com, Lisa Graves at bpsvt@aol.com, Morgan Kelner at mkelner14@gmail.com 655-4184 or Cathy Resmer at 825-1099 to volunteer or to get pledge sheets. These will also be available on the Winooski web site.

Winooski Dollars for Scholars appreciates all the support we have received over the years and hope you will continue to help us provide scholarships for deserving Winooski kids. (We also have set aside 5% of our money for Winooski Middle and High School kids who wish to attend educational workshops, conferences or classes. For more information, please contact Marc McQuinn at mmcquinn@wsdschools.org or Karen Greene at kgreene@wsdschools.org or drop by to see them at school.)

We are very excited about the Spring Fever? Winooski Dollars for Scholars Dance-Athon and hope you will be too! Stay tuned to District News, Front Porch Forum and the Winooski School District website for more information.

VSAC Hosts College Planning Day For Students and Parents

By Heidi McLaughlin, VSAC Outreach Counselor

High school sophomores, juniors, and parents who want to get a jump on college planning should attend Vermont Student Assistance Corporation's 12th annual College Pathways program, a free day of workshops on preparing for higher education.

In order to accommodate as many families as possible, VSAC hosts College Pathways in three locations on the following Saturdays:

- **March 16 at Saint Michael's College** in Colchester, 9:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. (lunch provided)
- **March 23 at Castleton State College** in Castleton, 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. (lunch provided)
- **April 6 at Lyndon State College** in Lyndonville, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Depending on the location, College Pathways offers up to eight workshops on a variety of topics, including writing a college application essay that stands out, strategies for taking SATs and ACTs, creating a college list that fits you, and demystifying financial aid.

Families are encouraged to pre-register because workshops fill quickly. For more information or to register, visit www.vvac.org/CollegePathways. I can be reached at 802 655-9602 ext. 401 or by email at mclaughlin@vsac.org

March Report

By Mary O'Rourke, JFK Elementary Principal

It is that time of year again and we have received our New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) results. The NECAP is an assessment that is given each fall to all students in grades 3-8. Students in these grades take an assessment in reading and math and students in grade 5 an additional assessment in writing. At JFK Elementary School (grades 3-6), 52% of our students were proficient in reading, 49% of our students were proficient in mathematics and 38% of our students were proficient in writing. Our reading scores increased by 3% and our math scores increased by 7%. We appear to be heading in the right direction. Teachers were excited to see hard work beginning to pay off. That being said, we must all strive to do better.

JFK Elementary School has established a wonderful partnership with the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association and on February 15th the entire school was treated to a concert at the Elley-Long Concert Hall at Fort Ethan Allen. Musicians from Scrag Mountain Music performed as guests of the VYOA. This interactive performance featured instruments from the string family (violin, viola, cello, and bass). The children loved the concert. There are proven statistics that show that music education has a profound impact on a child's behavior and further promotes better math and science skills and I'm thrilled that our students had this educational as well as cultural opportunity.

Seasonal Read Aloud

By Mag Thomas

Seasonal Read Aloud is a very popular afterschool program that is being offered during session three. Mrs. LaForce meets with a group of students from kindergarten, first, and second grade every Wednesday after school.



Each week Mrs. LaForce reads a winter-themed book to the children. Afterward, the students take part in an activity pertaining to the book.

This month we were getting ready for Valentine's Day, so the group just read *Olive My Love* and decorated hearts to give to someone special!



Community Reads Event A Success

By Lisa Goetz

Many thanks to Mohamed Muktar for being our storyteller this month for our "Community Reads" event. He read a book about Somalia and taught the children to say many Somalian words as he read.



Parents and children also enjoyed cookies and juice and had a book swap. Then parents and children were able to read multicultural books together.

Stay tuned for our next "Community Reads" which will be taking place in March. We will have a math/literacy Jeopardy game.



Celebrating March and All It Brings

By Leon Wheeler, Middle/High School Principal

Welcome March, and with it the promise of Spring! “In like a lion, out like a lamb.” I for one am ready for this celebration of the earth’s rebirth, and with it the reminder of the seasons and cycles of life, and the hope that exists even in the darkest and coldest moments.

In the spirit of this changing season, I want to celebrate the the accomplishments of one of our teachers, high school Business teacher Courtney Poquette. Courtney was recently informed that she is the recipient of the highly competitive, national “Leavey Award for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education.” Following is the letter I received from Michael E. Di Yeso, President and CEO of the Freedoms Foundation.

“It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Courtney Poquette a member of your faculty, has been selected to receive the Leavey Award for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education.

Celebrating its 36th year this special program, endowed by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation, permits Freedoms Foundation to honor educators for their innovative efforts to help young people better understand the function and benefits of America’s private enterprise system.

Each year the panel may select up to 20 awards. This year the distinguished panel selected 8 projects (10 recipients). For her program, “Small Business to the Big Apple,” Ms. Poquette will receive a cash award and commemorative plaque.

Freedoms Foundation’s Board of Directors and Trustees of the Leavey Foundation extend their congratulations to you in recognition of your faculty’s achievement.”

Congratulations, Courtney!

Congratulations to senior Saleban Olow, also! Saleban’s essay was selected as one of 24 finalists out of more than 300 entries in Senator Bernie Sanders State of the Union essay contest. Well done, Saleban! We’re proud of you! Readers, you will find Saleban’s essay on the next page of this newsletter.

Something else is stirring to life in our school. The Parents And Community Together for Students (PACTS) organization has been finding its voice and purpose in this first year, and is working enthusiastically to strengthen collaboration between the Winooski schools (JFK along with the middle and high schools), parents, and the whole community. Partnering with the City of Winooski, and supported through the work of Anera Foco, our new Family School Partnership Coordinator, and numerous others, exciting steps are being taken to build a better school.

Here’s to new life! Here’s to Spring!

WHS Scholars Bowl Team

By Marc McQuinn

The WHS Scholar’s Bowl team has wrapped up it’s season. Scholars Bowl is a jeopardy-style competition with schools from all around Vermont and neighboring states. Questions at the matches range from general knowledge to academic information. The team welcomes any interested student to come see what it is all about.

This year’s team included seniors Kaitlyn Callahan & Aminah Maalim, juniors Cara Casier & Tucker Dimasi, sophomore Nhung Nhuyen, and freshman Sean Callahan. They represented our school well, with the highlight of the season being their performance at the Pre-Holiday Academic Tournament held December 7, 2012 at South Burlington High School. The team finished that tournament by winning their last three matches against Westport, NY, Montpelier, and Ticonderoga, NY to finish first in their bracket.

The team has openings for new scholars next year. For the remainder of this year, the team will continue as a club during TA time. If you are interested in joining Scholars Bowl then please see Mr. McQuinn to learn more.

Winooski Middle School’s Outstanding Students

Winooski Middle School celebrated the end of second quarter by recognizing students who showed outstanding PRIDE--Patience, Respect, Inquiry, the Desire to Learn and Excellence and students who went the extra mile to help their fellow classmates. Please join us in congratulating these fine young people!

Team Eclipse

- P - Mayange Mayange
- R - Mowtes Ibrihim
- I - Shennelle Bailey
- D - Tatum Duba
- E - Vijayata Dahal

Team Velocity

- P - Alayna Boucher
- R - Derek Foerster
- I - Jacob Boulet
- D - Alexis Utter
- E - Matt Bailey

Team Kaleidoscope

- P - Maryam Omar
- R - Faith Evans
- I - Rachel Wilondje
- D - Zeneth Nheb
- E - Mariah Metivier

Team Fusion

- P - Jasmine Gendron
- R - Jarod Fountain
- I - Madison Wright
- D - Destiny Sharaj
- E - Rainbow Chen



Special Thanks

Nishan Powkal, Keshav Pokhrel, Natalie Cross, and Shelby Hayden were also recognized with the Take a Stand. Lend a Hand. Award for making our school a respectful and welcoming community of learners. Thank you for all that you do!

Senator Bernie Sanders State of the Union Essay Submission, by Saleban Olow

Dear President Obama, Senator Sanders, and Fellow Americans,

From the birth of American, to America today, the driving force and heart of America has always been the American Success Story. The United States of America is a country of opportunity and accomplishment. We believe in our country and our government. We believe that we will eventually succeed, overcoming any obstacles that we face. Our government and the entrepreneurs creating jobs made our country the best among the world, but new issues have appeared from the unemployment rate to the cost of college tuition to gun control. These are what we need to address.

Perhaps the biggest problem we face as a nation is the current rate of unemployment. According to the "Department of Numbers" during November of 2012, the unemployment rate is down to 7.7 percent of people in the United States. This means that over 12 million Americans are jobless, including my mom. Many American families are losing their jobs because companies obtain their jobs. Companies and wealthy people are getting richer and those from the middle class and poverty levels are falling toward and below the poverty line. This is particularly true given the fact that the dollar is not worth what it was in the past. As a result, inflation is boosting up the price of all goods and services. As unemployment has been rising, the cost of education is increasing. Today, American colleges have imposed an extraordinary increase in tuition. Additionally, there are also issues such as Gay Rights, Social Security, illegal immigration, and the War on Terror.

In spite of these factors, many students in the United States look for higher education after high school. They want to go to college and have a good career. If the government's influence results in increasing college costs, then students like "ME" will not be able to afford college. The average family cannot fully support their child's tuition costs. Our parents' incomes are spent paying for college debt. While many college graduates remain jobless, they still must face debts of more than 90K dollars. For our newly hatching generation, I believe that college tuition should be cheaper for everyone no matter what economic level the family is.

Regarding another critical issue, each year thousands of Americans lose their lives through gun related problems. Guns are designed to kill people easily and many lives are lost each year because the United States doesn't have strict gun control laws. The deadly massacre shooting at a Connecticut elementary school was heartbreaking. The outcome of this tragedy resulted in the deaths of 20 children and 6 adults, a painful scenario. Beautiful little kids between the ages of 4 and 9 years were slaughtered. It is my strong opinion that the government should pass a gun law that would reduce gun problems. President Obama and fellow lawmakers, I feel you need to be creative and figure out a better way to ensure young kids' safety, by choosing you, the United States is going in the right direction for a better future.

In conclusion, the challenges that we face with unemployment, college tuition and gun control are ones that we must currently address. We must make significant changes in order to progress. The success of our nation must be made by building upon our society. As in the past, we can and always will work hard and make America and the world a better place.

God bless the United States of America.

January 4, 2013



Music Matters

By Cathy Mander-Adams

I would first like to recognize Natalie Cross and Jocelyn Booher for their participation in the District III 7th & 8th Grade Music Festival. This was a great experience for both girls and I was very proud of their manners and their support of this experience. They both had a lot of great moments to share with me. It is a bit scary to put yourself into a scenario where you don't really know what to expect. The Saturday concert was wonderful.

We have another Middle and High School concert real soon. Please mark your calendar and attend if you can. The date is March 19 and there is no admittance fee. While that date may

not seem close, it will be here before you know it. As usual, the performers are working hard to prepare several fine musical selections.

The high school singers are planning to have another Bake Sale following the concert. The usual goodies (cupcakes, cookies and brownies) will be for sale for a nominal fee. They are hoping to take a trip before the year ends. Where will they go? What will they do? The answer to these questions will come once they earn the money.

March is nationally considered "Music In Our Schools" month. There are many, many performances going on all over the country. Music educators all over the country are hard at work helping students be confident musicians.

The high school District Choral Festival is taking on a new look this year. For this one day festival the high school choral singers will join singers from six local high schools to work with and participate in a singing experience with choral singers from The University of Southern Maine. This festival provides the high school singers with the opportunity to talk with college students about their high school and college experiences in many areas.



Building Community

By Jessica Bruce, Fine Arts Educator

On Fridays in Mrs. Bruce's Middle School Art class, students break the ice with a challenge. The photo here is of the winning team of the Minute to Win It Spoon Frog Challenge: Nafisa Mohamed, Samar Jameel, and Hibaq Abdillahi. In addition to their fantastic mustaches, they were awarded celebratory goodies.

* DO YOUR PART *

VOTE!

MARCH 5, 2013

Band Notes

By Randy Argraves

The festival season is upon us here in the music department, and this has been the busiest year yet. Let's start with Domini Perrault, Geof Scott, Brianna Robare, and Thomas Elston who attended the all-day Castleton State Band Festival on Friday, January 25. The four of them performed a rigorous band program that evening with other high school musicians from throughout Vermont and New Hampshire.

Marie Ly, Rainbow Chen, Rebecca White, and Alayna Boucher all attended and performed in the Middle School District III Music Festival at Essex Middle School late last month. Their participation in the two-day festival culminated in an exhilarating performance with other very talented middle school musicians from throughout Chittenden County.

And last but not least, the High School Jazz Band and Strings put on a dazzling performance at the 7th annual Jazz Dinner here at Winooski on Sunday February 10th. It is always great to see so many friendly and supportive people come to watch us play while enjoying the delicious spaghetti dinner supplied by Papa Frank's. All the musicians put their heart and souls into this special night. There is no doubt in my mind that this is a special evening for everyone involved.



Here is a list of our upcoming events. Please join us!

March into Spring Concert	Tuesday, March 19 at 7 PM
All State Parade (here again in Winooski)	Wednesday, May 8 at 6 PM
Pops Concert	Tuesday, May 21 at 7 PM
Memorial Day Parade	Saturday, May 25 12 PM
Burlington Jazz Festival (Church Street)	Exact date and time to be announced at a later date

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

Winooski High School Well Represented at Jr. Iron Chef Competition

By Barb Russ

On Saturday afternoon, February 2nd, our Onion City Spartans cooking team competed at the Jr. Iron Chef competition at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds. Chefs Nathalie Bray, Taylor



Langlais, Jason Truong, and Alyssa Winegar sliced, diced, and worked collaboratively to create the Spartan Garden Wrap for the judges. Our chefs had a great afternoon of cooking and sampling foods from a variety of vendors at the competition. Many thanks to Mrs. Gilhooly and Mrs. Bray for coaching our team and supporting the chefs both leading up to the competition and the day of the competition; to The Abbey Group for providing chef jackets and hats for our team; and to photographer Tom Waters, who took the photos that accompany this article. For more photos of our chefs in action, please visit: <http://jrironchefvt.org/events.php?page=news>.

The Spartan Garden Wrap will be featured in the school cafeteria for lunch in the next few weeks. If you would like to try the recipe at home, here are the ingredients you will need and the directions to make them:

Spartan Garden Wrap

Ingredients: 1 lb apples, 1 whole beet, 16oz. cheddar cheese, 3 whole carrots, 1 whole onion, 16 oz. sour cream, 1 avocado, 3 tomatoes, 1 package spinach, 16 oz. salsa, 1 package sun-dried tomato wraps, 1 bag veggie straws.

Directions: Chop all vegetables and fruit. Mix sour cream and salsa. Place everything in wrap. Decorate with veggie straws.

we would like everyone to aspire to. The staff and students would like to thank the Winooski PTO for their generosity in supporting this special event.

Honored on Wednesday, February 13th, 2013 were:

Character and School Citizenship	Samuel Treadwell
Arts and Humanities Scholarship	Andy Pham, Hannah Little, Ku Say Wah, Ali Omar, Yasin Malawia
Social Sciences Scholarship	Sean Callahan
Math, Science, and Technology Scholarship	Mina Dhamala, Abdullahi Mayange, Kyle Bigelow, Nhung Nguyen
Special Recognition	Ashley Bushey and Hala Mohammed
Most Improved	Isha Muya and Bimala Bista

Winooski Teacher Wins Strength Contest

By Bret Kernoff

On a whim on a weekend in early February my wife dragged me down to a freezing winter carnival on the Burlington Waterfront.

Vermont Teddy was hosted a strength contest by holding your arms straight out with a 4 and one half foot Big Hunka



Love Bear weighing about 8 pounds at the end of your arms.

Coincidentally, I just taught this lesson to my students on Friday that weight held out from the body will fall much faster than weigh close to the body!

It was an awesome example of how leverage works.

However, on Saturday morning, leverage worked against me and I held the Bear for about 8 minutes to win the Bear I was holding!

Above is a picture taken by Vermont Teddy Bear. If you were ever wondering about joining my weightlifting group on Tuesday, here is another reason to do so: You never know when you need to compete in a strength event!

Guidance News

By Emmy Charron, High School Guidance Counselor

Here are dates for your March calendars, everyone! You can reach me at 655-3530 if you have any questions.

- **Wednesday, March 6th:** Progress Reports close.
- **Friday, March 8th:** Center for Technology Essex applications are due for the 2013/2014 school year.
- **Friday, March 8th:** Last day to register for the April 13th ACT's
- **Saturday, March 9th:** SAT test date
- **Friday, March 15th:** Applications for students interested in applying to the Burlington Tech Center for the 2013-2014 school year are due.
- **Saturday, March 16th:** VSAC's College Pathways event for Freshmen-Juniors and their parents. Check out this website to learn more and register for the event! <http://services.vvac.org/wps/wcm/connect/vvac/VVAC/General/Calendar+of+Events/College+Pathways/>
- **Friday, March 29th:** End of quarter 3.
- **Monday, April 8th:** College Fair at Champlain Valley Union High School for juniors and interested sophomores. Please sign up in the guidance office.

Senior Projects: The Community Connection

By Stephen Crowley, Science Teacher and Senior Project Coordinator

Are you interested in helping a WHS senior build bridges between their school experience and the world outside? This opportunity could be something to check out.

Each year, WHS seniors carry out a major project, in which they have the chance to bring all of the skills they have developed throughout their years of schooling, in a new and challenging experience. An important part of this is the community connection. For some, but not all, there is an element of community service. All students connect with a Community Mentor, who is highly knowledgeable in the area of their project, and can offer guidance and review as the project proceeds. Some students shadow or otherwise work very closely with their mentor, some are mostly independent. Projects range from learning how to build something, to shadowing in a clinic, to developing new skills in photography or auto mechanics. The sky truly is the limit, with one project this year seeing a student learning (and doing!) skydiving.

If you are interested in serving as a Community Mentor for a WHS senior, if you have knowledge and experience you would be willing to share, send me an email at scrowley@wdschools.org. To see all the senior projects on display, save the date: the Senior Exposition & Open House will happen this year on Friday, May 24.

French Culture Studies – Mardi Gras

By Veronica Saffo

French students at Winooski High School learned about Mardi Gras which originated in the French speaking parts of Louisiana. Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" and is similar to the Carnivals celebrated all over the world. Mardi Gras in New Orleans reaches back to the history of Greece, Rome and the Christian Church. The Carnivals and Mardi Gras take place between Christmas and Easter, just prior to Lent. Prior to giving up a something cherished for 40 days, people indulge and celebrate. Festivities include parades, parties and balls. Some of the things associated with

Mardi Gras are masks, beads, parades, floats, doubloons and King Cakes. These cakes are the most well-known food associated with Mardi Gras. Students learned to make them and the history of this dessert. Traditionally, a small plastic baby (originally representing the Baby Jesus) is placed in the cake and the person who finds the baby is supposed to bring the cake the following year. The students decorated the cakes with the traditional Mardi Gras colors which are purple (Justice), green (Faith) and gold (Power). The French students also made Mardi Gras masks which date back to the



1800s at which time they were worn to conceal identity so people could partake in festivities in a more liberal manner. Mardi Gras, like many other celebrations, started as a religious festival preceding Lent, but that has since been overshadowed by the excitement of a secular holiday.

Trebuchet Fun

By Nancy Keller

Since 2007 Winooski Middle School math and science teacher, Steven Forman, has offered a CCLC afterschool program for middle-schoolers called, “Who Says Science Can’t Be Fun?” You can be sure, though, that each of Mr. Forman’s scientists has thought science CAN be fun! Over the years students have launched rockets, built bridges, and raced mousetrap vehicles, and, for the past few weeks, have been building model-sized, but fully operational, trebuchets.

A trebuchet (French *trébuchet*) is a catapult that was initially used in the Middle Ages that can fling projectiles of up to three hundred and fifty pounds at high speeds into enemy fortifications like castles. Mr. Forman’s students are building trebuchets from kits that he assembled. Once finished, the trebuchets are about two feet tall when the throwing arm is extended, and the counterweight weighs about 5 pounds. Students essentially cut pieces to length, drill holes and glue them together. Most of the work is adjusting the trebuchet’s sling to optimize the distance the projectile is thrown. Mr. Forman reports that students enjoy this part the best—tweaking the trebuchet’s sling to launch an object as far as possible. He personally enjoys «just letting the kids be kids and watching them explore.»

Science (and building a trebuchet) is anything but boring. Jaret Chagnon says that the best part of the afterschool program with Mr. Forman is «making stuff» and he adds, enthusiastically, «Science is now even more fun.»



WMS Boys Basketball Season Recap

By Head Coach Dennis Barcomb

The Winooski Middle School “A” Boy’s Basketball team had a great season. The team ended with a record of 11-2.

The team showed great improvement throughout the season. The players worked hard and always displayed positive sportsmanship.

Team members were Eddie Lamson, Abdi Ali Mohamed, Mitchell Chadwick, Abdisalan Shiek-Bile, Hussein Sadik, Isiah Bouvier, Steven Shover, Abdinajib Yussuf, Abdirizak Hussein, and Musa Mayange. The team Manager was Charlie Cusson Ducharme.

Ode to the Nebular Theory

By Shannon Bundy

Students were asked to learn the steps of the Nebular Theory, which is the current most accepted scientific theory for how our solar system formed. Learning about the processes that formed our solar system will help students discover how our solar system will continue to evolve, and make predictions on how this will effect life on Earth. In order to show what students learned about the theory, they were asked to come up with a unique way to summarize the steps. This is what one student came up with. His poem shows that science and the arts do mix!

Ode to the Nebular Theory

by AJ Priebe-Carter

A long, long, long time ago,
In a land not so far away,
When the ground we stand on,
Was but a writing of Fate,
There was a cloud in the universe,
A nebula, a master of creation,
And the egg of what we call today,
The Solar System.

The cloud just sat there,
Waiting for the energy to move,
Energy that eventually came,
At the cost of a star being welcomed,
Into Death’s sweet embrace,
Though making sure to end in a bang,
Creating a masterful show of force,
A supernova.

The nebula began to spin,
West going to east,
Pulling toward the center,
Flattening like a buzzsaw,
Going faster, faster, faster,

Clumps appearing,
Matter colliding,
Accreting.

Planetesimals appear,
Baby planets to be,
Fusing with comrades to evolve,
Becoming Protoplanets,
Children and teens among their kind,
Colliding with more and more,
Until the planets appear.

The terrestrial,
Rocky and solid,
Though lacking gas,
Lying the closest to the center,
But not there.

The jovians,
Or gas giants,
A core of rock,
And solid matter,
Surrounded by layers of gas,
And liquid,
The coldest,
And farthest from the Sun.
And while this was happening,

A star was being made,
The center forcing matter together,
Gravity increasing the density,
Vibrations increasing the heat,
Until one day a fusion happened,
Hydrogen combining to helium,
With a massive boom.

And with that boom,
The gas were blown away,
The leftovers becoming,
Asteroids, meteoroids, and comets,
Circling the newly made Sun,
Comets melting to make tails,
Asteroids making a belt,
And meteoroids doing whatever they please.

This is how it started,
This is how it came to be,
This is the theory,
of how the universe,
from space to the sea,
was made.

City Council Update

By Sarah Robinson



Greetings Neighbors!

The City Council has been very busy for the past several months working on two important items for your vote on Town Meeting Day – the municipal budget and a revised City Charter. We ask that you consider supporting both items.

Municipal Budget: The City Council unanimously passed a municipal budget to send to the voters on Town Meeting Day. This approval came after several months of hard work by the Council and City staff, and represents difficult decisions and thoughtful consideration of the needs of the City. We feel confident that this budget is fiscally responsible and also invests in and supports essential services.

We began our budget conversations with several revenue and expense assumptions, including:

- Slight overall decrease to property tax revenue (Grand List value).
- Decrease in the interest and penalties collected on delinquent taxes due to fewer outstanding tax balances.
- Change in the estimated valuation of taxes from the Winooski One hydroelectric dam.
- Contractual salary obligations for represented employees.

At the Council's request, the City Manager presented us with a budget that assumed no tax increase. This budget represented only the expenses necessary for the City to meet its legal obligations, keep the roads clear and public safety functions intact. However, several major cuts were made to deliver a budget with no tax increase.

The Council then spent many weeks considering the proposed cuts and investments, and the financial prudence and community benefit of each. The budget included both hard decisions about cuts, and strategic choices about investments. Major highlights include:

- Elimination of two positions: one Public Works laborer and one officer in the Police Department.
- Investment in library services including the addition of a part-time children's librarian.
- Funding to bring in outside expertise to complete a city wide strategic plan.
- Targeted resources for community services including modest stipends for community volunteers, funding for community building events and programming at the Senior Center.
- Professional training resources for the Treasurer and Community Services offices.

The proposed budget results in less than a 1% increase in expenses, totaling \$50,150. This means a 1.49¢ increase in taxes or about \$37.25 annual cost for a home appraised at \$250,000.

The Council has also approved a revised City Charter. The City Charter functions as the Constitution of sorts for the City. It must be approved by the Legislature and delineates and limits the power and authority of the City and its officers. The revised Charter is reorganized and includes updates to make language gender neutral and reference general law, instead of specific state laws that may change in the future. There are also two larger changes to the Charter to be voted on separately. Both of these

changes are based on recommendations derived from two citizen-led advisory committees.

- Language to **allow the Council to levy 1% local option taxes** on sales, meals and alcoholic beverages, and rooms at some point in the future. A yes vote would not enact a tax, but rather would allow the Council to hold public meetings to discuss and decide on the option in the future. Currently Burlington, South Burlington and Williston - in addition to many other communities throughout Vermont - levy these taxes. The revenue raised could help to offset the property tax burden on Winooski residents.
- Changing the **Mayor's term from 2 years to 3 years**, beginning in 2015. This would allow expertise to build with the position and for the Mayor to run with an alternating set of City Councilors.

We look forward to speaking with you in more depth about the City's budget and Charter changes. There are several upcoming opportunities to ask questions about the budget including a live call-in program on the Winooski budget on CCTV Channel 17 and a budget presentation on Monday, March 4th at 6:30 PM in the JFK auditorium. Please feel free to contact any member of the Council with questions or concerns about the budget or charter.

WCSPC March Update

By Kate Nugent

The March community dinner will take place on **March 20**, starting at 5:30 PM, at the community center. This dinner will be in part coordinated by a great group of Winooski high school student interns, and will feature delicious recipes and possibly some exciting entertainment . . . more news on that later.

We will also be sharing with you some of the results of our work surveying Winooski residents this past fall. Check our website for the latest updates on this event: www.WCSPC.org. Hope to see you there! For more information, please feel free to call me at (802) 655-4565.

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.

Winooski Farmers' Market - Summer 2013

The Winooski Farmers' Market is preparing for a bustling, vibrant market again this 2013 summer season and we invite you to be a part of it!

Want to be a season vendor, day vendor, do a demo, host a kid's activity, or play music? Send an email to: winooskimarket@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

March Activities at the Winooski Senior Center

Meagan Gilmore, Senior Center Director

Here are some of the events taking place at the Senior Center this month.

- **AARP Tax Preparation** is well underway. We are taking appointments for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the morning. Please call 655-6425 for your appointment. This program is for low to moderate income families with a special focus on individuals who are 60+. Spread the word!
- **On Fridays** at 10:00 AM we'll have a drop-in card group. Come play skip-bo, phase 10 and other card games!
- **Every Thursday** we have a community meal at 11:30 AM and Bingo afterwards! Come join the fun!
- **On Wednesday, April 24th** from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM we'll be hosting an AARP Driver Safety Program. Please call us at 655-6425 for more information and to sign up.

We have other monthly activities planned, too. Come to the senior center to get a calendar and meet other seniors. Think Spring!

We are located at 123 Barlow Street, and are open Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM and Thursdays from 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM. Please call us at 655-6425 or send an email to seniorcenter@winooski.org.

Got Garden Plots?

Applications for the 2013 growing season are now available! We have plots at two sites: Landry Park and the O'Brien Community Center. Each is equipped with running water, a compost system, and a shed. We are also looking for gardeners in our program to be on our Garden Team. This is a great way to help support the community gardens and connect with your community! Please visit our website for more information on sites, the Garden Team, and an application at winooski.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Alaina Wermers at vista@winooski.org.

Teen Center News

Teen Center Homework Help is on Mondays from 4:30 to 7:00pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:30pm.

With the help of tutors from UVM, local community members, and in collaboration with Winooski High School, the Teen Center has been able to help an average of 21 different teens per week with their homework, senior projects, applications for

jobs, etc. We're very excited that our program has been met with much success. If you, or

any high school student you know, need help with homework then come to the O'Brien Community Center and head to the Study Lounge!

In other Teen Center news: The Winooski Teen Center Indoor Soccer Team is currently in 2nd place in the high school indoor league at Far Post Soccer in Essex! Congratulate the members of the team if you see them around. They are being great representatives of the Teen Center and the Winooski Community at large! The championship game is coming up and we will be playing league rival Schalke for the cup.



Cigarette Butts in Our City

By Ali Kenney, Environmental Board

The Winooski Environmental Board would like to call our citizens to action to limit cigarette butt litter in our city.

In contrast to popular opinion, cigarette butts are not made of paper and are indeed made of a plastic, (cellulose acetate), that is slow to degrade. Cigarette butts take up to 15 years to biodegrade fully. Biologists have found butts in the stomachs of young birds, sea turtles and other marine creatures. Also, cigarette butts and their remnant tobacco include many hazardous chemicals. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that the average cigarette butt "contains numerous chemicals which may be considered health hazards".

According to the International Coast Cleanup Project, cigarette butts are the leading item found on our beaches and account for nearly one in five items collected (think of our Winooski River and our lake). In addition, 95% of the litter on beaches has been found to come from streets through the stormwater system. Melbourne, Australia found that one in ten cigarette butts littered on the streets end up in their waterways. Chemicals can leach from cigarette butts within one hour of contact with water and are acutely toxic to some marine life at concentrations as low as one cigarette butt per 40 liters of water. (Dept of Natural Sciences at Longwood).

Similarly, cigarette butts take up a large volume of space. If one person smokes a pack and a half a day, he/she will consume more than 10,000 cigarettes in a year. This number of cigarette butts (filter only, not remnant tobacco), will fill a volume of five liters. Worldwide annual consumption creates enough waste to fill more than 2, 800,000,000 liters. So please think twice before you throw your cigarette butt on the ground in our city. This is not a harmless action — it causes direct harm to our environment. And if you don't smoke, don't be afraid to speak up and tell your loved ones not to litter!

Meet The Candidates

There are four candidates running for city offices this year. Michael O'Brien, currently serving on a two-year term as mayor, is running unopposed for re-election. Sally Tipson is running for re-election to the city council, and is joined by Seth Leonard and Tom Buckley. Megan Moir, currently serving on city council, is not running for re-election.

Here is information submitted by the candidates to help you get to know them a little better. You are also invited to attend a meeting March 4th, 2013 in the Performing Arts Center at the Winooski Educational Center, for a full review of the city and school budgets, in addition to meeting the candidates, beginning at 6:00 p.m with a discussion about city issues. Discussion about school issues is scheduled to begin at 7:30. **Please do your part and become informed, and vote on March 5, 2013 at the Senior Center on Barlow St. between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.**

TOM BUCKLEY

Running for: City Council

Contact: 31 Hall St. Phone: 654-6961

Work: I've worked for the Burlington Electric Department for 27 years, and I am BED's Manager of Customer & Energy Services. In this position I've been responsible for overseeing BED's energy efficiency programs since their beginnings, among many other roles.

Hobbies: I am an active working bass player in many local bands. We also own and manage several rental properties. You'll often see me walking our dog or riding my bicycle to work.

Community Service: Over the last 30 years I have held many volunteer positions in Vermont: founding member and volunteer firefighter for 18 years, Cub Scout master, youth soccer coach, and representative to the Metropolitan Planning Commission and to the Regional Planning Commission, at one point serving as its Chair. I organized Westford's summer Sunday Concerts on the Common, which today are still ongoing. I now serve as Winooski's representative to the Chittenden County Transportation Authority, currently its Vice-Chair. I also serve as Winooski's alternate to Mayor O'Brien on the Regional Planning Commission.

Reason for Running: I hope to help foster efficient City operations & long-term sustainability of our education system, increased public transportation access to shopping & services, common sense business expansion & enhanced quality of life for all of Winooski's residents and property owners. I look forward to listening, and to putting the long experience I have in energy efficiency, municipal services, public transportation, and regional & transportation planning to work on the Winooski City Council.

SETH LEONARD

Running for: City Council

Contact: 311 Weaver St., 919-616-0276

Work: Vermont Housing Finance Agency

Education: Graduate of University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Microbiology and Economics classes at CCV for intellectual curiosity; Completed Leadership Champlain, through the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce.

Hobbies: Love to hike, camp, and play outside; fanatic sports fan (go UNC and Notre Dame!); snowboarding; anything that involves making my two dogs tired!

Community Service: Winooski Community Partnership Treasurer and Economic Development Committee; United Way's Income Impact team, Committee Member; Active in volunteering with local events such as the Farmers Market, Pop-up Galleries, and Haunted Winooski; Organizer of Mission: Possible, an adventure race that benefits the Community Fund of the United Way; Sat on the Founding Steering Committee of the Burlington Young Professionals; Vermont Mortgage Bankers Association, Board Member; Mentored through Mobius Mentoring, at the Greater Burlington Boys and Girls Club.

Reason for Running: I love Winooski and am excited to face the challenges and opportunities ahead of us. Winooski's proud history is the foundation for our bright future. We deserve representation that engages community needs from every corner of our city and provides fresh perspective to solving today's tough problems. My vision is built around ensuring opportunities exist for Winooski's next generation, balancing how we raise revenue and spend hard-earned tax dollars, and making smart re-development choices.

MIKE O'BRIEN

Running for: Mayor

Contact: 60 LaPointe Street, 655-4879

Work: Real Estate Appraiser

Hobbies: Golf

Community Service: Mayor, Regional Planning Commission

Reason for Running: I have enjoyed the experience of serving as mayor for the last six years and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the next two years. Please feel free to contact me by phone or email (mobrien@winooski.vt.org). Thank you.

SALLY TIPSON

Running for: City Council

Contact: 137 Dion Street. 655-2037

Work: Owner, Sally's Flower Shop

Community Service: My major activity is with Season's Greetings, especially helping organize the Festival of Pumpkins. I am a Board member of Winooski Downtown Association, a Board Member on the Coalition for a Safe and Peaceful Community and a Representative of the City on the Library Board

Reason for Running: I am running again because I have enjoyed my last four years on the Council and would like to see the programs that have been started, continue. I truly care about Winooski and want it to be a great place to live and work.

*** DO YOUR PART ***

VOTE!

MARCH 5, 2013

Health Office News

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Health Office Coordinator

Today, about one in three American kids and teens are overweight or obese, nearly triple the rate in 1963. Here are a few suggestions to help keep your kids healthy.

1. Be a good role model-your kids are watching you. They will see your effort and hopefully try too.
2. Keep positive-change is not going to happen over night. Praise them for the jobs well done.
3. Keep the whole family moving-take walks together or ride bikes.
4. Limit the amount of time your child watches TV, uses the computer or plays video games
5. Encourage physical activity-jumping roping, hula hooping, jumping jacks and more
6. Stay involved-take them to their well child exams every year, know what they are eating for lunch at school and make healthy choices when grocery shopping.

**All information/facts were adapted from American Heart Association*

Tooth Tutor Update

Diane Polson, RDH, Tooth Tutor

Gearing up for spring sports? Remember to ALWAYS wear a Mouth Guard. If a tooth accidentally gets knocked out, seek immediate treatment with your dentist within 30 minutes.

- DO NOT clean the tooth.
- DO NOT touch the wound site.
- Keep the tooth WET. Put it in a glass of milk, cool water or a wet cloth.

Remember to FLOSS, Brush and see your Favorite Dentist regularly! If you have any dental questions or concerns, please contact me at 383-6094.

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



PLEASE NOTE: Lunch is available for all students on early dismissal days! Pick up yours at either door on your way out.				Fri., March 1 No School
Mon., March 4 Oven Baked Chicken <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Tues., March 5 Spaghetti w/ Meat or Garden Marinara Sauce <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Wed., March 6 Homemade Cheese or Veggie Pizza <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Thurs., March 7 Chicken or Cheese Quesadilla <small>Or Soft Flour Tortilla on Soft Flour Tortilla Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Fri., March 8 Pancakes w/ Warm Syrup <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>
Rice Pilaf Steamed Broccoli Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Side Garden Salad Garlic Breadstick Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Fresh Carrot Sticks Hummus Dip Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Warm Black Beans Steamed Green Beans Oatmeal Cookies Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Twin Sausage Links Sweet & White Home Fries Celery Sticks Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk
Mon., March 11 Chicken Patty Sandwich <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Tues., March 12 Spaghetti w/ Meat or Garden Marinara Sauce <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Wed., March 13 Homemade Cheese or Veggie Pizza <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Thurs., March 14 Taco Bar w/ The Works <small>Seasoned Taco Meat, Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa & Soft Flour Tortilla</small> <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Fri., March 15 Chicken & Biscuits <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>
Rainbow Slaw Taste Test Mashed Rutabaga Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Chopped Green Salad Happy Birthday Beantnick Cake Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Side Garden Salad Celery Sticks w/ Hummus Dip Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Rice Pilaf Black Bean & Corn Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Steamed Peas Mashed Potato Lemon Carrots & Rutabaga Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk
Mon., March 18 Dress Your Own Burger <small>Sliced Lettuce & Tomato Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Tues., March 19 Mini Sea Shell Pasta w/ Cheese Sauce <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Wed., March 20 Early Dismissal Grades 6-12 Cheesy Breadsticks <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Thurs., March 21 Nachos Supreme <small>Seasoned Taco Meat, Cheese Sauce, Salsa, Lettuce, & Corn Tortilla Chips</small> <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Fri., March 22 Chicken Ranch Wrap <small>Lettuce & Tomato Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>
Oven Baked Potato Wedges Roasted Rutabaga Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Steamed Green Beans Dark Green Garden Salad Homemade Cornbread Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Homemade Soup Marinara Dipping Sauce Side Garden Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Rice Pilaf Warm Black Beans Steamed Corn Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Creamy Tomato Soup Steamed Broccoli Snickerdoodles Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk
Mon., March 25 Waffle Sticks w/ Warm Syrup <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Tues., March 26 Macaroni w/Meat Sauce or Garden Marinara Sauce <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Wed., March 27 Delayer Start K-5 Homemade Cheese or Veggie Pizza <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Thurs., March 28 Chicken Fajitas <small>Chicken, Sautéed Onions & Peppers, Soft Flour Tortilla, Salsa, Cabot Sour Cream</small> <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>	Fri., March 29 Sloppy Joes <small>Or Yogurt Parfait Meal w/ Cheese Stick Or Sunbutter & Jelly w/ Cheese Stick Or Deli Sandwich Meal Or Salad Bar Meal</small>
Scrambled Eggs Sweet & White Home Fries Green Pepper Strips Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Dark Green Garden Salad Garlic Bread Stick Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Side Garden Salad Fresh Carrot Sticks Hummus Dip Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Rice Pilaf Warm Black Beans Steamed Corn Honey Apple Crisp Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges Broccoli Slaw Fresh Fruit Fresh 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
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Winooski, VT 05404

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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.