

ALSO INCLUDES
Community News!
 STARTING ON PAGE 13

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS!

FEBRUARY 2018

celebrating Our Achievements!

Winooski Girl Scouts Troop Update

By Amy Lothrop



News from Troops
 30187 Cadettes,
 30948 Juniors,
 52013 Brownies
 and 58806 Daisies

Despite the below zero temperatures, Winooski Girl Scouts welcomed the new year with a Cookie Rally. Our Daisies, Brownies, Juniors and Cadettes gathered to inspire each other and have fun. Our goal was to work on the five skills of the Cookie program.

- 1. Personal Goals** - Scouts set their personal cookie selling goals and make plans to achieve it.
- 2. Goal Setting** - Scouts decide what goals to achieve over the next year of scouting and where to spend their earnings.
- 3. Money Management** - Scouts develop an understanding of how to



build a budget and make sound fiscal decisions.

- 4. People Skills** - Scouts learn to listen to their customers and work as a team.
- 5. Business Ethics** - Scouts learn to act honestly and with integrity during cookie selling and in all aspects of their lives.

They were able to put the skills into practice at a mock cookie booth. Our Cookie Rookies practiced their people skills and business ethics. The Cookie Veterans stepped up to mentor their rookies. It was powerful to see them work together. They calculated their individual goals and voted on how to spend their earnings after covering their annual expenses. Daisies decided to go to ECHO and help animals by building bird and bat houses. Brownies decided to go to ice skating and help children

with cancer. Juniors decided to go to Jay Peak and help to end hunger for their Bronze Award.

Cadettes decided to go to Get Air, keep saving for their Costa Rica trip and to work on their Silver Awards. Everyone voted to go camping this summer.

The highlight of the day was our trip to "Flavor Town". It gave the girls an opportunity to learn about the cookies. Split into multi-level teams, they answered cookie questions by running to the mock cookie booth and bringing back the correct box of cookies. Some questions were Girl Scout trivia. Try as we might, we didn't stump them... often! They challenged each other and cheered enthusiastically for teammates and opponents alike.



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2018-2019 Vision-Driven, Learner Investment

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools

“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.”

The WSD Ends Statement above clearly states the high expectations we have for our students. This past November, December and January the WSD administration worked with the Board of School Trustees to tackle the challenging task of determining the proposed budgetary investment in our school for the upcoming year based on the WSD Ends Statement. Thanks to board members Mike Decarreau, Tori Cleiland, Jen Corrigan, Matt MacNeil and Alex Yin for their student-centered and forward-thinking approach to budget development.

Four years ago we began investing in creating a PreK-12 systemic approach to supporting student needs and monitoring student progress with positions such as Wellness Coordinator, Data Manager, Director of English Language Learning & Curriculum, Reading Specialists and Home-School Coordinator. Now we can confidently say we have established a strong foundation that provides food security, wellness opportunities, access to technology and a system that can track the attendance, behavior, reading and math levels of every student. Also, we were an early investor in Pre-Kindergarten with four half-day programs on campus so we can begin to engage students and parents as soon as possible.

During this budget cycle I gave board members a baseline budget and data about enrollment, staffing, Special Education, English Language Learners (ELL), Information Technology and Operations. All of this information can be found on our website.

Overall, our enrollment is currently 884 PreK-12 students and we expect this number to grow by 15-20 students for the 2018-19 school year. The Winooski School District is in the fourth year of Act 166, which requires universal PreKindergarten programming for all children who are three, four or five by the date established by the district of residence for kindergarten eligibility. Act 166 will also provide \$3,267 per child to offset the costs of providing universal PreKindergarten.

JFK Elementary is making wonderful progress with Responsive Classroom, Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS), our School Wide Expectations — HEART, and Project-Based Learning (PBL). Winooski Middle School (WMS) has made tremendous strides this year through their new Social Contract, cell phone policy, the 6th Grade Academy

and the exciting expeditionary learning (EL) approach. WMS 6th graders had a fabulous learning experience working with Circus Smirkus on a six-week residency exploring “Circus Secrets” which resulted in a WMS student-led circus for our JFK students. Winooski High School continues moving toward meeting Vermont law of providing proficiency-based graduation requirements by 2020 through the growth of our Graduate Expectations (GXs), Graduate Proficiencies (GPs) and the iLab.

Therefore, this budget reflects investments in the following areas: JFK Guidance Counselor, Physical Education, Speech Pathologist and a Human Resources Specialist. Also, this budget includes funds to continue to support a student transportation pilot which will transport students who live over .75 miles away from school to school each day during the winter months.

A series of increases and decreases, including these new investments results in a 5.8% expense increase, a -1.2% decrease in spending Per Equalized Pupil resulting in an estimated tax increase of 2.9%. Because our Equalized Pupil Count grew significantly and the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) only dipped slightly, we have been able to achieve a relatively low impact on the estimated tax rate.

Over the years, your Board of Trustees has put forth fiscally conservative budgets when compared to the rest of the state as evidenced by our Educational Spending Rank being in the bottom quartile the past five years (197/256 in FY17), and over \$1,100 less per pupil compared to other PreK-12 districts in Vermont. I think you will see that the Board of Trustees has constructed a thoughtful, vision-driven investment in Winooski children that continues to move us forward to meet the high expectations of our WSD Ends Statement! We are blessed with a diverse student population who also require a high level of support to meet our high standards. Our staff and leadership team clearly understand the strengths and challenges of our students and forge ahead with creativity, collaboration and compassion.

Please join me on Monday, March 5th at 7:30pm in the WSD Performing Arts Center for more information about our proposed investment in Winooski students for the 2018-19 school year.

Thank you for working with WSD to benefit our students!

Miss a School Board Meeting? Watch it Online!

Did you know you can watch Winooski School Board meetings

on the internet on your own schedule? Visit www.retn.org and click on “Meetings” under the “Watch” heading. You will find Winooski School Board listed alphabetically at the bottom of the list of area schools.



School Board Update

By Michael Decarreau, Winooski School Board President

Welcome to the February newsletter. The WSD School Board and the Leadership team have had a busy winter preparing our FY19 Budget. We believe we have developed a budget that supports the ever-changing needs of our district and will be supported by our community.

I always like to start with the bottom line and work backwards. The answer is that the estimated School Tax Rate will increase 2.9%. The estimated part we will return to in a moment.

On the March ballot you will see two items for the school budget:

- **Ballot Item IV:** This item asks the voters of Winooski to accept an estimated \$2,376,213 in federal funds to support students from low-income families in meeting high academic standards. **This item has no effect on tax rates.** Please vote “Yes” on this one.
- **Ballot Item V:** This item asks the voters of Winooski to approve our school operating budget for FY19 in the amount of \$16,837,357. This represents an increase of 5.83% from the operating budget for FY18, the current year. This 5.83% expense investment DOES NOT REPRESENT the tax increase as much of this is offset by anticipated revenues. The tax rate is estimated to increase by 2.9%.

The total increase from FY18 to FY19 of \$927K is made up of the following investments:

- **Salaries and benefits** accounts for \$527K of the increase. During negotiations this past year we settled on a ~3% salary increase for teachers and support staff contracts.
- **Special Education** accounts for \$371K of the increase. This Special Education spending is offset by reimbursement at varying percentages depending on the use so there is a revenue offset for much of this.
- **WSD’s total offsetting revenue** is estimated to be ~\$5.1M which leaves total Education Spending at just over \$14M. Otherwise, very small changes in other categories.

Another item you will see in Ballot Item V is *Education Spending per Equalized Pupil* which is actually going down 1.2% in this budget. While the student population is generally shrinking across Vermont, Winooski is growing. Our Equalized Pupil count has grown from 963 to 1018, an increase of over 5.5%.

I will put in the rest of the details for those interested: The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) declined from 92.2% to 91.43%. We had anticipated a bit larger drop than this in our initial planning. The actual tax rate for 2018 is 1.4914 and in this budget, it is estimated to be 1.535, or a 2.9% increase.

We will be going through all of the financial details at a Community Dinner in February. Please look out for details in Front Porch Forum or on our website (wdschools.org).

SAVE THE DATE!

Your Input is Needed

At the February 14 School Board meeting (beginning at 6:30pm), we want to hear your thoughts regarding the Winooski School District’s areas of strengths and areas for improvements.

We really want to hear from all community members (i.e., students, parents, business owners, community members with no kids, senior citizens) in trying to understand whether we are accomplishing the goals of college and career-ready graduates that will lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community. We look forward to this engaging conversation.

Please join us in the Learning Media Center, Wednesday February 14 at 6:30 to share your thoughts.

Also, the **Annual Meeting on Monday, March 5th** in WSD’s Performing Arts Center (PAC) will include budget presentations from the City starting at 6pm and followed by WSD.

Now to the “estimated” part: All of this is an estimate as one of the main factors in calculating tax rates is the Homestead Property Yield. In the simplest terms, the yield is the dollar amount the state gives each district for each student as a starting point. This provides a finite number for the state to construct a budget. We have been using a yield of \$9,842. This is subject to change at any point between now and the close of the legislative session. The impact of a change in the yield can be significant. Given that this can change into May and we vote on a budget in March, the actual rates will only be known when the legislature closes their session.

One item not related to the budget that I have been asked about recently is about our Capital Project Committee that has begun meeting. The question I am asked: “What is this I hear about you guys building a new building?” With the changing nature of education, the complex and varied needs within our district and a growing student population we have asked the question: “If we had the opportunity to change our physical space to deliver the best education possible in today’s world and 10 years from now, what would you change?” We are no longer simply sitting the students in rows and telling them what to learn. We will report out as we move forward. For now, we are only in the initial stages of this discussion.



Parent and Youth for Change Update

By Infinite Culcleasure

Hoping this February finds you happy and healthy! Parents and Youth for Change has had a busy winter and fall serving the Winooski Community.

This fall we focused on student led community forums.

Wonderful student leaders from Winooski, Burlington, and South Burlington all planned and led community discussions on topics that were important to them.

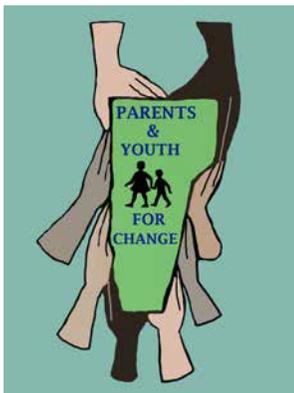
Even though Winooski is smaller than the other school districts, the forum that Winooski students organized was twice the size of both of the other districts combined, and participants came from all over Vermont. The success of the forum was highlighted by their amazing collective efforts, as Winooski students helped to coordinate child supervision, guest speakers, interpreters, transportation, international food, a raffle, and the discussions focused on the challenging conversations of white supremacy, Islamophobia, and the state of proficiency-based graduation at Winooski. Please feel free to contact us for a summary of all three community forums or the full report.

After that busy fall, PYC followed up with a productive start to the New Year.

On Tuesday the 16th of January, the Winter Transportation Pilot kicked off! Buses have been picking up students at the bottom of Elm street and at the O'Brien Community Center. Students, with the support of an iLab teacher, are being invited to study the Transportation Pilot for a senior project. What you can do to support this initiative: We need bus monitors! PYC is looking for community partners, such as parents/guardians, to help monitor the buses to ensure that the project is a success. If you are directly impacted by this issue, or would like to be involved, please reach out to the email below.

Stay in touch with Parents and Youth for Change, as community members are the heart of our organization.

If you would like to get involved with PYC's work, have questions or ideas to share, please reach out! Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @PYCWinBurlVT, or send us an email zmorrispyc@gmail.com, lbeckeryc@gmail.com, or infinite@voicesforvtkids.org.



Teaching Beyond Tolerance

By Hal Colston, Director, Partnership for Change

Teaching Tolerance provides free resources to educators to



create civil and inclusive school communities where children are respected, valued and welcomed participants.

Their mission is to reduce prejudice, improve intergroup relations and support equitable school experiences for our nation's children. This is an invaluable and important program for our schools. The only problem I have with this organization is the name, Teaching Tolerance. The Merriam Webster Dictionary definition of tolerate is "to put up with" as we learn to tolerate one another. I feel the aim should be teaching beyond tolerance so we are able to embrace and accept people for their differences and their humanity.

I am a father of three grown adults. While raising them I learned that they would not necessarily do as I say, but would always do as I do. Our students are always observing how we as adults interact with another. What do they learn about respect from our interactions? How do they experience acceptance through our discussions? Where do they recognize harmony in the ways that we engage? It goes without saying that young people emulate the behavior of adults they witness and learn to read our body language better than you think or want to know.

Teachable moments occur every time when we adults interact with one another. How are we acting beyond tolerance? How are we teaching beyond tolerance? Our students are watching us. Teaching beyond tolerance is about how we show up and how we live.

Are You Running For School Board or City Council?

If you are planning to run, we would like to introduce you to readers of this newsletter in our March issue. Please provide the following information by **February 9** for publication in the March issue of the District News. We intend to run this information to give Winooski voters a chance to get to know the candidates. Please submit the following information to editor Anne Linton Elston at annelinton@mac.com:

- Name
- Address & Telephone
- Work
- Education
- Hobbies/activities
- Community service
- Reason for running (75 words or less)

CITY AND SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE

Winooski Peace Initiative — Peace Meals

By Sister Pat McKittrick

The Winooski Peace Initiative in collaboration with the Winooski Senior Center would like to invite you to a "Peace Meal" on March 2, 2018 at the Winooski Senior Center.

We will be serving "Indian Food" both at lunchtime and at suppertime. Come learn about the culture of origin of some of our neighbors. You will enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and enriching experience. More details will be available soon on Front Porch Forum including meal times and how to reserve your place.

Why have Peace Meals? The more we know each other in our Winooski Community, the stronger, and more meaningful will be our relationships. According to Paul Born in his book, *Deepening Community*, there are four meaningful ways to turn from fear to building deeper, healthier communities:

- Sharing our story
- Enjoying one another by spending time together
- Caring for one another
- Working together to build a better world

It is up to us to continue to choose what our community will look like. What is our vision? What is our reality today? How do we build strong, meaningful relationships? Do we have the courage to do what we need to do?

Contact Sr. Pat at pat.mckittrick@uvmhealth.org or call 847-6534 to learn more about the Winooski Peace Initiative activities or how you can volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE

Who's Got Talent?

By Arica Bronz

Calling all performers in the Winooski community! Please come and share your talent with us at our 4th Annual Talent Show.

Dancers, magicians, musicians, actors, comedians, singers and more are all welcome!

Important dates are as follows--please note the auditions and dress rehearsal are mandatory for all acts:

- **Auditions:** Friday March 16, 3-4:30 and Saturday March 17 from 10-12
- **Rehearsals:** Saturday March 31 10-12 and Wednesday April 4 from 3-4:30
- **Dress Rehearsal:** Saturday April 14, 10-12:30
- **Talent Show, Friday April 20th**
— **6:30-8:00pm**

Use these long winter months as a chance to prepare for the March auditions. We hope to see you there! For more information, please email aricaharmony23@yahoo.com



Free Throw Contest

By Jeff Brosseau

Winooski Knights of Columbus Council # 2284 and St. Francis CYO are once again sponsoring a free throw contest on **Saturday, February 3, 2018** at 12:30 PM for boys and 1:30 PM for girls at the Winooski High School gym. The contest is open to all local girls and boys ages 9 through 14. Proof of age (as of January 1, 2018) is required for participation. For more information please contact George Ashline at 654-2434 or Jeff Brosseau at 233-5530.

Coffee Hour

By Sr. Patricia E. McKittrick

What's new at the Friday morning Coffee Hour? We are now offering oatmeal on Friday mornings at the O'Brien Community Center between 9 and 11 am.

Join us for coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice, fruit, pastries, cheese, oatmeal and a relaxing environment to enjoy the company of others. (Free and open to the public)

Bingo Event Coming in April

By Linda Gregoire, Dollars for Scholars

Time for some spring fun! We are excited to offer a new fun event this spring – Bingo

**Winooski
Dollars for
SCHOLARS®**
A Program of Scholarship America®

at the Winooski School on **April 8th** and possibly a Spring Cocktail comedy event at the Monkey House in May.

Remember, many hands make our work light, and we would love for you to join us. Please don't hesitate to contact our Volunteer Board at Winooskidfs@gmail.com, our facebook page or www.winooski.dollarsforscholars.org.

Preschool Registration & Skills Screening

By Maybeline Lopez, M.Ed.,
District Evaluator Birth - 6 yrs and
Early Learning Coordinator

- **Friday, February 16, 2018**
- **9:00 am – 2:00 pm**
- **Preschool Room,
JFK Elementary School**

Quality early childhood experiences are the foundation for school success and lifelong learning. If your child is or will be 3 by September 1st, 2018 please come to register for preschool and complete a preschool skills screening.

If you have concerns about your child's development, our Winooski Early Childhood team will screen your child's development in the areas of Speech & Language Skills, Motor Skills, Adaptive Skills, Personal/Social Skills, and Academic/Cognitive Skills. This screening is play based and free for 3 and 4 year old children, living in Winooski.

Please call Maybeline Lopez at 383-6063 to schedule an appointment for you and your child to come to the screening.

Teachers will also be filling out applications for all Winooski preschool slots at this time:

- Early Learning Center Head Start (located in Winooski School District)
- Winooski Early Childhood Program (located at Winooski School District)
- The Winooski Family Center (located at Elm Street, Winooski)

The Winooski Early Childhood team will also be assisting families with the ACT 166 application process.

Act 166 Publicly Funded Prekindergarten

For children between the ages of 3 and 5 who reside in the town of Winooski, Vermont

Publicly funded prekindergarten education is defined as:

Ten hours per week for 35 weeks in a community private early care and education programs. These pre-approved programs meet specific quality standards and provide 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 2018 – June 2019).

Some of the community early care and education programs that Winooski School District partners with are:

- Trinity Children's Center -656-5026
- Lund Early Childhood Education Program -864-7467
- Greater Burlington YMCA Preschool -862-8993 x148
- The Children's School -862-2772
- 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
- UVM Campus Children's Center -656-2091
- Heartworks -651-9343
- VNA Family Room -777-8447
- Lake Champlain Waldorf School -985-2827
- Children's Preschool and Enrichment Center -878-1060
- Green Mountain Montessori School -879-9114
- Early Learning Center at Saint Michael's College -654-2650
- E.J.'s Kids Klub -860-1151
- Burlington Forest Preschool L3C -310-7028
- Frog & Toad Child Care & Learning Center -871-5309
- Kids & Fitness: Essex-879-7734, So. Burl. -658-0080, Williston-864-5351

- Discovery Preschool -860-4370
As well as many other programs.

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

The prekindergarten program offered in the public school is tuition free. The prekindergarten program offered through a partner program will charge families for the care and education program the child needs beyond the 10 hours/week during the academic year. Your child's preschool must deduct these public funds from your annual tuition bill.

Is my child eligible for publicly funded prekindergarten?

If your child is 3 years old by September 1, 2018, and resides in Winooski, then your child is eligible to participate.

How much will the Winooski School District pay?

A statewide rate of \$3,267.00 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 will be at the Preschool Skills Screening, 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). Families interested in participating need to fill out a new application each year and provide a copy of their child's birth certificate and proof of residency (a utility bill or mortgage/lease).

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 to schedule a time for the preschool screening and with any questions.

Winooski Town Meeting Candidate Forums

By Meghan O'Rourke

Tentative dates:

- February 19th & 25th at 5:25 p.m. (check full schedule online: ch17.TV)
- Live on TV and online at <http://www.cctv.org/live>
- Meet city council and school board candidates and learn about the city and school budgets.
- Watch and call with your questions to 802-862-3966.

On March 6th, 2018 after you vote, tune in at 7 p.m. for a Live Election Results show.

For full details visit www.Ch17.TV Channel 17/Town Meeting TV: *Opening the doors to your local democracy.*

VT Foodbank Dates for 2017-18 School Year

For the 5th year, the Winooski School District is partnering with the Vermont Foodbank to host Veggie VanGo onsite, providing fresh produce and food directly to our school community.

On the FIRST and THIRD Friday of each month of the school year*, the program distributes produce on school grounds, thereby providing a more accessible source of fresh food to our community.

PLEASE NOTE: Starting in the 2017-18 school year, only students will be allowed in line for produce from 8:45am – 9:30am. Family members who are not attending school will be allowed in line starting at 9:30am. The truck will pack up at 10:00am.

Here are the dates (all Friday mornings) that Vermont Foodbank trucks will be on site distributing produce from 8:45am – 10:00am:

2018: January 5 and 19, February 2 and 16, March 16, April 6 and 20, May 4 and May 18, June 1

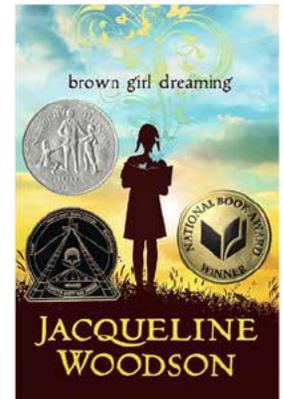
There will be no produce on March 2, 2018, due to school closings.

Winooski School District and St. Francis Xavier School To Organize Book Discussion Events

Have you heard about the book *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson?

Students from both schools will be collaborating in book discussions, poetry reads and other interesting community activities.

The Winooski Memorial Library has multiple copies of the book available for your enjoyment. Please read the book and join in the discussions. You will see how creative Winooski youth are. Your participation is a means of building community.



FEBRUARY EVENT:

- The public is invited to Our Lady of Providence on Wednesday, February 14, from 12:30 - 1:30 for a book discussion with students from St. Francis Xavier School.

GOOD FOOD, GOOD JOBS



Step In To Work

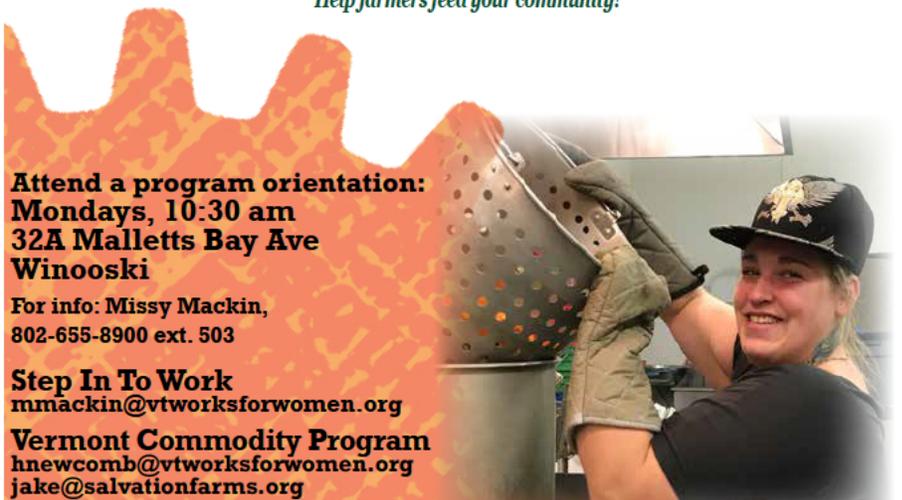
Work readiness skills training
On the job work experience with stipend
Job search & placement support
Ongoing support for continued success



Vermont Commodity Program

M - F work schedule
Stipend & completion bonus provided
Food processing and manufacturing training
Industry recognized certifications

*93% of graduates find employment within 30 days!
Help farmers feed your community!*



**Attend a program orientation:
Mondays, 10:30 am
32A Malletts Bay Ave
Winooski**

For info: Missy Mackin,
802-655-8900 ext. 503

Step In To Work
mmackin@vtworksforwomen.org

Vermont Commodity Program
hnewcomb@vtworksforwomen.org
jake@salvationfarms.org

vtworksforwomen.org • salvationfarms.org



February Update

By Sara Raabe, JFK Principal

It is February, which means the staff at JFK is participating in the Big Change Roundup. The Big Change Roundup is run by WOKO, and supports the University of Vermont's Children's Hospital. The money goes to support the patients, as well as their families. The UVM Children's Hospital consists of the maternity unit, the Children's Specialty Center, Pediatric Primary Care clinics, and parts of the Emergency Room. Many of the students in the Winooski School District, and in the Winooski community, have accessed the UVM Children's Hospital to stay healthy, or to deal with medical issues. This connection to our community is the reason that the staff at JFK want to support the hospital through The Big Change Roundup.

To raise money, several brave staff members at JFK have volunteered to participate in the T-Rex Challenge. Each volunteer staff member has a jar in the JFK office. The staff member that raises the most money by February 21st has to wear a blow up T-Rex outfit for the day on February 23rd! People can donate by adding their spare change to a staff members jar in JFK's office.

WOKO came to school on January 26th for a Kick Off Assembly. We began collecting change that day, and will continue to collect until February 21st. We will have an All School Assembly on Friday February 23rd to reveal the "winner" of the T-Rex contest!



Light and Shadows

By Theresa Fox, Grade 1 Teacher

First grade Fox Kits have been working on a science unit about light and its properties. In this hands-on unit they used flashlights to test different materials to see which things let some light, all light, or no light through. They also tested which materials reflected light--what properties did these materials share? Students then used this information to help them use mirrors to reflect light with the goal of making the light waves travel to a certain place. This would be helpful if needing to send a signal using light. Finally

students experimented with cube towers and light to learn more about shadows. How does moving the source of the light (a flashlight) affect the shadow the same tower can make? How could they make the shadow longer or shorter? How could they make the shadow wider or thinner? These are

concepts that relate directly to our learning about Earth's main source of light: the Sun. We notice how shadows are made out in nature and how they can also change when the source of light (the sun) "moves" across the sky as we rotate through our day.



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

“Signs of Progress”

By Leon Wheeler, Co-Principal

As a middle and high school, the hard work of redesigning learning around six important life skills, our Graduation Expectations (GX), is gaining attention in the field of education.

In our middle school, the Team Nexus

“There will be obstacles. There will be doubters. There will be mistakes. But with hard work, there are no limits.”

— MICHAEL PHELPS

7th & 8th graders held their expedition presentations on January 10th at the Champlain Mill. Following the evening session the Champlain Mills event organizers, very pleased with the event, suggested additional opportunities for

our students to share their learning there.

At the classroom level, Courtney Poquette, who represents Vermont business educators on the State’s Financial Literacy Commission, was invited to lead one or more sessions at the Next Gen Personal Finance Summit in San Francisco in March.

Additionally, our high school math team of Luke Dorfman, Melissa Mason, Rebecca Mellen, and Tom Payeur presented about the math lab at the VT Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference in October. One of the school districts that attended the presentation visited Winooski for a second time in January to observe the lab and meet with the math team.

Winooski was chosen as one of 24 high schools around the country to present in mid-February at the Redesigning for Student Success Conference in San Diego. Staff members Lindsey Cox, Lucas Dunn, Matt Webb and Leon Wheeler will share our school’s transformation process, “From Students to Systems: Building on Assets to Redesign Public Education.”

“A dream doesn’t become reality by magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work.”

— COLIN POWELL

The most significant recognition came from last year’s graduates. There was an alumni panel at an assembly in mid-January. Toward the end of the panel a freshman asked if the January and June exposition requirement helped prepare them for college. In turn, each of the six grads commented about how valuable this hallmark of our change process has been, affirming that JanPo and JunePo are an important and good requirement.

We’re determined to ensure the best education for our students so each is prepared for college and career, and will continue to sweat, work hard, listen and learn.

Have a good February!

Middle Schoolers Attend Leadership Conference

By Amanda Spencer, Middle School Guidance Counselor

On December 20, 2017, several of our 6th-8th grade students attended the Empower Youth Leadership Conference at the Holiday Inn, Burlington. They were joined by students from towns around Chittenden County, including Charlotte, Shelburne, Hinesburg, Winooski, Burlington and South Burlington. The students participated in workshops designed to build personal leadership skills.

The day started with middle schoolers working with CVUHS students to establish their hopes and dreams for the world. These ideas were shared with students in Uganda via a live Skype conversation. As the day progressed, students engaged in activities aimed to enhance communication skills. Highlights included creating vision boards that

identified future goals and learning about the power of nonverbal communication. In a workshop on money smarts, students learned about credit, debt, investing, and compound interest. The day ended with students learning how to practice and express gratitude as a way to bring abundance and positivity into their lives.

The event was organized by Charlotte Central School teacher, Mary Muroski, and School Counselor, Kathy Batty, and co-sponsored by the Children’s Legacy Partnership through a grant from the NOVO and Education First Foundations. Local sponsors, who helped with the



event, included Larkin Realty, Holiday Inn, Burlington, and Lantman’s Market in Hinesburg.

Mary and Kathy hope to recreate this opportunity for more of our students in the future as it was so heartening to see the insight that these future leaders have to make the world a better place for all.

A New Year in Advisory

By Lindsey Cox

Winooski High School advisories ended 2017 with advisory potlucks. Each student brought in food or drink to share with their fellow advisees. Through this activity students were able to get to know each other in a more relaxed environment and share aspects of their cultures. As the Blanchard advisory said, "I wish we could do this once a month!"

January catapulted students into the end of semester one and preparations for our January Exposition of Learning, otherwise known as "JanPo." Students experienced a soft landing during our first few days back with a reflective circle in advisory and a surprise snow day. This shifted our JanPo week and gave students a bit more time to put their speeches and displays together.

Before JanPo began, the entire high school participated in a wellness themed half-day that took students on an excursion of their choice to either MetroRock Climbing Gym, The Edge Sports and Fitness, or Essex Skating Facility. Many students had the opportunity to try something they have never done before, whether bouldering along the indoor "cliff" at MetroRock, swimming at The Edge, or ice skating in Essex, a morning to destress together provided a great mental shift before JanPo began.

As we look ahead to the new semester, students will be focused on scheduling their learning for next year by signing up for classes and had the opportunity to hear from and attend informational tours at both Burlington Tech Center and The Center for Technology in Essex in January. On February 14, our next half-day, we will be hosting a summer job and opportunity fair so students can begin to plan their summer learning and employment. If you have any questions about Winooski High School's advisory program, please contact advisory coordinator Lindsey Cox: LCOX@wsdschools.org.





Burton Chill!

By Matt Gile, K-12 Librarian

The Winooski School district is participating in Burton Chill! The program teaches students to snowboard over six weeks at Bolton Valley. Chill incorporates life skills lessons into the snowboarding instruction, the first day's theme was Respect. We have nine students participating, from JFK through the High School, and four chaperones. Gear, snowboards, jackets, instruction and transportation are all provided generously by Burton. And a special thanks to Sara Raabe and the Winooski PTO for providing us with extra clothes, backpacks, chapsticks, and lots of snacks! We had a great time on our first night, it was my first time snowboarding and I had a blast!"



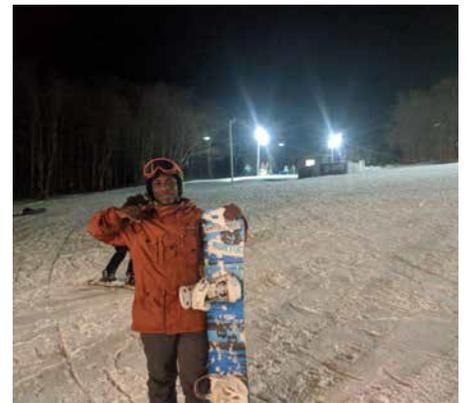
Winooski Unified Bowling Team

By Tim Rich, M.Ed., Out of District Case Manager

The Winooski Unified Sports Bowling Team has started the 2018 season! Unified Sports is a Vermont Special Olympics initiative pairing students with and without intellectual disabilities to compete in Olympic style events. Their motto is "On the field we are teammates, off the field we are friends". Unified Sports provides an opportunity for students to compete in sports who otherwise couldn't due to an intellectual or physical disability.



The Winooski School District currently has two Unified Sports teams: Bowling and Bocce. This year we have a record 34 members of the Unified Bowling team. Every Thursday afternoon the team goes to Spare Time to enjoy bowling and some good quality social time together with friends and teammates. The lane and shoe rentals, transportation, team shirts and snacks are entirely funded by the Penguin Plunge, so please support the Penguin Plunge!

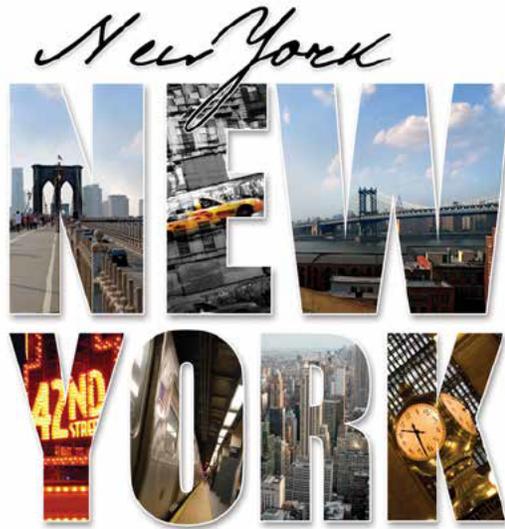


Win Great Prizes and Support Students

By Courtney Poquette, Business Teacher

Would you like to win some great prizes AND support Winooski High School Business Students as they raise money for a trip to New York City?

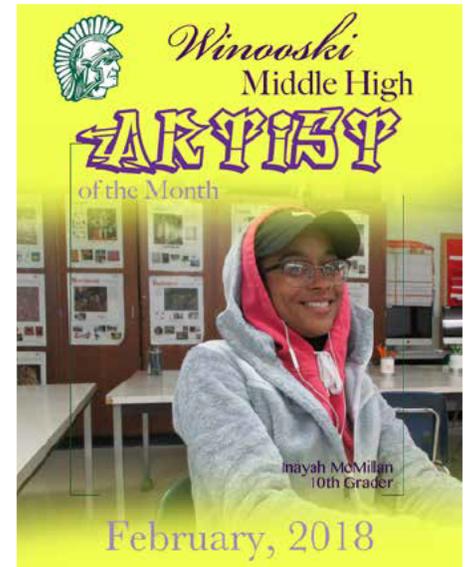
The prizes listed below were generously donated by businesses in our community. Tickets will be on sale until February 9th. You can purchase one ticket for \$1.00 or you can buy six tickets for \$5.00. Tickets will be entered into the prize drawing of your choice. The raffle drawing will take place at 2:30pm on the 9th and winners will be notified. With your donation you could win one (or more) of the following prizes:



- A gift box full of products from City Market
- A small family membership to ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center
- A one year family membership to Shelburne Farms
- A pair of tickets to a performance at the Flynn Theater
- A three month membership to Marketplace Fitness
- A gift box full of products from Trader Joe's
- A Burrito Box: which includes a \$25 gift card and products from Moe's Southwest Grill
- Two dozen mini cupcakes from My Little Cupcake
- A \$35 gift card to Pizzeria Verita
- A \$25 gift certificate to The Bagel Place
- A \$25 gift certificate to Penny Cluse Cafe
- A hat and a bobblehead from the Vermont Lake Monsters
- Two 12" pizzas from Leonardo's Pizza
- Four creemees from Palmer Lane Maple
- A teddy bear from Vermont Teddy Bear
- A pair of tickets for a scenic cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen (two winners)

To purchase tickets please contact Business Teacher, Courtney Poquette at 383-6192 or via email at cpoquette@wsd.schools.org or you may come to the main entrance of the school between the hours of 8am - 4pm and purchase tickets from Cathy Bray in the welcome center. Lastly, we would like to give a special thank you to Repro Digital for the financial donation.

Thank you very much for your support.



February Artist of the Month

By Jessica Bruce, Visual Arts Teacher

Please join me in congratulating the Winooski Middle High School Artist of the Month for February, 2018 - **Inayah McMillan!**

Inayah has shown lots of growth in honing her creative talents, using many different media and techniques, all with a smile on her face.

She has been most impressive in the dimension of Awareness of Process with the Creativity GX by self-assessing, speaks about mistakes, and how to learn from others, explains choices, and is always eager and willing to jump right in and get started.

Congrats, Inayah!

SAT and ACT Registration

Students who are planning on applying to college should register to take the SAT or ACT exam. Testing takes place at area high school (though, not Winooski High School) on select days. Each test has a fee that needs to be paid prior to registration. Fee waivers, for those who qualify, are available in the Winooski High School office. Registration is completed online. Please ask for help in the Middle/High School office.

Free SAT Prep: www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat

Free ACT Prep: www.actstudent.org/testprep/

City Council Report

By Seth Leonard, Mayor

Hope this finds you well in the New Year! At the time of writing this update, City Council is in the midst of our budget process that will result in a proposal for voters to consider on **Town Meeting Day set for March 6th.**

To kick off the budget process, City Council asked that the City Manager work with Division Heads and staff to draft a “net-zero tax impact” budget in December. The City Manager and City Staff also presented a narrative and alternative to the “net-zero tax impact” budget that demonstrated what increases over last year’s budget may be needed to continue progress towards the City’s Vision Statement and Priorities. Each division provides a detailed presentation on their budget proposal and general programming as we progress through weekly meetings in January; the divisions include Administrative, Public Works, Public Safety, Community Services, and the Capital Improvement Program. You can find presentations and budget information at www.winooski.org under the City Council portion of the website.

On the last Monday of January, Council will approve a budget that will be considered by voters on Tuesday, March 6th – be sure to watch the city’s website, social media, and Front Porch Forum for budget opportunities and presentation schedules so you can learn more ahead of the vote. You can also watch budget presentations online at www.cctv.org.

On this year’s ballot, residents will also see a bond proposal to assist in funding a project at the City’s Wastewater Plant that will actually be budget neutral. The new debt created by the project and bond issuance will be offset by retiring debt from an older project. The project will fund plant infrastructure and equipment that removes materials from wastewater earlier in the treatment process before they are detrimental to the treatment system. The



work will increase plant efficiency and elongate the lifespan of other components of the plant.

The ballot will also contain a resolution to allow the City to enter into a joint municipal agreement with surrounding communities to create a joint dispatch system for emergency services. By having surrounding communities such as Burlington, Colchester, and others create a joint dispatch unit,

our local governments believe we can provide a higher level of service for all. A positive vote with participating communities is the next step in a process that we have worked towards for several years. Other communities will also consider the same ballot item on Town Meeting Day and we hope each community will rally around this opportunity to better serve our residents. Much work has also gone towards minimizing the financial impact to the participating communities.

Should you have questions about the budget, or either special ballot item, please be sure to reach out to a member of City Council. Contact information is listed below.

And once again, this year **you can register to vote online** via the Secretary of State, at the City’s Clerk’s office, and or can actually **register to vote on election day!** We look forward to seeing you at the polls on Tuesday, March 6th.

Your City Officials	Email addresses	Telephone
Mayor Seth Leonard	sleonard@winooski.org	802-777-3381
Councilor Brian Corrigan	bcorrigan@winooski.org	802-999-9270
Councilor Eric Covey	ecovey@winooski.org	802-825-8789
Councilor Nicole Mace	nmace@winooski.org	802-363-7777
Councilor Brian Sweeney	bsweeney@winooski.org	802-734-6902
City Manager Jessie Baker	jbaker@winooski.org	802-655-6410

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

Important Dates from City Hall

By Carol Barrett, City Clerk

City Council Meetings:

- Monday, February 5, 2018
- Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Taxes/Water/Sewer Bills Due: The bills are due on or before February 15, 2018. We also have a drop-box located in the Police Dept. for taxpayers who cannot make it during regular business hours.

Holiday: Monday, February 19, 2018 in Observance of President’s Day

REMINDER: Anyone filing petitions to run for office: Mayor, City Council, or School Board, the deadline is Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Keep up to date with announcements and news:

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK We are “City of Winooski - Government”
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER We are @winooski

Keep in Touch: Join the Winooski Front Porch Forum

It’s a free and easy online way to get on the local grapevine, connect with neighbors, and build community. You can post and read about block parties, neighborhood watches, lost dogs, plumber recommendations, helping neighbors in need, free furniture, and all kinds of good stuff. Check it out at www.frontporchforum.com

Dodgeball Tournament!

By Paul Sarne

Join the Winooski Recreation and Parks Department for an Adult Dodgeball Tournament!

The tournament will be held on Thursday, February 8th 2018 @ 6 PM in the Winooski School District Gym (cafeteria).

Tournament games will be 4 verse 4, double-elimination style.

Team outfits are strongly encouraged!

Celebrate with us afterward at the Last Stop Sports Bar in Winooski (12 Malletts Bay Ave.) to commend all who played (21+).

Teams must register by Monday, February 5th

- \$20/team resident, \$30/team non-resident
- Adults 18+, co-ed • Registration deadline: February 5th, 2018
- Thursday, February 8th 2018 @ 6 PM
- Winooski School District Gym (cafeteria)

Questions regarding this program can be forwarded to Alicia Finley, Recreation & Parks Manager: afinley@winooski.vt.gov / 802 777 1621

Access Winooski

By Maura O'Neill

The 2018 Access Winooski cards are available for purchase!



This year-long event showcases the best of what Winooski has to offer. The proceeds from the purchase of the cards benefit Downtown Winooski. With an incredible list of member-only deals, card holders can save money, support programming such as Onion Fest, The Winooski Farmers Market, Summer Meals Program, Halloween in Winooski, and get amazing deals on food, drink, gifts, and services. You can see all the discounts at: www.downtownwinooski.org/access

Access Winooski cards are good for the entire calendar year, and are available in the Winooski Block building at the top of the roundabout at Scout & Co., Birdfolk Collective, and online at www.downtownwinooski.org/access.

Legislative Report

From Representative

Clem Bissonnette

The Legislature has been in session three weeks and it has been very quiet on the House floor. All of the work being done is in the various committees. I sit on the House Transportation Committee and I will describe what is happening on that committee.

We are working on the Strategic Highway Safety Plan for 2017 through 2021. The committee will be discussing making not wearing seat belts a primary offense, which will mean a police officer will be able to pull you over if you are not wearing a seat belt and issue you a ticket. At the present time the officer would have to stop you for some violation other than not wearing the seatbelt. The officer could ticket you for the violation you were stopped for and/or also give you one for not wearing the seat belt.

The committee has heard the following:

- In 2017, of the sixty nine people who lost their lives on Vermont highways, twenty four were not wearing a seat belt. Of those twenty four lives lost, seven either were partially or totally ejected from the vehicle. Between 2012 and 2016, 312 people lost their lives on Vermont roads, 65% of those who died were in single vehicle crash, 15% of fatalities involved a motorcycle, 1,528 people were seriously injured, 47% of those seriously injured were involved in lane departures or roadway departure crashes, 51% of those killed age 5 and above were known to be unrestrained, and 30% of those killed were involved in an alcohol-impaired driving crash.
- 35 deaths and 135 serious injuries to front seat passenger vehicle occupants could have been avoided in Vermont from 2012 to 2016.
- Governor Scott's administration and the Legislature will be working to encourage people to wear seat belts so we can reduce the number of deaths on Vermont highways.
- Today 84.5% of people are wearing seat belts, the goal is to get 90% or more of the people to wear seat belts.
- We also heard from the Associated General Contractors of Vermont. The message they left us with was to continue to do paving and bridge repairs throughout the state.

From Representative Diana Gonzalez

Happy February everyone! As the weather is still in deep freeze, the legislative session is heating up. Two bills that could have big impacts on Winooski are Paid Family Medical Leave insurance and Minimum wage. Paid Family Medical Leave insurance passed the house last year and is in the Senate. This bill would create an insurance plan, at very low cost, for life events such as the illness of a family member or the addition of a family member. At the time of this writing, someone making minimum wage would pay \$30 a year to receive up to 6 weeks paid time off to care for a family member. Since most of us will have a family illness or welcome a new child into our lives, this could be a life changer for some of us!

Minimum wage is also something that is being hotly talked about in the Statehouse. Multiple studies show, and your individual experience may also bear this out, that folks making minimum wage spend almost all of their money locally. When we raise the minimum wage, we raise the amount of money flowing in our town. This is good for those making minimum wage and for the businesses getting more customers. To find out more about these bills go to legislature.vermont.gov and search for H.196 for Paid Family Medical Leave insurance. There are a lot of bills about Minimum wage and a summer study about options and potential impacts; typing in "minimum wage" will show you the many bills that are part of the discussion.



Public Speaking Program

By Alicia Finley, Recreation & Parks Manager

The City of Winooski Department of Recreation and Parks has partnered with Peter Burns, a professional storyteller and presenter with 35+ years of experience to offer a comprehensive public speaking course.



As a scholar for the Vermont Humanities Council, Peter has taught Public Speaking and Storytelling in schools and for many organizations such as the AmeriCorps VISTA program. His work has been featured on National Public Radio!

Many people fear getting up in front of a group and making a presentation, yet being able to do so is essential. Whether you are giving a professional presentation, talking to a school board or hosting an event, effective public speaking skills are important. In this class, you will learn simple and effective methods for talking to a group. We will also have a chance to practice and perfect our techniques.

This class is designed to be fun and interactive!

- \$30 registration fee
- Adults 18+
- Registration deadline: January 29th, 2018
- Thursdays, 6 PM - 7 PM
- O'Brien Community Center

Visit winooskirec.com for more information and sign up today! Questions regarding this program can be forwarded to :

Alicia Finley, Recreation & Parks Manager: afinley@winooski.vt.gov / 802 777 1621

Playgroup for Families

Please join us for playgroup at the O'Brien Community Center on 32 Malletts Bay Avenue.

Please note our **new hours**: Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:00am.

ALSO NEW: playgroup and story time on Friday 9:30-11:00am at the Winooski Memorial library.

Please call or email Martina if you have any questions: 802-655-1422 or mkerkering@howardcenter.org.



Running For School Board or City Council?

If you are planning to run, we would like to introduce you to readers of this newsletter in our March issue. Please provide the following information by **February 9** for publication in the March issue of the District News. We intend to run this information to give Winooski voters a chance to get to know the candidates. Please submit the following information to editor Anne Linton Elston at annelinton@mac.com:

- Name
- Address & Telephone
- Work
- Education
- Hobbies/activities
- Community service
- Reason for running (75 words or less)



Community College of Vermont (CCV) Winooski News

Jen Garrett-Ostermiller, Coordinator of Academic Services

REGISTER NOW!

for Spring and
Summer 2018!

www.ccv.edu
(802) 654-0505

Summer Classes at CCV

There are summer classes that run for 12 weeks (May 21 – August 13) as well as accelerated classes that run for 1 to 7 weeks. View the great options at <https://tinyurl.com/CCVSummerClasses>.

Early College

If you are an 11th grader, did you know that you can apply to take your entire 12th grade year enrolled at CCV for free tuition (and earn your credits for HS graduation plus 24-36 college credits at the same time, worth about \$10,000)? Read more at <https://tinyurl.com/CCVEarlyCollege>.

Study Tip of the Month from CCV

Taking good notes in class helps you stay focused and provides you with a tool to use for studying. However, the best notes are taken after class ends.

During class: Instead of writing down full sentences, write down only key words and phrases.

After class: Within 24 hours, go back to your notes and write a summary in your own words. Fill in missing information (such as definitions or technical details) by talking with your teacher or using your book. This allows you to interact with the information shared in class and develop better understanding of the material.

Next month, we'll share information about how to do more than just re-read your notes when studying.

A FEW FUN FACTS ABOUT GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Did you know:

- Thin Mints are vegan, Toffee-tastics are gluten free and all flavors are kosher.
- There are 8 kinds of cookies are for sale: Tagalongs, Do Si Do, Savannah Smiles, Thin Mints, Trefoils, Toffee-tastic, Samoas, and S'Mores
- 4,900,000 Thin Mints are made each day at peak times during cookie season.
- In 1944, Girl Scouts did not sell cookies because of WWII shortages in flour, sugar & butter. Girl Scouts sold calendars instead.
- In 1992, Girl Scout cookies went to outer space on the Shuttle Endeavor with Jan Davis, who was a mission specialist & Girl Scout alumna.
- In 2017, Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains donated 17,000 boxes to Operation Cookie which distributes them to servicemen & servicewomen overseas.

To end the day, each girl earned her "Cookie University" diploma and are ready to put their new skills to work. Cookie booths begin in late February and continue to March 25th. Be on the look out for girls selling cookies. Buying a box of cookies supports our local girls as 100% of the proceeds of every sale stays here in VT & NH. 52% of each box supports our programs, camps and girl development. 24% goes directly to the troops and girls. 24% covers the cost of cookies and distribution.

If this sounds like something you or your daughter would like to join, please contact Amy Snow Lothrop at AmyLothrop@Comcast.net or (802) 373-7288.

We also welcome adults who have a skill to share with our Girl Scouts. We are a diverse troop that is open to all girls from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Our mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.



Winooski Girl Scout Troop 30167

By Sarah McGowan-Freije

The Kappa Delta Sorority created International Girls Day to celebrate girls – all kinds of girls with all kinds of interests and abilities. With the theme "She Can Do Anything," it's a day to build confidence in girls and help them realize their potential.



Our troop celebrated International Girls Day with Kappa Delta at UVM on November 11th. They participated in activities and crafts related to girl power and empowering women. They decorated jars that they later used to hold the kindness and confidence building messages they wrote for each other. They also painted kindness rocks, and took turns saying nice things about each other.



They wrapped up the day by decorating and eating homemade chocolate chip cookies and signing the Confidence Coalition board. The girls can't wait to go back next year!

In December, the girls finished earning the Detective Badge. They learned how to analyze handwriting, and practiced by using writing samples they each made. Then for the big test - they had to compare five handwriting samples to the note written by the "bank robber". They correctly identified the culprit and earned their badge.

The next badge they worked on is the Simple Meals badge. This badge teaches the girls how to create simple, no cook





meals from a variety of ingredients. They had to make a well rounded meal using some or all of the following ingredients: cut up fruit, vegetables, pita bread, English muffins, American cheese, sliced turkey, ranch dip, peanut butter, and cream cheese. Probably the most interesting meal created was the vegetable sandwich – carrots, peas and celery in a pita.

As part of the Simple Meals badge, we took a tour of an actual restaurant kitchen. The chef showed us all the different machines and appliances he uses to cook at the restaurant. He also showed us the various ingredients and where they are stored. We ordered some appetizers, and got to watch the chef prepare them. And of course the best part was eating them!

January 1st kicked off the Girl Scout cookie-selling season.

We will have a cookie booth in front of Vermont Bagel

Company on **Sunday, February 18th** from 8am to 1pm, and at Dunkin Donuts on Riverside Avenue on **Saturday, March 10th** from 10am to Noon. Stop by and see us and stock up on cookies.

The Girl Scouts in Troop 30167 are in fourth grade. For more information about our troop, please contact Sarah McGowan-Freije at 802-598-4280.



A Message from the Vermont Department of Taxes

The Winooski City Clerk's Office would like to share this message from the Vermont Department of Taxes:

Did you know that in 2017, about 65% of Vermont taxpayers qualified to file their federal and state taxes for free through **Vermont Free File**, but only about 2% of those eligible actually used Free File?

Free help is offered through several organizations. In 2018, the Vermont Department of Taxes is emphasizing free tax services and assistance for eligible Vermonters through Vermont Free File (free e-filing using vendor software), MyFreeTaxes, VITA/TCE, the AARP Foundation, and the IRS Agent Virtual Delivery Service. Are you eligible?

Free File Options:

<http://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/free-file>

Free Tax Preparation Assistance:

<http://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/free-tax-preparation-assistance>

Requests for paper forms continue to decline as more taxpayers move to e-filing their returns, but we recognize there is a still a need for those who prefer to file using paper forms or who do not have access to a computer and the internet.

Vermont State Tax Form Requests

Taxpayers may also find the following online through myVTax at www.myvtax.vermont.gov:

- File a Homestead Declaration
- File a Property Tax Adjustment Claim
- File a Renter Rebate Claim
- Generate a Landlord Certificate
- Check the Status of Your Return

If you have questions, call the Vermont Department of Taxes at (802) 828-2505.

Free Tax Help for Vermonters

Free e-Filing with Free File or MyFreeTaxes Partnership



In 2017, about 65% of Vermont taxpayers qualified to file their federal and state taxes for free through Free File, but only about 2% of those eligible actually used Free File. Are you eligible? Find out at www.tax.vermont.gov (search for "Free File").



The MyFreeTaxes Partnership provides free federal and Vermont filing assistance for qualified individuals. Are you eligible? Find out at www.tax.vermont.gov (search for "myfreetaxes").

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs

Free tax help to those with 1) lower incomes, 2) disabilities, 3) the elderly, or 4) limited English. TCE focuses on those age 60 years and older. Find a VITA/TCE location near you.

Find out more at www.irs.gov. Search for Free tax help.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program

Provides tax assistance sites to taxpayers with low and moderate incomes, giving special attention to those 50 years and older. Find the location nearest you.

Find out more at www.aarp.org. Search for Tax-Aide.

IRS Agent Virtual Service Delivery System

Meet with an IRS agent via the Virtual Service Delivery System located in Montpelier (by appointment only on Mondays and Wednesdays). Call 844 545 5640 to schedule your appointment.

To download or order paper forms, visit tax.vermont.gov.

Iss: 12/2017 • Pub: PO-1186



4 Ways to Get Your Vermont Income Tax Forms

1 Download fillable PDF forms from the web
<http://tax.vermont.gov/tax-forms-and-publications>
Free, unlimited downloads!

2 Order forms online
<http://tax.vermont.gov/form-request>

3 Order forms by email
tax.formsrequest@vermont.gov

4 Order forms by phone
802-828-2515
or (toll free) 855-297-5800

When you order, provide the following:

1. Your name
2. Your mailing address
3. Your daytime phone #
4. Form name or form #
5. Quantity of each form

Note: There is a fee when ordering more than 5 forms or Income tax return booklets.

For a faster refund, e-file your taxes!

For information on free e-filing and tax assistance for qualified taxpayers, visit www.tax.vermont.gov.



Iss: 12/2017 • Pub: PO-1052

Winooski Memorial Library

By Elsie Goodrich, Youth Services Coordinator

Greetings from the Winooski Memorial Library! Join us for an extra special story hour this month with the stars and hosts of *The T with Emoji & Nikki*, Burlington's own talk show spotlighting the importance of the arts and activism. Emoji Nightmare and Nikki Champagne, two of Vermont's favorite drag queens, will be sure to delight and captivate audience members of all ages as they share stories focused on individuality, activism, gender, creativity, expression, and social responsibility. **Drag Queen Story Hour** is on Saturday, February 17th at 11AM.



Story Time is every Friday at 10:30. Join Elsie for songs, rhymes, stories and crafts ages baby to 6 years old.

Join the Winooski Family Center and the Winooski Memorial Library for a **Friday morning playgroup** 9:30-10:30. We will play together, work on projects and listen to stories. For ages 0-5. Please bring your own snack.

Lego Club meets every Tuesday from 3PM to 6PM, take the weekly Lego challenge and see your creation featured on our Facebook page.

Family Game day is every Wednesday from 3PM to 6PM, learn a new game, or take home chess, Settlers of Catan, Jr. Ticket to Ride and other fun new games!

Need help with your homework? Have a college essay or application due soon? Cramming for the SATs and need a tutor? **Homework Help** is Monday-Thursday nights 6PM to 9PM. Students of all ages can come in for friendly, knowledgeable tutors, computers, wifi, and project supplies.

Looking for a job? Our Job Hunt Helper is here every Tuesday 2:30PM to 5:30PM and Saturday 11:00AM to 2:00PM. Get help from a trained CCV student finding work, updating your resume, or help with your computer or phone. Call to set up a free appointment or drop in.

As always, **free nutritious meals** are offered here Monday-Thursday for anyone 18 and under.

The Winooski Memorial Library is located at 32D Malletts Bay Avenue, Winooski VT 05404. Telephone: (802) 655-6424. We are open Tuesday-Friday, 10am to 6:30pm and Saturday from 10am to 2pm. Closed on Sundays and Mondays. Find us online at winooskilibrary.wordpress.com.

Join the Winooski Front Porch Forum

It's a free and easy online way to get on the local grapevine, connect with neighbors, and build community. You can post and read about block parties, neighborhood watches, lost dogs, plumber recommendations, helping neighbors in need, free furniture, and all kinds of good stuff. Check it out at www.frontporchforum.com.



Knights of Columbus Update

By Gregory P. Clairmont

Our next Knights of Columbus/Saint Stephen's Council #2284's **Community Breakfast is on Sunday February 21st** from 8-11am at the Winooski Senior Center (123 Barlow Street, Winooski). Charge is \$6 per person, maximum \$20 per family, and children under 5 years of age eat for free.

For more information, contact Greg Clairmont, Worthy Grand Knight, at 802-343-8446.

These breakfasts raise money we pass along to various Winooski groups. In January, we presented Winooski Food Shelf President Sally Tipson with a \$1,000.00 contribution! (Worthy Grand Knight Greg Clairmont pictured with Sally Tipson above).



In addition, we provided the Joseph's House with a \$500 contribution, made a \$5,000 contribution to Saint Francis Xavier School's 2017-2018 Annual Appeal, and gave \$500 each to Monsignor Richard Lavalley (Saint Francis Xavier Parish); to Father Scott Gratton (Saint Francis Xavier Parish); and to Father Steve Hornat (Saint Stephen's Parish)!



Mindfulness Continues, Available Online, Too!

What: Guided Mindfulness Practice and Discussion

Where: Winooski Senior Center

When: Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 pm

The Winooski community continues to practice mindfulness together each Thursday evening at 6:30pm, led by volunteer Andrea O'Connor.

Since January of 2016, these sessions have also been recorded and uploaded to the school website. You can listen to them by visiting this link: www.wdschools.org/mindfulness-in-winooski.

Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for February

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

Saturday, February 10th	9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Fresh fruit, veggies, bread, pastry and deli items
Wednesday, February 14th	2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Pantry staples, meat, eggs and fresh veggies
Saturday, February 24th	9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Fresh fruit, veggies, bread, pastry and deli items
Wednesday, February 28th	2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Pantry staples, meat, eggs and fresh veggies

Volunteers needed: Anyone wishing to work out of their home could help hand write thank you notes to our generous donors. Those that would like to help out at the food shelf itself could help put away food deliveries. The third Wednesday of each month around 10:30 a.m. we receive our food order from the Food Bank. This can take 2-3 hours to put on shelves or in freezers. We can always use help during food shelf hours to serve clients, make coffee, or register clients as they walk in the door.

Food Shelf policy: Winooski residents may access the pantry staples one Wednesday each month. Folks can come both Saturdays to stock up on bread, pastry and some fresh fruit and veggies. Hannaford's provides Saturday's food. New clients should bring proof of Winooski residency such as a utility bill. Any Winooski resident in need is welcome. The Food Shelf is here to help support you. **For questions call 318-0460.**

Where to find us: The Winooski Food Shelf is located in the United Methodist Church at the corner of West Allen and Follett Streets. There is a bus stop on that

corner. We do not provide rides so please bring a wheeled cart or suitcase and some reusable bags to lug your food home. The church phone number is 802-655-7371.

Cash donations needed: The Food Shelf is growing rapidly. More and more food must be purchased since current food donations cannot meet the demand. Checks can be mailed to The Winooski Food Shelf, P.O. Box 53, Winooski, VT 05404. Thank you!

Donation drop off location: Sally's Flower Shop, 333 Main St., Winooski 655-3894 is happy to accept drop off donations of food and toiletries during business hours. Pets are also family members and we are always grateful for pet food donations. We especially need cat food.

The Winooski Food Shelf volunteers are most grateful for all the kind donations made by local businesses and residents. It is only through the generosity of the community that we are able to provide help and hope to our low income residents. Thank you!!

Partnership for Prevention Update

By Jackie Hoy, Communications Coordinator

Our Next Community Dinner is February 21

Come escape the cold and join us for a warm, delicious meal at the O'Brien Community Center on Wednesday February 21 from 6:00 to 7:30pm. The event is free and open to the public, we hope to see you there!

Working with the Winooski Community Justice Center

The Winooski Partnership for Prevention would like to thank the Winooski Community Justice Center for inviting us out to meet with volunteers and engage in discussions about how to talk to youth about substances. Conversations between the volunteers and our Youth Engagement Coordinator were generative and included tips on appealing to teens' sense of self-respect, while focusing on their hopes and aspirations.

We were excited to have the opportunity to work with the Justice Center, and we continue to be inspired by all of the volunteers who dedicate their time to supporting youth.

A Big Welcome to Our New Youth Board Member, Julia!

Julia is currently a senior in the Winooski School District. She joined our team in December and is an eager and active member of the Winooski Partnership for Prevention. We're excited to have her as a part of our organization; welcome, Julia!

Above the Influence

Our next session of Above the Influence will be starting soon, please join us!



In the Winooski Above the Influence (ATI) group, students will have fun, meet other students, gain public speaking skills, and increase their knowledge. Students will spend time looking at some of the many types of messages they are faced with on a daily basis, and will be provided information and experience to decide for themselves what is true and right and what they value.

Students will learn and practice these skills in many ways, including art and graphic design projects, community service, recording public service announcements, attending and speaking at public meetings, making decisions, and contributing positively to the health of their community.

Students will also have opportunities to travel and increase their skills in these areas both around the state and to regional conferences, free of charge.

ATI is coordinated by the Winooski Partnership for Prevention in collaboration with the Winooski School District 21st CCLC after school program. ATI will be under the supervision of Whitney Keefner, the youth engagement coordinator. The Winooski Partnership for Prevention has been providing youth programming in Winooski since 2003. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Whitney Keefner at wkeefner@winooskiprevention.org or Suzanne Skaflestad at sskaflestad@wsdschools.org.

WHO: 5th-8th grade students

WHERE: Winooski School room 103

WHEN: Mondays from 3-4 pm.

Winooski Senior Center Update

By Barb Pitfido, Winooski Senior Programs Manager

Learning at any age is extremely beneficial for the brain. When you learn something new, your brain grows new cells and builds new connections which has proven benefits for problem-solving and memory skills. Learning can help improve cognitive ability and memory function and can help ward off Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Consider all the local possibilities for lifelong learning...

Senior Centers

There are many senior centers in our area that offer free and/or reduced fee classes in languages, the arts & music, exercise and more! Check out our monthly offerings!

Libraries

In addition to traditional books, The Winooski Memorial Library offers Ebooks and Audiobooks, free online learning classes, genealogical sources, and so much more for FREE! Website: winooskilibrary.wordpress.com

Education & Enrichment for Everyone

EEE Presents 12 weeks of interesting and diverse programs each Fall and Spring. Each semester includes lectures related to one or more of several themes. Website: eeevermont.org

College classes

Students who are 65 years or older are able to audit one class per semester with no tuition charge and take additional courses at a reduced tuition rate at any Vermont State College institution. Check out the options for classes at The Community College of Vermont (CCV) Website: ccv.edu and OLLI at UVM is a community of adult learners who enjoy year-round courses and events that are diverse, interesting, fun, and affordable. Website: learn.uvm.edu/osher-life-long-learning/

Learning is not restricted to the young and the benefits of learning for seniors can make a huge difference in mental and cognitive health, social connections and overall happiness. Consider adding education to your to-do list this year.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Senior Lunch & Learn: Every Tuesday - Lunch at 11:30am (\$5 by donation - RSVP) Free Activity at Noon

Open House Time: Most Wednesdays 1-3pm Free Activities, games, crafts & fun!

Do Drop In - Coffee & Discussion: Tuesdays (Feb-April) 9-11am

Tai Chi - with Elizabeth Wirls: Monday 10-11am Sun 73 Long Form Monday 11am-Noon Seated Tai Chi

Senior Exercise Program: Tues/Thur 10-11am

BINGO! Theme Days:

- Feb 22 - Chinese New Year
- March 15 - St. Patrick's Day
- April 19 - April in Paris
- May 17 - Back to the 60's

Senior Lunch & Activity Reports:

- March 13 • April 10 • June 12

Senior Planning Meetings:

- Feb 7 • March 7 • April 4 • May 2

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Feb 2 - International Peace Meal with WSD's ELL Program
- Feb to April - AARP Tax Aide on Mondays & Wednesdays
- Feb 13 - Senior Valentine's Party
- March 2 - Peace Meal
- May 8 - Senior Brunch 4 Lunch Spring Party

Reservations for all meals are required. Call us by NOON the day before the meal to make your reservation. Special event meals may require prepayment.

The Winooski Senior Center... the most exciting place in Winooski! We are located at 123 Barlow Street. Plenty of free parking & handicapped accessible. Office hours are 8:30am - Noon (Monday - Friday). You can reach us by phone at: 655-6425 or email at: seniorcenter@winooskivt.org



Stay up to date! Visit us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/winooskiseniorcenter/> OR see our live online monthly activity calendar at: <http://www.winooskivt.org/senior-programs/>

HEALTH CORNER

By Katharine Monje, School Nurse

Flu Season is upon us! Here are some ways to prevent catching the flu and what symptoms to watch for.

Flu symptoms often mimic cold symptoms with nasal congestion, cough, aches, and malaise. The common cold rarely has symptoms of fever above 101 degrees.

With flu symptoms, you will probably have a fever initially and you will feel miserable. Body and muscle aches are also more common with the flu.

- Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands. You will help prevent others from catching your illness. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill.

If you haven't already, GET your flu shot and please do not hesitate to call the health office if you have questions.

Tooth Tutor Update

By Diane Polson, RDH, Tooth Tutor

Does your child/student need assistance arranging for dental care? The Winooski School District has a School Based Dental Program with Vt. Dental including transportation to and from the school for appointments. Please contact the Tooth Tutor in the Health Office or check it out on our web site for more information and to see if your child qualifies. Good Oral Health means Good Overall Health! Remember, FLOSS, Brush and see your Favorite Dentist regularly!

I am finishing my position in February. I have enjoyed working at the school and all the employees and students I have had contact with. I would like to introduce Tracy Towers, who will be taking over the Tooth Tutor position when you return from winter break in March. She is one of the Dental Hygienists at Vermont Dental. I believe she will be a great fit for the position and will already know many of the students using the School-Based Dental Program.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU — FEBRUARY

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider
Menus are subject to change

Mon., Feb. 5	Tues., Feb. 6	Wed., Feb. 7	Thurs., Feb. 8	Fri., Feb. 9
Turkey Sausage & Cheese Biscuit Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Fresh Fruit Milk	Asst. Cold Cereal w/ Cheese Stick Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Breakfast Round Fresh Fruit Milk	Egg & Cheese English Muffin Fresh Fruit Milk
Turkey Sausage & Cheese Biscuit Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Fresh Fruit Milk	Early Release K-12 Asst. Cold Cereal w/ Cheese Stick Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Breakfast Round Fresh Fruit Milk	Egg & Cheese English Muffin Fresh Fruit Milk
Turkey Sausage & Cheese Biscuit Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Fresh Fruit Milk	Asst. Cold Cereal w/ Cheese Stick Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Breakfast Round Fresh Fruit Milk	Egg & Cheese English Muffin Fresh Fruit Milk
Mon., Feb. 12	Tues., Feb. 13	Wed., Feb. 14	Thurs., Feb. 15	Fri., Feb. 16
Turkey Sausage & Cheese Biscuit Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Fresh Fruit Milk	Early Release K-12 Asst. Cold Cereal w/ Cheese Stick Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Breakfast Round Fresh Fruit Milk	Egg & Cheese English Muffin Fresh Fruit Milk
Turkey Sausage & Cheese Biscuit Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Fresh Fruit Milk	Asst. Cold Cereal w/ Cheese Stick Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Breakfast Round Fresh Fruit Milk	Egg & Cheese English Muffin Fresh Fruit Milk
Mon., Feb. 19	Tues., Feb. 20	Wed., Feb. 21	Thurs., Feb. 22	Fri., Feb. 23
Turkey Sausage & Cheese Biscuit Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Fresh Fruit Milk	Asst. Cold Cereal w/ Cheese Stick Fresh Fruit Milk	Whole Grain Breakfast Round Fresh Fruit Milk	Egg & Cheese English Muffin Fresh Fruit Milk
Mon., Feb. 26	Tues., Feb. 27	Wed., Feb. 28	No School	

Winooski Elementary School Breakfast In The Classroom February 2018

Breakfast in the Classroom:
100% Juice or Fresh Fruit
Students may take two fruit servings with each meal. They must take at least one to qualify for the meal prices listed.

Hood Milk: Skim, 1% white or Fat-Free Chocolate

Prices
Community Eligibility Provision
Meals to all Students are Free
Snacks & Snack Milk not included

Adult Breakfast \$1.75	Milk \$0.50	Adult Lunch \$3.60
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Pay for meals on-line
For free on-line service go to <http://www.abbeygroup.net>
Search for Your School and Click the #12 Payment Center link

Questions or Comments regarding your School Meal Program?
Please contact The Abbey Group Vc President of Operations Scott Choiniere scott@abbeygroup.net

Looking for a job that lets you be at home when your family needs you there?
Come Join our Team!! Go to the link below.
You can download an app or see what we have available through CareerBuilder.
[My: www.abbeygroup.net/career](http://www.abbeygroup.net/career)

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider
Menus are subject to change

Mon., Feb. 5	Tues., Feb. 6	Wed., Feb. 7	Thurs., Feb. 8	Fri., Feb. 9
Super Bowl Party Chili Dogs Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges Steamed Broccoli Super Bowl Dessert	Taste Test Event Taco Bar w/ Soft Shell Rice Pilaf Roasted Chick Peas	Cheesy Breadsticks w/ Marinara Sauce Minestrone Soup Chopped Green Salad	Cheesy Ravioli Bake Spinach Salad Garlic Breadstick	Chicken & Biscuits Steamed Peas & Carrots Creamy Coleslaw
Mon., Feb. 12	Tues., Feb. 13	Wed., Feb. 14	Thurs., Feb. 15	Fri., Feb. 16
Chicken Patty Sandwich Lettuce & Tomato Baked Beans Oven Baked French Fries	Nachos Supreme Rice Pilaf Steamed Corn	Early Release K-12 Chef's Choice Pizzas Pepperoni, Cheese or Veggie Caesar Salad Valentines Dessert	Macaroni & Cheese Cottage Cheese Steamed Carrots	Oven Baked BBQ Chicken Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges Baked Beans Dinner Roll
Mon., Feb. 19	Tues., Feb. 20	Wed., Feb. 21	Thurs., Feb. 22	Fri., Feb. 23
General Tap's Ch. clean served Over Rice Asian Cabbage Salad Steamed Broccoli	Pancakes w/ Warm Syrup Scrambled Eggs Sweet & White Home Fries Green Pepper Strips	Chef's Choice Pizzas Pepperoni, Cheese or Veggie Caesar Salad	Baked Potato Bar w/Chili, Cheese & Sour Cream Steamed Broccoli Dinner Roll	Chinese New Year Egg Roll Bowl Vegetable Fried Rice Steamed Broccoli Fortune Cookie
Mon., Feb. 26	Tues., Feb. 27	Wed., Feb. 28	No School	

Winooski Elementary School Lunch February 2018

Daily Lunch Offerings:
Main Meal or Cabot Yogurt Meal or Deli Sandwich or Chef Salad

Offered with all Meals:
Fresh Fruit
Hood Milk: Skim, 1% white or Fat-Free Chocolate

Prices
Community Eligibility Provision
Meals to all Students are Free
Snacks & Snack Milk not included

Adult Breakfast \$1.75	Milk \$0.50	Adult Lunch \$3.60
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Pay for meals on-line
For free on-line service go to <http://www.abbeygroup.net>
Search for Your School and Click the #12 Payment Center link

Taste Test Event
Tuesday February 6, 2018
Featuring Cabbage

Harvest of the Month
February Cabbage

Local Products Used when available

We Support Local New England Companies
Koffee Kup Bakery/VT Bread Co. - Breads & Rolls
Cabot Cooperative - Yogurt, Sour Cream
King Arthur Flour - Dinner Rolls, Pizza Dough
Chopped & Potatoes
Georgia Mtn. Maple Syrup - VT. Maple Syrup
Sunrise Orchard - Apples
Mazza Farm Stand - Local Produce
Green Mtn. Farms - Cream Cheese
Hood Milk
Green Mtn. Farm Direct - Local Produce

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

ALSO: 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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WINOOSKI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.wdschools.org

Superintendent of Schools

Sean McMannon: 655-0485
smcmannon@wdschools.org

John F. Kennedy Elementary School

Principal: Sara Raabe
802-655-0411
sraabe@wdschools.org

Winooski Middle and High School

Co-Principals: Kate Grodin/Leon
Wheeler
802-655-3530
kgrodin@wdschools.org /
lwheeler@wdschools.org

Board of School Trustees

Mike Decarreau, President: 310-4032
mdecarreau@wdschools.org
Tori Cleiland, 655-7678
tcleiland@wdschools.org
Jen Corrigan, 233-7642
jcorrigan@wdschools.org
Matthew MacNeil, 802-999-3218
mmacneil@wdschools.org
Dr. Alex Yin
ayin@wdschools.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 884 students attending JFK Elementary and Winooski Middle/High School (grades PreK-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