

WINOOSKI SCHOOL

## **DISTRICT NEWS!**

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 6

MARCH 2015

# Celebrating Our Achievements!

\* DO YOUR PART \*

## VOTE!

**MARCH 3, 2015** 

## **Voting Day Information**

To help you get to know them a little better, candidates for School Board and City Council have provided details which we share on page 3 for School Board applicants and pages 14-15 for Mayoral and City Council applicants.

You are also invited to attend an information meeting March 2nd, 2015 in the Performing Arts Center at the Winooski Educational Center, for a full review of the city and school budgets and to meet the candidates, beginning at 6:00 p.m with a discussion about city issues. Discussion about school issues will begin at 7:30.

Please do your part and become informed, and vote on March 3, 2015 at the Senior Center on Barlow St. between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Notes from the Central Office & Voter Info	2-6
Announcements	7
Notes From JFK Elementary	8
Middle and High School Highlights	9-12
<b>Community News</b>	13-18
Health Corner, Menu	19
District and Contact Information	20

## **YouthBuild: Building Futures**

## Need a Diploma? Job? Work Experience? Skills Training?

YouthBuild Burlington is an alternative high school completion program that serves young adults ages 16-24. YouthBuild students have the opportunity gain job skills through training in construction and weatherization, engaging in leadership development, and serving their communities as AmeriCorps members.

YouthBuild graduates earn industry recognized certificates, such as PACT, OSHA-10, First Aid and CPR, and Work Keys, while completing their high school diploma or GED requirements. Students also have the opportunity to earn an education award to use towards post-secondary



education or training programs.

What's going on now at YouthBuild? We are currently recruiting and preparing for our next session, which begins March 2nd.

In the classroom? Current students are working hard completing graduation requirements and taking part in weatherization training

AmeriCorps Service Learning? We have been helping out at various organizations such as Special Olympics Vermont and Ronald McDonald House.

For more information call (802) 658-4143 ext. 27 or e-mail Jhankins@resourcevt.org.

#### **SAVE THE DATE:**

## MARCH 2ND The Annual Meeting

### **BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

6:00pm: City Budget 7:30pm: School Budget

### **LOCATION**

Performing Arts Center, Winooski Educational Center

## NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

# \* DO YOUR PART \* VOTE! MARCH 3, 2015

## What are PBGRs?

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools

According to the Vermont Agency of Education (VT AOE) "Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs) are the locally-delineated set of content knowledge and skills connected to state standards that, when supplemented with any additional locally-developed requirements, have been determined to qualify a student for earning a high school diploma. Vermont's Education Quality Standards (EQS) require that schools' graduation requirements be rooted in demonstrations of student proficiency, as opposed to time spent in classrooms. This requirement will take effect in Vermont beginning with the graduating class of 2020." (http://education.vermont.gov/

WSD began its work on PBGRs three years ago with support from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation (NMEF) and the Partnership for Change. Working with our friends and colleagues across the river in Burlington the endeavor began by defining our local Graduate Expectations (GXs). WMHS administrations, staff and students collaborated with parents and community members to define the transferable skills that all students need to master to ensure future success. So, now we have clearly defined WSD Graduate Expectations (GXs):

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Physical, Social, and Emotional Well-Being
- Effective Oral and Written Communication
- Engagement in Learning
- Persistence
- Cross-Cultural Understanding and Community Engagement

PBGRs require these transferable skills to be blended with important content knowledge. Our GXs represent the skills in this equation and the content knowledge is prescribed in the Vermont's Education Quality Standards (EQS) as:

 Literacy (including critical thinking, language, reading, speaking and listening, and writing);

- Mathematical content and practices (including numbers, operations, and the concepts of algebra and geometry by the end of grade 10);
- Scientific inquiry and content knowledge (including the concepts of life sciences, physical sciences, earth and space sciences and engineering design);
- Global citizenship (including the concepts of civics, economics, geography, world language, cultural studies and history);
- Physical education and health education as defined in 16 V.S.A. §131;
- Artistic expression (including visual, media and performing arts);
   and
- **Transferable skills** (including communication, collaboration, creativity, innovation, inquiry, problem solving and the use of technology).

Many of these standards will come directly from the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) such as literacy and mathematics, and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) such as life sciences, physical sciences, earth and space sciences and engineering design.

In a proficiency based system, students earn their diploma by demonstrating mastery of skills and content. Proficiency can be demonstrated through multiple venues, including, but not limited to teacher-designed assessments, written papers, presentations, portfolios or projects. (Vermont Agency of Education) For the past two years WSD has been preparing for PBGRs by providing student-centered learning opportunities in our iLab for middle and high school students. And this year, WMS Team Journey created the JiLab so middle school students can engage in proficiency-based learning opportunities. Also, our JFK students need to build important skills to prepare to meet these rigorous skill and content standards

so we began professional development in Project-Based Learning (PBL) last year and JFK teachers and students are working on PBL units this year. For more on PBL go to bie.org.

As you can tell we are ahead of the curve in meeting these progressive state requirements. Not because it is "required" but because this work is ground in the latest educational research and we are committed to providing the best learning environments for our students! I would encourage you to check out the following resources to learn more about PBGRs:

- http://education.vermont.gov/pbgr
- http://newenglandssc.org/resources/ proficiency\_based\_learning
- http://www.scoop.it/t/proficiencybased-graduation-requirements
- http://www.wsdschools.org/middlehigh/ilab/
- http://www.corestandards.org/readthe-standards/
- http://www.nextgenscience.org/nextgeneration-science-standards
- http://bie.org/

## **School Board Report**

By Julian Portilla, Board of School Trustees

The mood with regards to schools during the legislative season in Montpelier this year is all about how to reign in the rising costs of education. Often people cite the fact that on the whole, Vermont's school-aged population has shrunk over the years yet our costs have gone up. The fact that many schools have very small classes at relatively high costs to tax payers is cause for many to promote consolidation among schools and districts. Indeed, there are a great many arguments for consolidation, not least of which are cutting costs and increasing the opportunities and offerings for students. The more kids you have in a school, the logic goes, the more resources you have to create specialized curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular

activities. If I want to learn Chinese in my high school of 200 students, for example, it's unlikely I'll be able to do that in a regular classroom. If, on the other hand, I'm at a Supervisory Union school with 1,200 students, it's entirely possible that I could learn Chinese in a classroom, not to mention play field hockey and join the puppet club.

But as is so often the case with Winooski, we're different. For one thing, we've found creative ways around the limitations of our size through our iLab where students undertake projects of particular interest for them, whether it's building a computer, learning how to scuba dive or learning to speak Chinese. While other districts have lost students, our district has grown in recent years, in large part thanks to our new American families who have added so much to our schools in cultural richness and life experience. We have an excellent

relationship with the City government with whom we have several fruitful partnerships that benefit our kids after school and in various parks and rec initiatives. We practice mindfulness. We practice social thinking. And most incredibly, while the taxes incurred from the school budget in Winooski are about average for the state they are among the lowest in Chittenden County. So if we were to consolidate with another district, the impact to our tax rate would be significant. All of this to say that the usual logic behind arguments for consolidation don't necessarily apply here. In fact, in my view, Winooski is the exception to just about every commonly held assumption about schools in Vermont and I'm proud to be a part of Winooski's great education experiment. (If you want to read more details about consolidation and the effects on Winooski School District, call the district office

to get a copy of our 2013 Consolidation Study lead by board members Jay Lambert and Tori Cleiland.)

On another note, I want to give a great deal of thanks and credit to outgoing school board member Jay Lambert who served on the board for ten years. In the time we've served together I've learned a great deal from Jay. His knowledge about education, the law, governance and his sharp eye for all things political have been a tremendous help in my quest to understand how education works and what my role as a board member is. Many thanks to you Jay, best of luck as you transition away from the board. You can bet we'll be calling you for advice in the years to come.

Finally, don't forget to get out and vote on March 3rd! We need your support to keep our schools great!

## **Meet The Candidates For School Board**

There are two candidates running for school board this year. And special thanks to Jay Lambert for his 10 years of service! Here is information submitted by the candidates to help you get to know them a little better. You are also invited to attend a meeting March 2nd, 2015 in the Performing Arts Center at the Winooski Educational Center, for a full review of the city and school budgets, in addition to meeting the candidates, beginning at 6:00 p.m with a discussion about city issues. Discussion about school issues is scheduled to begin at 7:30. Please do your part and become informed, and vote on March 3, 2015 at the Senior Center on Barlow St. between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

#### **MOHAMED S. ABDI**

**Running for:** School Board, 2-year seat **Contact:** 87 Elm Street # 23. Home: 802-343-6281. Work: 802-658-2683

**Work:** My professional career is devoted to affordable financial services and home financing for Vermonters, formerly at Opportunities Credit Union and currently at Vermont Housing Finance Agency.

**Education:** Bachelors Degree in Human Services from Burlington College. Master Degree Candidate in Service Leadership and Management at the School for International Training (SIT)

**Hobbies:** Playing soccer

**Community Service:** Board of Directors for the Somali Bantu Community
Association of Vermont, Inc 2007- 2014
Board of Director for the Association of
African Living in Vermont (2007 -2008)
Somali Bantu Community Leader 2004 Present

**Reason for Running:** I am strong believer in Education. I believe I can help

guide our district in a research-driven and community-based way. I have a love of lifelong learning, and I will bring a fresh perspective and an open mind to the team. I want to play an important role in keeping our school on track, and setting policies. I will contribute my unique talents, experiences (being former refugee myself) while collaborating and working as a team.

#### **TORI CLEILAND**

**Running for:** School Board, 3-year seat (write-in candidate)

**Contact:** 34 Audet Street, 655-7678 **Work:** Vergennes Union High School **Education:** Biology, BA, Skidmore College; Special Education, M .Ed , St. Michael's College

**Hobbies:** Being a Mom, Playing, Yoga, & Reading

**Community Service:** Currently serving on Winooski's School Board. I'm finishing up my second, two-year term for school board and I would be greatly honored to

serve again. I'm running as a write-in candidate for the three-year seat. **Reason for Running:** I believe it's super important to sustain a cohesive and efficient organization that's in the business of growing and expanding the hearts and minds human beings, one precious life at a time. Winooski School District is fulfilling this promise. There's hard work still ahead, yet it's inspiring to look back, seeing and feeling the many

accomplishments of the last four years.

NOTE: Tori is running as a write-in candidate for the three-year seat. Here's her explanation for why she is a write-in candidate: "Thanks to everyone who signed my petition to run again for the two-year seat. When I realized Mohamed Abdi was also running in the two-year seat and no one was running for the three-year one, I decided to change course and go for the three-year term. I'd love to serve Winooski as a School Board Member for three more years."

## WARNING

## WINOOSKI INCORPORATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 2 MARCH 2015 AND 3 MARCH 2015

The legal voters of the Winooski Incorporated School District in the City of Winooski, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Performing Arts Center, Winooski Educational Center on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening to act on Article II, and Article III and to conduct an informational hearing on Australian Ballot questions, and the meeting to be adjourned to reconvene at the Winooski Senior Citizen Center, Barlow St., on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 to transact any business involving voting by Australian Ballot, said voting by Australian Ballot to begin at 7:00 o'clock in the morning and to close at 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

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

ARTICLE I: Elect a Moderator and Clerk.

ARTICLE II: Shall the District accept the 2015 Annual Report and all included sub reports?

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

#### AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLES

ARTICLE IV: Shall the District accept and expend the sum of One million, Seven hundred twenty-eight thousand, and Nine hundred eight dollars (\$1,728,908) or whatever sum is provided by federal programs for the support of compensatory education and special programs? Said sum shall be exclusively federal funds received by the District. (No local or statewide school property taxes included in these funds.)

ARTICLE V: Shall the District vote to appropriate the sum of Fourteen million, Twenty-two thousand, Two hundred twenty-four dollars (\$14,022,224) for the support of public schools for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016? Said sum shall include the amount anticipated from state and federal education aid and reimbursements, except as provided in Article IV above, and all other sources of revenue.

ARTICLE VI: Shall The Winooski School District No.17, allocate its current fund balance, without effect upon the District tax levy, as follows: assign One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) of the current fund balance as revenue for the 2015-2016 operating budget and assign the remaining balance to the capital reserve account.

Winooski School District

Winooski, Vermont February 10, 2015

James J. Ticehurst, District Clerk

James & Linkwest

## **Publicly Funded Prekindergarten**

By Maybeline Lopez

The Winooski School District supports Publicly Funded Prekindergarten for children between the ages of 3 and 5 who reside in the town of Winooski, Vermont. Complete an application for the 2015-2016 school year

## What is publicly funded prekindergarten education?

Publicly funded prekindergarten education is defined as:

Ten hours per week for 35 weeks of developmentally appropriate learning experiences that are based on Vermont's Early Learning Standards. Children who reside in Winooski and are between the ages of three – five are eligible. Prekindergarten education is limited to the academic year (September 2015 – June 2016).

### Where are these publicly funded prekindergarten programs?

The Winooski School District's publicly funded pre-kindergarten programs are located in community private early care and education programs that meet specific quality standards. The community early care and education programs that Winooski School District currently partners with are:

- Trinity Children's Center, 656-5026
- Lund Early Childhood Education Program, 864-7467
- Fletcher Allen Y's Time (located in Winooski), 338-9208
- The Children's School, 862-2772

- Greater Burlington YMCA Preschool, 862-8993 x148
- Stepping Stones Children's Center, 860-1915
- Burlington Children's Space, 658-1500 x13
- Robin's Nest, 864-8191
- Pine Forest Children's Center, 651-9455
- Williston Enrichment Center, 846-9402
- The Schoolhouse, 658-4164
- The Bellwether School, 863-4839
- UVM Campus Children's Center, 656-2091
- Heartworks, 651-9343
- Lake Champlain Waldorf School, 985-2827
- Early Learning Center Head Start (located at Winooski School District), 651-4180 x204
- Winooski Early Childhood Program (located at Winooski School District), 383-6063
- The Winooski Family Center (located at Elm Street, Winooski), 655-1422

## Is this 10 hour/week pre-kindergarten program tuition free?

The prekindergarten program offered in the public school is tuition free. The prekindergarten program offered through a partner (daycare and education program) may charge families the difference between the actual costs of providing the 10 hour pre-kindergarten program and what the Winooski School

District pays. Your child's preschool/daycare must deduct these public funds from your annual tuition bill. Families would continue to be charged fully for the care and education program the child needs beyond the 10 hours/week during the academic year.

## Is my child eligible for publicly funded prekindergarten?

If your child is 3 years old by September 1, 2015 and resides in Winooski, then your child is eligible to participate.

## How much will Winooski School District pay?

A statewide rate of \$3,000 per child was established by the Agency of Education. This covers 10 hours per week of high quality prekindergarten education for 35 weeks.

### How do I apply?

Application forms may be picked up in the support services offices within the Winooski School District or printed off of the Winooski School District website (under Support Services, Pre-Kindergarten link).

Please return applications to Sandy Castle at the Winooski School District support services office at 60 Normand St. Winooski VT, 05404. Please contact Maybeline Lopez at 802-383-6063 with any questions.

## MARCH WELLNESS INFORMATION

## **Celebrating Healthy Students**

By Jaycie Puttlitz

Good nutrition is an important part of our students' wellness. Our schools not only provide healthy, well-balanced meals for all of our students, but we educate them about nutrition and food science. Through the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable snack program, all elementary school students are offered a fruit or vegetable at snack time.

Schools play a powerful role in influencing food choices, especially when food is allowed in the classroom.

Teachers can influence celebrations in the classroom to provide an opportunity for students to make healthy choices. Traditionally, holiday and birthday celebrations have included "sweet treats"—foods such as cupcakes, candy, or cookies—that are high in sugar. While an occasional treat is okay once in a while, unhealthy food choices have become more the norm than the exception.

Families can help shift the focus

of a celebration from the food, to the theme of the holiday or, in the case of a birthday, recognition of a student. Find some ways you can influence celebration activities in the classroom that contribute to student learning, achievement, and lifelong healthy habits on our Wellness blog at http://www.wsdschools.org/blog/wellness/

Keep up to date with Wellness in Winooski on our new Twitter account! Follow us @WinooskiWell.

## **Honor Roll – Second Quarter: 2014-2015**

#### **HIGH SCHOOL**

### Seniors High Honors

Uyen Bui Mina Dhamala Connor Drown Avah Eaton Amanda Nattress Ro Ze Yar

#### **Honors**

Har Wa Bi Durga Dhamala Krishna Gurung Maryam Kadawe Randall Knox Michaela Metivier Chanefer Nheb Samuel Treadwell Victoria White

## Juniors High Honors

Edmund Do Pascal Wa Siki

#### **Honors**

Lubna Abdulkhaleiq Ali Al Jarah Haroon Al Sammaraee Oo Mai Be Kip Dubie Taylor Langlais Hannah Little Mon Maya Luitel Hom Pradham

## Sophomores High Honors

Rui Chen

#### Honors

Sujan Acharya Shukri Ali Jocelyn Booher Riley Corrigan Onna Morgan Thong Nguyen Justice Palmer Bhim Shrestha

## <u>Freshmen</u> High Honors

Nura Abdi Jarod Fountain

#### **Honors**

Mustafe Abdi Thazin Aye Heaven Clogston Dhan Dhamala Lai Lar Elisha Lumbu Lydia Nattress Zeneth Nheb Dylin Traverse Rebecca White

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### **High Honors**

Shennelle Bailey
Kaw Ra Ban Bi
Linden Bronz-Russo
Xavier Clark
Matthew Hill
Penny Ly
Caleb Moore
Tiffany Phuong
Khadija Sadik

#### **Honors**

Mukhtar Abdulkhaleiq Tiba Al Jarah Hussein Al Sammaraee Najlaa Aref Amna Cicak Vijayata Dahal Kusa Daud Sierra Davis Yatrika Dhamala Sophia Do Evan Eaton Indra Ghaley Adison Granger Kunsang Gurung Hasan Hashim Kawther Hashim Ines Horozovic Hiba Laaroussi Rebekkah Lambert Nicole Laplante Sa Me Lar Lek Nath Luitel Eh Kh Luu Milan Magar Dah Lar Moo Andy Phuong Susmita Rai Hassan Sadik

Destiny Syharaj

## **Mindful City Project Update**

By Jaycie Puttlitz

- What: Guided Mindfulness Practice & Discussion
- **NEW Location:** Winooski Senior Center
- Dates: March 5, 12, 19 and 26
- Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

As part of the Mindful City Project, the Winooski Police Department is receiving mindfulness training and will be encouraged to develop a regular mindfulness practice. Two officers from WPD visited the middle school last month to find out more about mindfulness in



the schools and practice mindfulness with students.

The Winooski community continues to practice mindfulness together each Thursday evening at 6:30pm with leaders from the Center for Mindful Learning. Please note that the location of these sessions has changed to the Winooski Senior Center.

Have you been taking the "10-minute mindfulness challenge"? Guided mindfulness audio is provided on the website www. mindfulcities.org. Translations are now available in Somali, Nepalese, Arabic and Vietnamese.

The goals of the Mindful City Project are to increase student engagement and learning, make mindfulness a transformational force in Winooski, and create a model that can be replicated in other communities. You can follow the progress of this initiative by joining the Mindful City facebook group, or joining the Mindful City email list on the mindfulcities.org website.



Auditions will happen on March 9th, 10th, or 14th\* The Talent Show will be presented on April 10th. Auditions and the Talent Show will take place at the Winooski School District Performing Arts Center.

\*March 9th & 10th auditions start at 3:00pm, March 14th audition from 10am-12pm

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Your Neighbors Supporting Our Students**

By Laban Hill

Winooski Dollars for Scholars raises money to provide scholarships to graduating Winooski High School seniors. These scholarships are funded by you and your neighbors.

- The Linda Gelinas Scholarship is awarded in memory of Linda Gelinas, a long time Winooski educator who was also a life time resident, parent and huge supporter of our students. The scholarship is given to a graduating student who will be studying nursing or education, who is involved in their community and who is a strong leader.
- The Woody and Susan Martel Scholarship is awarded to a student with financial need, who has participated in athletics, attained good grades, and been an all around good school and community leader. This is given in honor of Susan Martel, who together with her husband, was an avid supporter of our school and the basketball program.

You can provide a legacy for the Winooski community by investing in its future. Winooski Dollars for Scholars can help you support an already existing scholarship or fund a new one. Visit us at www.winooski.scholarsfordollars.org and learn more about how you can change a young person's life.

#### **SAVE THE DATES**

## **JFK/Disney Community Reads**

By Lisa Goetz

Our next free JFK Disney Community Reads will be held on **Friday, March 27th** from 3:00 - 4:00. It will be held in the Performing Arts Center and Library. These events are a lot of fun for students and families, and we hope to see you there!

## **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!**

This wonderful play will be performed by a talented group of 4th/5th graders on **March 6th** at 9:00, 10:30, and 7:00 pm. Free and open to the public. Please join us!

## JFK Fun Fair is March 20th!

**Join us from 4:30-6:30**! Fun activities for everyone led by JFK teachers and sponsored by the PTO. Tickets are .50 each, activities cost 1-2 tickets each. Enjoy games with prizes, face painting, bounce castles, a teacher raffle and much more! Students in grades K-3 must be accompanied by a parent or older sibling. Dinner excelled for \$3.00 per person (betder/lebing pires soled)



available for \$3.00 per person (hotdog/chips, pizza, salad bar, milk, fruit).

## **Little League Baseball/Softball Signups**

By Jeff Brosseau

Winooski Little League Baseball/Softball & Babe Ruth will hold registrations **Friday March 13th** from 3:00-5:00 in the Winooski school library.

Proof of age is required for all new players, who must be within age limits: April 30th is the cutoff for Baseball, December 31st for Softball. Little League is for ages 4-12, Babe Ruth for ages 13-18.

Little League fees are \$40 for one player, and \$70 for a family. Late fee is \$10 after 3/31. Babe Ruth fee is \$55.00 per player.

For more information, call Jeff Brosseau at 233-5530, email at jeffrey.brosseau@greenmountainpower.com

# Kindergarten Registration & Screening

Kindergarten registration and screening for your child at John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Winooski, VT, will take place on Friday, May 8, and Monday, May **11**. Children who will be five years of age prior to September 1, 2015, should attend this screening. Please call the J.F.K. school office at 655-0411 to make an appointment for one of the two days. You must bring your child's birth certificate, (or I-94 if your child was born in a country that doesn't issue birth certificates), updated immunization record and his/her Social Security number to the appointment and register your child while he/she is being screened. Thank you.

## Learning Walk Calendar 2014-2015

By Kirsten Kollgaard

This year, Winooski principals Mary O'Rourke and Leon Wheeler, would like to invite families into the school district to get to know our programs better.

These Learning Walks will be offered on a variety of topics and will take place on the first Tuesday of every month (\*unless otherwise noted) from 8am to 10am. Please meet us in the library for coffee at 8am. RSVP to kkollgaard@wsdschools.org

- **March 10th\*:** Introduction to our schools and tour of the building
- **April 7th:** Transitioning from elementary to middle school
- **May 5th:** Transitioning from middle school to high school

## Calling All Photographers!

If you have attended Spartan games of any sports and taken photos, the school yearbook would love copies to include in this year's book. Send an email to Mrs. Bruce at jbruce@wsdschools.org or drop a CD or flash drive off at the school. Thanks!

### JFK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

## K-5 News

By Mary O'Rourke, JFK Elementary Principal

Our **Kindergarten screening** dates have been set. The dates are: Friday, May 8th and Monday, May 11th. In order to enroll your child, s/he must be five years old by September 1st (born in 2010). Please call the JFK Office (655-0411) to schedule an appointment. We look forward to welcoming our new kindergarten students into the JFK community!

As many of you know we have **statewide testing** each year. The State of Vermont has moved from testing students in the fall with the NECAP (New England Comprehensive Assessment Program) to testing students in the spring with the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment). While this assessment begins with third grade, it will be a reflection of all that has been learned in grades K-2. The testing window begins in late March and ends in June. We will be setting testing dates for each grade in the near future.

The SBAC is aligned with the Common Core Standards. Over the course of the last two years, we have made many shifts in instruction in mathematics and literacy to align what we do with the Common Core. We will spend time in March preparing students for this assessment. One big change for all students is that the entire test is done on the computer. We are working with students to ensure they are able to use the computer in a way that makes them successful while testing. This will be a big shift for everyone in this first year of implementation.

## **Wacky Science Experiments**

By Mag Thomas

On Thursday afternoons, a group of third, fourth, and fifth graders gather together with Ms. Burrows to conduct wacky science experiments! The students are engaging in hands-on science and having fun at the same time. They experiment with different materials that react in surprising ways. Each week the students do a different experiment and learn about science while doing it. The materials used are common household materials such as baking soda, vinegar, dish soap, vegetable oil





and food coloring. The students also learn about predicting and hypothesizing outcomes. They are getting excited about the last class; they heard that they get to blow something up!!



## First Grade ELL Field Trip to ECHO Aquarium and Science Center

By Sarah Forbes

In first grade ELL support classes, students have been learning about life cycles of various plants and animals over the last few months. In the fall, they learned about the transformation of apple trees through the seasons, and then the life cycle of a pumpkin. Next, they explored the metamorphosis of a butterfly, and finally about how frogs turn from eggs, to tadpoles, and to grown frogs.

What better way to celebrate their hard work and learning than with a trip to Burlington's Echo Aquarium and Science Center, a building dedicated to the ecosystems of beautiful lake Champlain. On a sunny afternoon in February, we took sixteen students to explore the aquarium and participate in the educational program "Amphibians All Around".

As we wandered around the aquarium, students discovered fish, frogs, and turtles and examined various biological objects through a microscope, including a dinosaur tooth. They got to pet live starfish in a shallow observation pool, and digitally morph their snapshots into frog faces in Frog World.

During the learning program, one volunteer, Albina Rai, got dressed up as a frog as students identified the unique physiological features of frogs, including their big eyes, sticky toes and slick skin. Next, students got to share their knowledge of frog life cycles as they were shown models of frog eggs, tadpoles and grown frogs. Students also got to hear the sounds of different frogs and toads that live in Vermont. Assigned to different frog groups, they then acted out frogs hibernating in winter and waking up in the spring to their respective calls.

It was a short field trip, but students had a fantastic time. One student exclaimed that it was her favorite trip ever as we left.

## You Can Help!

The PTO is continuing to collect Box Tops and Campbell's Soup Labels. Please save and bring them to school. Your child's teacher can send them to the office for collection. Thank you!



### MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

## **GX Champ of the Day**

By Leon Wheeler, Middle/High School Principal

Recently students in the middle and high school completed the 2nd benchmark reading assessment of the school year. It was exciting to see that 39 students had increased their reading skills the equivalent of 2 or more grade levels since the assessment in October (5 months). Our middle school students as a whole increased their reading skills an average of just over 1 grade level. That is positive and encouraging, as we've put a lot of effort into reading growth, especially through ReadingPlus, our own Winooski-based and nationally acclaimed company! Ensuring that all students are skilled readers is a top priority throughout our district as reading is a fundamental skill upon which all our Graduation Expectations are built.

When you look at our district web

"When I dream alone, it is just a dream. When we dream together, it is the beginning of reality. When we work together, following our dream, it is the Creation of Heaven on Earth"

—Adapted Brazilian Proverb

site you will see a new addition to the Announcements section, and to our WinooskiLearns Twitter feed: GX Champ of the Day. Since January 20th teachers have been identifying students whose dedication and hard work is exemplary in a dimension of one of our GXs. The leadership team announces a daily GX Champ of the Day, which is a major

honor. As of our winter break the last week of February over 100 middle and high school students have been nominated!

All students are having numerous opportunities to improve their GX skills in Effective Oral and Written Communication, and Critical Thinking and Problem Solving this year. The last week of school students in grades 6-12 will share a unit project that demonstrates strong GX learning. We're referring to this as EXPO Week. Senior Project will continue to be held in mid May as well.

We are dreaming creatively and working hard together to ensure growth toward excellence! Change is in the air. And soon, it will be Spring!



### February's Artist of the Month:

## **Neesha Monger**

While Neesha is new, she has shown tremendous dedication to the arts and has a flair for drawing. Her hard-working ethic is contagious and, even though she has told me she enjoys creating more abstract art - her human face drawings have been very beautifully done.

Congrats to Neesha!

## **Band and Orchestra Notes**

By Randy Argraves

What an amazing Middle District Festival! About 250 very talented middle school musicians from around Chittenden County came together and made some inspiring music in Band, Orchestra, and Chorus. We were very fortunate to have three middle school students who were active participants in this year's festival; Sophia Do, Ines Horozovic, and Addison Granger. They represented our school in Orchestra and did so in dazzling fashion.



Thank you so much to the three of them for all their hard work and patience throughout the whole process.

I also want to remind everyone of our performance schedule for the rest of the year:

- JFK Chorus, Band and Orchestra Spring Concert. . Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 PM PAC
- Memorial Day Parade ......Saturday, May 23 at noon
- Jazz on the Marketplace on Church Strteet......TBD (first week in June)

MARCH, 2015 www.wsdschools.org

## **Guidance News**

By Emmy Charron, High School Guidance Counselor

Here are calendar items for March:

- Monday 2nd: School Choice Applications are Due
- March 13th: Burlington Tech and Center for Technology Essex applications are due
- March 13th: Last day to register for the April 18th ACT's
- March 14th: SAT test date
- March 21st: VSAC's College Pathways @ St. Michael's College: VSAC's 14th annual college planning event, for the latest expert advice in navigating the road ahead. www.vsac.org

**Juniors:** It's time to start thinking about college and the SAT/ACT tests. Please see Emmy for help registering.

Questions about financial aid? Contact VSAC Coordinator Heidi McLaughlin at mclaughlin@vsac.org.

You'll find lots of information about planning for college, grades and transcripts on the district website at www.wsdschools.org. Follow the links under the "Winooski HS" header tab, and you can get more information about graduation requirements, college resources, and much more. You can reach me at 655-3530 or at echarron@ wsdschools.org to set up an appointment.



## **Music Matters**

By Cathy Mander-Adams

Congratulations to Thong (Key) Nguyen for his acceptance into the All State Music Festival Chorus. Key, who began studying music literacy this year, was one of the 429 students who auditioned for the festival chorus. Only 264 auditioners were successful in making the grade to participate in this great experience. To break it down a little more, there were 78 guys that auditioned for a place in the Bass section of the Chorus and 60 were accepted. This is a great success story for Key who worked very hard preparing for the audition. It is possible to be accepted on your first attempt. He was great!



The 7th & 8th Grade District III Music Festival, held January 30 & 31, 2015, was a great experience for the (3) three girls who sang in the Festival Chorus. (Madison Wright, Katie Berger and Sa Me Lar.) It is always amazing to me to watch students blossom in their singing confidence in just a couple of days. The festival experience brings singer's together from 13 different middle school. From the very first note on the very first day to the very last note at the concert you can see and hear the changes

take place. Chorus singing just keeps getting better and better. They pour themselves into their singing. Best of all, they share that excitement with the singers back at school. It is such a pleasure to have this opportunity for our students.

We have our Annual Winooski Middle High School Spring Concert March 19 at 7:00 pm. As always, we hope more people in our community would come and applaud our performers. They beam with joy when people come to listen and clap after each musical number. Please consider coming to the school for this next concert. Bring a friend, too!

## High School Afterschool Core Support Programs

By Barbara Russ

Every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3-4pm Afterschool Core Support is available to all high school students. If you'd like a quiet place to work on your assignments or have a chance to ask questions of your teachers, then these are the afterschool programs for you! And, healthy snacks are provided each day.

Core Support is happening:

#### Mondays:

- Literacy & Math Core Support with Mr. Steele in Room 116
- Technology Core Support with Ms. Poquette in Room 211

#### **Tuesdays:**

- Math Core Support with Mrs. Mellen in Room 209
- Math Core Support with Ms. Clark in Room 212
- Science Core Support with Ms. Bundy in Room 201

#### Thursdays:

• Science Core Support with Ms. Bundy in Room 201

We look forward to seeing many high school students on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays afterschool!

#### **DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS**

Would you like to sponsor a
Winooski High School graduate
and help make dreams come true?

DONATE NOW to Winooski Dollars for Scholars at www.winooski. dollarsforscholars.org/.



## **High School Seniors Attend Roundtable Discussion with Senator Sanders**

By Bill Clark

Two seniors from Winooski High School joined eighteen other students at the State House in Montpelier to discuss issues facing the United States with Senator Bernie Sanders as part of his State of the Union essay competition.

The team of judges selected essays written by Winooski seniors Har Wa Bi and Connor Drown. Authors of the top 20 essays—out of the more than 400 submitted—attended a town meeting with Senator Sanders on Saturday, January 31st in the State House.

"I was impressed with all the essays," said Sanders, "These students are bright and thoughtful."

Sanders presented each student with a framed copy of their essay from the Congressional Record at the beginning of the meeting and invited them to share a summary of their essays with the group. The essay topics included homelessness and poverty, the need to pay for college, gender issues, climate change, and police brutality.

"The students did an outstanding job," said Sanders. "Our students are the future of our country and they must be involved in the discussion about where our country needs to go."

That discussion began with Sanders sharing his ideas about the quality of American democracy—including low voter turnout, spending by wealthy individuals and corporations on elections, climate change, and the shrinking hours and wages of the middle class—then he asked to hear the students' views. Students brought up the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court and their personal issues about the economy. One student humorously commented on the waste involved with placing a plastic water bottle in front of each participant and the "shifting paradigm" that awareness has brought to the use of fossil fuels.

"Our students performed very well," said Marc McQuinn of the Winooski Social Studies Department. "This essay competition gave all our seniors in my Government class an opportunity to think logically and express themselves in public. The fact that two of our seniors made it to the final group says a great deal









about their critical thinking and problemsolving skills and their ability to express themselves in writing and speech. Well done!"

"It was tough to talk in front of the Senator and the cameras," said Connor. "But the Senator seemed like a nice guy and all of us were able to have a good conversation with him."

"I liked that he mentioned the homelessness part of my essay," said Har Wa Bi. "The Senator told me how hard it must have been to write that part of my essay—but I'm glad I did. Several people came up to me afterwards to compliment me on my essay. One woman even read it from the Congressional Record!"

The 2015 competition saw 454 students from 27 Vermont schools participate. In addition to the Winooski students, the 2015 essayists attend the following high schools: Mount Mansfield Union, Brattleboro Union, Milton, Champlain Valley Union, Burr and Burton Academy, South Burlington, Woodstock, Missisquoi Valley, Vermont Commons School, and Essex.

"Don't be shy," instructed the senator as he threw out questions for the students to answer about the loss of manufacturing jobs to overseas factories, the improved economy but the rising real unemployment figures for youth (11%) and African Americans (30%).

"How do we create jobs?" asked the senator before tying the question to the need for improved infrastructure—roads, bridges, rail—and listening to students respond about renewable energy and the environment. One student mentioned that students received a "free" college education in Germany. The senator agreed with the philosophy and emphasized that some governments pay for education so as not to burden the students.

The senator requested that students ask him questions and the discussion moved to how we deal with problems as a nation and how individuals may move from one state to another to avoid taxes. Sanders taught a mini-lesson on economics, defining flat tax and demand versus supply side economics.

Sanders complimented the students for the depth of their involvement in the discussion and their willingness to speak up.

"How many of us get the chance to meet a U.S. Senator, shake hands, and have a conversation?" asked Bill Clark, another Winooski teacher who attended the event. "It was a proud moment for me to see our students do so well with their essays and the roundtable discussion."



## WMS Plays Tennis at The Edge in Afterschool Program

By Nancy Keller

We are very excited to be partnering again with the King Street Center and the O'Brien Community Center so that our students have the opportunity to learn how to play tennis. This program is free to our students and meets every Friday after school. Our students are picked up at the Winooski Middle School by the O'Brien Community Center van and Rebecca Stewart, Middle School Activities Coordinator for Winooski Youth Programs, is the adult who drives our students to and from The Edge. Once at The Edge, Rebecca assists Jake Agna, the tennis pro teaching the tennis program at The Edge. In addition to our students, the middle school students from Edmunds Middle School also participate. Our students are so lucky to have a chance to meet or reconnect with other middle school students from Burlington!

Students play tennis with Jake, Rebecca, and others for an hour and a half each week and then Rebecca drops the students off at the O'Brien Community Center or in front of the Winooski Middle School at about 5:30pm—whichever location is more convenient.

Here's what our tennis players have to say about their experiences so far:

**Nishan D.** - "I like afterschool tennis because it's good and fun. I like playing doubles and tennis is kind of the same as badminton."

Ashbin M. - "Tennis is fun."

**Nishan P.** - "What do I like about the afterschool tennis program? The music on the bus! Why do I like tennis? Why not?"

**Logan S.** - "Tennis is fun! I have never done it before. When I first started I was both kind of good and kind of bad, but people thought that I had done it before. After two classes, I started getting really good and I am making friends, too."

Thanks so much to Vicky Smith, executive director of the King Street Center for partnering with our afterschool program, to Rebecca for safely driving our students to and from The Edge each week and for helping to make this happen for our students, and to Jake Agna for his tennis expertise and innovative tennis games that keep our students excited and moving!

If you know a middle school student who is interested in joining the fun, please have them see Ms. Russ for a permission form.



## Winooski Students off to Meet Nobel Prize Winner at PeaceJam

By Libby Houghton

The Winooski High School PeaceJam Club is anxiously anticipating its upcoming attendance at the weekend-long Northeast Regional PeaceJam Conference in Connecticut later this month. Winooski students, along with hundreds of others from throughout the Northeast, will have the opportunity to meet with and learn from this year's conference guest, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Shirin Ebadi. Ms. Ebadi was granted the prize in 2003 for advocating for peace and women's rights in her home country of Iran and throughout the Middle East. This experience, coupled with the numerous educational workshops and service learning projects the students will participate in, equips our young leaders with the tools and inspiration they need to continue to have a positive impact on our community.

This year's club is made up of nearly twenty dedicated students who have been busy creating projects focused on celebrating our diverse cultures with food, music and community events. Group members have also been practicing their roles as youth leaders in the community by seeking out further education on wellness practices and healthy eating and on some of the larger opiate addiction concerns facing the state of Vermont. Students share their new learning and encourage celebration through monthly International Bake Sales and are working towards creating a cookbook that will further share the richness of our diversity.

Albeit all of the wonderful accomplishments of the PeaceJam Club, our quest to accomplish our goals is far from complete. As a result of the increase in our club membership, the group has struggled to fundraise the \$4500 needed for the entire group to attend the conference this year. If you would like to help tomorrow's community leaders and advocates for peace gain valuable connections and ideas, please help us by donating to our conference fund. Anything would help!

Please check our video at http://bit.ly/winooski-peacejam or contact club advisors: Libby Houghton at ehoughton@ wsdschools.org or Melissa Clark at mclark@wsdschools.org for more information. Thank you so much for your support!

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

## **Update from your City Council**

By Sally Tipson and Mike O'Brien



Greetings!
March 3rd is Town
Meeting Day. This
year, you will be
voting for a new
mayor, two new
city councilors,
two school board

members, and city and school budgets, with an advisory question about joining an existing lawsuit regarding the F-35 basing. Every voice counts, so please vote!

The City Council is requesting approval of a \$6,015,152.51 budget for fiscal year 2016 (FY16), \$5,029,780.55 of which would be raised by taxes. The difference, \$985,371.96, would be raised through fees, grants and other non-property tax sources. We are projecting that the proposed budget will result in approximately a 1% increase in taxes over last year, in part due to an anticipated growth in the Grand List.

The proposed budget includes several additions that the Council considered to be necessary to provide better delivery of services, to recognize the increased responsibilities of two current positions, and to complete our zoning re-write. The additions are summarized as follows:

• 1 full-time police officer under a 3-year grant that will cover part of the cost of this officer for three years with the City required to fund the position for one additional year.

- A new public works position that will be responsible for maintaining the city's facilities. Part of the cost of this position will be covered by monies that would have been used to pay an outside contractor to make repairs and maintain our facilities.
- Increase salaries for two employees with additional duties and responsibilities.
- · Outsource payroll.
- Provide some translation services.
- Engineering services.

The total impact of the additions on the proposed FY15 budget is \$63,732. Offsetting the additions is a projected surplus from the current budget of \$15,318. As a result, the Council is requesting an increase in property tax revenue of \$48,413.50, or a \$0.01 increase in the municipal tax rate.

The Council unanimously supported the request and asks for your support. For more information about the budget, please go to the city website at www. winooskivt.org, or feel free to contact any council members. And please join us on Monday evening, March 2nd at 6:00 pm at the high school as we discuss and answer questions about the budget.

Please remember to vote. You may vote at the Senior Center on March 3rd between 7am and 7pm. If you wish, you can also vote early at city hall.

As you are aware, Sally and I have decided not to run again this year. We

Your City Officials	Email addresses	Telephone				
Mayor Michael O'Brien	mobrien@winooskivt.org	802-655-4879				
Deputy Mayor Sally Tipson	stipson@winooskivt.org	802-655-3894				
Councilor Brian Corrigan	bcorrigan@winooskivt.org	802-999-9270				
Councilor Seth Leonard sleonard@winooskivt.org		802-777-3381				
Councilor Brian Sweeney	bsweeney@winooskivt.org	802-734-6902				
City Manager Deac Decarreau	deac@winooskivt.org	802-655-6410				
Visit the city website at winooskivt.org or call 802-655-6410.						

Keep up to date with announcements and news:



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK We are "City of Winooski - Government"
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER We are @winooskivt

# SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 2ND The Annual Meeting

6:00pm: City Budget 7:30pm: School Budget

**BUDGET PRESENTATIONS** 

### **LOCATION**

Performing Arts Center, Winooski Educational Center

want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement over the years. It was a pleasure to serve our great city in this capacity, and we are confident that the new mayor and council will continue to move Winooski ahead in the years to come.

As always, if you have any questions about what's going on in the City, and especially about the proposed budget, feel free to contact any of the city council or call city hall at 655-6410. We hope to see you at the polls!

Note: you can sign up with the City to get our weekly updates via email! Each week, staff sends out updates on things that are happening in the City. To get these updates, just go to our website at www.winooskivt.org.

# Support Local Businesses — and Get A Deal!

By Jessica Bridge

Get yourself a \$45 Access Winooski card and you're eligible for all kinds of sweet



deals at Winooski businesses!

This year-long event showcases the best of what Winooski has to offer. With a seasonally-changing list of memberonly deals, card holders can save money, support Winooski, and get awesome breaks on food, drink, gifts, and services.

## **Meet The Candidates For Mayor and City Council**

There are two candidates running for for mayor this year, and there are three candidates running for city council. Thanks to Michael O'Brien and Sally Tipson for their years of service!

Here is information submitted by the candidates to help you get to know them a little better. You are also invited to attend a meeting March 2nd, 2015 in the Performing Arts Center at the Winooski Educational Center, for a full review of the city and school budgets, in addition to meeting the candidates, beginning at 6:00 p.m with a discussion about city issues. Discussion about school issues is scheduled to begin at 7:30. Please do your part and become informed, and vote on March 3, 2015 at the Senior Center on Barlow St. between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

#### SETH LEONARD

**Running for:** Mayor

Contact: 311 Weaver Street, 802-777-

3381

**Work:** My professional career is devoted to affordable financial services and home financing for Vermonters, formerly at Opportunities Credit Union and currently at Vermont Housing Finance Agency.

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill; Microbiology & Economics Classes at CCV for intellectual interest; Leadership Champlain, LCRCC.

**Hobbies:** Anything outside, in all seasons of Vermont: hiking with my dogs, camping, snowboarding! Novice gardening enthusiast; Decent cook, but better at eating; Fanatic Sports Fan: (Go Notre Dame and UNC!)

Community Service: Current City
Councilor: Liaison to Administrative
Services & City Treasurer, Winooski
Gateways Steering Committee, Board
of Civil Authority; Vermont Mortgage
Bankers Association: Treasurer, Chair
of Membership; Past Service: Winooski
Community Partnership (Economic
Development Chair, Treasurer, Farmers
Market Organization), United Way
Income Impact Team, Boys & Girls Club
Mentor, Burlington Young Professionals
Steering Committee, Haunted Winooski
& Pop-up Gallery Volunteer, Mission:
Possible Organizer.

Reason for Running: I am excited as I look around our community. I am inspired by Winooski's history, proud of where we are, and motivated by our bright future. As a current City Councilor, I have a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities we face today. Now is the time for leadership with a fresh perspective, strong vision, and the ability to bring our diverse community together to set the course for what is next.

#### NICOLE MACE

Running for: City Council

**Contact:** 169 Bellevue St. 802-363-7777 **Work:** Attorney for the Vermont School

**Boards Association** 

**Education:** Law degree, Masters degree in public policy and management **Hobbies:** Reading, skiing, singing the Frozen soundtrack with my daughter Olive, and cooking for friends.

Community Service: Former co-chair of the Winooski School District PACTS (Parents and Community Together with Schools) Committee; current vice-chair of the Winooski Community Services Commission; community representative on a hiring committee for the Winooski Police Department

Reason for Running: I am excited about Winooski's future. We are seeing an influx of businesses and residents, and our schools are recognized as models of innovation. Our small city with a big heart has much to be proud of. If elected to City Council, I will provide positive, inclusive leadership and work to ensure the City delivers excellent services at an affordable cost, grows our vibrant downtown and ensures its accessibility, and builds a safe, connected community.

#### ROBERT MILLAR

**Running for:** City Council **Contact:** 163 Malletts Bay Ave Apt B, 802-238-0089. Email: Robert@ RobertMillar.org. Facebook: Facebook. com/RobertMillarVT

Work: Self-employed

**Education:** BA, English, UVM. Minors: Political Science & Vermont Studies **Hobbies:** I'm an avid reader and Vermont history buff. I'm also a big fan of our local restaurant scene.

Community Service: School Board Trustee (2010-2012); Justice of the Peace (2010-present); Board of Civil Authority Member (2010-present); Development Review Board Member (2013-present); Winooski Representative to CCTA Board of Commissioners (2014-present)

Reason for Running: I'm dedicated to Winooski and committed to continuing the progress we have made in recent years. As a Councilor, I will strive for transparent, responsive city government. I will work to make sure our continued development doesn't leave the majority of residents behind. We should do all we can to ensure new and old residents alike aren't being pushed out or priced out of Winooski. And we must grow our base of safe, affordable housing.

#### **BILL NORFUL**

**Running for:** Mayor

**Contact:** Please visit my website at www. norfulformayor.com, contact me at 654-3630, email me at wnorful@vtlaw.net, or stop by my office at 235 Main Street for any questions or concerns you wish to discuss.

**Work:** Attorney, Constitutional Law Professor at Burlington College for four years, Justice of the Peace (25 years). **Reason for Running:** I have announced my candidacy for Mayor as a proud lifelong, and third generation resident of Winooski having served Winooski for many years on various committees, boards, the City council, Deputy Mayor, and as Mayor from 1991-99. I've established my law practice here, taught constitutional law at Burlington College for four years, and been a Justice of the Peace for 25 years. My wife Carrie is a Nurse Practitioner, and we live on Park Street with our three Corgis pups.

#### STEPHEN TICEHURST

Running for: City Council Contact: 90 Hood Street, set182@

comcast.net

**Work:** Director of Maintenance, Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington **Education:** St. Francis Xavier, Rice Memorial High School, Essex High School, Champlain College

**Hobbies:** Furniture refinishing, camping, motorcycling, spending time with my grandchildren.

**Community Service:** Citizens adviser to the school board.

Reason for Running: I want to bring common sense back to the way we run our city. I want to ask the questions that need to be asked, questions like; are we operating in an efficient way, following sound economic practices, excercising the best and most sensible judgement in the way we provide services to residents, and are there alternatives to managing city services and departments that should be considered. Your vote on March 3rd is greatly appreciated.

## March Update from the Winooski Library

By Amanda Perry, Librarian

- On March 14 from 10am 5pm, the library is hosting a babysitting class is sponsored by the Red Cross. It's free and open to youth age 11-15. Those who successfully complete the class will get a certificate from the Red Cross and a free first aid kit to bring with them while babysitting. Free lunch is provided at the community center and the library will provide snacks. The class is limited to 12 registrants, please call the library, 655-6424, to register with their name and phone number.
- **Book Group** will meet on Wednesday, March 11 at 7pm. The title is yet to be decided, but the library will have copies available.
- The Friends of the Library will meet Tuesday, February 24 at 7pm. Planning for the April Book Swap will continue. All are welcome.

Please visit us at 32 Malletts Bay Avenue, online at winooskilibrary. wordpress.com, or follow us on twitter @ WinooskiLibrary.

#### **Library Hours:**

- Tuesday 10-7
- Wednesday 3-7
- Thursday & Friday 10-6 and
- Saturday 9-5.

Call us at 802-655-6424.

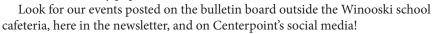
## It's time... for FACETIME!

by Kate Dearth, Community Support Counselor, Centerpoint Adolescent Treatment Services

Do you know a kid or a teen in the area who wants something fun (no, seriously, fun) to do after-school? Do they want to make real connections with people their own age in a healthy, supportive environment? Then send them down to FACETIME! Join your host Kate and friends on Wednesdays at the O'Brien Community Center from 3:45-5:00pm for free, fun weekly activities with real people and real connections.

FACETIME runs its events monthly, with its March's events including a Game Night (March 4th), Indoor Obstacle Course (March 11th), Tie Dye Crafts

(March 18th), and a Junkyard Bowling Tournament back by popular demand (March 25th)!



What's this all about?

To learn more about FACETIME, or any of Centerpoint's services, you can reach Kate at (802) 343-3958 or KateD@CenterpointServices.org



## **Islamic School News**

By Fathima Bariyajaan

WIS completed its second trimester evaluation on Feb 15th 2015. The outstanding students for this trimester are from Kindergarten: Ibrahim Moge. 1st Grade: Momin Waqar, Azra Edez and Sharif Omar. 2nd Grade: Zahra Muhammad, Juri Al-Bataineh, Batula Mohamed and Hassan Azhar Kari. 4thGrade: Yasmine Shabaan, Flastine Jafar, Abdel Aziz Wargu and Abdi. 6th Grade: Sidrah Arabi. 8th Grade for Girls: Hawa Adam, Lule Aden, Edil Hussein, Linna Lahmadi and Hamdi Jafar. We would like to thank all the teachers and volunteers for an excellent trimester.

WIS has a small collection of books that we lend out to our students during break time. The books are either donated or bought by WIS. The school as always depends heavily on volunteers and always eager to raise funds to better support the mission of WIS. We have a very enthusiastic staff raising funds for the school through bake sales. We would like to thank parents and teachers for their continued support and look forward to working with the community.

If you have any questions, please contact Principal Fathima Bariyajaan at (802) 310 5339 or stop by at the school office on Sunday (Winooski Middle School, Room 110).

## **Seniors Got Connected In February**

By Jahnine Spaulding

February is a month when many people try to make or strengthen their connections – love connections – and Winooski Seniors are all about making those connections!

23 ladies connected to beauty, art, chocolate, and one another, on a gloriously sunny "Mystery Trip" to the Shelburne Museum, Dutch Mill Restaurant, and Lake Champlain Chocolates. Many thanks to Bonnie Douglass, Group Tour Coordinator and our guide, for helping us understand the significance of the spectacular jewelry on display at the Shelburne. For many seniors this was their first visit to the Pizzagalli Center - with its use of natural materials and modern finishes –the building was as much a delight as the exhibits. Next stop was delicious, hearty fare at the Dutch Mill Restaurant - many thanks to CVAA and Jaime Bissonette, his family, and crew for not only serving us a wonderful lunch, but for also making us feel like family! We highly recommend the Dutch Mill! Finally, we savored our way through the different types of chocolate at a Lake Champlain Chocolate's tasting class, lead by LCC store manager Abby. While there might have been many "love connections," made with the sparkling gems, or decadent chocolates we enjoyed, the best connections were those of friendships strengthened among the ladies, and to those folks in the community who were such gracious hosts. Thank you all!

Janet Ferguson led a Spring Card Making class on February 10th where each card is a work of "heart," as well as art. Those who attended will be sending these hand-made cards to friends and relatives – what a way beautiful way to remind someone that you care. Thanks so much to Janet for creating the designs, and then leading us through the process – it was lots of fun!

Member's of our Senior Book Club launched their first book discussion, connecting with one another over their shared enjoyment of the book, Wonder by RJ Palaccio. Many thanks to Amanda Perry, our Winooski Librarian, for facilitating these discussions!

Finally, on February 13th over 80



Winooski seniors came together with Winooski Middle and High School ELL students to make cultural connections during our International Luncheon. The day was filled with delicious cuisine from many lands, and colorful, lively dances and games brought here by our New American neighbors. This was a unique opportunity for our seniors to connect with the New American seniors who live in Winooski. Many thanks to Aftaba Mezetovic and Kirsten Kollgaard from Winooski High School, and all the ELL students who participated, for this magical afternoon!

As of this writing, Winooski seniors are waiting to make one more connection – the tech connection! Technology For Tomorrow (T4T) brings together tech savvy teens, and tech wary seniors to help seniors get the most out of their "tech toys," while the teens hone their communication and other work-related skills. We'll let you know how this connection turns out. Many thanks to Eli Harrington, and his volunteers!

Here are a few of the opportunities YOU have to make great connections of all kinds at the WSC

Connect to your inner leprechaun!
 Our annual, and wildly popular,
 St. Patrick's Day Lunch will be on
 Tuesday, March 17th (of course)
 at 11:30 at the WSC. Make your

reservations NOW! We are limited to 80 party people. Reservations close March 6th. Corned Beef and Cabbage OR a Loaded Irish Potato with all the trimmings are yours for just \$6 per person.

- Connect to your inner Party Person - WOW! Two great parties back to back! Power through the parties, seniors! You can do it! CVAA presents a fabulous Mardi Gras Party that includes lunch, Dixie Land Jazz, all types of "throws," and even a crowning of the King and Queen of Mardi Gras. We have the tickets at the WSC, but transportation to this event (less than a mile away!) is limited to those who have no other means of transport. So grab your friends, grab your keys, and let the good times roll! Tickets are first-come-first-served and on sale now at \$5 per person. Ticket sales END on March 1st.
- Connect with your inner child "Turn Up" for Friday Fun and Games every Friday from 2:30-4:30 We play our music loud, eat what we want, laugh til our cheeks hurt, and play cards or games – WHO'S IN? give us a call 655-6425
- Strengthen family connections! Learn how to use the IPads, IPhones, and laptops your kids are always staring at so that you can share even more with



them. Technology For Tomorrow is typically the third Tuesday evening, or Saturday morning of each month.... call or email for details and dates.

- Connect with People Who Can Help You with the challenges of major life changes! On March 31st at 11:30 AM or 5:30 PM come down for a presentation on Handling Major Life Transitions. This program, brought to us by Armistead Care Givers, focuses on the particular needs of senior who are transitioning from home to community living, or dealing with other challenges of aging, AND the family and friends who support them. If you are a senior who is struggling, or a member of the "sandwich" generation that is trying to help, this presentation will offer some insight, and practical help.
- Keep your bones and brains connected!
   We have several exercise classes that
   will help keep you fit mentally and
   physically. Stop by and pick up a
   exercise class calendar, or email us at
   seniorcenter@winooskivt.org and we
   will send it to you electronically.

The Winooski Senior Center welcomes all community members 55 and older! If you have questions about any of the activities listed, please give us a call at 655-6425. Find us at 123 Barlow Street.

## Community Center Coffee Hour

Please join us from 9:00-11:00 am on Fridays! Come have coffee, tea, sometimes juice, and a bite-size pastry, courtesy of Starbuck's on Williston Road. Contact 655-1392, ext. 10 for more information.

## **Thrive Program Starts Planning for Summer**

By Kirstie Paschall, Children and Family Programs Manager (Thrive Program Director)

Happy March! We hope everyone has enjoyed this winter and has been able to take advantage of all of the wonderful snow and snow days! The staff and children at Thrive have loved this winter, taking the opportunity to make up new games inside, get to know our friends better,



and craft away the cold, but we are definitely starting to think some warm weather thoughts! In the spirit of dreaming away the winter blues, we have begun planning the 2015 Thrive Summer Camp!

The Thrive After School and Summer Program is a state licensed program for children who have just completed Kindergarten-5th grade. Our summer program is a day-long program full of opportunities for children to explore interests, the community, and build connections with friends through play. We take weekly trips to Landry park for open swim and barbecue lunches, as well as walks to Gilbrook and through the school grounds with lots of chances for outside play. All of our classrooms are staffed by highly qualified teachers, many of whom we all know and love from our After School program!

Throughout March announcements will be made regarding our dates of operation, weekly schedule, rates, financial assistance, and enrollment information both on our website and at school. Be sure to check your child's backpack or find us online at www.winooskivt.org/communityservices/thrive. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to Kirstie Paschall, Thrive Program Director, for more information!

We're looking forward to another exciting year! Hope to see you there!



\* DO YOUR PART \*

VOTE

MARCH 3, 2015



## Catch Election Day Results on Channel 17 or online

On Election Day, (March 3rd) Channel 17/Town Meeting TV will carry a live program starting at 7 pm with results, poll interviews and local news and information. Tune in on cable channel 17 or online at http://www.ch17.tv.

## Stay in Touch: Join Front Porch Forum!

Front Porch Forum's mission is to help neighbors connect and foster community within the neighborhood.

Go to **www.frontporchforum. com** to sign up for this free community resource.

# "Discover Historic Winooski" Maps Now Available!

Take yourself on a tour of Winooski for free! Pick up your free copy of the 2015 Historic Winooski Map at local businesses and restaurants or at City Hall. From the earliest Abenaki summer settlements, colonial days when Ethan and Ira Allen began the first enterprises at the Falls, through the mill periods and up to the modern hydro-plant and newest Riverwalk, Wino a reflection of the history



modern hydro-plant and newest Riverwalk, Winooski has been a reflection of the history of the United States....all within walking distance.

## **March Youth Programs Update**

by Youth Programs AmeriCorps member Meghan Young

Winter is winding down at the Teen Center! Both our Friday snowboarding and Saturday cross country skiing groups ended at the end of February. Another session of indoor Nordic Soccer will resume on Sunday afternoons this month, with the first game scheduled for 3:30PM on March 15.

We are excited to announce that we will be starting an outing club in March. Students should keep an eye out for sign-ups, which will be happening soon! The Teen Center's Outing Club will be getting youth outdoors through hiking, canoeing, and biking on Saturdays mornings throughout the spring.

The Teen Center will be closed for the school vacation days on 3/2 and 3/3 but will resume operations (including evening Homework Help sessions) on the normal school days the second half of that week. After school Open Hours will continue to be hosted from 3 to 5:30PM on Mondays – Thursdays, and the Teen Center remains open to high school students until 9M on Fridays. The Youth Programs Space will also continue to be open to all students for two hours on Saturdays: 1-3PM. A free lunch is served every Saturday to youth who attend.

The Homework Help Program continues to serve many middle and high school students on weeknight evenings. Any and all students are welcome to attend the sessions, which are held from 6 to 9PM on schools nights, Mondays – Thursdays. Students can come to work independently on assignments, work quietly in small groups, or get some one-on-one assistance from a tutor. Or they can simply take advantage of the study environment and use the academic supplies that are made available. We're eager to pilot a new arrangement on Thursday evenings, starting in March, by hosting Homework Help in the Winooski Memorial Library.

On March 28, we will be bringing two basketball teams to the Hoehl Basketball Tournament at the Boys and Girls Club of Burlington. This is an exciting opportunity for youth to showcase their basketball skills after the high school season ends! Students will have an opportunity to sign up for one of the tournament teams in early March.

As always, we host free and healthy suppers for youth every Tuesday and Thursday night at the O'Brien Community Center at 5:30PM. Kids can even win prizes, just for showing up and grabbing a plate! We have weekly and monthly raffles, and the prizes include headphones, basketballs, and gift certificates to local stores & restaurants. See you soon!

## **Free Throw Contest Winners**

By Jeff Brosseau

Winooski Knights of Columbus Council # 2284 and Saint Francis Xavier CYO jointly sponsored a free throw contest on Saturday, January 24 at the Winooski High School Gym. Congratulations to all (fifty-eight!) local youth who participated in the event! The winners were and they advanced to the district competition held Saturday February 7th. The winners received a \$25.00 gift card from Barnes & Noble.

- Age 9 Boys: Eli Parzyck; Girls: Sophia Strouse
- Age 10 Boys: Michael Stockbridge; Girls: Jaydenne Garbarino
- · Age 11 Boys: Abdi Hared; Girls: Ashleigh Forcier
- Age 12 Boys: Sean McCormick; Girls: Flynn Barcomb
- Age 13 Boys: Baker Angstman; Girls: Bryanna Boucher
- Age 14 Boys: Mowtes Ibrahim; Girls: Nacole Barrett

District winners are the following, they advance to the State Competition on Sunday March 15th at Hazen Union High School.

- Age 9 Boys: Eli Parzyck; Girls: Sophia Strouse
- Age 10 Girls: Jaydenne Garbarino
- Age 12 Boys: Sean McCormick; Girls: Flynn Barcomb
- Age 13 Boys: Baker Angstman; Girls: Bryanna Boucher
- Age 14 Boys: Girls: Nacole Barrett



From left to right: Mayange, Merase, Mowtes, Abdishakur.

## "Above-the-Influence" Group Forms

By Sarah Petrokonis

Hello, neighbors! The Winooski Coalition values working with young people in our community, and recognizes that youth are the leaders of tomorrow. Their voices are a powerful influence in Winooski, and ensuring their health, well being, and continued success is imperative.

The past few months the coalition has been collaborating with Winooski middle school Above-the-Influence students. This group supports students in their choice to live substance free, while empowering them to pursue antisubstance projects that both inform and engage the community.

For their first project, Above-the-Influence students designed their own anti-tobacco poster, and displayed them in places in the community where students gather and smoking is still prevalent.

We are honored to work with such a talented, dedicated, and enthusiastic group of students, and look forward to pursuing other projects throughout the year. Great job, ATI students: Mayange Mayange, Merase Niyosaba, Mowtes Ibrahim, Abdishakur Gure, Anderson Vyizigiro, Hassan Sadik, Devon Mitchell!

For questions or comments, please contact Kate Nugent at (802) 665-4565 or katenugent@wcspc.org.



#### **HEALTH CORNER**

## **Health Office News**

By Liz Parris, RN BSN, Health Office Coordinator

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

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

Little changes can make a BIG difference!

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

## **Tooth Tutor Update**

By Diane Polson, RDH, Tooth Tutor

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

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

FLOSS, Brush and see your Favorite Dentist regularly!

If you do not have a Dentist, remember the School Dental Program with Vermont Dental. Please visit www.wsdschools.org or stop by the Health Office for more information.

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — MARCH**

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\*\*

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Lunch is available for all students on early dismissal days! Pick up yours at either door on your way out.



	DAILY BREAKFAST OPTIONS				
	Abbey Breakfast Sandwich Sausage & Cheese on English Muffin offered daily!!				
P	MONDAY Whole Grain French Toast Sticks TUESDAY				
	Whole Grain Cinnamon Bun w/Cheese Stick WEDNESDAY				
	Scrambled Egg & Cheese Wrap THURSDAY				
	Healthy Breakfast Round FRIDAY				
_	Ham & Cheese Bagel OR				
ol	** Cereals w/English Muffin Or Bagels				
ek	Fresh Fruit & Milk With all Meals				

#### **Deli Sandwich Offered Daily**



#### Pay for meals on-line

For free on-line service go to

#### Benefits:

- Check meal account balances and account history for free Make payments for meals using your credit card for \$1.95 transaction fee (No limit on amount deposited)

Providing parents a safe secure way to manage food

#### **Prices** Breakfast \$FREE Lunch \$FREE

Adult Adult Breakfast \$1.75 Lunch \$3.25 FREE LUNCH for ALL students, but extras like fries, ice cream or flavored water are not free

Mon., March 16	Tues., March 17	Wed., March 18	Thurs., March 19	Fri., March 20 French Toast	We Support Local New England Companies
Meatball Sub	Luck of the Irish	Grades K-5 Homemade	Taco Bar w/ The Works	Sticks w/	Samosa Man Lewis Creek Farm Sentinel Orchards VT Country Farms
Roasted Sweet	Shepherd's Pie	Pepperoni, Cheese	Seasoned Taco Meat, Mozz. Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa & Soft Flour Tortilla	Warm Syrup	Mckenzie Cabot Cooperativ Westminster Crackers Michaela's Salsa
Potato Wedges	Leprechaun's Caesar Salad	or Veggie Pizza	Rice Pilaf	Scrambled Eggs Sweet & White	New England Coffee Mazza Farm Stand Champlain Orchard Cold Hollow Cider
Steamed Broccoli	Pot of Gold	Fresh Celery Sticks	Warm Black	Home Fries	VT. Hydroponic Produce LLC Sunrise Orchards
Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly	Cornbread	Hummus Dip	Beans	Green Pepper Strips	
Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	Whole grain options
Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	offered daily leding ly Leaf
Mon., March 23	Tues., March 24	Wed., March 25	Thurs., March 26	Fri., March 27	
Dress Your Own Burger	Pasta w/ Meat or Marinara	Cheesy Breadsticks	Nachos Supreme Seasoned Taco Meat, Cheese Sauce	Corn Dog	Harvest of the Month Beets & Rutabaga
Homemade	Sauce	Hearty Country Vegetable	Salsa, Lettuce, & Corn Tortilla Chips	Roasted Sweet	Beets are root vegetables like carrots and
French Fries Roasted Beets	Chopped Green	Soup	Warm Black Beans	Potato Wedges	turnips Pick beets that are round and red. Although
Roasteu Beets	Salad Garlic Breadstick	Marinara Dipping Sauce	Steamed Corn	Steamed Broccoli	there are other varieties that come in differ- ent colors. Avoid dry or cracked beets.
Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly	Or Yogurt	Side Caesar Salad	Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly	Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly	Store beets in refrigerator Beets are high in Vitamin C and Folate
Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	American Purple Top Yellow" rutabaga is a cool season Swedish variety of American origin, a long-time standard for home and
Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	market use. The rutabaga produces purple-topped, globular roots with pale vellow, fine-orained skin and flesh. Generally harvested
Fresh Milk	Fresh Milk	Fresh Milk	Fresh Milk	Fresh Milk	when it is at least four inches in diameter, the rutabaga's creamy, yellow flesh is crisp and peppery-sweet when raw and soft and
Mon., March 30	Tues., March 31			Looking for a job that	sweet when cooked properly.  Like other root vegetables, rutabaga has a natural sweetness the is enhanced by cooking. Diced rutabaga and slowly sauté with
Chicken Patty Sandwich	Macaroni & Cheese			lets you be at home when your family	apples and onions until caramelized. Toss thinly sliced rutabaga with soy sauce, vinegar, sugar and garlic then serve fresh as a
w/Lettuce &		m /	Too one	needs you there? Come Join our Team!!	side dish. Boil diced rutabaga and toss with herbed vinaigrette and Israeli couscous for a side dish. Steam or boil diced rutabaga
Tomato	Steamed Carrots		Grains	Got to the link below.	until soft, them mash with cooked carrots and flavor with minced lemongrass. Rutabaga will keep in cool, dark storage for months.
Magenta Root Slaw	Side Caesar Salad	Magazania	Protein /	You can download an application or see what	Magenta Root Slaw 8 1/2 cup servings
0.0	Or Yogurt			we have available	Fresh Ginger 1 oz. Shredded carrot 9.5 oz. Beets shredded 9.5 oz. Parsnips shredded 9.5 oz.
Or Yogurt Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	Or Sunbutter and Jelly Or Deli Sandwich Or Chef Salad	Choose	lyPlate gov	through Careerbuilder.	Honey 1/8 cup Lemon Juice 1 tbslp Salt pinch
Early Early	Food Food			http:// www.abbeygroup.net/	Ground fresh ginger in food processor. Whisk to- gether honey, lemon juice and salt in bowl. Add
Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk	Fresh Fruit Fresh Milk			careers.php	shredded vegetables and toss to combine.

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



NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID BURLINGTON, VT PERMIT #361

POSTAL PATRON

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*

WINOOSKI, VT 05404

#### **WINOOSKI PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## www.wsdschools.org

#### **Superintendent of Schools Sean McMannon**: 655-0485

smcmannon@wsdschools.org

#### John F. Kennedy Elementary School

Principal: Mary O'Rourke 802-655-0411, 802-655-3530 morourke@wsdschools.org

#### Winooski Middle and High School

Principal: **Leon Wheeler** 802-655-3530 lwheeler@wsdschools.org

#### **Board of School Trustees**

Mike Decarreau, President: 310-4032 mdecarreau@wsdschools.org
Jay Lambert, Secretary: 655-2942 jay.bird.2@gmail.com
Tori Cleiland, 655-7678 tcleiland@wsdschools.org
Jen Corrigan, 233-7642 jcorrigan@wsdschools.org
Julian Portilla, 399-0241 jportilla@wsdschools.org

#### **WSD ENDS STATEMENT**

All students will graduate from the Winooski School District (WSD) college and career ready at a cost supported by a majority of the Winooski community. WSD students will lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community.

#### **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@wsdschools.org