

WINOOSKI SCHOOL

DISTRICT NEWS!

OCTOBER 2012

ALSO INCLUDES
Community News!
STARTING ON PAGE 12

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

Celebrating Our Achievements!



1-to-1 Laptops at the Middle and High Schools

By Drew Blanchard, Technology Integration Specialist

Technology is a critical tool for personalizing learning; it gives students greater flexibility in demonstrating their mastery of classroom content, by allowing them to select tasks which fit their learning styles and creativity. For example: students could show they understand the underlying causes of the American Revolution by writing an essay with pen and paper, or creating a Google Doc with this same information and sharing with their teacher, or creating a Google Site filled with the relevant facts, or filming a short infomercial using actors and a script which conveys the same information — and the list goes on and on. The content and evidence of learning remain the same, but how students choose to show their learning is left up to the students themselves.

Teachers at the middle and high schools are committed to this idea, and many have already begun using Edu20.org as an online teaching and learning environment (called a content management system). To foster this work, and give students the tools needed in our technology-rich learning environment, all 9th and 10th grade students will soon be provided with a 13” MacBook Pro, funded by the Nellie Mae Grant and the Winooski School District. This influx of devices will free up many laptops currently in use, which will allow them to be assigned to juniors and seniors at the high schools. Middle school students already have Netbooks. The intent is for all students in grades 6-12 to have access to a machine which is dedicated for their use during their time here in Winooski.

The tentative date for rolling out the MacBook Pros is mid-October, with the juniors and seniors to receive their devices shortly thereafter. All devices will initially remain at school, as students and teachers adjust to this new way of doing school - and then, after several conversations with parents and the community, the devices will be allowed to go home. The student council has created a clear set of “rules” for using these devices, with a clear emphasis on personal responsibility, safety, and clarity of purpose (used for school work). Your voices are an important part of this work; information regarding parent informational sessions will be forthcoming.

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The Importance of Daily Independent Reading at Home

By Mary Martineau, Superintendent of Schools

Curling up with a good book, in a comfortable chair with a steaming mug of tea, is one of my favorite things to do in the evening. It is something I do regularly. Books provide people with hours of enjoyment! One of the best things adults can provide to children is a love of books and reading. Print exposes children to the world, different points in time, and a wide variety of story lines and points of view. Setting an expectation for children that reading will happen each night will improve their literacy and critical thinking skills. Just like a sport, reading requires PRACTICE!

The piece below is something that was shared at a literacy conference I attended this past summer. It reinforces the importance of children reading every night. As I mentioned last month, the Common Core Standards emphasize higher order comprehension skills. Providing children with opportunities to practice their reading at home each night will help prepare them for this “thinking” curriculum.

“Why Can’t I Skip my Twenty Minutes of Reading Tonight?”

Let’s figure it out ---- mathematically!

Student A reads 20 minutes five night of every week;

Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all!

Step 1: Multiply minutes a night X 5 times each week.

Student A reads 20 min. X 5 times a week = 100 mins./week

Student B reads 4 minutes X 5 times a week = 20 mins./week

Step 2: Multiply minutes a week X 4 weeks each month.

Student A reads 400 minutes a month.

Student B reads 80 minutes a month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes a month X 9 months/school year

Student A reads 3600 minutes in a school year.

Student B reads 720 minutes in a school year.

Student A practices reading the equivalent of **ten whole school days** a year.

Student B gets the equivalent of **only two school days** of reading practice.

By the end of 6th grade if Student A and Student B maintain these reading habits, Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12 school days. One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance. How do you think Student B will feel about him/herself as a student?

Some questions to ponder:

- Which student would you expect to read better?
- Which student would you expect to know more?
- Which student would you expect to write better?
- Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
- Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

School Board Message

By Mike Decarreau, Board of School Trustees

By this time Fall is in full swing and school has been in session for a full month. The School Board is also in full swing at this point working toward an implementation of Policy Governance. For those that follow the School Board meetings on public access television we devoted some time in September, and will spend more time in October, to developing the basic outline to move us into this model of governing the outcomes of the school.

As the Trustees for the school we are accountable to you, the community, regardless of whether you have children in the district or not. Back to this in a moment.

In moving to Policy Governance there are two main avenues that we are taking to define what it is that we, as a community, are looking for in return for our tax dollars into the school: ENDS and MEANS. The ENDS are what we expect to get out of the system. The MEANS are how we would like to see the ENDS get done. In Policy Governance, we are developing a set of MEANS that will define what the superintendent and staff must NOT do to achieve the ENDS such as overspend the budget, treat staff or community poorly, etc. This leaves the most operational freedom and room for creativity on the part of the staff to achieve the ENDS.

Now back to the community. The Board is the elected to represent the community in matters concerning the school. Given this, when we develop the final ENDS (or expectations of the school) we will need community support. We will be looking for input from all sectors of the community for this support so we can answer the basic question that we have been entrusted with: What benefits do we expect, for whom, and at what cost?

WELCOME NEW STAFF!



Welcome New JFK Staff

Left to right: **Kyle Blindow**, Physical Education Teacher (Long-term Sub for M. Lewis); **Jaime Willoughby**, Teacher Grade 1; **Catherine Lavigne**, Speech & Language Pathology Teacher; **Natessa Romano**, Headstart; **Kristin Van Fossen**, ELL Teacher; **Lisa Dold**, Special Education Teacher; **Kari Osha**, Special Education Teacher.



Welcome Other New Staff

Photos row 1 (left to right): **Danielle Jatlow** Student Assistance Program (SAP) Counselor; **Nicole Pelaggi-Dyer** Long-Term Sub for K. Brown, JFK; **Jennifer Huber** Long-Term Sub for Stefanie Hamble; **Sean Maloney** Instructional Assistant, District-wide

Photos row 2 (left to right) **Umesh Acharya**, Guidance Secretary / Registrar, WMS/WHS; **Khara Neopanay**, Math Teacher, WHS; **Jenny Estey**, Teacher Team Omni; **Rachael Boardman**, Instructional Assistant, Team Phoenix

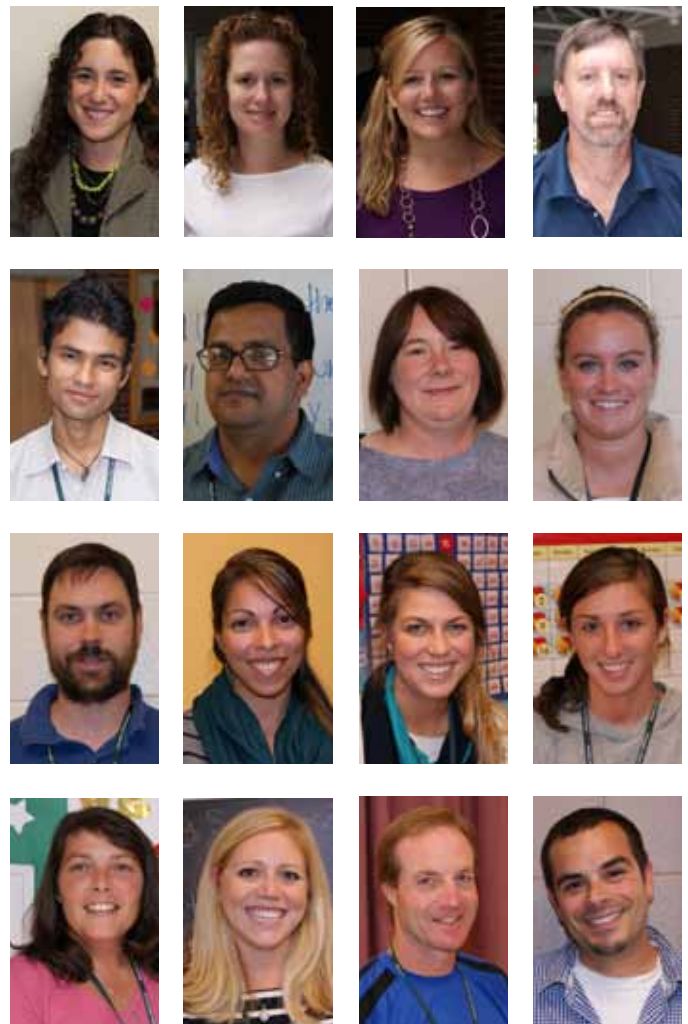
Photos row 3 (left to right) **Robert Parris**, Instructional Assistant, Team Lotus; **Maybeline Lopez**, Teacher (Long-Term Sub for Deb George), JFK; **Emily Ham**, Instructional Assistant, Special Ed. JFK; **Kelly McDonald**, Instructional Assistant, Special Ed. JFK

Photos row 4 (left to right) **Bernadette Toth**, Instructional Assistant, Special Ed., JFK; **Shannon Weiner**, Teacher, Gr. 3 (1 Year); **Peter Rollins**, Instructional Assistant, Special Ed., JFK; **Joseph Arugo**, Behavior Interventionist, Special Education, JFK



Welcome New High School Staff

Left to right: **Nellie Maley**, ELL Teacher; **Andrew Kasprisin**, Science; **Ghana Rimal**, Instructional Assistant; **Christina Lauterbach**, English; **Jan Willey**, Curriculum Consultant; **Tom Payeur**, Math



ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Greenery Spruces Up District Signage

Winooski School District would like to thank Sam Mazza's Farm & Bakery, located at 277 Lavigne Road in Colchester, for donating perennials and fall mums. Sandy Metivier and Diane Scichitano spent time this summer weeding and adding the new perennials to the garden to freshen it up.



Train Show Coming Down The Track!

The **19th Annual Winooski Scholarship Train Show** is on track to occur on December 1, 2012 at the Winooski Educational Center from 10 AM to 3 PM. The center is just south of Exit 16 on I-89 on Main Street. The show will feature operating layouts in a variety of gauges, books, videos, railroadians, toy train dealers, a food concession, and displays. This annual event raises money for the Winooski Dollars for Scholars program. Adult admission is \$5, Ages 6-12 pay \$1.00 while children under 6 are FREE when accompanied by an adult. The Freshman class will run a concession and a 50/50 raffle. This event is fun for young and old alike. Join us, contribute to scholarship, and have a great time. For information, call John J. Malcovsky at 862-7634 (H) or 655-2555 (W).

Winooski School Lobby Gets A Facelift

The PACTS committee (Parents and Community Together with Schools) spent an evening walking around Winooski neighborhoods in August, collecting votes in person from parents, students, and community members for

a welcome mural in the lobby (designed by artist Josh Cleaver, photographed with the new mural above). We visited with many families and students who were happy to see us and vote. The results, (both for votes taken in person and online (155 responses online!):

- Option 1 (handprints) 103 votes
- Option 2 (Vermont landscape with handprints) 147 votes
- Option 3 (flowers) 67 votes

The mural project will be completed this fall, with collaboration (and handprints) from students and families.

The lobby mural project is evidence that your voice MATTERS and has the power to make changes. This is your school, our school, and together we can create a welcoming climate for all who enter. If you're interested in learning more about PACTS, call Nicole Mace at 802-363-7777.



Partnership for Change October Update

By Lindsey Cox

The school year is off and running as is The Partnership for Change! We officially launched the initiative this past Saturday, Sept. 8 with a lunch attended by about 120 members of the Winooski and Burlington communities. We began with a press conference to announce our Steering Committee, followed that up with a performance by A2VT singing their original song, "Winooski, my Town", and continued into the



afternoon with good food, music and conversation about school and community partnership. We would like to thank everyone who came out in support of the initiative and we look forward to meeting more of our community at future events.

Also, with the start of the school year, begins our one-to-one technology initiative. In Winooski, the MacBook Pro rollout is underway with the teachers, students and parents thoughtfully preparing for devices to be used in school and at home. In Burlington, all 9th graders received their iPads; with the help of their teachers, they have already started to integrate them into their classrooms. Over the next two months we will be hosting events to help support parents as this new technology comes home.

The Partnership will continue to build our infrastructure and capacity this fall. We held the first meeting of our Steering Committee on Aug. 29 and were thrilled to see such a diverse and talented group of school and community leaders join us in this effort. This month we will begin to add to our team in the areas of Family School Partnership, Effective Teaming, Youth Engagement and Leadership, Community Based Learning, and Personalized and Proficiency Based Learning. Visit us on the web at www.partnershipforchangevt.org or email us at partnershipforchangevt@gmail.com. Look for more information soon on how to join us.

Congratulations, and Thank You!

On Monday, August 27th, the following awards were given in recognition of service to the School District:

10 Years of Service:

Cathy Burbo, Steve Forman, Debra Gonter, Steve Hauke, Jen Lapointe

15 Years of Service:

Mary Martineau, Pat Keough

25 Years of Service:

Nancy Keller



Barbara Russ

Support Staff of the Year:

Barbara Russ

Outstanding Elementary School Teacher of the Year:

David Muir

Outstanding Secondary School Teacher of the Year:

Amy Sherrer



David Muir



Amy Sherrer



School District Hires New Student Assistance Program Counselor

By Danielle Jatlow, LICSW

Greetings! My name is Danielle Jatlow and I am the new Student Assistance Program (SAP) counselor for the Winooski School District. My position is made possible through a partnership between Centerpoint Adolescent Treatment Services and the Winooski School District. I will be working with individuals, groups, classes, and families to provide a variety of support services. I am very excited to be a part of such a dynamic and vibrant community and I look forward to getting to know all of you over the next few months.

My position entails focusing on health and wellness for students, which includes, (but is not limited to) supporting a tobacco-free, drug-free zone at the Winooski School District. My role entails meeting you where you are at to make sure you are safe, healthy and making informed decisions. In the coming months we will be working with students to roll out several activities in order to raise awareness about the effects of tobacco. If you would like to get involved, just let me know!

Part of making informed decisions involves knowing and understanding policies. Below is the Winooski School District's policy on tobacco. If you have any questions about this policy or others, don't hesitate to ask. I can be reached at 383-6093. Or you can stop by my office (near the School Social Workers). I'd love to hear from you, particularly so we can work together to build on the strengths and interests of students, families, and the Winooski community.

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY ON TOBACCO PROHIBITION

In the interest of providing a safe and healthy environment for employees, students and visitors, and in accordance with the new work site smoking law, the following policy on smoking has been adopted:

It is the policy of the Winooski School District to prohibit the use of tobacco on school grounds in accordance with state law. This ban extends to any student, employee or visitor to the schools and applies at all times, whether or not school is in session. Furthermore, students are prohibited from possessing tobacco products at all times while under the supervision of school staff or at school sponsored activities.

Parent Teacher Conferences!



October 18 (8am-8pm)

Teachers in all three schools look forward to meeting with parents on **Thursday October 18** to talk about your child's progress at school to date.

Greetings From New AmeriCorps Members!



Hello Winooski! My name is Sarah Campbell, I am one of the new AmeriCorps State Members at the Winooski Teen Center, as well as the new Director of the

THRIVE After-School Program. At the Teen Center, I will be working as the Programs Coordinator and I am looking forward to planning engaging, exciting programs and special events for those who are interested in attending, as well as helping facilitate tutoring and drop-in hours. We're looking forward to a great year, I look forward to meeting you all!



Hello Winooski! My name is Alaina Wermers, and I am the new AmeriCorps VISTA serving at Winooski Department of Community Services.

As a VISTA, my goal is capacity building and I will be fulfilling this through grant writing and volunteer coordination for the Teen Center. I am also managing the community gardens located at the O'Brien Community Center and Landry Park. I am really looking forward to our program called Girls Only!, which is an afterschool program that offers homework help and a place to socialize. Grant writing is also an interest of mine, and I am excited to help sustain our youth programs. If you are ever looking for a way to help in the community, we have several volunteer opportunities at the Teen Center including kitchen assistant, Teen Center assistant, Girls Only! assistant, and tutor. It is a really great way to meet the youth in the community and see what they have to offer as well! My e-mail is vista@winooskivt.org, feel free to reach out with any questions or to chat!

NECAP Testing Details

(NECAP stands for New England Common Assessment Program)

As part of *No Child Left Behind* mandates, Vermont measures reading, writing and math performance with the NECAP test. Students in grades 3 through 8 are tested in reading and math and students in grades 5 and 8 are tested in writing. Students in Grade 11 will also be tested in reading and math. All schools in the state will be giving tests between October 1st through 23rd.

- **Testing at JFK** will occur in October for all students in grades 3-5. The dates will be: October 3, 4, and 5 (reading); October 8, 9, and 10 (mathematics); October 11, and 12 (writing for grades 5 only).
- **Testing in the Middle School** will occur on October 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 14, 15, 16.
- **Testing in the High School (grade 11)** will occur on October 2, 4, and 9.

Please help your child find a good balance between taking these tests seriously and not becoming overly anxious about them. We hope that all students will do their best. The tests help us evaluate both individual student performance and our school programs. It is important that students arrive at school on time, are well rested and have eaten a good breakfast. Breakfast is available here at school in our cafeteria for students. Please do not schedule routine appointments during these testing dates if possible. As always, we appreciate your support and cooperation.

Important Notice Regarding Student Registration

All students registering in the Winooski School District must provide a birth certificate and immunization record. If this is a problem, please let us know and we will work with you in obtaining these documents.

In addition, **it is imperative that you notify us immediately of any change of address and/or telephone numbers.** We must be able to contact parents or designated people to make decisions on your part, should your son/daughter require any form of attention, including medical.

DFS Calcutta is Oct. 6!

By Morgan Kelner, Chair, Winooski Dollars for Scholars

Hi everyone.. It is countdown time to our Annual Winooski Dollars for Scholars (DFS) Calcutta and Silent Auction. We are very excited to hold it in Winooski this year at the new and improved RVA on Weaver Street on Saturday, October 6th. One ticket is still only \$65.00, which entitles 2 people to a wonderful sit-down dinner of stuffed chicken (vegetarian option available), salad, vegetable medley and dinner roll. Of course, there will also be coffee and dessert. This event provides a chance to get great deals by bidding in the Silent Auction, socializing with your friends and neighbors and above all supporting DFS in providing \$15,000-\$18,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors. Eli Harrington, graduate of WHS, will once again be our MC and keep the evening going at a lively pace. Everyone receives a prize and a chance to win \$1,000. As our DFS board goes through changes, we need your support more than ever. Maybe you would even consider serving on our fun and interesting board, with a low commitment (mtg every other month). So if you are interested in purchasing a Calcutta/Silent Auction ticket and/or providing an item/service (babysitting, carpentry, giving lessons in French, Spanish, Art, Voice, Guitar, Gardening etc) or working on one of our fundraising projects such as increasing business support, please contact Morgan Kelner at: mkelner14@gmail.com or 655-4184; Lisa Graves at bpsvt@aol.com. or Elizabeth Stillwell at ESTillwell@hbinsurance.com

We hope to see you at the RVA on October 6th. Thank you in advance from the Winooski Dollars for Scholars Board.

VSO Offers October Concert for Kids

Kids VT is collaborating with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra to produce a kid-friendly concert series, October 20 and 21. Four members of the VSO will be performing "A Symphony of Whales" on Saturday, October 20, at the McCarthy Arts Center at St. Michael's College. Tickets are just \$7 for adults, and \$5 for kids or \$15 for families (up to 5 people). Kids are invited to wear costumes. It's going to be really fun!

For more info, visit <http://www.vso.org/eventview.php?id=77>.

Girl's Only Group Forming

Attention High School Girls! Girls Only! is a weekly group meeting, hosted by the Teen Center, at Winooski High School. We meet every Wednesday at 3:00 PM for a couple hours of tutoring, food, fun activities, crafts, and socializing with friends in a boy-free zone! We also host field trips and special events on early release days each semester. If this sounds like fun or something you'd be interested in, please contact Alaina at vista@winooski.vt.org, starting September 19th and running through the end of the school year. More details to follow about the location!

5th Annual Giant Pumpkin Regatta & Festival

By Lindsey Lathrop, Assistant Director, Linking Learning to Life

It is time for the 5th Annual Giant Pumpkin Regatta & Festival! This year the pumpkins will set sail on Sunday, October 7th at the Burlington Waterfront to once again benefit Linking Learning to Life and the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce (LCRCC)'s youth leadership program, PILOT. The day will feature a race of giant carved pumpkin boats and a fun-filled harvest festival with local food and craft vendors, activities and entertainment for the whole family.

The race heats will include business sponsors, PILOT students, and pumpkin growers. Approximately ten thousand people witnessed Church Street Marketplace winning the coveted giant pumpkin trophy last year! Don't miss an event that has been featured on MSNBC, ESPN, and spoofed on Saturday Night Live!

If you would like more information, please contact Lindsey Lathrop at llathrop@bsdvt.org or (802) 734-2802.

STAR-ting The Year Off Right

By Mary O'Rourke, JFK Elementary Principal

The JFK stars are off to an amazing start. The JFK stars are your stars-- they are the children at JFK. We opened our year with all teachers greeting the students at the door on that first morning wearing blue shirts that have "JFK STARS" on the front and as we turned around you saw "At JFK, we reach for the stars: Striving, Thoughtful, Accepting, Responsible and Safe." As a school, we are working on safety first: safety on the playground, in the classroom, in the bathrooms, walking in the hallways and in the cafeteria. The first week of school we collected 5,861 stars and 7,148 stars the second week. We set our goal for week three at 7,500. Stay tuned for next month's newsletter to see if we meet our goal!!

Our two days of social thinking training has moved JFK forward as a school. We are working on building common language PreK-5. We began with green thoughts and yellow thoughts. When we see a student doing what is expected (green thought), we encourage their teacher to add a green stick to a jar in their classroom to indicate all the good things the students are doing. If we see a student doing an unexpected behavior, it gives us a "yellow" (uncomfortable) thought and the classroom teacher would put a yellow stick in the jar. The goal is to have many more green sticks in the jar at the end of the day than yellow sticks.

We are continuing our work in mathematics and literacy. Our focus in mathematics is the common core. We are beginning the transition process from the Grade Level Expectations to the Common Core. We will be delving into the common core and aligning our current practices, programs and instruction with the common core. This will mean shifts in instruction. As we move forward, one of the things we will work on is perseverance. This is a big goal.

In literacy, we are focusing as a school on accountable talk read aloud. It is a slight shift from interactive read aloud. In accountable talk read aloud, the bulk of the work is placed on students. As we have learned in our evaluation process, the person doing the work is the one doing the learning. Accountable talk read aloud has the student doing the work; therefore they are doing the learning. Accountable talk read aloud requires children to read and discuss more and asks open-ended higher-level questions.



What a thrill it was for our students to meet the 2012-2013 UVM women's soccer team. These young women are a great example of achieving your goal by doing your best.

As you are reading this, we have just returned from a UVM women's soccer game. As part of our partnership with the team, we were invited to attend a home game. All students were invited and tickets and busing were provided for any student that wanted to come to the game. We had a wonderful time. It was a great experience for our students to be on a college campus and see a college soccer game.

Big Brother/Big Sister Mentor Information

By Sarah Murphy, Guidance Counselor

We are very lucky at J.F.K. to have a long standing relationship with the Big Brother/Big Sister Mentor Program at St. Michael's College. For years, students from J.F.K. have been paired with a college student to form a mentor/mentee relationship. The pair meets once a week, with the college student arranging all transportation and activities. J.F.K. students end each visit with a meal in the St. Michael's College Cafeteria, before being driven home.

If you are interested in having your child paired with a St. Michael's College Mentor, please call Sarah Murphy at 383-6064. We ideally like to pair children in kindergarten, first, and second grade, but would be happy to try and match older J.F.K. students.

Fifth Graders Take On New Jobs

By the Fifth Grade Team

The Fifth Grade class is busy, busy, busy learning about our new STARS program, setting class goals, school goals, and individual goals. One of the most important jobs they are taking on at JFK is being a role model for the other students in the school. In addition to this school wide job, specific classroom jobs were posted on a "Help Wanted" board in each fifth grade classroom. Some of these jobs include "Tour Guide," someone who leads the class to and from places within the school. Other positions include the Planning and Zoning Commissioner and the Concierge. These jobs were open to anyone who applied for them. Students filled out an application telling information like why they think they are good for the job and what experiences they can bring to the job. Next, students were interviewed by their teacher, who asked them to explain why they were the best candidate for the job. After all interviews were over, students were all given their jobs. Now, they are on their way to earning classroom bucks by doing their jobs each week. We think the students would agree that this was a exciting way to kick off our Economic unit of study!

FOCUS ON ELEMENTARY MATH:

Making Math Facts A Part of the Family?

By Glenn Willette, JFK Math Coach

As we begin a new school year I offer this helpful reminder of the importance of knowing math facts. Research has shown that the ability to fluently recall basic math facts is necessary for students to attain higher-order math skills. If a student constantly has to compute the answers to basic facts, less of that student's thinking capacity can be devoted to higher level concepts.

Math Tip: Use flash cards to find the facts your child is attempting to learn. Then while waiting at a red light or during other wait times, review these with your child. If you have internet connections, JFK offers a web based math facts practice for grades 2-5 called Fast Math. Students in those grades should be practicing these facts a minimum of four times a week.



JFK Afterschool

By Mag Thomas

Another new year of afterschool programs has started!! The first session is up and running smoothly. The programs in this first session will run for seven weeks. We are excited to have some of our old favorite programs back along with new ones. **Digital Photography, Woodworking, PowerPoint Tales, Snack Attack** and **Games Galore** are just a few programs that are happening again this year. We have three new programs being offered that go along with JFK's Social Thinking Initiative. The lessons in these programs revolve around social thinking skills. All of our children are excited to be doing fun and interesting activities afterschool with their friends!



JFK Elementary is a Galaxy of STARS!!!

By Jennifer Lapointe

If you haven't heard already... the students at JFK have been earning literally thousands of stars over the past two weeks for meeting expectations regarding SAFETY in our school!

All students have been introduced to our new school acronym, STARS. STARS stands for striving, thoughtful, accepting, responsible and safe. JFK students have been learning both expected and unexpected behaviors for safety on the playground, walking in the hallways and inside their classrooms. When a member of the JFK staff sees children being safe in these areas they give a plastic star to that student. The star is then placed in a classroom "star bucket" and finally, collected and tallied on Fridays. For the first three day week of school we earned a school-wide STARS total of 5, 816. This past four day week we had a goal of 6,000 and easily exceeded it by earning 7,148 STARS!

We will keep setting new goals and learning about the other areas of our STARS acronym as we move forward through the year.

CONGRATULATIONS JFK STARS!



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



A Positive Start

By Leon Wheeler, Middle/High School Principal

We've had a positive start to the school year. Granted, there have been a few bumps during this first month of school. That's to be expected. The feel throughout the school, however, is both optimistic and affirming.

Getting out into the community during our inservice training days before students returned to school helped to set the right tone. We want to build relationships with our parents and the extended Winooski community in order to work together to improve learning for

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

our students. I love the quote above by Margaret Mead. As we work together, as we unite for a common purpose, we can and will sow the seeds for something beautiful to grow. That is our commitment: we will join with each other, with our students, and with our parents and the Winooski community to increase inspiration and improve learning!

There are some important upcoming opportunities for getting to know each other better and explore how we can support learning together. First, all 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th grade students are taking the New England Common Assessment (NECAP) on October 2, 4, 9, and 11. This is an important state-wide assessment that looks at individual student skills and understanding in reading, math, and writing. The overall performance of students in our school is used by the Department of Education to evaluate our school. Please remind your child to get good rest the evening before each testing session, and to do his/her best on each section of the NECAP.

Second, the Parent Teacher Conferences are being held at the school Thursday, October 18, from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm. Please make plans to attend, to talk with your son's/daughter's teachers, and to check on some of the changes in and around our school. Katherine Helm and I are looking forward to meeting and talking with you as well.



One additional, exciting note related to the Partnership for Change work in our school: Our middle school students as well as students in grades 9 and 10 will soon be introduced to 1:1 laptop

computers they will use to enhance and extend their learning. An initial parent meeting was held on Thursday, September 20 at the O'Brien Community Center. As parents, students, and school personnel work together and the plans develop, we will all learn more about this tremendous initiative.

Enjoy the transition from summer to autumn, and nature's brilliant display of fall foliage. It is great to be here!



September 2012

By Katherine Jennifer Helm

First Day

Another school year has begun. The "First Day" of school was awesome. The students were outside the doors re-connecting with some of their peers that they hadn't seen in a while. The teachers and staff were all busy making last minute preparations for the students to walk through the doors. Everyone was eager to get the ball rolling and start the new school year.

Since the beginning of the school year we have already begun some wonderful activities and learning opportunities. We have been invited to a free concert at Burlington HS to listen to the Congolese Drummers. The students viewed a slide show of last year's pictures listening to the new music from our very own A2VT. Another group of students are attending the opening session of the United Nations Peace Assembly in NYC. We have climbed Mount Snake. Walked the City of Winooski. All in addition to the regular reading, writing, math, social studies and science. Enjoy the First Day Photos!



CCV Ice Cream Social and Service Learning

On Tuesday, September 11, CCV held an ice cream social for their students and the community to promote service learning within the community.

Organizations attending were VT Women's Works, WCSPC, The YMCA, The O'Brien Community Center, Winooski Parks and Recreation and Winooski Middle & High School. As we scooped ice cream for the students, we explained volunteer and service opportunities in the community. Our hope is that since the students at CCV often have service learning for their classes, maybe partnerships can be formed with the school for our students to get support 1-1 with these college students.



Peace Jam Group Participates in ECOS Photo Project

By Veronica Saffo

Several members of the WHS Peace Jam/Multicultural Club worked with well-known local resident and photographer, Dan Higgins last year in his work to capture the thoughts from the immigrant community through photographs. Mr. Higgins has made photos for decades that connect with and celebrate the underlying social dynamic of communities, beginning with Winooski. His series of photos set in the Winooski community feature onions as a recurring motif, Winooski being the Abenaki word for onion. Its embrace by the participants of his photography, says Higgins, represents “an affirmation of place.”

The photographs he took of the WHS Peace Jam students were meant to represent their culture and feeling of connection to this community. Mr. Higgins is working with the ECOS Project, which is both a process and a plan for managing sustainable growth in Chittenden County. The ECOS Project is working to engage community members in creative activities as a means to get their input on what’s important to them. There will be an exhibit at the BCA Center, Fourth Floor from September 14th to October 5th. The exhibit features the results of outreach and includes murals created in four communities, photographs and thoughts from the immigrant community by Dan Higgins, and the writings of young people who were asked for their vision of the year 2035. The Peace Jam group is pleased to be part of this creative and engaging outreach project. Please stop by to see the works, which will include the WHS Peace Jam members. For more information about the ECOS Project visit www.ecosproject.com.



BCA Events and Winooski Welcome Center



Kim Ead Wins YWCA’s 2012 Thrive Awardee

On Thursday, October 18th, Kimberly Ead, Winooski High School’s Career Development Coordinator, will be recognized as the YWCA Vermont’s 2012 Thrive Awardee. This award recognizes a Vermont girl or woman who

exemplifies the YWCA Vermont mission through her activities or passion for creating economic opportunities, removing racial barriers, and inspiring leadership within the community. This year’s finalists are Debbie Ingram of Vermont Interfaith Action and Rosetta Morse of the DREAM Program.

Each year, the YWCA hosts a fundraising luncheon on board the Northern Lights in order to support YW Strive, a leadership development program for high school girls from across the state. Former Vermont Governor, Madeline Kunin, will be the key note speaker for this year’s event and will be available to sign her new book “The New Feminist Agenda.” YW Strive connects young women from Brattleboro to Georgia and many points in between with adult women who hold leadership roles in business, government, and the community to expand their thinking about what is possible when they use their voices, energy, and talent to lead. Tickets are still available to take part in the Thrive event and can be purchased online at www.ywca.org/vermont.

About Kimberly Ead: Kim was raised in suburban Maryland and attended college in West Virginia. She received a Masters Degree in Sustainable Development from the School for International Training in Brattleboro. In 2001, just before September 11th, she became the Peace and Human Rights Project Director at the Peace and Justice Center. In an effort to create social change on an individual level she earned a Vermont Teaching Certification in Social Studies and began to teach, all while intermixing travel to India, Palestine, Argentina, Cuba, and England. As Linking Learning to Life’s Career Development Coordinator at Winooski High School, Kim supports students and staff in connecting with their communities, their passions, and their future.

WMS Afterschool

By Barb Russ

Session I afterschool is off and running! Programs are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and students are welcome to join in on the fun!



Our Session I schedule is:

TUESDAYS (3-4PM)
Broadcasting Club w/Mr. Andrews in Room 118

WEDNESDAYS (3-4PM)
Strategy Game Room w/Mr. Muir in Room 11 (at JFK)

THURSDAYS (3-4PM)
Woodworking w/Mr. Andrews in the Cafeteria (This program is currently full.)
Debate Club w/Mr. Kernoff in Room 136



Winooski High School Afterschool Debate Club

By Bret Kernoff

The Winooski High School Debate Club held its first organizational meeting on Thursday September 7, 2012 after school. During this first meeting students learned the benefits of debate including both written and oral communication skills, organizational skills, and a much-improved chance of getting into a better college.

Students will begin competing in high school debates in Vermont from November to February. The team is planning on competing at the State House in Montpelier in February for the State Championships. Some of the teams may get the opportunity to travel out of state for much larger national level tournaments.

If any students are interested in joining the team, please contact Mr. Kernoff, WHS Debate Club coach. The club will need many parent and/or staff volunteers to help with transportation and other club needs. The club will also need to raise funds in order to travel to tournaments out of the immediate area. Anyone interested in helping with fundraising or transporting the team is welcome to contact Bret as well. Bret can be contacted at bkernoff@wsdschools.org or at 802-383-6030.

We look forward to bringing pride and success in academics to Winooski High School!

Guidance News

By Emmy Charron

Senior College Night: October 3rd from 6:00-7:30pm - This is a great opportunity for Seniors and their parents to come and get lots of college search and application advice from Heidi from VSAC and Emmy. There will be light refreshments and lots of information! All are welcome so come check it out.

PSAT's from Juniors and Sophomores on October 17th from 8:00 to 11:30: Are you a junior or sophomore wanting to get a jump start on the SAT? Want to see what it's all about? Want to ease anxiety about it? Come take a practice run FOR FREE, paid for by VSAC and the Guidance Department. That's right...a FREE opportunity, don't miss out and sign up with Emmy.

College Visits: Throughout the months of October and November there will be a few more colleges and universities visiting Winooski. This is a great opportunity for Juniors and Seniors to meet with college representatives, find out about a college that they are interested in and get some valuable information. All dates are listed on the calendar located outside of the main office.

College/Future Meetings: All seniors who are trying to figure out what their next steps are, whether your college bound, career bound, military bound or undecided should make an appointment this fall with Emmy so we can figure out what your next steps may be and what you need to do to get there!

WHS Afterschool Programs

We have a variety of afterschool programs we are offering during session I. Core Support programs are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays and students are welcome (and encouraged!) to stop by for extra help, to use a computer, or to have a quiet place to catch up on class work. Signup is not necessary and a healthy snack is provided. Debate Club is meeting regularly, so please see Mr. Kernoff in room 136 if you would like to join the fun!

WHS Afterschool Schedule for Session I (September 10-October 26, 2012)

TUESDAYS (3-4PM)

- **Math Core Support** w/Mrs. Mellen in Room 210
 - **Technology Core Support** w/Ms. Poquette in Room 204
- THURSDAYS (3-4PM)
- **Math Core Support** w/Ms. Clark in Room 207
 - **French & READ 180 Core Support** w/Ms. Saffo in Room 121
 - **Debate Club** w/Mr. Kernoff in Room 136

HEALTH CORNER

Health Office News

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Health Office Coordinator

Holly and I hope that everyone is enjoying being back at school. Each year we always look forward to seeing how much your children have grown! We miss our Winooski kids over the summer months and are so excited to be back with them once again this year. We also want to say how proud we are of all the JFK students for working so hard to achieve green thoughts and obtaining stars! Great job JFK!

Now for some helpful health office reminders:

1. If you have not already completed/signed your child's asthma action plan, medication order sheet or individual healthcare plan, please stop by our office to do so. We are open Monday-Friday 8am-3pm with the exception of 1:30pm-2:15pm.
2. Cold/Virus/Allergy season is upon us. Help us prevent the spread of germs, by teaching your kids to wash their hands with soap and water frequently. Have them avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth. Teach them to cough/sneeze into their sleeve. Finally, please make sure to keep your student home if they have a fever of over 100 degrees. They must be fever free (without the use of fever reducing medication) for 24 hours before it's OK for them to come back to school.
3. If you have a student in K-3rd grade, it is highly recommended that you pack an extra outfit for them to leave in their locker here at school. We are extremely limited on extra clothes here in the health office and would appreciate any donations in sizes 5T-10.

Tooth Tutor Update

By Diane Polson, RDH

Welcome back students! I will be at the school in the Health Office on Thursdays to help students stay up-to-date with their dental care. I work under the State's Tooth Tutor Program. The goal of this program is to make sure all students have a dentist and are seen at least once every year. If you are in need of dental assistance or have any dental questions, please contact me at 383-6094 or 383-6040.

Mayor's Message

By Mike O'Brien

Well, fall is here and we hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Fall is a wonderful time of year with lots to do before we bundle up for winter. The fall sports season is here, so why not get out and cheer on our young athletes at a soccer or football game.

The City continued to work on our infrastructure this summer. I want to thank our public works staff for their hard work. Over the summer road work included the reconstruction of West Canal Street and repaving St. Peter Street, North Street and Stevens Street, with a majority of Franklin Street to be paved this fall. And didn't the flowers along our streets and in downtown look great!! Many thanks to the many people and businesses that planted and cared for the flowers. And the care of our public works for keeping the flowers watered all summer.

We recently held a hearing on proposed changes to the traffic circle. If you are unaware, the traffic circle was named the highest accident location in the state. As a result, we need to look at ways to improve traffic flow with the primary focus on the safety of pedestrians, bikers and vehicles. Did you know that over 25,000 vehicles pass through the traffic circle with roughly 1,000 pedestrian crossings each day? We heard from our Traffic Advisory Board (TAB), traffic experts and from concerned citizens. We have asked the TAB for additional information and will have other meetings about this in the future as we decide the best action to take. Our primary focus must be safety. Please let us know your opinion. In the meantime, you can view the TAB presentation on our website at www.winooskivt.org or at Channel 17 at www.cctv.org.

Halloween will be here soon and there are a number of activities planned here in Winooski. Season's Greetings will again decorate Smith Park with hundreds of jack-o-lanterns. They need your help. Can you donate your own carved pumpkin for display? Or candles



to light up the pumpkins? How about helping out with carving? Carving is scheduled for the Senior Center on Sunday October 28 from 9am to 6pm and Monday October 29 from 9am until carving is complete. Candles can be dropped off at Sally's Flower Shop on Main Street. And the Winooski Welcome Center is also planning fun events around Halloween including a masquerade ball on Saturday, October 27.

We are anticipating the start of construction on the next phase of downtown development. Redstone/ Youkel is moving forward with development of 72 high end apartments in a building adjacent to the Cascades. If all goes well, construction will start sometime in October!!

We are waiting to see the final EIS from the Air Force concerning the F-35 basing at Burlington. We continue to work with the Air Guard to reduce the impacts of the current F-16s that can also apply to the F-35s if they are ultimately based in Burlington. The Air Guard has met with the school and is working to establish flight paths that minimize noise from operations at our school. We will continue to work with the Guard, the State, and our congressional delegation to ensure our concerns about the Guard's operations now and in the future are addressed. The good news is that through the good work of our city manager, Deac Decarreau, we have been invited to sit at the table as a non-voting member of the Airport Commission, and we have accepted a seat on the Airport Strategic Planning Committee. We now have the opportunity to make our concerns part of planning at the airport. And most important, no matter the decision of the Air Force, let us not lose sight of the fact that we are a great community, and that we will continue to thrive and be a special place to live and work.

Like other communities, we are experiencing crime. Our police department works hard to keep us safe and to stop criminal activity, and to

apprehend those who choose to break the law. But they need your help. Please call the police department if you see anything that seems suspicious, even if it turns out to be nothing.

As we approach winter, and assuming we get a normal amount of snow, please keep an eye out for neighbors who may need help with snow removal. If you would be interested in volunteering to help shovel snow for folks in need, or if you need help shoveling, let us know. You can respond to mayor@winooskivt.org. We'll do all we can to get those in need and volunteers together.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me by phone at 655-4879 or email at mobrien@winooskivt.org. Or you can contact any of your city councilors. You can find our contact information on the City website at www.winooskivt.org.

Teen Center News

By Todd Lavigne, Americorps Member and Director of Operations

The first month of school has seen a reinvigorated thirst for academic knowledge by many of our teens coming to the Teen Center. We are offering Homework Help 3 nights a week with 2 time slots on each day! On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays we are offering tutoring from college volunteers from 3:30 - 5:00pm as well as from 6:30 - 8:00pm so send youth to the Teen Center for Homework Help!

The Teen Center is also working in conjunction with other local organizations on an initiative called Small Change / Big Impact and we are offering a few paid internships to students through this initiative. Our part of the initiative will be to have teens survey their peers and community members on tobacco use as well as assess the advertisements of tobacco products in the Winooski community.

We are still hosting FREE Dinners to anyone 18 and younger on Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 -6:00pm. Additionally we will have free time hours in the Teen Center, but these will be limited to Wednesday and Friday nights.

“Don’t Dump — Drains To The Lake”

Brought to you by your friends in the Winooski Environmental Board!

Do you know that everything that runs from your yard and driveway likely goes directly to the river and lake and ends up in the original source of our area’s drinking water? Please read below and think before you act so that we can keep our waterways clean. Water is one of our most important assets.

• What Is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is caused when rainfall carries pollutants into surface water or ground water.

• What Are Nonpoint Source Pollutants?

Many products and materials we use in daily life become nonpoint source pollutants when they reach a body of water. NPS pollutants can be chemicals, automotive products or common household items like paint and solvents. They can even be natural materials like soil, animal wastes, grass clippings and fallen leaves.

• How Do NPS Pollutants Reach Waterways?

Sometimes NPS pollutants wash directly into a creek, river, lake or bay. Construction activity can send soil and debris directly into creeks and streams. Agricultural activities also may generate NPS pollutants, too

In urban areas, though, the most common route for NPS pollutants is the network of storm drains that carry excess rain water away from streets and directly into waterways.

• How Do NPS Pollutants Affect Water Quality?

Pesticides, antifreeze and motor oil contain toxic chemicals that are harmful to humans, animals and plants. One quart of motor oil can ruin 250,000 gallons of water! Phosphorus and nitrogen in fertilizers, pet and livestock wastes and decomposing leaves and grass can cause algae to grow, which depletes oxygen levels in water and can lead to fish kills. Animal wastes also introduce harmful bacteria and other pathogens into water supplies. Sediment from soil erosion or construction activity can reduce the clarity of water and block sunlight needed by aquatic plants and fish. Litter, particularly plastic items that float, spoil the beauty of waterways and can be harmful to fish and birds who mistake them for food.

WCSPC News

The next two **Coalition meetings** are on Wednesday, October 3 and November 7, from 6 to 7 PM, at the O’Brien Community Center.

The **October Community Dinner** is scheduled for October 17 at 5:30, and will likely have a “ghoulish” theme! The **November Community Dinner** will take place on November 14 (this is not the normal week we have the dinners, but is scheduled earlier to avoid conflict with Thanksgiving Day). We will celebrate Thanksgiving, of course. We are looking for donations of cooked turkeys, and healthy sides, and are hoping to provide some yummy roasted vegetables to celebrate the end of harvest season. Save the date!

Art at the Winooski Welcome Center & Gallery

The Winooski Welcome Center & Gallery are open for business on the top of the Winooski Circulator (41 Main St.). Open Wed. thru Saturday 11AM to 8PM and Sundays 10AM-4PM. The Gallery currently features local artist Robert Brunelle. A Winooski Halloween Celebration is planned. Visit www.winooskiwelcomecenter.com for more details.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — OCTOBER

Choice of milk served with all complete meals: Low-fat White & Low-fat Chocolate

AVAILABLE DAILY

- *Hoagieville Deli Sandwich
- *Garden Fresh Salad Bar
- *Cabot Yogurt Parfait & String Cheese
- *Vegetarian Options
- *Farm Fresh Milk
- *Assorted Juice & Fresh Fruit

PRICES:

- Breakfast**
- Regular \$0.85
- Reduced \$FREE
- Adult \$1.75
- Lunch**
- Regular \$1.75
- Reduced \$0.40
- Adult \$3.25
- Beverages**
- Milk \$0.50
- Juice \$0.50

Pay for your student’s meals with our easy on-line bill pay system. Go to: www.abbeygroup.net/lunch/prepay

DAILY BREAKFAST OPTIONS: (Cereal, Bagels, Muffins, Fruit, Milk and Juice offered daily)
 Mon: Sausage/Cheese on English Muffin • Tues: Hearty Fruit-filled Muffin • Wed: Ham & Cheese on Bagel • Thurs: Whole Grain Breakfast Bar • Fri: Breakfast Burrito with Egg/Cheese

Mon., Oct. 1	Tues., Oct. 2	Wed., Oct. 3	Thurs., Oct. 4	Fri., Oct. 5
Waffle Sticks w/ Warm Syrup	Chicken Stir Fry Served w/ Lo Mein Noodles	Gourmet Filled Stromboli Ham & Cheese or Veggie & Cheese Filled	Homemade Shepherd’s Pie Ground Beef, Mashed Potato & Corn	Chicken Fajitas Chicken, Sautéed Onions & Peppers, Soft Flour Tortilla, Salsa, Cabot Sour Cream
Scrambled Eggs Sweet & White Home Fries Veggie Bar	Sautéed Cabbage Veggie Bar	Veggie Bar Fresh Carrot Sticks Hummus Dip	Veggie Bar Hearty Carrot Muffin	Rice Pilaf Warm Black Beans Veggie Bar
Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk
Mon., Oct. 8	Tues., Oct. 9	Wed., Oct. 10	Thurs., Oct. 11	Fri., Oct. 12
Dress Your Own Burger Sliced Tomato and Lettuce	Ham & Cheese Stuffed Dough	Marinated Grilled Chicken Breast	Taco Bar w/ The Works Seasoned Taco Meat, Shredded Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa & Soft Flour Tortilla	Hearty Harvest Macaroni & Cheese
Roasted Broccoli Veggie Bar	Veggie Bar Red Roasted Potatoes Happy Birthday 100% Fruit Juice Shape Up	Rice Pilaf Veggie Bar Baked Beans	Rice Pilaf Rainbow Slaw	Veggie Bar
Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk
Mon., Oct. 15	Tues., Oct. 16	Wed., Oct. 17	Thurs., Oct. 18	Fri., Oct. 19
National School Lunch Week Grilled Chicken Sandwich Sliced Tomato and Lettuce	National School Lunch Week Localvore Day Baked Potato Bar W/Local Potatoes Chili, Cabot Sour Cream & Fresh Chives	Early Dismissal Grades 6-12 National School Lunch Week Bag Lunch Extravaganza Turkey Sandwich on Wheat Roll Carrot Sticks Animal Crackers Fresh Orange	PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES	No School
Oven Roasted Sweet Potatoes Veggie Bar	Steamed Broccoli Hearty Cornbread	Farm Fresh Milk		
Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Local Apple Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk		
Mon., Oct. 22	Tues., Oct. 23	Wed., Oct. 24	Thurs., Oct. 25	Fri., Oct. 26
Fish N Chips Fish Sticks & Potato Wedges	Chicken Parmesan Sandwich on Toasted Roll	Delayed Start K-5 Food Day Nachos Supreme Seasoned Taco Meat, Mozzarella Cheese, Salsa, Lettuce, & Corn Tortilla Chips	Chicken & Biscuits	Meatball Sub
Roasted Potato Wedges Veggie Bar	Veggie Bar	Rice Pilaf Warm Black Beans Veggie Bar	Mashed Sweet & White Potatoes Veggie Bar Taste Test Roasted Broccoli	Spinach Salad Veggie Bar
Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk	Fresh Fruit Hood Milk
Mon., Oct. 29	Tues., Oct. 30	Wed., Oct. 31	PLEASE NOTE: Lunch is available for all students on early dismissal days! Pick up yours at either door on your way out.	
Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets w/Dipping Sauce	Sloppy Joe On a Roll	Stuffed Bread Roll Buffalo Chicken or Ham & Cheese Filled		
Roasted Sweet Potatoes Veggie Bar Banana Bread	Roasted Root Vegetables Veggie Bar	Marinara Sauce Veggie Bar		
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
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Winooski, VT 05404

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Mission Statement

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

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

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

About Our District

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

One of the most diverse school districts in the state of Vermont, Winooski's teachers and staff are highly involved in professional development programs that help increase 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.