

# Welcome Back To School!

## Transformation Work Continues Through The Summer

*Submitted by Katherine Jennifer Helm*

As many readers have read, Winooski and Burlington have partnered together and applied for the Nellie Mae Foundation's, District Level Systems Change Grant. The initial WSD-BSD Grant Application was one of 70 applications from New England School Districts and our application was chosen as one of 12 for further consideration. After additional grant writing and site visits, we again were chosen as one of 7 applicants to participate in the Planning Year. What this means is the WSD-BSD Nellie Mae Steering Committee was awarded \$200,000 to further their proposal for systems level change of our teaching and learning at both Winooski and Burlington. A full proposal of research based initiatives, their implementation and resources necessary for success is due by the end of October

2011. In January 2012, four of the seven current districts will be awarded multi-million dollar, multi-year grants to put their proposals into practice.

The money that Nellie Mae awarded each district is being used to further our knowledge of what changes need to occur to transform our educational systems to ones that engage our students, prepare our students for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and include our parents/communities into our schools and the decisions that need to be made for these transformation to be successful. The steering committee has met regularly to: develop the logic model and written narrative of our transformation plan (Submitted to Nellie Mae on the July 7<sup>th</sup> due date); develop the activities that will inform the direction of the transformation model; plan and allocate

the necessary work to complete the final application for submission to Nellie Mae on October 31, 2011.

One of the activities that has taken place and informed direction for the transformation plan was the SDI (School Development Institute) that took place the last week in June at Rock Point School in Burlington. Approximately 30% of all the high school teachers from both Winooski and Burlington, worked together with administration from both districts, to develop programs, systems and opportunities to move the transformation of our schools forward. Four specific initiatives developed out of the SDI. One team of teachers worked on developing interdisciplinary studies and academies for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. A second team focused on proficiency based teaching and learning

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## 1-1 Netbook Program

*By Katherine Jennifer Helm*

The first week of August, two middle school teachers, Will Andrews and Chris Magistrale, met with Tina Muncy (JFK School Coach) and KJ Helm (Assistant Principal) to discuss and plan the beginning phases of a 1-1 Netbook program for all students in middle school. To date the program is in it's infancy, but we are taking steps, one at a time, to change the way our students are taught to enhance their learning and increase engagement. Building on the Nellie Mae initiatives at the high school, we recognize that students today are not the same as 20 years ago and they have interests and knowledge that has to be accommodated for and incorporated into the learning expectations.

Students will be issued a computer that will belong to them in school. They will need to learn how to be responsible for these computers and how to take care of them. Teachers will be participating in professional development on incorporating technology into their teaching and together the expectation is that everyone, students, teachers and parents/guardians will be learning new things. The world is changing and working together we can change with it and develop a learning environment that promotes growth for all of us. Look for updates on this exciting new initiative in upcoming district newsletters.

### Looking Forward to 2011-2012

By Mary Martineau, Superintendent of Schools

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! Over the summer, the administration and school board worked together to review the vision for the Winooski School District and to review the initiatives we implemented during the 2010-2011 school year. "Ensure student growth through continuous improvement", continues to be our focus. We cannot and will not settle for the status quo. Instead, we will always ask the question, "how can we do better?" This is truly life long learning, and it will help all of us to grow as a school and community.

The following four (4) goals have been developed in an effort to define the work we will do this school year:

1. Increase student learning and growth
2. Increase student engagement through best instructional practices
3. Increase parent/community engagement (PreK-12)
4. Collaboration and communication

The year ahead is an opportunity for us to make real, positive change for the Winooski School District as we continue to use data to inform instruction, and implement teaching strategies based on brain research and how people learn. I look forward to continuing to serve the students and community of Winooski as your Superintendent of Schools.

#### TRANSFORMATION WORK *continued from cover*

to replace the current credit system. The philosophy being that students would demonstrate their proficiency with a topic and then move on to other work, instead of staying in a course for a predetermined time limit. Year End Studies (YES Program) was developed by the third group of teachers. The YES program would allow students to study an area of interest for the last two weeks of the school year. During these two weeks, there would be designated time at the beginning and end of the day for students struggling with courses to make up work and learning so that they would pass for the year. The four hours through the day would be devoted to an intensive learning opportunity not available during the school year. Finally, a forth group of teachers planned the work necessary to implement Individual Student Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) and an advisory system that would not only facilitate the management of the plans, but provide a supportive structure for students throughout their high school years.

Another initiative running through the summer months are the community meetings that are being held. These meetings provide parents/guardians and community members that have difficulty

accessing the school systems, the opportunity to express their expectations and concerns for their children in our schools. These meeting are also providing the ground work for developing systems to facilitate a growing partnership with parents/guardians and community members. One of the goals of our transformation model is to improve the partnership and participation of parents/guardians and community members in our schools.

The possibility of our two districts receiving this multi-million dollar grant is a very real and wonderful possibility. Lots of people from both districts and community agencies (Linking Learning to Life, The Tarrant Foundation, Vermont Adult Learning and Voices for Vermont's Children) are working very hard to make this opportunity a reality. More importantly, however, both districts recognize the need for change and are committed to making these transformational changes to how we educate our children, regardless of whether we get the grant or not. Our children and their future is our priority and we will all continue to work tirelessly for their success.

### Welcome Back!

By Jay Lambert, Board of School Trustees

Greetings citizens of Winooski. Its that time of year again. Students and staff are returning to school for another year of educational opportunity here at the Winooski Education Center.

Since it is the beginning of the year, I thought this would be a great time to give some well deserved recognition to our wonderful returning staff, and welcome all of the great new staff that are joining us for this coming school year. Sometimes I feel we outside of the education community tend to forget how difficult a job teaching children really is.

Our staff that teach here at Winooski are certainly not recognized nearly enough for the fantastic job they do teaching our children. Although words do not do justice for the appreciation that I feel for the hard work of all our staff, I will use them anyway — thank you!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Schedule Change: Parent/Teacher Conferences

Teachers in all three schools look forward to meeting with parents beginning at 7:30 am on **Monday, November 21** to talk about your child's progress at school to date. This is change from our usual early October date. There will be no classes scheduled that day.

### Homecoming Needs Trailers for Parade Floats

With Homecoming in the near future (September 22nd), the Winooski Boosters are looking for trailers to use as floats for the athletes. If you have a trailer and are interested in driving a float with an athletic team on it, please call Lori Lambert at 324-2019 or Dave Bray at 881-4068.

# Annual Notification of Rights of Parents and Eligible Students Concerning Education Records

TO: All parents of students, and to eligible students (students who are 18 or over), in the Winooski schools:

1. As the parent of a student enrolled in a school in a member district of the Winooski School District, or as an eligible student, you have the following rights with respect to your child's (or, if an eligible student, your own) education records:

a. To inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the date the school receives the request. Parents or eligible students should submit the written request to the school principal (or special education administrator in the case of a special education record), that identifies the record(s) to which access is being requested.

b. To request amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. They should write to the school principal (or special education administrator if the record is a special education record) clearly identifying the portion of the record that they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will provide written notice to the parent or eligible student of the decision, advising them of their right to a hearing regarding the requested amendment, and including additional information about hearing procedures.

c. To provide consent prior to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the law allows disclosure without your consent.

d. To file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of law with respect to your rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). A complaint may be made in writing to the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5901.

2. Under an exception to the prior consent rule, the Winooski School District and its schools have a policy of disclosing educational records to school officials with a legitimate educational interest without prior consent. "School official with a legitimate educational interest" includes any person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, service provider, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as, but not limited to, consultants, attorneys, auditors, insurers, evaluators); a parent or student or other volunteer servicing on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks (such as substitutes, assigned student teachers, interns, volunteers or teacher aides). A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review the education record or

personally identifiable information from the record in order to perform his or her official duties for the District. Where an issue is raised, the Principal, Special Education Director, or Superintendent, as appropriate, shall decide whether an individual has a legitimate educational interest in the information or record.

3. The District discloses education records to other schools/institutions that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled, so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. Upon your request, copies of the records forwarded will be provided to you. You may request a hearing as described in paragraph 1(c) above, for the purpose of amending records.

This Annual Notification of Rights is only a summary of rights. Your rights to inspect and review education records, and the school district's duty to have your written consent prior to disclosure of personally identifiable information, are subject to limitations. Further details are contained in the school district's detailed student record policy and procedures, and in State and federal law.

## Winooski School District Child Find Procedures

*Submitted by Robin Hood, Director of Special Education*

Winooski Public Schools is required by Federal Law to locate, identify, and evaluate any child ages 3 and up who may require special education and related services in order to access and benefit from public education.

The federal special education regulations define a child **with a disability** as a child having mental retardation; a hearing impairment including deafness; a speech or language impairment; a visual impairment including blindness; emotional disturbance; an orthopedic impairment; autism; traumatic brain injury; a health impairment; a specific learning disability; deaf blindness; or multiple disabilities, and who requires specialized instruction or related services.

If you know of a child who resides in the City of Winooski who might have a disability as described, please contact the principal of your school, or contact Robin Hood, Director of Special Education, at 655-9575. This includes individuals who are homeless, migrants, home schooled, and/or individuals attending private schools.

Evaluations will be conducted in accordance with the procedures described in Section 300.530.300.535 of the Federal Regulations for Special Education and in accordance with the State Regulations for Special Education outlining the procedures for special education evaluations.

## 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 24th.

**Testing at JFK** will occur in October for all students in grades 3-8. The dates will be: October 4, 5, and 6 (reading); October 7, 11, and 12 (mathematics); October 13, and 14 (writing for grades 5 and 8 only).

**Testing in the High School** (grade 11) will occur on October 4, 5, 11, and 12. Other grades will have other assessments (e.g. Plan/Explore/ etc.)

We encourage you to 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.

## Newly Hired Staffers

Following is a list of all newly hired staff, the subjects they will be teaching, and to the right, the name of the teacher they are replacing.

NAME	SUBJECT/GRADE TAUGHT	REPLACES
Stephen Feiss	Math Teacher 9-12	Jason Reichert
Jessica Bruce	Art Teacher 7-12	Cindy Orfe
Sara Murphy	Guidance K-5	Charlie O'Connor
Eric King	Special Educator 9-12	Noah Everitt
Rebecca Savage	ELL Teacher 9-12	Sarah Carroll
Kaitlin Moran	OMNI Teacher	Melinda Fuller
Holly Hager	Nurse (.40 FTE)	Christina Bilodeau
Brent Litterer	English Teacher 9-12	Julie Morton
Emmy Charron	Guidance 9-12	Brent Litterer
Danielle Koplinka-Loehr	Music K-5	Karla Kennedy
Lisa Bushey	Literacy (teaching position K-5)	new
Alison Figdor	Teacher, Grade 2	Lisa Bushey
Veronica Saffo	French Teacher 9-12	Michelle Steele
Schuyler Allen (.50 FTE)	Math Teacher (6-8)	Miguel Pires
Chelsea Gray	EEE Special Educator	Ellen Goodrich

In addition to the newly hired teachers listed above, we will also be welcoming the following Instructional Assistants (IAs) to our school:

Amela Mezetovic	Team Phoenix (6-8)
Jessica Henderson	School-wide Para Professional (6-8)
Mary Alice Ryan	Special Education (EEE)
Caitlin Lovejoy	Special Education (Kindergarten)
Devin Rowe	Team Phoenix (6-8)
Kate Lewis	Special Education (9-12)
Clarissa Gibbons	Special Education (Kindergarten)
Kari Osha	Special Education (6-8)
John Peck	Team Lotus (9-12)
Linda Walsh	High School

## Homecoming Weekend Starts September 22nd

Homecoming starts on Thursday, September 22nd with the crowning of the King, Queen and Court at 5:40 (in the front parking lot near the soccer field), followed by a paradestarting at 6.

Introduction of the fall sports teams will follow on the football field once the parade is done. There will be a bonfire following introduction of the athletes.

On Friday, September 23rd there will be a home football game against Woodstock under the lights at 7:00pm.

On Saturday, Sept 24th, there will be home soccer games with the boys varsity team playing against Fairfax at 10:00am, and girls playing at 12:30 against Danville.

The Homecoming dance will take place Saturday night from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm in the cafeteria. Tickets are \$6.00 for singles or \$10 for a couple.

## Free and Reduced Price Meals at School

As the school starts, we will begin our annual task of processing applications to qualify students for Free and Reduced meals at school. Children that received Free or reduced meals during the previous school year are qualified for the first 30 days of school.

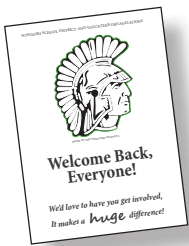
Some families will receive a letter in the mail prior to the beginning of school, informing them that their children are qualified through a Direct Certification. Children qualify this way if the family participates in the 3 Squares program. If your family receives a direct certification letter, you do not need to return the Free/Reduced application that comes home in the first day packets.

For all other students, we ask that you return the applications as soon as possible. Even if you feel your family does not qualify, the information that is gathered during this process helps our district to qualify for other programs.

If you have questions or need assistance with these forms, please feel free to contact us:

- Cathy Bray, 802-383-6016  
[cbray@winooski.k12.vt.us](mailto:cbray@winooski.k12.vt.us)
- Rebecca Provost, 802-383-6001,  
[rprovost@winooski.k12.vt.us](mailto:rprovost@winooski.k12.vt.us)

For more information about 3 Squares VT, please call 1-800-479-6151



# Get Involved, Join a Volunteer Group in our School Community!

## Welcome from the Winooski PTO!

The PTO is an active group of parent and teacher volunteers that organize annual events to serve students in grades Pre-K through 8. We put on such events as a Craft Fair, a Fun Fair for JFK and another for Middle School students, dances for the Middle School, and a fall fundraiser to support many worthwhile causes within the school and in particular K-8. We hope your child will have the opportunity this year to enjoy the special activity nights, end-of-year field trips, and the many other PTO-sponsored activities. We look forward to welcoming you to our organization.

We hold a meeting on the third Wednesday of every month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Learning Media Center (Library) to plan and discuss details concerning upcoming events and other topics of interest. Childcare is provided. Attending PTO meetings is a great way to keep informed of school activities and events. Our first meeting is September 21st.

Please contact one of our Officers if you have any questions. President: Tammy Cusson-Ducharme 923-6670, Vice President: Kammy McDonald 655-1293 or 734-6450, Treasurer: Lisa Goetz 655-0411 and Secretary: Danielle Kane 655-2469 or 363-7083. You can also get more information at [www.winooski.k12.vt.us](http://www.winooski.k12.vt.us) or send an email to [pto@winooski.k12.vt.us](mailto:pto@winooski.k12.vt.us)

## Coordinated School Health Team

The Coordinated School Health Team (CSHT) is a group of school/community members, and health care professionals that work to improve student's health and thereby their capacity to learn. Education and health are indisputably linked.

The CSHT's approach is comprehensive: Promote learning and adopting healthy behaviors; Model and encourage the achievement of life-long physical fitness; Enhance school health services; Encourage healthful nutrition; Support social emotional well-being; Create positive learning environments; Promote faculty and staff wellness; Develop and support programs for children and youth; Connect school, parents and community.

For more information, check out the links on the school website or contact Barb Pitfido at 233-8952 or [bpitfido@winooski.k12.vt.us](mailto:bpitfido@winooski.k12.vt.us).

## Friends of Winooski High School

Welcome to another school year! We hope you will respond to our informational letter that was sent home with the students at the beginning of school, and we appreciate your interest and involvement. (You can see a copy of the letter at <http://www.winooski.k12.vt.us/Volunteer/Friends> ). But in case you missed it, we just want to let you know a little bit about the Friends of Winooski High School, and the volunteer work that we accomplish for the high school students.

The mission of the FWHS is to help out the high school where needed. We have raised funds to help improve the students' educational experiences and to make the school a better place. To help raise funds, we organize an annual golf tournament, a calcutta, and also sell Spartan-logo merchandise at the school and through the website at <http://www.winooski.k12.vt.us/Merchandise/index.html>. But helping out does not always involve raising money. It can also mean painting a hallway, or chaperoning a dance, too. If you are interested in joining us, please come to the next FWHS meeting. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 in the library. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 6th at 6:30 p.m. If you can't make a meeting but would like to help, please call the school at 655-3530. Come join us to help make your child's school "the best small high school in Vermont."

## Dollars For Scholars

Winooski Dollars for Scholars provides scholarship money to Winooski high school graduates, who will be attending college and for Winooski middle and high school students for educational and enrichment programs that occur throughout the year.

We sponsor scholarships in five areas: Academic, Performance, Service, Leadership and Challenge and we co-sponsor many other merit-based scholarships for deserving students. Winooski Dollars for Scholars provides \$15,000 to \$18,000 scholarship money per year each year by holding various fundraisers, such as the Train Show in December and our annual Calcutta. We receive contributions from community businesses, organizations and individuals. Our ability to provide scholarship money is completely dependent on these contributions and fundraisers.

We have openings on our board and need your help. Meetings are held every other month and our fundraisers are fun and build community spirit. Contact Morgan Kelner at 655-4184 or at [mkelner14@gmail.com](mailto:mkelner14@gmail.com) if you would like additional information.

## Join the Boosters!

The Boosters will be meeting once a month starting Sept. 14th and will be meeting the second Thursday of every month in the school library at 6:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

What is a Booster? The Winooski Boosters is a local non-profit organization made up of parent volunteers dedicated to helping all Winooski high school athletes achieve their goals. The Winooski Boosters contribution to this effort includes, but is not limited to:

- Purchasing Senior Blankets for all qualified, graduating seniors;
- Providing annual scholarships to deserving and qualified graduates;
- Sponsoring the annual athletic banquet;
- Sponsoring the annual homecoming parade and bonfire;
- Purchasing t-shirts for athletes and coaches as well as banners for the individual sporting teams
- Putting in countless hours working the concession stands at home games.

Contact Lori at 324-2019 with questions.

**K-8 News**

*By Mary O'Rourke, JFK Elementary and Middle School Principal*

It's back to school time! Hopefully everyone is refreshed from the beautiful summer weather we were able to enjoy. As we focus on our work this year, the K-8 staff will be working on engagement strategies. Engagement is full participation in class during the entire school day. Our goal is to have students engaged in their learning. Throughout the year, we will provide some strategies that you may try at home.

In the middle school, one way to engage our students is through the use of technology. Our students live in the technology world and our teachers will work to become more technologically literate so they can join their students. All middle school students will have their own netbook and teachers will be involved in professional development but also will rely on our students to teach them how this new technology works.

At the elementary school, teachers are focusing on assisting students with self-regulation strategies. These strategies will help our students cope with the ups and downs that are experienced throughout the school day. The goal for our students is to be able to identify what makes their "engines" run and how to change the behavior.

During our In-Service in August, the K-8 staff received training in Professional Learning Communities. PLCs assist teachers with conversations regarding student work and data. Teachers use protocols to move the discussions forward. Throughout the school year, teachers will be meeting in vertical teams to look at student outcomes, discuss results and plan for future instruction.



**USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP): Kids Eat it Up!**

*By Barb Pitfido, FFVP Site Director*

Once again, JFK Elementary School was awarded a grant from the USDA to provide fresh fruit and vegetables in every classroom everyday for snack time.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program's goals are to:

- Create healthier school environments by providing healthier food choices.
- Expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience.
- Increase childrens fruit and vegetable consumption.
- Make a difference in childrens diets to impact their present and future health.

We'll create special events and have lots of fun educational projects to do throughout the year.

For more information go to: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/> or contact Barb Pitfido at [bpitfido@winooski.k12.vt.us](mailto:bpitfido@winooski.k12.vt.us)



**Free Kids First and 21C Afterschool Programs at JFK Elementary!**

*By Linda Casier and Barbara Russ*



Kids First and 21C afterschool programs will begin on

Tuesday, September 12th. **These are free programs for all students in the Winooski School District.** Our first session will run for seven weeks and ends on Thursday, October 27th. Programs will be offered Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3-4pm.

Fliers will be sent home with students on September 2nd. If you would like your child enrolled in afterschool programs during the first session, please remember to return the registration form right away. A complete list of session I afterschool offerings are also available on the school district website.

We are always looking for parents and community members interested in teaching afterschool programs. If that is something you would like to do, please give Linda (383-6025) or Barbara (383-6041) a call. Thank you for your ongoing support of afterschool programs!

**Free 21C Afterschool Programs at JFK Middle School!**

*By Barbara Russ*

The 21C afterschool program will begin the week of September 12th-October 27th. Our first session is a 7-week session and programs will be offered Monday-Thursday from 3-4pm. Fliers will be given to students on Friday, September 2nd and students can begin to register for programs that day. A complete list of session I afterschool offerings are available on the school district website. Thank you for your ongoing support for afterschool!

## JFK Newcomer Summer School A Big Hit!

By Kirsten Kollgaard

As part of the JFK Summer School, eleven newcomer English Language Learners (ELL) students had the opportunity to participate in three weeks of summer school this year. Newcomers are students who have recently arrived in the United States school system. The program, which ran alongside the JFK summer school, focused on the academic areas of reading and math. In addition to building reading and math skills, students learned new English vocabulary and studied the life cycle of a plant.

The class was taught by JFK ELL Teacher, Kirsten Kollgaard, and Dalib Bulle, one of WSD's home-school liaisons, and it was funded by grant money. During the first two weeks, the class focused on the development of social and academic language and skills. In math, the focus was on math-facts and the identification of coins and counting coins. In reading, they worked on increasing students' sight word vocabulary and improving early literacy skills. Students also learned about the life cycle of plants during read-alouds and how to describe what was happening to the plant. At the end of each week they were incredibly excited to take home the math games and the books that Barb Russ and the 21st Century Grant provided!



The third week of summer school included field trips and activities that helped build students' background knowledge and helped them get to know the community they live in. These activities included picking out a free book at Borders bookstore in downtown Burlington, tasting berries and making strawberry shortcake as a class and picnicking at North Beach State Park. All that was a lot of fun, but the highlight of the week for most students was taking the Lake Champlain Ferry across the lake to Port Kent, New York! Most of the students had never been on a boat before and had no concept of the size of Lake Champlain. They were thrilled to be out there feeling the wind in their hair and watching the waves crash against the sides of the boat. This experience will help prepare them to better understand science units about Lake Champlain and other bodies of water in the future. It also got them excited for future field trips and school work to come. At the end of the three weeks the students were still ready for more and were eagerly awaiting the beginning of school in September!

## Winooski Children Need You!

Did you ever feel confused, lonely, or scared at school? Did you ever need someone to help you, just you, but the teacher was already busy helping other kids in the class? Did you ever wish you had a special adult who was there just to encourage you and praise you? Someone you knew you could always go to for a smile or a hug?

Many kids in school feel this way. Fortunately, there are people like Louise, Maggie and Lee (pictured above) who volunteer in the schools in order to add to what the teachers are able to do. They help students practice their letters, numbers, spelling, and writing – right in the classroom with the teacher there – so the kids can learn as much as possible while they're at school.

But we need more volunteers, more Foster Grandparents, to be able to make sure our kids get the education they need and deserve. Find out more today: If you're at least 55 years of age, see if you might be able to become a Foster Grandparent. The feeling you'll get from their smiles can't be matched and in addition, you'll receive a tax free stipend and benefits.

For more information, contact Phet at 802-860-1677 or via email at [phet@unitedwaycc.org](mailto:phet@unitedwaycc.org).



## Anti-Bullying Program Continues District-Wide

In the fall of 2007, the Winooski School District implemented the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. There are four main principles that students follow:



There are four main principles that students follow:

- We will not bully others.
- We will help students who are bullied.
- We will include students who are easily left out.
- If we know that somebody is being bullied we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

The school district has seen a decline in bullying behavior since the program has been in place. Students are aware of their role in helping others who may be a target for bullying and have learned to take a stand against it. The Olweus program has had a positive impact on our school population.

## HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

### Welcome All!

By Justin Brown, Principal

First and foremost, please join me in welcoming new staff to our community.

**Brent Litterer** is very excited to be returning to the English classroom this fall

**Emmy Charron** is excited to take the position as our new guidance staff. She comes to us from college admissions and has worked at area high schools during her Master's work at Johnson College.

**Kaitlyn Moran** is our new OMNI staff person. She comes to us from Massachusetts. Kaitlyn has excellent experience working in alternative schools in the Boston area.

**Stephen Feiss** is our new high school math instructor and varsity soccer coach. He has an extensive teaching resume and comes to us from Massachusetts, via Colorado.

**Jessica Bruce** is our newly minted Art teacher who has recently completed the TAP Program. Jessica has a professional background in graphic design and has worked in several area schools during her training.

**Veronica Saffo** is our new French teacher and has taught at the middle and high school levels in the area. Veronica is very excited to join the staff and continue the tradition of the bi-annual French international student trip.

With all of the hiring that has been taking place, it has been a whirlwind of a summer. All of the Winooski High School staff are excited to have students back in the building. We are excited to show off our freshly painted high school hallway. And most importantly, we are excited to build on the successes of the previous year.

This year will mark the beginning of a sustained silent reading initiative throughout the high school. We are beginning this to ensure that all of our students are reading for pleasure and improving their reading skills.

After fully mapping our high school curriculum last year, we will be continuing our push to refine our curriculum and assessment work. Our goal in the coming year is to not only clearly state what we want all of our students to learn, but also show how students will demonstrate that learning.

We are also expanding our partnerships with area colleges to align our supports for students who are advanced in their learning as well as for students who are struggling.

But most importantly, the staff and faculty at Winooski High School and I are excited to welcome back the students. I look forward to continuing to promote challenging learning for all levels of learners throughout our high school.

As always, if you have any questions, I look forward to hearing from you. [jbrown@winooski.k12.vt.us](mailto:jbrown@winooski.k12.vt.us).

## 21C Afterschool Programs at WHS!

By Barbara Russ

The 21C afterschool program will begin the week of September 12th-October 27th. Our first session is a 7-week session and programs will be offered Monday-Thursday from 3-4pm. Fliers will be available to students on Friday, September 2nd and students can begin to register that day. A complete list of session I afterschool offerings are available on the school district website. Thank you for your ongoing support for afterschool!

### Introducing New Staffers

Once school gets underway, we will provide introductions of other new staffers to readers of this newsletter. For now, here's a little bit of information about new high school guidance counselor Emmy Charron.

Greetings! I am happy to introduce myself as the new High School Guidance Counselor here at Winooski. I recently graduated from the masters in counseling program at Johnson State College and have spent the last six years working as the Assistant Director of Admissions at Castleton State College.

It is my job to make sure each student finds an educational path that suits them and best prepares them for life after high school. I look forward to working closely with each student to make sure they are taking advantage of the opportunities available to them so that they can succeed emotionally, socially and academically.

I look forward to meeting you all and anticipate a great school year. Please feel free to contact me at (802) 655-3530 or [echarron@winooski.k12.vt.us](mailto:echarron@winooski.k12.vt.us). Go Spartans!

### Spartan Merchandise Is Available!

Green Hooded Sweatshirts.....	M ... L..... XL.. XXL.....	\$25.00
White Hooded Sweatshirts.....	M ... L..... XL.. XXL.....	\$25.00
Green Sweatpant.....	S..... M ...L..... XL..XXL	\$20.00
Green Long Sleeved T-Shirt.....	S..... M ...L..... XL..XXL	\$15.00
White Long Sleeved T-Shirt .....	S..... M ...L..... XL..XXL	\$15.00
Green Short Sleeved T-Shirt .....	S..... M ...L..... XL..XXL	\$10.00
White Short Sleeved T-Shirt .....	S..... M ...L..... XL..XXL	\$10.00
Spartan Stadium / Bleacher Seat.....		\$25.00
Spartan Blanket.....		\$35.00
Spartan Umbrella.....		\$15.00
Spartan "Baseball Style" Hat (Green).....		\$10.00
Spartan Scarf.....		\$10.00
Spartan Car Decal .....		\$3.00
Spartan Lanyard.....		\$3.00
Spartan Shoe Bag.....		\$3.00
Sports Car Magnets .....		\$3.00
(Football, Soccer, Basketball, Baseball)		

**Please circle item of choice (especially size request).**

Orders may be placed by calling Cindy Robare @ 655-0433 or forms may be turned into the high school office. NOTE: Payment is due at time of delivery.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



**Health Office News**

*By Liz Parris, RN BSN,  
Health Office Coordinator*

Welcome back everyone! We have missed you and hope that you had a great summer. This year we are pleased to welcome **Holly Hagar, RN** with us. Many of you may have already had the opportunity to meet Holly as a long term sub last school year. If you have not had the wonderful privilege, please feel free to stop by the Health Office and meet her. She will be here on Wednesdays and Fridays this year. Mrs. **Sharonlee Trefry** is back with us and her days are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursday. And I will be here Monday through Friday so if you need anything please stop by and see me.

Children with daily medications should have their parents drop off the medications in a labeled bottle with a doctor's order stating the drug, dose, route and frequency of the medication. You as the parent will also have to send in a note stating that it is okay for your child to take this medication at school. We do have over the counter (OTC) medications for your child throughout the day if needed. We will not give out any of the OTC medications without parental permission. You will be receiving a health information and permission paper and will need to return that to the Health Office before we can administer anything to your child.

We are always in need of clothes for the Health Office. Shirts and pants especially sizes 7 and up are always a need. If you have any that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the health office.

We recommend that if you have a child 2nd grade or younger that you bring in an extra set of clothes labeled in case of accidents. They can be left in the health office as well.

If you have any questions, please feel free to see us between 8am-3pm or you can call us at 383-6094. Welcome back and we look forward to keeping your kids healthy and safe this school year!

**Meet Winooski's New VISTA Worker:**

*Donna Kohut, Community Development Department*

I would like to introduce myself as the new VISTA in the Community Development Department in Winooski. I will be taking over for Jessica Engelke.

My primary responsibilities include grant writing, fund raising, supporting and expanding the Girls Only! project, managing our Community Gardens, as well as recruiting and organizing our volunteers.

I look forward to meeting you! You can find my contact information below.

Email: [vista@winooski.vt.org](mailto:vista@winooski.vt.org) • Office: (802) 655-6410 ex 25

Thanks so much. I am excited for a great year ahead!

**Senior Center News**

*By Lori L. Pinard, MS, Director*

**September 13 - Important monthly meeting!** Please plan on attending to vote on the non-profit status of the senior center. 11:30 Pot Luck-please bring a dish to share or \$5.00 at the door. Also, the fall schedule will be available. Come see what's new this year!!

**September 27** - Join us for Lunch and a Line Dancing demo! 12:00-FRESH Food will be providing a delicious meal, followed by a Line Dancing demo. FRESH Food is an extension of Vermont Works for Women and prepares nutritious meals for Head Start, A Single Pebble restaurant and caters for a variety of non-profit agencies. Both FRESH Food and Line Dancing will be joining our fall schedule!

Contact the center to sign-up at 655-6425 or [seniorcenter@winooski.vt.org](mailto:seniorcenter@winooski.vt.org). We are located at 123 Barlow Street.

**2011 Winooski Culture Hop  
September 16, Friday, from 12-8**

September 16 is the date of the 3rd Annual Culture Hop, to take place at the O'Brien Community Center at 32 Malletts Bay Avenue, and at the Farmer's Market on Sunday September 18th, sponsored by the Winooski Coalition for a Safe and Peaceful Community. This

event is a celebration of all the diverse cultures represented in Winooski. Experience delicious food samples from all over the world right in Winooski, Vermont. Get inspired by experiencing the richness of this city, whether your passion is music, fashion, art, or meeting your neighbors. More details available soon. To get involved (help is always much-appreciated!) email [info.winooskicoalition@gmail.com](mailto:info.winooskicoalition@gmail.com) or call 802-655-4565.

Please join our monthly networking meetings on the second Wednesday of every month, 3:30-4:30, at the O'Brien Community Center. Check us out on Facebook and Twitter, @WCSPC!



Your City Officials	Email addresses	Telephone
Mayor Michael O'Brien	<a href="mailto:moknok@sover.net">moknok@sover.net</a>	802-655-4879
Deputy Mayor Sally Tipson	<a href="mailto:sallyflower@comcast.net">sallyflower@comcast.net</a>	802-655-3894
Councilor John Little	<a href="mailto:jlittle@winooski.vt.org">jlittle@winooski.vt.org</a>	802-655-0106
Councilor Megan Moir	<a href="mailto:winooskigirl@gmail.com">winooskigirl@gmail.com</a>	802-598-7922
Councilor Sarah Robinson	<a href="mailto:sarah.kunz.robinson@gmail.com">sarah.kunz.robinson@gmail.com</a>	802-734-6422
City Manager Deac Decarreau	<a href="mailto:deac@onioncity.com">deac@onioncity.com</a>	802-655-6410

**Visit the city website at [www.onioncity.com](http://www.onioncity.com) or call 802-655-6410.**



# Update from Your City Council

By John Little, City Councilor

Here's hoping you are enjoying your summer! It is hard to believe that it has gone by so fast!

First off I'd like to take a moment to congratulate our **Winooski Swim Team** on their **fourth straight District V State Championship** which they took home the weekend of August 6th & 7th!! The City partnered with the local YMCA this year and together created a fun, exciting and winning combination for not only children living in Winooski, but also from surrounding communities. Thank you to the 'Y' and participating parents for the countless hours of dedication to help make this accomplishment a reality for our children!

Hopefully you've been able to get out and join in some of the awesome events that have been taking place around our great City! For example, have you joined in the **Winooski City Marathon**? This has been a weekly event that helps us all to get out and 'move' and (hopefully) complete the 26.2 mile "marathon" scheduled to take place over the course of nine weeks. There are still a few sessions left, so even if you missed the beginning, come on out and join in for the final few weeks. Details can be obtained through City Hall.

I'm sure you've noticed, and hopefully you have come down to check out the **Farmers' Market**. This amazing event has been in place every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. since early June and will continue into October. There are many local vendors with some amazing products through which we can browse. Come on down and check out some of the products that your neighbors have available!

Have you noticed the progress on the **School Parking Lot** and the **Sidewalks** along Franklin, Bellevue & George Streets? As of this publication, not all of these sections are under construction, but each of them are scheduled to be completed in mid-October, so you will see significant movement on all of these over the next few weeks. What a great addition of safe access for our children

who walk to school as well as enhancing the safety and efficiency within the school parking lot. As Tori Cleiland mentioned in the last District News, keep an eye out for information on how the new layout will work. It'll take a little time to get used to it, but overall I believe it will be a great improvement. I am proud to say that this project is only one of many ways that the School and City are really coming together to ensure the best for our children and citizens overall.

Hopefully you came down to check out the **Winooski Pop-up Gallery**: For six weeks this area came alive with a variety of artists' creations, on display to view and purchase. I'm sure you read about this in the last couple issues of District News, so you know the impact this had for the vendors and the City alike. Overall, those involved thought it was a great success and some excellent exposure for their art and our City.

The **Strategic Planning Steering Committee** has continued to meet monthly and is fine tuning their approach to obtain input from the very diverse groups within our City. Very soon the committee will be asking residents of our City to get involved in meetings to further develop the plan. Please consider joining in these conversations, for without input from everyone, an accurate representation of Winooski's residents cannot be considered.

Our **downtown** continues to be enhanced. As pointed out by Mayor O'Brien in July's District News, the purchase of the Champlain Mill and the move by MyWebGrocer is a great addition to our City. Don Pedro's Taqueria also recently opened next to the post office, so come on down and check out YOUR downtown!

Expect some changes soon associated with the **Malletts Bay Ave./Union St. traffic signal**. This signal is very old and has reached its effective life, and the cost to replace the system would be very expensive. A recent study performed by the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) noted that the traffic volumes at this intersection do not warrant a traffic signal. Therefore, the Traffic Advisory Board has decided

to put the intersection through a 30 day trial, where the signals will be put on a four-way red flash, effectively creating a four-way stop condition. Be on the lookout for some revised pavement markings, signing, some modified parking requirements, and the signal changes in September.

As you are aware, there are many **streets scheduled to be resurfaced** this season, mostly under the bond that you approved last March. Many of these have already had significant work done on them to prepare for the resurfacing. City forces are working diligently to repair drainage structures and other features prior to the paving contractors moving in. By the end of the season, you should see nice, new surfaces on Weaver Street (between Spring St. and Malletts Bay Ave.), West Lane, St. Peter Street (between Weaver St. and North St.), Manseau Street and the Landry Park parking lot. Also, the City has almost completed the East Allen Street Multi-Use Path and will be resurfacing the lower end of West Allen Street. Newell's Lane will also be completely reconstructed as part of the bond approval. You may also notice that City forces will be out repairing and maintaining the railings, benches, flag poles, etc. in your city parks.

As you can see, there is LOTS going on within our great City. Hopefully you can get out and enjoy it! Please feel free to contact me at 655-0106 or by email at [jlittle@winooskivt.org](mailto:jlittle@winooskivt.org) with any questions or concerns.

## Girls Only!

Ladies! The Underground Teen Center will be sponsoring the Girls Only! program again this year. Girls Only is a free, safe and fun program for high school teen girls. We will meet weekly directly after school to play games, get homework help, dance, make jewelry, go on field trips and learn how to cook new foods. If you have other interests, please come and let us know.

Be on the lookout for an announcement at the beginning of the school year. Hope to see you then!



# Thrive After School Program Accepting Registrations



The City of Winooski's Thrive After School Program will resume its normal schedule in September, coinciding with the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year. Hosted at the O'Brien Community Center and available for children in grades K-5, Thrive After School operates from 3:00-5:30 pm on all normal JFK school days. Children enrolled in the program are transported to the Community Center at the end of the school day and are served a nutritious snack before transitioning into reading, activities and play time. The Program costs \$15/day or \$65/week per child; however, Vermont Childcare Subsidy is accepted to cover fees. Please call the Youth Programs Office at 655-1392 x21 or email "thrive@winooski.vt.org" for more information.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — SEPTEMBER

**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](http://www.abbeygroup.net/lunch/prepay)

**Please note! You can get Middle and High school menu information at [www.abbeygroup.net/schoolmenus](http://www.abbeygroup.net/schoolmenus). Parents can also learn about options for managing your child's account.**

**DAILY BREAKFAST OPTIONS:** (Cereal, Bagels, Muffins, Fruit, Milk and Juice offered daily)

- Mon: French Toast Sticks w/ Maple Syrup • Tues: "UBR" Whole Grain Breakfast Bar •
- Wed: Healthy Breakfast Pizza • Thurs: Sausage & Cheese Muffin • Fri: Egg or Yogurt w/ Bun

Mon., Aug. 29	Tues., Aug. 30	Wed., Aug. 31	Thurs., Sept. 1	Friday, Sept. 2
<i>Welcome Back To School!</i>			<b>Welcome Back</b> Chicken Patty Sandwich on Wheat Roll Lettuce & Tomato  Ranch Rice Pilaf Cherry Tomatoes  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Itza Pizza</b> Homemade Cheese or Sausage Pizza  Fresh Carrot Sticks w/Hummus Dip Applesauce Cups  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk
<b>Labor Day</b>  <b>No School</b>	<b>Summer Time Fun!</b> Roasted Hot Dogs on Wheat Roll Ketchup, Mustard, Relish & Onions  Baked Beans Vegetable Sticks  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Buon Appetito</b> Wheat Spaghetti or Spaghetti Squash w/ Meat or Garden Marinara Sauce  Dark Green Garden Salad Homemade Garlic Breadsticks  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Fiesta</b> Chicken Fajitas Chicken, Soft Flour Tortilla, Cabot Sour Cream & Salsa  Rice Pilaf Creamy Coleslaw Happy Birthday Cake  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Itza Pizza</b> Homemade Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza  Marinated Black Bean & Veggie Salad Low-Fat Dessert  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk
<b>Chuck Wagon Special</b> BBQ Pork Rib Sandwich on Wheat Roll  Oven Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges Dark Green Garden Salad  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Localvore Day</b> Pasta & Chicken Tossed in Fresh Local Pesto  Local Corn on the Cob Local Zucchini Muffins  Fresh Local Apple Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Early Dismissal Grades 6-16</b> Homemade Garlic Breadstick Brushed w/Garlic & Parmesan Marinara Dipping Sauce  Hearty Minestrone Soup Fresh Carrot Sticks w/Dip  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Fiesta</b> Nachos Supreme Seasoned Taco Meat, Nacho Cheese Sauce, Lettuce, Salsa & Cabot Sour Cream, Corn Tortilla Chips  Rice w/Black Beans & Corn Creamy Coleslaw Low-Fat Dessert  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Itza Pizza</b> Homemade Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza  Dark Green Garden Salad Low-Fat Dressings  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk
<b>Chicken Mania</b> Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets w/Dipping Sauce  Brown Rice Pilaf Fresh Cucumber Slices w/Dip Whole Wheat Dinner Roll  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Buon Appetito</b> Meat or Cheese Lasagna  Dark Green Garden Salad Wheat Dinner Roll Low-Fat Dessert  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Hot Oven Fresh</b> Baked Potato Bar Chili, Homemade Cheese Sauce, Fresh Steamed Broccoli, Cabot Sour Cream & Fresh Chives  Side Caesar Salad Homemade Oatmeal Muffin Square  Fresh Orange Wedges Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Caesar Crazy</b> Chicken Caesar Salad  Carrot Sticks w/Ranch Dip Wheat Dinner Roll  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Itza Pizza</b> Homemade Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza  Fresh Carrot Sticks w/Dip  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk
<b>Catch of the Day</b> Fish & Chips Fish Sticks & French Fries  Steamed Corn Wheat Dinner Roll  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>American Made</b> Hearty Macaroni & Cheese  Fresh Steamed Broccoli Homemade Cornbread Low-Fat Dessert  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Brunch For Lunch</b> Waffles w/ Warm Syrup  Sweet & White Home fries Sausage Links Fruit Filled Crisp  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Fiesta</b> Taco Bar w/ The Works Seasoned Taco Meat, Shredded Cheese, Lettuce, Onions, Salsa, Cabot Sour Cream & Soft Flour Tortilla  Rice w/Black Beans & Corn Creamy Coleslaw  Fresh Pineapple Wedge Farm Fresh Milk	<b>Itza Pizza</b> Homemade Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza  Dark Green Garden Salad Low-Fat Dressings  Fresh Fruit Farm Fresh Milk

**Superintendent of Schools**

Mary Martineau: 655-0485  
mmartineau@winooski.k12.vt.us

**John F. Kennedy Elementary  
and Middle School**

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

**Winooski High School**

Principal: Justin Brown  
802-655-3530  
jbrown@winooski.k12.vt.us

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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 399 students attending JFK Elementary (grades PreK-5), 143 attending Winooski Middle School (grades 6-8), and 267 attending Winooski High School (grades 9-12).

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

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

**Newsletter of the Winooski School District**

Winooski School District  
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Winooski, VT 05404

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