



WINOOSKI SCHOOL

DISTRICT NEWS!

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Welcome Back to School!

Get to Know The Partnership for Change

By Lindsey Cox, Project Manager, Partnership for Change Initiative

To help build a strong and dynamic future for Winooski and Burlington, the two high schools have joined hands in “remodeling” aspects of our educational system to better prepare all of our students for a rapidly-changing, global society. The Partnership for Change, the bridging entity that will help lead this effort, is bringing our schools and communities to the same table. Together, we will design and implement a new system of “student-centered learning,” a system that recognizes that each student learns differently, and that learning happens all the time and everywhere. The Partnership for Change has been gearing up for the new school year and is excited to share who we are, what changes you can expect for your student, and how to get involved in this effort. Funding for the Partnership has been provided by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

Over the spring and summer, we have been working hard to create a diverse and capable team of leaders who can help us reach our goals over the next several years. The Partnership’s Steering Committee will be chaired by

Martha Maksym, executive director of the United Way of Chittenden County, and Hal Colston, executive director of SerVermont (formerly known as the Vermont Commission on National and Community Service). Together, they will lead the governing body responsible for oversight of the Partnership’s mission and vision. “Martha and Hal bring a depth of experience as visionary, innovative, leaders that will be invaluable as we work together to make something beautiful happen in our schools,” commented Leon Wheeler, Winooski High School Principal and Winooski Administrative representative on the Steering Committee.

Like an orchestra, our educational system has many groups of players. The orchestra sounds best when each musician is skilled and they work together towards the common goal of playing the best music. In that spirit, the Partnership realizes we must bring the players in our communities together to ensure the success of this effort. We are proud to announce the members of our first Partnership for Change Steering Committee: Students: Aminah Mallim, Kristen Vincent, Wesley Mead, Ethan Pepin; Educators: Tom Obaggy, Ingeborg White, Lynn Kennedy; Family Members: Rich Nadworny, Fexhrije Sulejmani, Robert DiMasi; Community Partners: Ali Amir, Puspa Luitel, Mary Alice McKenzie; Administrative Reps: Amy Mellencamp, Leon Wheeler; School Board Reps: Amy Booher, Kathy Chasen; City Officials: Katherine “Deac” Decarreau, Jessica Nordhaus; DOE rep: Frank Gerdeman. Our Steering Committee is full of dedicated members in our community ready to “play” at this effort together.

With a goal of ensuring that every young person graduates from high school with the confidence, enthusiasm, skills and

knowledge they need to be successful, here are some of the early features of student-centered learning that can be seen at Winooski High School:

- A 1:1 technology roll-out for 9th and 10th graders: This fall, your students will be receiving MacBooks to help them gain a host of skills and competencies that will be needed as they move into the wider world.
- We will be exploring a Year End Studies Program, non-traditional courses to expand understanding and inspire new student interests.
- In line with the research that says teacher collaboration significantly improves education, we are providing just that for our high school teachers. Our hope is to help students see connections across the curriculum and to invite a growing cadre of community partners to participate in the education of our students.

Remodeling our educational system to ensure a bright future for Winooski and Burlington is truly a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Come join the Partnership for Change for a FREE lunch. We want to meet you! Our Steering Committee, Fellows, and staff will be present to answer your questions and talk about the exciting work ahead.

Join us on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 12:00-3:00pm at the North Beach Pavilion in Burlington. If you need a ride or would like to arrange a carpool, please contact us at partnershipforchangevt@gmail.com or (802) 363-2342. Don’t forget to mention at the gate you are with the Partnership and the parking fee will be waived. Can’t attend? For more information or to volunteer check out our website: www.partnershipforchangevt.org.

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What are the Common Core Standards?

By Mary Martineau, Superintendent of Schools

There is much talk in the field of education around the Common Core Standards (CCSS). This year, as we begin to transition to these new standards, it is important for students, parents and the community to understand what they mean. The new assessment measuring student outcomes, using the Common Core standards, will be implemented in spring 2014.

The Common Core Standards have been adopted by 45 states. They represent a sweeping reform of K-12 public education, and are often referred to as a “thinking” curriculum. Critical thinking skills and collaboration are an integral part of these standards. The Common Core standards were developed with input from colleges and universities to be sure students are prepared for life after high school.

This article will focus on the standards for literacy.

New levels of literacy are required for today’s rapidly changing information world. Students must be able to interpret, analyze and make connections through reading and writing. Vocabulary instruction combined with reading and writing across the curriculum will be a big focus. In Winooski, we have spent the past 2 years at the high school level focusing on writing across the curriculum as part of our school improvement grant professional development. As we transition to the Common Core standards, this will be a focus K-12.

The Common Core standards emphasize higher order comprehension skills. Students will be required to analyze and compare multiple complex texts while explaining relationships

between ideas. In addition, students will be meeting in small groups to discuss text readings while looking at multiple perspectives.

The Common Core Standards have central goals with high standards. There are 10 anchor standards for reading and 10 for writing.

The anchor standards are the goal. Each of the 10 anchor standards in reading and in writing are then broken down by grade level (K-12). The grade level standards provide a scope and sequence of skill development for the anchor standards.

As our world continues to change, so must the way we educate students. The Common Core Standards will shift our instructional practices to a more student centered learning approach.

We will continue to provide information on the Common Core through our website and the *District News!*



Winooski School District: Going Green

By Jam Lambert, Board of School Trustees

The Winooski School District has recently undergone a comprehensive energy audit. This audit was conducted by S.E.M.P. or School Energy Management Program. The purpose of this free audit was to both assess past energy usage trends and to identify future potential energy savings. I am pleased to announce that according to the audits findings, the Winooski School District is currently using 11% below average for fuel consumption and 16% below average for electricity usage. This rating is based on the per square foot average energy use of other schools in the state of Vermont. To quote one of the auditor’s opening statements on the report: “Overall, the fuel and electrical savings over the years from lighting retrofits and good management have been impressive.” We as your local Board of School Trustees and our staff are extremely proud of our accomplishments in this area. That being said, we have no intention of sitting on our laurels. We as your board, in close collaboration with our staff, are committed to continually finding ways to cut energy usage and make the Winooski School District as safe, healthy and green as possible. What are some of the ways for the school district to save even more energy? The auditor

recommended some of the following actions:

- ▲ Creation of a facility operations plan.
- ▲ “De-lamping” of light fixtures, to meet new reduced state lighting specifications.
- ▲ Convert building controls from pneumatic to electronic.
- ▲ Start a district wide energy saving program.

The above represents some of the many recommendations in this very thorough audit. The entire district looks forward to implementing these recommendations in the future and continuing to make the Winooski School District a more efficient, greener place for years to come.

The Winooski School Board would like to welcome back our students, teachers, support staff and administrators. We look forward to working with our new high school and middle school principal, Leon Wheeler and starting to implement the Nellie Mae Grant. We welcome you to attend our monthly board meetings held on the second Wednesday of the month. We believe this year will bring welcome changes and positive growth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Homecoming Schedule!

Homecoming starts on Thursday, September 27th with the crowning of the King, Queen and Court at 5:40 (in the front parking lot near the soccer field), followed by a parade starting at 6:00pm. Introduction of the fall sports teams will follow on the football field once the parade is done.

On Friday Sept 28th, the WHS football team takes on Mill River with game time at 7:00 pm. On Saturday Sept 29th, the Boys Varsity Soccer team plays Enosburg at 10:00 am and the Girls soccer plays Hazen at 12:30. The Homecoming Dance is open to all HS students and starts at 8:00pm. The cost for the dance is \$6 a person or \$10 per couple. There is no cost for the homecoming soccer games. The evening football game cost is \$4/adult and \$2 for students but please note that Winooski students get in for free!

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 you receive a letter, you do not need to return the Free/Reduced application that comes home in the first day packets.

For all other students, please 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 the forms, please feel free to contact us:

Cathy Bray, 802-383-6016, cbray@wsdschools.org

• Rebecca Goulet, 802-383-6001, rgoulet@wsdschools.org

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

Dollars For Scholars Calcutta is October 6

By Morgan Kelner, Chair Winooski Dollars for Scholars

Hi Everyone. Winooski Dollars for Scholars is selling tickets to our CALCUTTA and SILENT AUCTION, which will take place on a new date and in an exciting new location, this year. **Our biggest fundraiser of the year will be on Saturday, October 6, 2012 and will be held at the Regular Veteran's Association (RVA) in Winooski.** Tickets are \$65.00 each, which entitles you to a delicious dinner for two, an opportunity to bid on exciting auction items, socialize, and perhaps win the grand prize of \$1,000. However, most importantly, by purchasing a ticket you will be supporting Winooski students who are seeking financial help for college.

Besides providing scholarships to Winooski graduates, Winooski Dollars for Scholars, continues to fund to middle and high school students who wish to participate in educational enrichment programs such as music, drama or art camp, as well as leadership programs or coursework.

DFS continues to welcome new board members and we hope that you will find time to either join the board, help us with a fundraiser or even work on just one project. We are a fun community/school based group and only meet every other month. For more information about DFS, purchasing tickets or donating an item or service to our Silent Auction (car repair, carpentry, 2 hours of French, Spanish, music or art instruction, baby sitting, computer or business consultation etc.), please contact Morgan Kelner at mkelner14@gmail.com; Lisa Graves at BPSVT@aol.com or Elizabeth Stillwell at Estillwell@hbinsurance.com. WE WOULD LOVE YOUR SUPPORT and hope to see you at our Calcutta/Silent Auction on October 6. Thanks so much!

Free K-12 Afterschool Programs

By Barbara Russ, 21C Program Director

Welcome back to afterschool! We are very excited about our afterschool offerings for Session I for students in grades K-12. Session I is a 7-week session beginning the week of September 10th and ending the week of October 22nd.

Our JFK afterschool program is a partnership between Kids First (funds are provided by the Winooski School District and the PTO) and our 21C grant. Most programs are taught by licensed teachers and provide enrichment opportunities for students in the areas of literacy, math, science, social studies, technology, and the arts. Kids First and 21C afterschool programs will begin on Tuesday, September 11th. All programs are free and will be offered Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3-4pm. A healthy snack will be provided.

Our middle and high school afterschool programs are taught by licensed teachers and provide academic support and enrichment opportunities for students in grades 6-12 in the areas of literacy, math, science, social studies, technology, and the arts. The middle school afterschool program is a partnership between Kids First and our 21C grant. The high school afterschool program is funded solely with 21c funds. The middle and high school afterschool programs will begin on Tuesday, September 11th. All programs are free and will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons. A healthy snack will be provided to all participating students, as well.

K-12 students will receive their afterschool fliers on Friday, August 31st. If you would like your child/guardian at JFK Elementary or Winooski Middle School enrolled in afterschool programs during the first session, please remember to return the registration form on Tuesday, September 4th. Confirmations will go out to students by Friday, September 7th (sooner if possible!). A complete list of session I afterschool offerings, as well as future afterschool session offerings, will be available on the school district website throughout the school year.

We are always looking for parents and community members interested in volunteering in our afterschool program. If that is something you would like to do, please give Barb a call at 383-6041 or email her at bruss@wsdschools.org.

We are looking forward to another terrific year of engaging and high interest afterschool programs. Thank you for your ongoing support of our afterschool program!

K-5 News

By Mary O'Rourke, JFK Elementary Principal

Our August in-service days were very productive. We had three days of literacy training reviewing the five components of literacy (phonemic awareness, decoding, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension) and then time was spent looking at the standards of practice. The standards of practice help us define what occurs during our literacy block. As a staff, we are working on read aloud, community reads, guided reading and independent reading. We are setting standards that all teachers will follow so that our students have similar literacy experiences. One of our goals for the year is to increase the amount of independent reading our students do using text at their independent level. Students become better readers by reading. We will set grade-level benchmarks which will have an expectation that all children at that grade level will read a certain number of books by June.

We also spent two days with Nancy Clements on social thinking. Nancy is assisting us with common language and an understanding of social thinking. Social thinking has six principles that all teachers were exposed to during the two days of training. Those six principles are: I (initiating novel activities) L (listening actively) A (abstracting and inference) U (understanding perspective) G (Gestalt: the big picture) H (humor and human relatedness). We will use these principles in all of our interactions with our students this year. We will also be assisted by Nancy with this implementation, practice and use of these principles.

The children returned to school on Wednesday, August 29th. The entire elementary staff greeted them wearing the same shirts! This year JFK is piloting Positive Behaviors and Intervention Supports (PBIS). As part of PBIS, schools select an acronym that represents the behaviors we would like to see everyone exhibiting. At JFK we are reaching for the STARS (Striving, Thoughtful, Accepting, Responsible and Safe). We are focusing the first few weeks on safe behaviors. As we focus on safety, we will teach children what safety looks like in all parts of the school-- the classroom, the hallways, the cafeteria, the bathrooms and the playground. As children are seen exhibiting safe behaviors, they will receive a star, which will be placed in a bucket in their classroom. When each classroom reaches a designated number of stars in their bucket, those stars will be added to the school container. A whole-school assembly will be held when the entire school reaches its goal. Throughout the year, we will keep the community updated as we make progress toward reaching the stars.

It is going to be a busy year. Everyone came back energized, excited and ready to go!! The staff is dedicated to helping our students reach for the STARS by nurturing positive behaviors and supporting our school community.

Once a month JFK has a late start so that teachers can meet in professional learning communities. During these hour long meetings, teachers are able to look at student work and use one another as resources to further student learning. Delayed starts began last year and we found this was a valuable time for our staff. **JFK has its first late start on September 19th. School will begin at 8:40 on that day.**

One last note: Parent conferences will be held on Thursday, October 18th. Daytime and evening conferences will be available. There is no school on Friday, October 19th.



Guidance News

By Sarah Murphy

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and that you enjoyed the nice weather!

For those of you who are new to the district, my name is Sarah Murphy and I am the Guidance Counselor at JFK. This will be my second year in Winooski, following a few years in other districts throughout the state of Vermont.

The Guidance Program at JFK is a bit unique, with most of my efforts geared toward weekly 45 minute classroom lessons that focus on a variety of themes under the large umbrella of social skills. With the remaining time during the week, I enjoy inviting children into my office for social skills lunch groups, as well as meeting with students individually for brief check-ins.

Should you have any questions for me, please do not hesitate to email me at smurphy@wdschools.org or call me on my direct line, 383-6064.

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 and educational projects to do throughout the year.

For more information go to: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/> or contact Barb Pitfido at bpitfido@wdschools.org.

SAVE THE DATE:

Winooski Elementary School Heading to UVM!

Please save the date — JFK Elementary School has been invited to attend a UVM girls soccer game on Sunday, September 30th. **UVM will sponsor the activity by providing tickets to all students!** Busing will be provided to transport the children to and from the game. Children will need to be at school at 11:45. More info to come in our next newsletter.

Inspiration and Empowerment

By Leon Wheeler, Middle/High School Principal

The start of the school year is just around the corner, which really is mostly exciting, and at the same time just a little nerve-racking. The summer has been all about meeting people and planning, and as helpful as that has been, there is nothing that compares to the energy and enthusiasm that fills the school with the arrival of our 450 students. Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen! It's time to roll up our sleeves, charge up our computers, and get started.

There are some physical changes around the school that are important to note. In the central school entrance near the library the lobby floor has been re-tiled with a Spartan head embedded. It's neatly done, and subtly asserts the importance of this place of learning and instills a sense of pride. That message is re-affirmed in the middle/high school office with new furniture and a more attractive and functional layout.

Over the past several months information has been shared about the "Partnership for Change." Throughout the coming school year you'll hear much more about this commitment we have made to work collaboratively with Burlington High School and a number of local individuals and organizations to create a more wholistic, relevant, and empowering educational program. One part of our work will be a laptop computer initiative initially centering on students in grades 9 and 10. Winooski technology integration specialist Drew Blanchard is currently leading teachers in exploring how computers can deepen and personalize learning for students. Early in the year, before the computers are introduced to the students, he will meet with parents and students to create common understandings and expectations regarding the computers, and build a foundation for successful transition to 1:1 computing in our school.

Our teachers return to school on August 20 for 7 days of training and planning. There are quite a few changes at the school this year, including our principal and several other staff members. One of our first needs is to become a team committed to working together and supporting each other in educating every student. To do that, we need to build partnerships with parents, community members, and various community organizations. We mentioned the old African saying "It takes a village to educate a child" in an earlier writing. We truly believe that, and are going to make that partnership a top priority. By the time you read this the Winooski middle and high school teachers will have been out and about during the in-service days. This is part of our journey to better understand "Winooski Our Town" (to use the title of a song from the recently released CD by A2VT). We can build an amazing educational program here in Winooski as we become partners in learning.

Our student's return on Wednesday, August 29 marks the beginning of a new, exciting year. We're ready to begin! Here's to a positive year together.

Winooski Students Visit Normandy, France

By Veronica J. Saffo

Nine students from Winooski High School and one student from Rice High School recently returned from an overseas exchange program under the direction of teachers Veronica Saffo and Melissa Clark, in conjunction with Prometour Travel Agency. The trip was educational in nature and featured many monumental stops while in Paris and the region of Normandy. The students spent two days in Paris, France and visited the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Louvre, and Versailles along with other sites. They spent twelve nights with their host families in Rouen, which is on the coast of France in the region of Normandy. During the time in Rouen they had the opportunity to visit the beaches of Normandy and the site of D-Day, Monet's home and gardens, Mont St. Michel, Etretat and many other sites. Students attended classes at Jean Baptist de la Salle where they had the opportunity to experience school in French classrooms. Cara Casier noted the value of her experiences; "I think that France is filled with lots of customs and cultures that certainly separate it from the rest of the world. Experiencing those customs can really put it into perspective. I also think that with a changing world it is great for young people to experience other places and other people that they may not have been able to do otherwise. For me, by staying in France I saw the impacts that America has had on France and vice versa. It is truly an incredible opportunity even for someone like me who is still learning the language." Canary Ly added, "...we had great host families and everyone on the trip could connect."

This international exchange has been a bi-annual tradition at Winooski High School that has been made possible to the great support of the Winooski community — and for that, the students and chaperones all send a resounding, "Merci Beaucoup!"



On the Move with Team Velocity: Looking Back and Planning Forward

By Nancy Keller

Thanks to funding from the Bay and Paul Foundations, Team Velocity students participated in a movement program throughout 2011 – 2012 academic year to help teachers understand the relationship between physical activity, emotional self-regulation, perseverance, and academic achievement in mathematics. Current and emerging research shows that physical activity is another way to help children build their capacity for learning and achieve academically (Baumeister, 2011, Budde, et al., 2008, Chaddock, et al., 2010, Donnelly, 2011, Efrat, 2011, Gailliot, et al., 2007, Gallotta, et al. 2012, Hillman, et al., 2011, Jensen, 2009, Kantomaa et al., 2010, Medina, 2008, Ratey, 2008, Singh, et al., 2012, Trudeau, 2010). Jensen asserts that enrichment opportunities, such as learning the coordinated movements of dance, gymnastics and the martial arts, develop a child's ability to learn. "To make kids 'smarter' by simply stuffing more curriculum into their brains doesn't work," Jensen writes. "This strategy is not supported by research and usually makes a child feel overwhelmed or bored" (*Teaching with Poverty in Mind*, 2009, p.54).

Team Velocity's movement program included three 25-minute aerobic exercise classes called "P.E. for the Brain" (PE4B) and two 45-minute martial arts classes called Bushintai-Do per week. Students wore heart rate monitors twice a week for a period of at least 20 minutes of physical activity, one time for PE4B and one



Winooski Middle School students respond to the question "How did Arts Rotation Martial Arts Help You?" (Larger Font Words = Greater Frequency of Response)

time for Bushintai-Do. These monitors encouraged students to maintain a target between 65% to 85% of their maximum heart rate. To measure the outcomes of this study, students completed four tests of physical fitness throughout the school year, and the Resilience Inventory (Song, 2003) for emotional self-regulation and perseverance. They also wrote journal entries and essays and were interviewed. Mathematics grades were used

as an indicator of academic achievement.

The results showed a statistically significant improvement in physical fitness and academic achievement in mathematics as measured by fitness tests and quarterly grades in mathematics. Improvements in emotional self-regulation and perseverance were observed, as reported in journal writing and interviews and in the two sub-categories of the Resilience Inventory (Song, 2003), Optimism and Emotion Control. These findings suggest that by incorporating more physical activity into the school day, as defined by this study, Winooski Middle School teachers can help students develop their social, emotional and physical well-being, can further engage them in their learning, and positively affect their academic achievement. The mind moves the body and the body moves the mind.

Read more about Winooski Middle School's movement initiative for the coming year in future newsletters!

English Language Learners Complete Summer Session

By Bill Clark, ELL Teacher

This summer, twenty-three students participated in the English Language Learner (ELL) Summer Session, designed to help students make the transition to high school and help current students with the high school curriculum. High school students received one credit for successful completion of the course; middle school students received a certificate of completion.

Most of the students came from the high school, with seven students from the middle school, three incoming ninth graders, and thirteen upperclass students. Two students, newly arrived from Nepal, joined the class midway through the session.



Bill Clark taught English and Social Studies. Deb Light and Tom Payeur (a new high school teacher) co-taught the math

program. Dalib Bulle, Puspa Luitel, Aftaba Mezetovic, and Tabatha Soliz provided instructional assistance.

The Summer Session offered math and English classes in the morning, followed by recess during which students could walk outside or play soccer. Afternoons were devoted to computer-based typing instruction and reading programs, social studies, writing, and media presentations.

Field trips gave students a better idea of American culture, history, and the world around them. Many considered the last trip — to Fort Ticonderoga — the highlight of the Summer Session.

One student poignantly summarized her experience: "This summer I was happy because I knew more English. Sometimes I get sad because other people know how to speak better English. Now, I know that I speak good English. ... I'm happy this summer because my teachers taught me English and math. Please keep teaching me and helping me. And, maybe I can play soccer too."



CollegeQuest: An Experience of a Lifetime!

By Bill Clark, ELL Teacher

Three students from Winooski High School graduated from the CollegeQuest program in Rutland, Vermont on August 3rd. To celebrate their accomplishments, students received flowers, trophies, and their diplomas as proud family members and friends watched video highlights of the summer experience at the College of St. Joseph.

"I learned more new things that I didn't know before," said Sunita Gurung, a Winooski junior, as she joined classmates Chandra Luitel, Bimala Bista, and Pabitra Bhattari (from Burlington High School) in the graduation celebration.

The program offered students an opportunity to learn about careers in health care. Students took classes such as Science and Health Careers, Cultural and Linguistic Competency, a Community Project Seminar, Planning for College, and Introduction to College Studies. They had opportunities to practice lab work and get training in CPR.

"CollegeQuest helped me decide what really interests me," said Chandra Luitel, an incoming senior. "At first, I was not sure which medical field I wanted, so I chose pediatric nurse. Later, I decided to start my career as registered nurse. The program encouraged me and the staff was really helpful and understanding. They gave me so much hope. The six weeks flew by. I would highly recommend this wonderful program to all rising juniors."

The CollegeQuest program encourages incoming seniors to think early about applying for college and make some basic decisions about their career goals.

Staff members from the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) explained the college application process to both students and their families, encouraging students to take advantage of financial aid opportunities. Staff members, teaching assistants, and VSAC counselors helped students develop and write their college essays.

"We went to Rutland Hospital and we met different types of doctors," said Sunita. "We asked questions about different hospital equipment and we met college professors, college students, pharmacists, and social workers."

Students created PowerPoint presentations as part of their Community Project seminar and explained their work to an audience that included Area Health Education Center (AHEC) staff and medical professionals.

"I learned a lot of things that will help me with my career during College Quest," said Sunita. "I thank the staff from the bottom of my heart for helping me move forward."

The social experience gave students an opportunity to learn new things about themselves and their classmates. During their free time, students talked about their backgrounds, sang and danced, swam, helped with assignments, talked, and produced a talent show. They visited Bromley Park, the Olympic Corn Maze, hospitals, Albany College, the University of Vermont, and the Community College of Vermont.

"Spending six weeks at the College of Saint Joseph for CollegeQuest was worth it," said Chandra. "I met lots of new friends, healthcare professors, and other great advisors, as well as instructors."



The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) strives to "enhance access to quality health care ...

by improving the supply and distribution of health care professionals through community/academic educational partnerships." This year's program included twenty-four students from Vermont, who attended classes at St. Joseph's College in Rutland for six weeks.

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

Honor Roll Correction

Cara Casier was on High Honors for the last quarter of last year, not Honors as we reported last month. Our apologies!

Art Supplies Needed!

The Winooski High School Art Department is looking for plastic yogurt cups (of all sizes) and playing cards. If you have these items and would like to donate them, please send them in with your student or bring them to the High School Office for Ms. Bruce. Thanks!

HEALTH CORNER

Health Office News

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Health Office Coordinator

Welcome back everyone! Holly and I hope you had a great summer and we are excited about this school year. Here are some helpful reminders about our office:

1. There are two(2) Registered Nurses in the Health Office Monday-Friday.
2. If your child is scheduled to take daily prescription medications in our office then we MUST have a doctors order and signature and parent signature
3. Please remember if your child takes medications less than three (3) times a day then those medications should be not be scheduled during school hours.
4. If your child has asthma or needs an epi pen, then please see one of the nurses as there is additional paperwork that needs to be filled out.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Have a great school year!

COMMUNITY NEWS

City Councillor's Message

By Sarah Robinson

Here are some brief updates on the varied work of the City and Council over the summer months:



- As you have surely noticed, our Department of Public Works and contractors have been busy working on numerous road and infrastructure improvement projects throughout the City. Thank you for your patience as these projects progress during construction season.
- We have enjoyed another successful Farmers' Market season, thanks to the leadership of the Winooski Community Partnership. If you haven't yet had a chance, please come visit the market on Sundays from 10-2 to meet fellow community members and enjoy some great food, products and live tunes!
- The City Council passed both a resolution and an official statement on the F-35 basing. Both documents can be found on the City of Winooski website. Thank you to the many constituents who reached out to us on this issue. The vast majority of constituents we have heard from have been opposed to the basing, although we have also heard from those in support. As a united Council, and as individual members, we continue to seek additional information and data on the potential impacts of the basing and advocate for the health and vitality of our community. This includes continued communication and advocacy with our elected representatives, airport officials and other municipalities.
- A delegation of Winooski leaders recently went to Washington D.C. to meet with top officials from the federal office of Refugee Resettlement and Departments of State and Education to discuss opportunities for engaging our changing and diverse community. City Manager Deac Decarreau, Mayor Mike O'Brien, Chair of the School Board of Trustees Mike Decarreau, and Superintendent Mary Martineau participated in a full day of meetings that were arranged at the City's request by Senator Sanders' office. The purpose of the visit was to share Winooski's story as a refugee resettlement community, and to ask for some specific tools to capitalize upon our greatest asset – our diversity. The City Council and Manager look forward to continued work on this issue and to engaging Winooski residents (no matter how long you've been here) to

help us in this effort. A full briefing memo on these meetings is available on the City of Winooski's website.

- The City has welcomed two new employees as a result of restructuring that occurred during the annual budget process. Ray Coffey has joined the staff as the Director of Community Services. In this role, Ray will be providing leadership for the services in our community including the O'Brien Community Center, and all of our programmatic offerings serving youth to elders. Ray was most recently the Executive Director of Essex CHIPS and lives in Winooski with his wife, Molly. We have also welcomed David Crawford as a part-time business manager, Dave was most recently the Manager of the Village of Essex Junction, where he developed expertise on many facets of municipal management. Dave's primary focus will be on the financial and human resources functions of the City.
- On a personal note, my husband Colin and I welcomed our new baby, Hazel, on July 3rd. I want to thank the City Manager, Staff, Councilors and constituents for all of their support and understanding while I took the month of July to get to know our new daughter. We look forward to raising a proud Winooski Spartan!

As always, please feel free to reach out to any or all of us on issues of importance to you.

The Winooski Teen Center

With yet another school year under way, the Winooski Teen Center (located in the O'Brien Community Center at 32 Malletts Bay Avenue) is running smoothly and is always looking for new teens to stop by! The Teen Center will be offering a host of services throughout the year and we will be sure to keep you posted about specific schedules and programs.



This year the Teen Center will be focusing on:

- Homework Help
- A Teen Advisory Board
- Sponsoring teen employment opportunities
- Free dinners for anyone 18 or younger

We are looking to grow on our successes of this past year and enhance our ability to help students with their homework by offering them resources such as art and poster making supplies, access to calculators, computers with word processors, and one-on-one attention from college volunteers who will tutor the students. In addition, the Teen Center will be hosting free dinners throughout the school year for any youth who is 18 or younger. These dinners are healthy meals prepared by FRESH Food, an enterprise of Vermont Works for Women. "Girls Only!" will also be focused on providing activities for girls such as homework help, cultural exchanges, and likely some field trips.

Remember to get the school year kicked off right by sending any teens that are new to the area or those who are just entering high school to the Teen Center!

Your City Officials	Email addresses	Telephone
Mayor Michael O'Brien	mayor@winooski.vt.org	802-655-4879
Deputy Mayor Sally Tipson	sallyflower@comcast.net	802-655-3894
Councilor John Little	jlittle@winooski.vt.org	802-655-0106
Councilor Megan Moir	mmoir@winooski.vt.org	802-598-7922
Councilor Sarah Robinson	sarah.kunz.robinson@gmail.com	802-734-6422
City Manager Deac Decarreau	deac@winooski.vt.org	802-655-6410

Visit the city website at winooski.vt.org or call 802-655-6410.

Haunted Winooski— Call For Volunteers

Haunted Winooski is a city-wide, week-long celebration of Halloween being organized by the Winooski Welcome Center. Activities will take place October 26th to October 31st. A whole host of activities and events are in the works: masquerade ball, dining specials, storytelling events, zombie walks, costume parade, and music events, etc. The Winooski Welcome Center is seeking volunteers interested in helping to plan activities for kids and young people such as a costume parade and youth-oriented festival. If you are interested in getting involved, send an email to info@winooskiwelcomecenter.com or call (802) 399-2670. You can also visit www.winooskiwelcomecenter.com for updates.



Help Wanted: O'Brien Community Center Seeks Facility Attendent

This part time position assists in the use and oversight of the O'Brien Community Center rental space, welcoming groups as they arrive, ensuring the safe and proper use of the facility and ensuring facility is left in clean condition.

Qualifications: Friendly and outgoing in nature. Must be able to understand, articulate, and enforce Y policies. Courteous and professional at all times when interacting with the public. Must be bi-lingual, able to speak English and Somali-Bantu languages.

Tasks:

- Greet groups upon arrival and review important terms of the rental agreement with renter.
- Explain use and operation of the kitchen equipment. Review guidelines on the proper disposal of food items.
- During the event, monitor facility use to ensure rules are being followed.
- Ensure property is left in clean condition according to the terms of the agreement.
- Report any damage or other concerns promptly to supervisor.
- Act as a role model for the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility in your interactions with others, especially children at the Y.
- Perform other duties as assigned in a timely and efficient manner.

If interested, please email a cover note and resume to hr@gbymca.org.

Thrive After School Program Now Accepting Registrations for Fall

The City of Winooski's Thrive After School Program will resume its normal schedule on August 29, coinciding with the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. Open to students in grades K-5, Thrive After School provides childcare from 3:00-5:30PM on all normal JFK school days. The state-licensed program emphasizes student literacy and healthy choices with a schedule designed to support working parents.

Children enrolled in the program are transported to the O'Brien Community Center at the conclusion of the school day and served a nutritious snack before transitioning into supervised reading, activities and play time. Program leaders are, however, currently exploring a City-School partnership which would relocate the Thrive Program to JFK Elementary, allowing attendees to stay in the building to more readily participate in JFK's afterschool enrichment offerings. More information will be made available as the program location is finalized.

Thrive After School costs \$15/day or \$65/week per child; however, Vermont Childcare Subsidy is accepted to cover fees. Enrollment forms are available in the Youth Programs Office at the O'Brien Community Center, but spaces are limited. Please email coordinator@winooski.vt.org or call 655-1392 x21 for more information.

E-Newspaper Launches to Serve Winooski

This summer, Guy Page began publishing the Winooski Bridge, a Winooski-only community e-newspaper. It is published on the first and third Thursdays of every month. To be added to the mailing list or to submit a news story, send an email to winooski@yaho.com. Page is the founding publisher of the Winooski Eagle, a longtime community newspaper. He is also the former editor and publisher of the Colchester Chronicle (1988-2002). At present he is a Montpelier-based public affairs consultant.

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

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

Join Us at the Next Community Dinner!

By Kate Nugent, WCSPC Director

Please join us at our September community dinner, Sept. 19, to celebrate



Winooski and civic engagement. We'll have a voter registration drive to help people get registered to vote, good food, and good company! Free, friendly, food starts at 5:30 PM. Location is tbd (normally held at the O'Brien Community Center, but we may hold it at the senior center this month). Keep posted by visiting our website, WCSPC.org, and or calling 802-655-4565 and talking to Kate, or email kate.winooskicoalition@gmail.com.

Newsletter of the Winooski School District

Winooski School District
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www.wdschools.org

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John F. Kennedy Elementary School

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Winooski Middle and High School

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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.