



WINOOSKI SCHOOL

DISTRICT NEWS!

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 12

SEPTEMBER 2013

Welcome Back to School!

Thoughts on Democracy

By *Tori Cleiland, Board of School Trustees*

I've been thinking about democracy this summer. Don't we all?! At Thrive Summer Camp, the kids vote, democratic style, on the game to be played in an outdoor activity. Anyone can put a game on the "ballot" and everyone has one vote. The interesting thing about democracy is not everyone gets what they want even though everyone has an opportunity to use their voice. We learn through the disappointment of some (who said democracy was fair!?) out to the sunny playing field and what I notice is all kids engage and have fun. Until, we bump into our common humanity; "I'm not out!," "Yes, you are!," "That's not fair!," "Yes, it is!," (who said having fun was smooth sailing!?). But that's another human story, played out on playgrounds and professional fields across our world, for another time.

President Lincoln said democracy is a government "of the people, by the people, for the people." Another definition: the supreme power is vested in the people. That means WE, the common people, have ownership of the power. It

doesn't always seem that way and clearly democracy is tricky and complex more often than not. Have you followed the F35 debate? 'Fair' and 'simple' are not words you will find in a definition of democracy.

*I don't want to build a wall
Or draw a line across the sand
Because there's room for one and all
And this land is our land
— Grace Potter*

Ron Inglehart said, that democracy doesn't make people happy "but rather happy people are more likely to establish a democracy." I'm reading *The Geography of Bliss — One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World* by Eric Weiner. After searching in ten different countries, he discovered trust and tolerance to be common ingredients in overall happiness because "our happiness is completely and utterly intertwined with other people: family and friends and neighbors" and the people you hardly know or notice. "Happiness is 100% relational," says Bhutanese scholar, Karma Ura. Relationships, connections, and community are at the heart of true happiness.

Working on the Winooski High School Graduation Expectation Committee, our group got familiar with the complexity of trust and tolerance. Remember how you were asked over and over to provide input through the Partnership for Change? Well, the data gathered from you, those who chose to speak up, guided every step we took in shaping the six expectations. As soon as we got stuck, which was often, someone would ask, "what did the

Winooski community say about this?" We trusted the wisdom of the community and it worked to move us forward every time.

On August 15, the school board hosted a community dinner to ask you for more input. Why? Our job is to represent you to the best of our ability in decision-making for our school district. You elected us, democratically, to do that. To do the job you elected us for, we need to hear and talk with you. The heart of our mission: how can we best serve our kids and be fiscally responsible.

At the dinner, community members, parents, administrators, students, and board members had conversations about the "what" and "how" of helping our students meet the expectations we collectively created. Amazing conversations took place. We all saw and heard each other, in four different languages, and made connections. Gathering together is not easy. We all have busy lives with too many things to do. There are moments of awkwardness in socializing with people you don't know. And the school board forgot dessert and drinks! Oops! But the benefit is the awkward moments pass and by investing time to get know your neighbors around a common precious resource, our collective children, we increase our capacity for happiness, outcomes for our kids, and outcomes for our future.

The school board will use the input we gathered to guide us, just like the expectation committee. That you can trust. This will not be the last time the school board asks for your input. But it will be the last time we forget desserts or drinks! Thank you for your tolerance!

Here's to connections and community!

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NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

Welcome Back to School!

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools

By the time you receive this newsletter our staff and students will have returned to school and completed their first three days together. Hopefully many parents and students were able to attend our inaugural Winooski Family BBQ on Wednesday, August 21st and enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by the Abbey Group, socialize and meet their new teachers.

Winooski teachers returned for in-service on Monday, August 19th. Elementary teachers immediately began working on *Math Best Practices* with trainer Bill Feeley. The focus of *Math Best Practices* is to provide math instruction that includes high quality work, opportunities for students to discuss and justify their thinking, and teaching students to use multiple strategies and approaches for completing mathematical tasks.

There are many new and exciting programs beginning at the middle and high school level this year:

The Social Thinking curriculum has been very successful in the elementary and we are expanding this useful program to the middle and high school this year. Social thinking is “what we do when we interact with people: we think about them. And how we think about people affects how we behave, which in turn affects how others respond to us, which in turn affects our own emotions.” (<http://www.socialthinking.com/what-is-social-thinking>)

All middle school students will be receiving an iPad this school year to allow for equitable access to global information to support and enhance learning.

Our middle school teams have been restructured to ensure that all students are known well as learners and people by teams of teachers. This will allow teacher teams to collaboratively plan curriculum and discuss the needs of individual students.

The iLab, a product of the work supported by the Partnership for Change, will be available to middle and high school students this year. This program will provide students with the ability to design their own learning and/or access flexible pathways to meet graduation expectations. Options include traditional classes, college courses, online learning, independent studies, and community learning such as job-shadows, internships, or service.

We are very excited about the new learning opportunities for our students and hope you will discuss these new programs and all learning with your student on a daily basis.

I had the opportunity to attend two local film events recently that I would like to share with you. The first is entitled “The World Within Winooski” produced by Philip Fass for the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP). Jodi Harrington hosted a preview of this documentary at the Winooski Welcome Center & Gallery. The film’s mission is to “depict our town’s past and present as a multicultural destination of hope and opportunity. This historic role extends from Native Americans through the French Canadian and Irish millworkers, and on to recent arrivals who left distant ancestral homelands to seek a better life.” (<http://www.legacyvideoportraits.com/winooski.html>). I hope you will consider seeing this film when

released to gain a powerful and historical perspective on our beautifully diverse city.

Secondly, the United Way sponsored a viewing of “The Opiate Effect.” You can view the film in its entirety online here: <http://www.grpny.com/opiateeffect>. It is a compelling story of the tragic heroin overdose death of UVM student Will Gates in 2009. Following the movie there was a panel discussion with local leaders who are directly dealing with all the problems associated with opiate addiction. Clearly, this has an impact on some of our families and I am hoping to get involved in a broad and systemic approach to battling this growing problem.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who attended the August 14th Community Dinner sponsored by the school board. Attendance was high, a yummy Tiny Thai dinner was enjoyed by all and the conversations about learning were meaningful and helpful to the school board. A special thanks to Ray Coffey, Sandy Metivier, Bryan Thompson and Matt Gonzalez for their help in making the event such a success!

Have a wonderful September and I am truly enjoying meeting everyone in the Winooski community and working together to benefit our students!

You can reach me at 383-6000 or by email at smcmannon@wsdschools.org

Join an Implementation Team

The Partnership for Change’s Implementation Teams are working to move Burlington



and Winooski schools forward through five levers of change: Teaching and Learning Environments, Family and School Partnerships, Youth Engagement and Leadership, Community Based Learning, and Personalized and Proficiency Based Learning. Implementation Teams are a great opportunity for students, educators, parents, business leaders, and community partners to learn about and take part in the work being done to redesign our schools.

To join an Implementation Team, simply come to our next monthly meeting. Meetings are a time for the five Implementation Teams to share progress and learn together as well as to break out into individual teams and subcommittees to work on specific projects. Snacks, child care, and interpretation will be available. All are welcome!

Fall 2013 Meeting Schedule

Thurs Sept. 12 | 6:30-8 pm | Winooski Middle/High School
Thurs Oct. 10 | 6-7:30 pm | Burlington High School
Thurs Nov. 14 | 6-7:30 pm | Winooski Middle/High School
Thurs Dec. 12 | 6-7:30 pm | Burlington High School

Partnership for Change gets ready for the new school year

By Megan Behrend

The Partnership for Change is excited to kick off the 2013-14 school year and continue to support Winooski and Burlington schools as they redesign their educational systems for the 21st century. A year and a half ago, students, educators, parents, and community partners began the process of remodeling our school systems to meet the demands of today's rapidly changing and complex world. With a new school year upon us, the Partnership is eager to continue working with our whole community to shape our schools into educational models that put all students at the center of their own learning.

Summer Learning Experiences

In preparation for our second year of innovation, the Partnership devoted the summer months to reflection and exploration, particularly surrounding the new Graduate Expectations for BHS and WMHS.

At the School Development Institute (SDI) in June, teachers from WMHS and BHS came together to explore ways they can bring Graduate Expectations to their classrooms this year. The following month, a group of students, educators, parents, and community partners travelled to Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center in Estes Park, Colorado to learn from their nationally recognized model of proficiency-based learning and envision what our own proficiency-based Graduation Expectations could look like in action.

"Eagle Rock School was an amazing site visit for the Partnership for Change team because we not only witnessed a proficiency-based learning community, but experienced professional development evidenced in the eight projects we created to do the work of the Partnership," said Partnership Director Hal Colston.

Stephen Crowley, WMHS science teacher and Co-Chair of the Partnership's Personalized and Proficiency-Based Learning Implementation Team, was energized by the success of Eagle Rock's model.

"What most impressed me at Eagle Rock was how the students we saw in class or spoke with demonstrated a strong belief in their own capacity to measure up to the proficiencies set by the school. Some had a 2-year plan, some had a 3-year plan, but everyone had a sense of how they were going to get there," he said.

The Partnership also supported student learning this summer by sponsoring Champlain Valley Food Systems and Production, the first summer course for credit at BHS. BHS teacher Laura Allyn and Burlington School Food Project's Sarah Heusner and Jessie Mazar designed the course to be a five-week journey through Vermont's food history, from prehistoric foraging to the students' own food systems today. Each week featured guest speakers, hands-on learning in the Farm to School gardens, field trips to local farms, and meals prepared together as a class. The experience culminated in a lunch for family and friends made up of dishes that reflected the students' own food stories.

"It was the perfect way to end the class by sharing the diverse array of cuisines with family and friends and listening to the students present their personal food histories and how they will make changes based on the knowledge they have gained from the

class," the course participants reflected in a blog entry. "Susma, for example, stated that she will try cooking with vegetables more often as she likes them more now. Ena said that she has already written to Vermont state legislators asking them to pass the bill that will enforce labeling of GMOs in Vermont."

You can learn more about their experience at burlingtonschoolfoodproject.wordpress.com.

The Year Ahead

Looking ahead to the 2013-14 school year, there is a lot to be excited about. Both WMHS and BHS will begin piloting Graduate Expectations, WMHS is launching the iLab to provide more opportunities for individualized learning and teacher collaboration, and all BHS 9th and 10th graders will use one to one iPads to enhance their learning experience.

In addition to the changes in our classrooms, the Partnership is trying something new to harness the talent and drive that exists in Burlington and Winooski. Building on the success of last spring's mini-grants aimed at strengthening community-school connections and family-school partnerships, we are actively seeking proposals from all stakeholders to move our work forward. To support these proposals, we have established three funds: the Implementation Team Fund, the Innovative Programs Fund, and the Teacher Investment Fund. By supporting the innovative ideas of the students, parents, teachers, and community partners in our own community, we are building a foundation from which more widespread change can grow. To learn how to submit a proposal, visit partnershipvt.org/proposals.

Whether you were part of the original grant-planning team or are just learning about the Partnership for Change, we want you to join us this fall in strengthening our schools and our communities. **We look forward to seeing you at our first Implementation Team Meeting of the year on Thursday, September 12 from 6:30 to 8 pm at Winooski Middle/High School.** For more information about our work and how you can get involved, visit partnershipvt.org.



Winooski teachers explore Graduate Expectations at SDI 2013.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Homecoming Schedule!

Homecoming starts on **Thursday, September 26th** with the crowning of the King, Queen and Court at 5:40pm in the front of the school in the main parking lot. Parade will follow starting at 6:00 and end back at the school on the football field at roughly 7:00, at which point each athlete will be introduced on the field with their coaches and team.

On **Friday Sept. 27th**, our Spartans Football Team will play host to Milton Yellow Jackets at 7:00 pm. Admission into the game is \$4 Adults, \$2 seniors and students. ALL WSD Students get in free to HOME games only!

Homecoming Soccer Games will be **Saturday Sept. 28th**. Our Lady Spartans play host to Richford at 10:00 am and the boys play host to Richford at 12:30. ONLY the homecoming soccer games are 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@wdschools.org

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

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

Got Bottle Caps?

By Jessica Bruce, Fine Arts Educator

Please collect and donate your bottle caps (the metal ones — used on glass bottles) to the Art Department at WMHS. You can send them in with your student or drop them off in the main office if that's more convenient. Thanks!

Thank You PTO!

The Winooski Athletic department would like to thank the Winooski PTO for the funding to pay for a new basketball scorer's table. The old table, which was built by former students (Dave Muir and Nick Scandore), was needing to be replaced due to many years of wear and tear. The eight school basketball teams will benefit from the PTO's purchase.



RSVP in EDUCATION

By Phet Keomanyvanh, United Way Coordinator

Interested in making a difference in the lives of children! RSVP of Chittenden County can connect you to volunteer opportunities that nourish children's hearts and minds. There are many ways you can help kids learn and grow - RSVP offers personalized coordination to rewarding opportunities that make a difference in the lives of kids in our community. Whether you want to mentor or tutor we'll find a school or mentoring program for you! Volunteers choose to work with Pre K -12 school age children who have been identified by teachers as needing supplemental support. Volunteers are asked to serve 1-2 hours per day, 1-2 times per week for an entire school year.

For more information contact: Phet Keomanyvanh, RSVP Coordinator, 861-7821 or email phet@unitedwaycc.org

Partnership for Change hosts the Winooski Coalition Community Dinner

WCSPC

Winooski Coalition for a Safe and Peaceful Community

Join the Partnership for Change and the Winooski Coalition for a Safe and Peaceful Community for September's Community Dinner. Bring your family and tell your neighbors! Enjoy a free dinner and talk with us about the exciting work happening in Winooski to build a bright future for our youth and our community.



PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE
OUR SCHOOLS • OUR COMMUNITIES • OUR FUTURE

What: FREE Community Dinner

When: Wednesday, Sep 18, 2013
5:30 - 8:00 pm

Where: O'Brien Community Center
32 Malletts Bay Avenue
Winooski, VT

K-5 News

By Mary O'Rourke, JFK Elementary Principal

Summer is always a busy time at school. The building looks wonderful thanks to our hard working custodial staff. Teachers have been busy setting up their rooms and we are ready to go.

The week of August 19th was our in-service. The elementary teachers spent the week in a course called "Best Practices in Mathematics." This course will shape our work for the year. Some of these practices will also be used in other content areas (i.e. literacy, science and social studies). The middle/high school teachers participated in this same course at the end of June. This is exciting because we will all be doing similar work K-12.

We held our first annual Welcome Back to School Barbecue on August 21st. Families had the opportunity to eat, socialize and meet the teachers. This was a wonderful way to begin our school year.

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 9th and ending the week of October 21st.

Our afterschool program is a partnership between the Winooski School District, City of Winooski, 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.

Afterschool programs at JFK Elementary School will begin on Tuesday, September 10th. 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 and high school afterschool programs will begin on Tuesday, September 10th.** All programs are free and will be offered on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons at 3pm. A healthy snack will be provided to all participating students, as well.

K-12 students will receive their afterschool fliers by Friday, August 30th. If you would like your child 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 3rd. Confirmations will go out to students by Friday, September 6th (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@wdschools.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!



Guidance News

By Sarah Murphy

Welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

For those of you who are new to the district, my name is Sarah Murphy and I am the Guidance Counselor at JFK Elementary School. This will be my third 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 largely on the ideas of being social and interacting with others. With the remaining time during the week, I enjoy inviting children into my office for small groups focused on specific topics, 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.



Listening and Hope

By Leon Wheeler, Middle/High School Principal
and Kate Grodin, Assistant Principal

A heartfelt, sincere “Welcome” to a new school year! This summer has been the ideal opportunity to reflect on what we’ve learned from both the things that worked and the things that didn’t during the past year, and then to do some remodeling so the coming year is even more welcoming, more engaging, more inspiring.

The changes started in Leon’s office. Those who know him and have visited his office know that piles of paper grow higher and spread wider as the year passes. Thanks to the thorough summer cleaning done by our custodians he was compelled to do a “clean sweep” of his desktop...and he likes it! Now, the office is more comfortable, more inviting to friends old and new...and that’s exactly what we want to happen throughout the school.

Kate Grodin and Karen Greene continued the remodeling by rethinking our whole approach to students who struggle to be successful meeting school expectations. Led by their thoughtful conversations, we are remodeling our behavior system to maintain a safe learning environment while taking time to listen when students are having difficult time, and work together with students to find solutions that work.

As we are inviting students into the process of solving problems, we’re also learning from the experience of our friends at the JFK Elementary School. Last year their entire school, students and staff alike, embraced “Social Thinking.” They created a common language and method of teaching students how to think about relationships with others... and that work had a profoundly positive impact throughout the school. This year the middle and high school will begin the year building a climate of Social Thinking.

We, Kate and Leon, are making a commitment: We’ll work together with you, and as Margaret Wheatley states, we will find our common values, the unifying center that will energize our school, building hope and inspiration. It’s a new day, a new year, and it’s great to be here.

“...By working together, thinking together, conversing together – with curiosity, patience, and the expectation of diverse stories...we oftentimes discover a unifying center or energy that makes the work of change possible... Discovering shared interests always changes people’s relationships for the better... If we can discover something important to work on together, we figure out how to do the work, together.”

— Margaret Wheatley

Introducing Spartans in Motion!

By Nancy Keller

With the support of the Bay Paul Foundations, Berlin City Auto Drive for Education, and the creative energies of the Spartans in Motion (SIM) Advisory Board (formerly the Spark Advisory Board), Winooski Middle School students and teachers will be on the move throughout the coming school year with an all new Spartans in Motion program.

Numerous studies now confirm the link between physical activity and academic achievement. Recent reports not only point to the benefits of 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise a day, but show that movement throughout an entire school day is necessary for both healthy bodies and active minds. The Spartans in Motion Advisory Board was created to incorporate more physical activity into our school day. Last year, the middle school implemented a Spark Period of 25 minutes, piloted a school-wide program called, “Bushintai-Do for the Classroom,” and offered an extra Bushintai-Do class as part of the arts rotation.

This year Spark Time has changed and is now called Spartans in Motion or SIM Time. Middle school students and teachers will begin their day with a 25-minute physical activity period that involves rotating through a variety of fun and engaging exercises, monitoring their heart rates, and recording their efforts. David Quinlan, Winooski Middle School’s martial arts instructor, will serve as our new SIM Coordinator and will bring his years of expertise in martial arts and fitness training to the our new movement program. In addition to SIM Time, all incoming sixth graders will take lessons in Bushintai-Do, a martial art taught by Mr. Quinlan, as one of their arts rotation offerings.

Look for more information about SIM in future newsletters. Check-in with your middle schoolers to learn first-hand about this exciting initiative. We are on the move for better health and better brains!

1-to-1 Computing Update

by Drew Blanchard, Technology Integration Specialist

High School

The 1-to-1 laptop initiative continues this year with the new freshman class. These students will receive 11" Apple MacBook Air laptop computers (a change from last year’s 13" MacBook Pro) within the first few weeks of school. The rollout process will be the same as last year, but the timetable has been moved up by nearly a month. All freshmen (and other new students) will meet with me to go over the Responsible Use Guidelines, answer questions, and also talk with current sophomores and juniors about the 1-to-1 program.

There will be several parent/family informational sessions about the purpose of our laptop program, expectations for students, and responsibilities for the family/home (a schedule of meetings is forthcoming). Copies of the Parent Agreement

(including translated versions) will be available at the meetings, and a signature is required by students and parents/guardians before a laptop can be assigned to a student.

We are once again purchasing insurance policies for all 1-to-1 laptops. Parents who have already paid the \$50 insurance deductible (from last school year) will be able to simply roll this over for 2013-14. New laptops, and existing laptops which were sent for repairs under the insurance policy, will need to provide for this deductible. As always, please contact Mr. Blanchard if this presents a hardship for your family.

Middle School

As part of our 1-to-1 computing initiative, all middle school students will be receiving iPads (in protective cases) this year. This represents a radical shift for the middle school, and a great deal of professional development has taken place (and is ongoing) to help ensure teachers are prepared for newly empowered students immersed in project-based learning (“there’s an app for that!”). Managing the devices, creating support systems, repair procedures, establishing school-wide and team-based expectations will occupy much of the first weeks of school.

Middle school students will use the same Responsible Use Guidelines as the high school, but each team will work closely with their students to develop the norms, expectations and systems/procedures which will allow students to bring their iPads home. This will take some time to develop, and the teams will coordinate parent information nights regarding the iPads before these devices even get into students’ hands. Communication and clear, common expectations for how these devices will be used and treated is essential for success, and some measure of responsibility and accountability will need to be demonstrated before these devices can leave the school.

We are purchasing insurance policies for the iPads, with a \$25 insurance deductible. Details are still being worked out as of the date of this article (August 14th).

All students in grades 6–11 will have their own device to use for the 2013-14 school year; and we’re still working out a plan to give seniors access to their own devices this year. I’m proud of our teachers, as they’ve worked hard to shift their classroom expectations to an electronic work environment. Sharing work and providing feedback, from teachers as well as peers, *electronically* has opened new vistas. Giving students devices that allow them to demonstrate their learning in new, creative, and individualized ways has been an invigorating experience. With that in mind:

JFK Elementary

This year, 5th grade students will be working with me as part of their arts rotation/specials time. Each fifth grade classroom will house a cart of iPads, with each student assigned to one device. These iPads will not be going home, but they *will* allow the students to work with creative apps on classroom projects, and create and submit work electronically. Fifth graders will learn “Netiquette” with me, as they demonstrate responsible

digital citizenship and awareness of the pros and cons, risks and rewards of life online. This will also allow students to seamlessly transition to the technology they will be expected to use in middle school.

This promises to be a really exciting year!

Questions? Comments? Please contact me at dblanchard@wsdschools.org, or leave a phone message at 383-6073.

New Middle School Teams

By Amy Sherrer

The new school year will be filled with exciting changes, especially for Winooski middle schoolers. Most students in grades 6-8 will be returning to new teams. Previously, the WMS was comprised of five different groups: Eclipse, Fusion, Kaleidoscope, Phoenix, and Velocity. To streamline communication and curriculum as well as to reflect the school’s

move toward 21st Century learning, the middle school has now been divided into two main teams: Journey and Nexus. (Team Phoenix will be keeping its name.) Each of these two teams will have five teachers, an instructional assistant, and approximately eighty students.

While the eighth graders were taking the NECAP science exam this May, sixth and seventh graders had a chance to work and play within their new teams. One of the major tasks was to generate and vote on possible team names. A lot of thought was devoted to the meaning of the names and how they might symbolize the identity and goals of the team. Journey and Nexus won the contest!

Other team-building activities also took place. On Team Journey, students were brought to an alligator-infested swamp (the tennis court) and divided into smaller groups. Each group was given the task of crossing the swamp using only three lily pads. The challenge was in keeping contact with the pads because if a pad was untouched, it was lost. Some groups made it safely across the swamp while others took alligator rides, but fun was had by all.

We look forward to a new year with new teams. The possibilities are endless!



ELL Students Explore Math, English, and Vermont

By Bill Clark, ELL Teacher

Who else but Winooski middle and high school students could cram a year's worth of activity into six weeks? Over two dozen English Language Learners (ELL) planted trees, harvested crops, and packed vegetables, participated in the Marshmallow Challenge, cruised Lake Champlain, visited the Echo Center, got library cards, began a composting program, attended a baseball game, and spoke with a three-star general. Then they took math and English classes. Whew!

In its third year, the Summer Transitions program broadened its scope to include more community activities while maintaining an emphasis on enhancing math and English skills. High school students received one humanities credit for completion of the class.

Through partnerships with the Intervale Nursery in Burlington and The Farm at VYCC in Richmond, students spent time planting trees, weeding, watering, picking produce, and packing share boxes for 300 families in the greater Burlington area. On trips to Burlington, students learned about the history and geology of Lake Champlain during a narrated cruise on the *Spirit of Ethan Allen* and looked back in time through the dinosaur exhibit at the Echo Center. They visited the Winooski library to receive library cards and spent an afternoon in the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington. Other highlights of the summer included weekly discussions of recycling and composting with John Powell of the Chittenden Solid Waste District and a visit from General Michael Dubie, the Deputy Commander of the Northern Command and former Adjutant General of the Vermont National Guard.

"I like to meet new people," said an incoming sophomore. "General Dubie talked about what he did and where he worked. I was so happy to meet with him ... And he gave us a general's coin. I never saw that kind of coin."

Daily classes included a morning meeting, where students and staff played a word game or practiced introducing themselves and shaking hands. After breakfast, English and math classes continued until lunchtime. The city of Winooski provided both breakfast and

lunch for the students.

Afternoons included an outdoor recess period, time for homework, and a movie or reading time before dismissal at 2:00 p.m. Students enjoyed informal games of badminton, soccer, basketball, hula hoop, and bocce ball before returning for their afternoon classes. In fact, bocce ball became the group's favorite activity and they played it while waiting for a bus or during a free period.

"This summer was my favorite summer," said an incoming junior. "I like coming to summer school because it's good to learn more."

Academics focused on enhancing skills, mastering vocabulary, and preparing students for classes in the fall. Students experienced math in the world around them as they measured the playing fields and discussed the value of products in a market-driven economy. They compared house sizes in a collaborative math project, explored shapes, inverses, money, and infinity.

The Language Arts curriculum embedded reading and literacy in each lesson. Students heard an informational text in class, read it again on their own or with a partner, and wrote about the text. Adults offered explanations of key vocabulary words during the afternoon homework period. Students read "America the Beautiful," acted out key words, and wrote about their feelings for this country. Other readings included stories about the Central American rainforest, Hurricane Katrina, icebergs, global warming, amphibians, and the use of Braille and service dogs to help the blind. Students connected with on-line resources for additional information about the readings, then used graphic organizers to help frame their thinking and write their essays.

"We learned so much during the six weeks," said another sophomore who is already planning ahead. "I learned a little bit about math, and a little bit about writing essays. The teachers were awesome. I saw most of us working with groups. I loved all the activities we did during the six weeks. I wish there will be



more students who join summer school next year ..."

During the Summer Transitions program, ELL students practiced basic academic skills, participated in socialization activities, and became familiar with Vermont. Many of these students have arrived from refugee camps within the past two or three years, and one student arrived only in June. This program strengthened what these immigrants already knew and acquainted them with life in America.

"I learned so many things this summer," said one high school student. "The summer class changed my life and helped me to feel better. I will never forget this summer and all the people I met."

The newcomer student who arrived in June probably summarized the summer best: "The Summer Class gave me a lot of things I didn't know before. Maybe my English got better. I know more friends and teachers. And it was good to prepare for next year."

The Summer Transitions Program uses funds from a Title III grant managed through the efforts of Robin Hood, the Winooski School District ELL Coordinator, and Jim McCobb, Coordinator of the Title III (English Language Acquisition) Program at the Vermont Department of Education, with additional support from Leon Wheeler, the middle and high school principal, Physical Education teacher Sue Messier, and the City of Winooski.

The Summer Transitions Program includes teachers Bill Clark (Language Arts) and Tom Payeur (math); administrator and math assistant, Karen Greene; and aides Dalib Bulle, Whitney Dubie, Puspa Luitel, Aftaba Mezetovic, and Tabatha Soliz.

City Councillor's Message

By Sally Tipson

As summer slips away from us, I hope you have had an opportunity to enjoy some of the activities Winooski has to offer. Maybe you had a chance to go to the beautiful riverwalk, take a walk through Casavant Park, visit the Farmer's Market, watch a softball game at Landry Park or take a "splash" in the Myer's City Pool.



The folks in this area were treated to a preview of VRRP'S feature length documentary "The World Within Winooski" at the Winooski Welcome Center on August 8th. For information on how you can help to make this project move forward, e-mail www.legacyvideoportraits.com/Winooski.html or phone Jodi Harrington at 881-4007.

My liason has been moved to the safety section of the city. It has been only a short time but I can say we are very fortunate to have dedicated, and caring people in the Fire and Police Departments. Sometimes I think we look at the Fire Department as volunteers who are there to only address "fire." But they are much more than that. Firefighters train every Wednesday night as well as other times when needed. Because of their extensive training they participated in the rescue of the Canadian truck driver who drove over the bridge a short time ago. That rescue took about one hour and he was on his way to the hospital. They have also had the unfortunate house fire and were present at the tragic drowning in the Winooski River.

The Police Department continues to work through an understaffed unit. They have had an officer retire, and a few out on medical leave. They continue to step up to provide us with the protection we have come to expect.

I met with John Audy and Erika Bailey about the housing inspections and found that they just completed on segment of the city with a 98% compliance rate. They are a shining example of two more dedicated employees who want Winooski to be a safe, healthy and wonderful place to live.

Best wishes to all those going back to school for a successful and productive school year.

Thrive After School Registration Open

By Ethan Hausman, City of Winooski Programs Coordinator

Thrive After School, a state-licensed childcare program run by the City of Winooski's Community Services Department, resumes on August 28, coinciding with the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year. Open to students in grades K-5, Thrive After School offers engaging activities and supervised care from 3:00-5:30PM on all normal JFK school days. With the goal of, "meeting children where they are" developmentally, Thrive emphasizes literacy and healthy choices while operating on a schedule that's designed to support working parents.

Children enrolled in the program play outside together (weather permitting) at the conclusion of each school day and then receive a healthy snack before moving into reading time, social activities, learning games and free play. Thrive is now hosted on site at JFK School (in the George Stackpole Learning Media Center), so kids can easily and safely transition to the Program at the end of the school day or when they get released from 21st Century after-school programs at 4PM.

Thrive After School costs \$15/day or \$65/week per child; however, Vermont Childcare Subsidy is accepted to cover fees. Families interested in pursuing subsidy should contact Child Care Resource (802-863-3367) or download subsidy application forms at http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/child_care_financial_assistance/forms.

Program registration for the 13-14 school year is currently underway. Enrollment forms can be picked up in the Youth Programs Office in the O'Brien community Center or downloaded from the City's website (www.winooski.vt.org). Please contact Ethan Hausman, Youth Programs Coordinator, (655-1392 x21 or coordinator@winooski.vt.org) with any questions about Thrive or the registration process.

Winooski Historical Society Museum Reopens!

By Rita Martel



The Winooski Museum celebrated the opening of the Winooski Historical Museum, relocated to the third level and main entrance at the Champlain Mill. The celebration took place Friday, July 12th.

A special thank you to Al Blondin, Leon Sabourin, and Dick Lesage for their time with construction tasks and painting that made the move possible. Their time and dedication was greatly appreciated.

The Museum is open Monday - Friday from 9:00 to 5:00 P.M. On display at the Museum are pictures and artifacts that bring back many great memories.

Please take time to visit the two museums: Mill Museum and Winooski Historical Society Museum at the Champlain Mill.

| Your City Officials | Email addresses | Telephone |
|---|--|--------------|
| Mayor Michael O'Brien | mayor@winooski.vt.org | 802-655-4879 |
| Deputy Mayor Sally Tipson | sallysflower@comcast.net | 802-655-3894 |
| Councilor John Little | jlittle@winooski.vt.org | 802-655-0106 |
| Councilor Seth Leonard | sethinwinooski@gmail.com | 919-616-0276 |
| 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. | | |

2013 Legislative Session Report

By Clem Bissonnette and George Cross

As always it was a busy legislative session. Here's a brief report about bills which have impact in one way or another on Winooski and its residents:

- The school district charter was amended to provide a two year term for the Treasurer.
- The city charter change approved by the local voters was agreed to by the legislature with a slight change related to the city's ability to regulate guns. The old charter language which was not changed in the revision was found to be in conflict with Vermont law.
- Continued progress was made on health care for all. But there is still considerable work that will need to be done before we all understand just how health care will work in the future.
- Students in grades 7-12 will all have personalized learning plans in the future within the Flexible Pathways bill. There will be more opportunities for high school students to take college courses.
- The base statewide education residential property tax was increased by five cents due to reduced property values caused by the economy and flooding, as well as increased costs. Other tweaks to the education tax system, however, helped to protect most Winooski households from the full impact of this change.
- The gas tax was increased as a way to cover the match needed for federal funds. Thus, Vermont is able to complete substantially more pavement and road and bridge repair projects.
- Changes were made to the TIF program. The audits of several TIF districts, including Winooski, were dramatically altered after reconsideration. The end product for Winooski was that Winooski owed the State \$1,300 and will have to shift about \$62,000 from one Winooski fund to another over the next five years. Rule-making will clarify any outstanding issues related to the creation and operation of TIFs.
- There was considerable give and take between the legislative bodies and the Governor related to the budget. Many of the Governor's new spending measures were rejected. The FY '14 General Fund budget is about 4% higher than the FY '13; however, there will still need to be slight reductions in many state programs and departments. Much of the budget increase is driven by "cost-of-living" factors. The total state budget including education, transportation, federal and special funds is \$5.232B.
- There will be greater investment in health care, energy efficiency and environmental programs.
- Changes in criminal law will allow greater public access to criminal investigation records. Plus, refinement of both public records and open meeting legislation will create a more transparent and open operation of government at both state and local levels. It will take some time for all of this to work its way into how government conducts its business.

January will bring a new round of legislative actions. Budget issues will still be difficult. As it will be the legislative year prior to an election, one never knows what will be on the table. We will try to keep you informed. Reach us at gcross@leg.state.vt.us or cbissonnette@leg.state.vt.us.

WCSPC News and September Update

The Winooski Coalition is looking forward to an exciting year. We will be offering paid internships to several students again this year. We would like to welcome our new board member, Kris Azevedo. Kris is studying at the University of Vermont Medical School, and was a critical member of the team of students who helped research attitudes in Winooski toward tobacco marketing and second-hand smoke in the fall of 2012. We are excited he is joining us!

September 18 will be our next community dinner, starting at 5:30 PM, and hosted by the Partnership for Change. We hope you will join us!

Note: we are moving our office within the community center, and will be sharing space with the city's teen and youth programs. Keep up to date with our news and announcements — email kate.winooskicoalition@gmail.com to be added to our e-list.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Tutors Wanted

The school year has started and we are looking for volunteers to tutor high school students at the O'Brien Community Center! This is a rewarding and fun opportunity to help Winooski youth hone their academic skills. You will be tutoring students in a variety of subjects and we especially need volunteers with math and science backgrounds. We are looking for tutors who can commit to one or two hours per week throughout the school year and possibly more during December, January, and May.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Alaina Wermers, Community Engagement Coordinator, at vista@winooskivt.org or check out our website, winooskivt.org, for more information.

Student Service Opportunities

Does your student need to complete service hours for graduation? Are they looking for a meaningful and fun way to fulfill their service requirement?

A series of service trips will be held through the Winooski Community Services Department throughout the fall for Winooski students to fulfill hours for their graduation requirement. We will be offering trips to the Burlington Emergency Shelter, the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and Prevent Child Abuse Vermont on each of the half days in September, October, November, and December. Activities will include planting and gardening, cooking, and designing store displays.

Each service trip is limited to 10 to 15 students!

Transportation and snacks will be provided for all participants.

If your student is interested in this opportunity, please contact Alaina Wermers, Community Engagement Coordinator, at vista@winooskivt.org.

These special trips are funded by Youth Service America and National Child Awareness Month!

HEALTH CORNER

Health Office News

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Health Office Coordinator

Welcome back! Both Holly and I are happy to be back taking care of the students this year. We are also happy to have back our Tooth Tutor, Diane Polson.

Just a few reminders about the beginning of the school year:

1. Please fill out the emergency health forms located in the first day back packets and return them to your child's classroom as soon possible. These forms give us the most up-to-date information and allow us to treat your child with over-the-counter medicine.
2. Please be advised that if your child takes a prescription medication that needs to be administered at school we will need BOTH parent and doctor signatures along with the medicine in a properly labeled bottle.
3. We send students home for fevers 100 degrees or higher. Students should NOT return to school until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing agents.
4. We are always in need of clothing size 5T-10.

Please feel free to stop in anytime Monday-Friday between 8am-3pm with any questions or concerns!

Tooth Tutor Update

By Diane Polson, RDH

Welcome Back Students! If you are in need of dental care or have not been seen by a dentist in the past year, please stop by and see me. I will be in the Health Office on Thursdays; or call 383-6094 if you have any dental questions or concerns.

Winooski Youth Soccer



Enjoy this great outdoor physical activity that will help develop endurance, speed and coordination while having fun! We'll teach the fundamentals of soccer through fun scrimmage games and drills. All participants will receive a team shirt, certificate and free barbeque cookout at end of season! Note: financial assistance is available — nobody will be turned away for inability to pay.

Grades: K-4 (2 age groups: K-2 & 3-4), Co-ed

When: 7 Saturdays starting August 31, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Where: Landry Park in Winooski

Contact: Kevin Hatin, 652-8193 or khatin@gbymca.org

Cost: YMCA member or Winooski Resident: \$30, Non-Member: \$45

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — SEPTEMBER

DAILY BREAKFAST OPTIONS: NEW: Abbey Breakfast Sandwich: Sausage & Cheese on English Muffin – offered daily!!

MONDAY: Whole Grain French Toast Sticks • TUESDAY: Whole Grain Cinnamon Bun w/Cheese Stick • WEDNESDAY: Scrambled Egg & Cheese Wrap • THURSDAY: Healthy Breakfast Round • FRIDAY: Egg & Ham in a Basket OR Cereals w/English Muffin OR Bagels

** Fresh Fruit & Milk With all Meals**

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

AVAILABLE DAILY

1. The Abbey Groups Main Menu Entree
2. Hoagieville Made to Order Deli Bar
3. Garden Fresh Salad Bar
4. Yogurt Parfait & Cheese Bun [substitute your main entrée]
6. Little Italy Pizzeria and Abbey Express Daily Specials

PRICES:

Breakfast

Regular \$1.25

Reduced \$FREE

Adult \$1.75

Lunch

Regular JFK \$2.00

Regular WMHS \$2.25

Reduced \$FREE

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

| Mon., Sept. 2 | Tues., Sept. 3 | Wed., Sept. 4 | Thurs., Sept. 5 | Fri., Sept. 6 |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| No School Labor Day | Dress Your Own Hot Dog On a Bun Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Oven Baked Homemade French Fries Baked Beans Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Homemade Pepperoni, Cheese or Veggie Pizza Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Chopped Green Salad Steamed Broccoli Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Taco Bar w/ The Works Seasoned Taco Meat, Mozz. Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa & Soft Flour Tortilla Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Rice Pilaf Rainbow Slaw Taste Test: Fresh Cherry Tomatoes Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Grilled Cheese Sandwich on Goldfish Bread Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Homemade Chili Chocolate Chip Cookie Bar Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk |
| Mon., Sept. 9 | Tues., Sept. 10 | Wed., Sept. 11 | Thurs., Sept. 12 | Fri., Sept. 13 |
| Chicken Nuggets w/Dipping Sauce Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges Baked Beans Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Spaghetti w/ Meat or Garden Marinara Sauce Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Garden Salad Garlic Breadstick Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Early Dismissal Grades 6-12 Cheesy Breadsticks Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Hearty Homemade Soup Marinara Dipping Sauce Garden Slaw Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Nachos Supreme Seasoned Taco Meat, Cheese Sauce, Lettuce, & Corn Tortilla Chips Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Rice Pilaf Warm Black Beans Steamed Corn Fresh Salsa Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Buffalo Chicken Wrap on Soft Flour Tortilla Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Garden Pasta Salad Steamed Carrots Happy Birthday Cake Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk |
| Mon., Sept. 16 | Tues., Sept. 17 | Wed., Sept. 18 | Thurs., Sept. 19 | Fri., Sept. 20 |
| French Toast Sticks w/ Warm Syrup Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Scrambled Eggs Sweet & White Home Fries Green Pepper Strips Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Pasta w/ Meat or Garden Marinara Sauce Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Garden Salad Garlic Breadstick Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Delayed Start K-5 Homemade Pepperoni, Cheese or Veggie Pizza Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Caesar Salad Fresh Cherry Tomatoes w/Hummus Dip Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Chicken Fajitas Chicken, Sautéed Onions & Peppers, Soft Flour Tortilla, Cabot Sour Cream Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Rice Pilaf Warm Black Beans Steamed Corn Fresh Salsa Fresh Fruit | Sloppy Joes Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges Steamed Green Beans Honey Apple Crisp Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk |
| Mon., Sept. 23 | Tues., Sept. 24 | Wed., Sept. 25 | Thurs., Sept. 26 | Fri., Sept. 27 |
| Dress Your Own Burger on A Bun Sliced Tomato and Lettuce & Cheese Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Oven Baked Potato Wedges Taste Test: Tomato Cucumber Salad Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Macaroni & Cheese Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Garden Salad Zucchini Muffin Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Homemade Pepperoni, Cheese or Veggie Pizza Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Chopped Green Salad Steamed Carrots Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Beef or Bean Enchiladas Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Rice Pilaf Rainbow Slaw Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Chicken & Biscuits Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Two Potato Mash Steamed Peas Brownie Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk |
| Mon., Sept. 30 | PLEASE NOTE: Lunch is available for all students on early dismissal days! Pick up yours at either door on your way out. | | | |
| Oven Roasted Chicken Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter & Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Salad Rice Pilaf Roasted Zucchini Sticks Banana Bread Square Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk | Looking for a job that lets you be at home when your family needs you there? Come Join our Team!! Got to the link below. You can download an application or see what we have available through Careerbuilder. http://www.abbeygroup.net/careers.php | | | |

PLEASE NOTE: Middle and High school menu information is available at www.abbeygroup.net/schoolmenus. You can also learn about options for managing your child's account at the website.

Newsletter of the Winooski School District

Winooski School District
60 Normand Street
Winooski, VT 05404

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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 405 students attending JFK Elementary (grades PreK-5), 155 attending Winooski Middle School (grades 6-8), and 227 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@wdschools.org.