Penguin Plunge and Unified Sports 2019 Recap

By Catrina Hughes

This past January and February were exciting months for the Winooski Spartans! Our students, staff, and community helped our Penguin Plunge team to raise $9,369 to donate to Vermont Special Olympics! A portion of these proceeds came directly back to our school to cover much of the costs for our amazing Unified Sports bowling and bocce teams. A huge thank you to all the brave Winooski students, staff, and their families for taking the icy dive into Lake Champlain on February 2nd, 2019! It was somewhere around -2 degrees Fahrenheit that day, but we survived and had a blast together! Way to go Winooski Spartans!

There were a few special events and challenges to raise money and build our team which were totally fun and successful! First, there was the Pizza Party Challenge in the middle and high schools. Our pizza party winners who had the most students to take the plunge were Chris Magistrale’s advisory for middle school, and Christina Lauterbach and Tom Payeur’s advisory for high school. Congratulations on taking the plunge and enjoying some delicious pizza!

Our newest fundraiser event, Winooski’s Wicked-Cold Comedy Night, held on January 29th 2019, was a hysterical night where we all laughed together as a community for a cause. We raised $435 for our Penguin Plunge team with over 85 people in attendance! Students from Winooski’s Penguin Plunge Student Committee worked hard for months to develop, promote, and host this groundbreaking show which left the audience cracking up!

Local, professional Vermont comedians performed stand-up and improv comedy, while students from WSD had the chance to get up there and make the crowd laugh, too! Some lucky audience members even walked away with great raffle prizes like a gift basket from Twincraft Skincare, a one-of-a-kind sculpture, a gift certificate for a week-long kids’ comedy camp at Vermont Comedy Club, and of course, some giant inflatable penguins. Thank you to all of our performers, donors, and all those who came out and laughed with us. We can’t wait to laugh with you more at next year’s comedy show!

WSD Unified Sports Bocce Team is gearing up for the statewide Vermont Special Olympics tournament on May 23rd, 2019! Stay tuned to see how our team does!

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Learning has changed dramatically in the last 50 years and our students and staff deserve a secure, healthy and modern facility that supports our learning needs.

In addition, we have a uniquely powerful opportunity to develop a coherent Pre-K through 12 learning continuum on a single campus to attract and retain families for the long-term. Winooski is on the move and our school is the heart of the community!

—Superintendent McMannon

(see next page for full text)
Investing In the Future of Winooski!

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools

In the spring of 2013 when I was interviewing to become your superintendent I did my homework on several aspects of the organization to assess where the strengths, immediate needs and long-term needs existed. It was clear that the board and staff had been good stewards of the facility and had addressed various needs over the years through a number of projects. At the same time, our building was constructed in 1964 so it is over fifty years old. Instructional practices, how students learn, and family and community needs have shifted dramatically since the 1960s. In addition, our student population has grown and is projected to continue adding up to 200 students in the next ten years.

In the spring of 2017 the school board provided an initial investment from the Capital Reserve Fund to conduct a feasibility study which is an assessment of the practicality of a proposed project. Basically, we had an engineer work with our Facility Supervisor to determine the overall system needs (e.g. HVAC, security) and where and how we could add additional space. Following this study we started a WSD Capital Project Committee (CPC) made up of stakeholder representatives and partnered with architecture and interior design firm from Burlington, TruexCullins. Managing Principal David Epstein and Associate Cam Featherstonhaugh from TruexCullins are guiding our committee through a comprehensive process to determine our needs, produce designs and communicate the possibilities to the broader Winooski community.

Since the fall of 2017 WSD Capital Project Committee (CPC) has been hard at work! We began with building a project schedule, researching modern learning environments, conducting a visioning workshop using the Design for the Whole Child Framework, developing Guiding Statements, assessing programming needs and constructing concept designs. The following outlines our challenges, how this would improve the learning environment and how we can limit the impact on local taxes.

Challenges
- Crumbling infrastructure:
  - Outdated plumbing, electrical, heating, and ventilation systems
  - Total roof replacement
  - Insufficient insulation and windows
  - Antiquated fire alarm/evacuation/security system
  - Inadequate power and data systems
  - Lighting systems are outdated, past their expected lifespan, and do not provide high quality or efficient light.
- Inadequate space to provide required literacy, math, special education and English Language Learning (ELL) supports
- Not enough Pre-Kindergarten space to meet demand
- “Gymeteria” with unhealthy decibel levels during lunch
- Small and old Performing Arts Center (PAC)
- 1950's and 60's classrooms that do not support collaborative learning

Improving the Learning Environment
- Pod design in WMS and JFK enhances collaboration and team-based approach to instruction and learning:
  - Project-Based Learning (PBL) and Expeditionary Learning (EL)
- Doubles capacity for PreK and furthers our vision for PreK-12 learning continuum
- Provides adequate space for essential support services such as literacy, math, special education and English Language Learning (ELL)
- Creates a safer and more welcoming central entryway for families, community members, and visitors
- Improves learning conditions for all:
  - Climate control so building temperatures can be managed more precisely and efficiently
  - More natural light and clean, fresh air
  - Drastic reduction in decibel levels in the cafeteria

How Can We Reduce the Tax Impact?
- The WSD FY20 Budget hires a full-time Development & Communications position that will focus on fundraising for the Capital Project in the first few years
- A bill has been introduced in the VT legislature and co-sponsored by Winooski Reps. Gonzalez and Colston to bring back School Construction Aid up to 30% of the approved cost of voter-approved projects
- Winooski is a “receiving” city and local taxes contribute ~40% to the WSD school budget. The other 60% comes from:
  - Non-Residential Property Tax
  - Sales & Use Tax
  - Purchase & Use Tax
  - Meals & Room Tax
  - Lottery

Tour & Community Meal Opportunities
1. Tour: Tuesday, April 2, 5:30pm in WSD Library
2. Community Breakfast & Tour: Saturday, April 13, 9-11am in WSD Cafe
3. Tour: Thursday, April 18, 5:30pm in WSD Library
4. Community Dinner & Tour: Wednesday, May 1, 5:30pm

For more info about the project please see:
- Our video at: https://youtu.be/nBOFWCUr81Y
- Our website at: https://cp.winooski.org/

Also, please feel free to contact me directly at smcmannon@wsdschools.org or 383-6000. Thank you for working with WSD to benefit our students!
School Board Update

By Tori Cleiland, Board of School Trustees

As a society we’ve collectively, whether we remember it or not, have moved through time frames defined purpose, understandings, and capabilities: the Agricultural Age, the Industrial Age, and the most recent, the Information Age, centered on the “labor of knowledge”. Now, a new age is upon us: the Conceptual Age.

One description: “Higher order thinking and creative problem-solving are the new in-demand skills in the 21st century, and they rely on our ability to find meaning, to see things that exist outside of raw facts and numbers, to see the beauty and identify meaning in patterns and creatively use our insights to solve problems that cross a variety of different fields.”

The good news is Winooski Schools are on it! We’ve been shifting our educational system to cultivate, grow, and highlight these types of skills in our student body. And the Department of Education has mandated this type of educational system because it is equitable for all types of learners.

And YOU took part in it. Here is a reflection of our journey together:

• In 2013, the Board held a community forum to involve parents and community to guide creating our organizational target and promise, our 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.

• In 2013, a two-year, multi-stakeholder committee (students, faculty, parents, admin, community members) actively advised the school on the creation of our six GXs.

• In 2013, the state of Vermont passed Act 77 into law to ensure that all Vermont students have access to high-quality educational experiences that best prepare them for life after graduation, which includes graduating in a proficiency, personalized educational system.

• In 2014, the state of Vermont enacted rules for Education Quality Standards. We call them Graduation Expectations (GXs). Done!

• In 2014, the Board began to hold roundtable forums, at our board meetings, with voices from our direct and larger communities to began to interpret our ENDS statement to shape metrics to measure our target and promise for Winooski students. We invited groups from local colleges, careers, local & global engagement agencies. What they want to see from our students are skills that define the Conceptual Age and are embedded in our GXs and in our classrooms. These groups confirmed the target and promise we made to the Winooski community.

It hasn’t been perfect, it hasn’t been easy, and it has moved us forward! Winooski Schools are a bright spot in Vermont for the type of educational system that holds the most promise for all types of student learning. We’ve kept our student’s wellness, learning, and engagement at the center of what we strive to do every day, and we’ve kept asking for input from parents, students and community every step of the way. We did great work together!

OUR NEXT BIG STEP: THE CAPITAL PROJECT

As is our practice and habit, a multi-stakeholder group was formed in 2018 to move through a thoughtful process to address the state of our school buildings. The good news is our buildings have outlasted expectations, getting every dollars worth of investment. Also good news, our student population is growing unlike most areas in Vermont. The tough news is we do need to fix the infrastructure of our buildings. Yet, this does give us the opportunity to shape a much needed updated facility to match and enhance our 21st century teaching and learning system for now and into the future. The heart of the process and design were rooted in wellness, learning and engagement — you got it, Conceptual Age elements.

Winooski Schools have made dynamic changes by listening to and acting on the voices of students, parents, and community. So deepen your understanding of the Capital Project and add your voice to the mix! There are tours of the facility, there are two scheduled breakfasts, and there is an opportunity to host a community conversation at your house. Check out the website, the District News!, or call the school for dates and time. We would love to have you add your voice and be involved!

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.
Free Preschool for Your Family
Champlain Valley Head Start at JFK Elementary School

Do you need preschool for your 3 or 4 year old, or do you know a family that is looking for preschool for the 2019-2020 school year? Now is the time to apply!

For 3 & 4 Year Olds:
- Free breakfast & lunch included
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
There are two classrooms at JFK:
Classroom 1:
- Monday – Friday, morning and afternoon sessions
- 7:30am – 11:00am OR 11:30am – 3:00pm
Classroom 2:
- Monday – Thursday, morning and afternoon sessions
- 7:30am – 11:00am OR 11:30am – 3:00pm
For more information and an application: 802-651-4180, or www.champlainvalleyheadstart.org, or email apply@cvoeo.org.

Former WHS Student Athletes Play Together on College Basketball Team
By Dennis Barcomb, Athletic Director

Lydia Nattress (Grad 2018) and Riley Corrigan (Grad 2017), former all-star players for Winooski High School, currently play together for Colby Sawyer College. Lydia is a Nursing Major and Riley is a Exercise Science Major at the college, located in New London, New Hampshire. Winooski High School is very proud of Lydia and Riley that they can continue to play basketball at a high level while getting a great education. Best of luck to these ladies in the future!

Kindergarten Registration and Screening for 2019-2020 School Year

Children who will be five years of age prior to September 1, 2019, should attend this screening. The registration and screening will be at John F. Kennedy Elementary School on Monday and Tuesday, May 6th-7th.

Please call the J.F.K. office at 655-0411 to make an appointment, which will take 90 minutes. Please be on time for your appointment, and come with your child, bringing their paperwork:
- birth certificate, (or I-94 if your child was born in a country that doesn't issue birth certificates)
- updated immunization record
- Social Security number
- proof of residency

Funny Girl Comedy Night - Winooski Dollars for Scholars Benefit

WHEN: Thursday, May 2 at 7:30-9:00pm.
WHERE: Monkey House, 30 Main Street, Winooski
Come join us for a night of comedy to support the Dollars For Scholars scholarship fund. Hope to see you there! Email Linda Gregoire at winooskidfs@gmail.com with questions.

Scorers Table Named After Longtime Scorekeeper
By Dennis Barcomb, Winooski Athletic Director

The Winooski Basketball scorers table that was donated by the Winooski PTO will forever be known as the Linwood “Woody” Martel scorers table.

Woody has kept the scorebook for Winooski Basketball for the past 39 years (starting in the 1980-81 season). Woody also has kept book and clock for football and baseball games.

A permanent plaque will be kept on the table. Thanks, Woody!
Big Change Roundup

By Sara Raabe, JFK Principal

JFK completed our Big Change Roundup Hair competition in February. The Big Change Roundup raises money for the Vermont Children’s Hospital. Seventeen staff members volunteered to participate in the Unicorn Challenge. The 16 individuals that did not raise the most money wore tutus and crowns the day of the reveal. The winner, Coach B, wore a unicorn costume for the day! As a school we raised $1,783.70 for the UVM Children’s Hospital!
Spring Means Changes
By Kate Grodin, Co-Principal

It’s spring! As nature is beginning to wake up and days are extending their hours of sunlight, students are crunching until the end, anticipating spring break, summer, and all celebrations of their growth and progress this year. It often feels like everything is on the move!

One major transition worth celebrating is Moving Up from 8th grade to 9th grade. This year we are proud of our 8th graders who will have participated in four Expeditions. Expeditions are exciting, interdisciplinary units of study where intense collaboration among teachers results in well crafted lessons aligned across disciplines and centered on an exciting topic. Expeditions are also where the Graduate Expectations are practiced in middle school. Additionally, middle schoolers must demonstrate proficiency in four Graduate Proficiencies: critical reading, writing, mathematical reasoning and scientific reasoning. Although middle schoolers will be exposed to additional graduate proficiencies, these four are the focus of their three years to best build a foundation for high school. Lastly, students must show a year’s growth in reading and math as demonstrated by local reading and math assessments.

If middle school students are struggling to meet the above expectations or identify as needing more support, we have options. This in collaboration with Centerpoint year we are designing a supportive wellness opportunity that offers students help with a variety of skills from decision-making to reducing stress to resiliency! Academically, the Burlington-Winooski Middle School Summer Program is also designed to support student growth in the Graduate Expectations. These programs are a great way for students to engage in learning over the summer since there are so many options to choose from! With our new proficiency-based system, we are more confident that ever that students are better prepared to meet with the demands of high school.

Middle School Assistant…
An Asset to Afterschool!
By Suzanne Skafestad, 21C Director

In a new afterschool internship for middle school students, Rohan, 6th grader at Winooski Middle School assists the afterschool coordinator, Ms. Keller and the afterschool director, Ms. Skafestad with responsibilities including meal organization, delivery, record keeping, and other paperwork every week. Rohan keeps Ms. Keller and Ms. Skafestad on track remembering important details for the afternoon to help things run smoothly. Rohan has made a positive contribution to the afterschool program with his consistent attendance and welcoming smile. He has a positive attitude, is reliable and takes his job seriously. When asked what he appreciates most about his internship with WSD’s 21C Afterschool program, he quickly responds, “I can give out lunches to hungry students and I can be helpful. I enjoy being in charge of the key for the elevator and the cafeteria. It’s fun.”

Thank you, Rohan, for being a valuable member of our team!

Coach Prim Wins 100th Game with Winooski Varsity Girls Basketball
By Dennis Barcomb, Winooski Athletic Director

Winooski Girls Basketball Coach Tom Prim recently won his 100th career game with a 38-34 victory on January 16th over Milton.

In addition to his 100th Win, Coach Prim also led the Lady Spartans to their first state championship in the 2012-13 season. Coach Prim is retiring from coaching and moving to Florida. We all wish Coach Prim, his wife Dena and their son Chris nothing but the best for the future. Thanks for everything, Coach!
Afterschool and Summer Learning Day at the State House

By Suzanne Skafestad, 21C Director

It was a great day at the State House with Eric Buker, Hiba Larroussi Alia Ross, Dah Ler Moo and Savion Tibou representing Winooski School District.

Hiba testified to the Commerce Committee about the importance of the “third space” and her role as a MedTrek Mentor. The “third space” is where youth live, work and play. It is an important place for youth to get what they need as they grow up. The third space for youth is everywhere that is not home and not school.

Alia testified to House Education Committee about her afterschool experiences including creating the Youth Declaration of Rights.

Savion talked with Representative Hal Colston about the youth grant that he wrote to bring individual music lessons to students. There was also time for the students to read the other youth grants that were submitted.

Well done everyone!
**“A” Boys Basketball team has historic season**

*By Dennis Barcomb, Head Coach*

After losing their first game of the season, the Winooski “A” boys team never lost again. Their 11-1 record matches one of the best in middle school history. The boys always played hard and represented the school in a positive manner. Team members were: Aangkith Pradhan, Muhammad Dudeyeh, Sam Parris, Kellen Bourgeois, Ayden Johnson, Hussein Abdulaziz, Hassan Hassan, Daniel Surma, Xavier Perez, Jaidyn LaFond, Peter Distisio and Trevor Bradley. I would like to thank volunteer assistant coaches Haydn Bourgeois, Jason Mcgahey and book keepers Chris Freije, Tracy LaFond and Jeff Brosseau for their help with the team. Thanks parents for your support!

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**FriWri...A WRITING CLUB**

**Feathers**

*By Netalya Hill, grade 6*

I’m running as fast as I can, but I can’t see where I am going with the purple haze surrounding me. I want to go home, but there is no way out. I am in a chamber of some sort. It’s like a maze of long halls with skeletons everywhere I go. I think I am trapped here forever. But the really weird thing is, this is apparently no ordinary chamber. It is possessed by a diamond.

I am running from something, but I don’t exactly know what it is. It is yellow and has a really strong lemon scent. It has antennas and eight green eyes, and big red feathers, darker than my own.

I must now either stop and let it take me... or perhaps, I should go a little longer so I can find a spot to hide for now, and probably rest while I am at it.

About and hour later…

Ugh, why is this bed so hard? Oh, I am in a cave, but why is there a cave in this building?

It’s so weird! Things that belong outside are suddenly inside. There are trees and other caves. A voice shouts from down the hall.

What was that? I whisper to myself. “Who are you?” I shout back. At the same time, I am thinking, and what are you?

In a brave-ish voice it shouts back. “My name is Jimmy the Jacob paintbrush, and I am here to save you!”

“Here to save me? What? Wait no, you told me your name, now come closer so I can see you!” I yell. “Why were you chasing me?”

The creature responds to me. “See, I wanted to talk to you and look at your feathers, you know, get to know what and who you are?”

I cannot believe what it is saying. “By chasing me down six different hallways and making a psycho-zombie kind of sound that makes me think you are going to kill me!!”

The creature looks embarrassed. “Oh, right, sorry about that. I don’t know how to control it, that just happens when I run.”

I feel kind of sorry for it. “Oh, I see, so you’re not trying to kill me?” I ask.

“No of course not,” it answers. “Why would I do that?”

“Oh, I dunno, but you never know, I mean you could have!” I reply defensively.

The creature looks up. “Good point.”

“So you wanna get to know me?” I continue. “Okay... sure. Well first off, my name is Flames and I am a phoenix.”

There is no time for conversation, however. We can see a huge diamond sparkling in the distance. It is time to run again, but this time, not alone. Jimmy, the Jacob paintbrush, is here to help me.

FriWri is a middle school writing club that meets every Friday from 3:00-4:00. Netalya says, “I like FriWri. We laugh a lot and eat Oreos. Because of summer camp and our Friday meetings, I’ve improved as a writer, especially with poetry...I still like writing stories better.”
Update from the Mayor
By Kristine Lott, Mayor

Thank you to Winooski voters for turning out this Town Meeting Day – 216 more voters than last year! More than 60% support for all ballot items, and 69% approval of our city budget, tells us that we’re going in the right direction. We’re excited to start addressing neighborhood infrastructure with the Hickok Street repairs, and to ease the tax burden of funding these infrastructure needs with the passage of the 1% Local Options Tax. Speaking of infrastructure, bidding and construction of the pool is to begin late this Spring or early Summer, and final engineering for Main Street will begin soon.

On a personal note, I want to thank voters for supporting me as the new Mayor of Winooski. I’m honored to receive the support, to be a part of an historical election as the first woman elected to the role, and I am dedicated to serving my community. I’m also excited to work with the new council, as I think we have a very good group: Welcome to Amy Lafayette, Jim Duncan and Mike Myers! Also grateful to have Hal Colston on for another year.

In other ‘new’ news, I’m excited to share that we’ve launched our new modern website: www.winooskivt.gov. The City Website has been updated for easier navigation, better searchability, mobile friendly access, and streamlining of department information. You’ll find an improved public meeting and event calendar, pages on our current initiatives, and a new Community Services platform for program registration and facility rentals. In the next few months, we will also be providing the option to pay by credit card on the website or at City Hall for all tax, utility, and registration bills. This is something we frequently hear our residents want!

We have a lot of work ahead of us with capital projects and continuing work towards maintaining our affordable, livable, diverse community. It’s exciting to be moving that work forward.

Your City Officials

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor Kristine Lott</td>
<td><a href="mailto:klott@winooskivt.gov">klott@winooskivt.gov</a></td>
<td>802-766-1988</td>
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<td>Councilor Hal Colston</td>
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<td>802-922-2908</td>
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<td>Councilor James Duncan</td>
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<td>802-310-7103</td>
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<td>Councilor Amy Lafayette</td>
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<td>802-598-7704</td>
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<td>Councilor Mike Myers</td>
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<td>802-355-5348</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Manager Jessie Baker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbaker@winooskivt.org">jbaker@winooskivt.org</a></td>
<td>802-655-6410</td>
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Visit the city website at winooskivt.org or call 802-655-6410.

Celebrating Winooski:
One Photograph at a Time
By Dan Higgins

For the past year, as part of the Winooski Peace Initiative, I’ve been working on a series of photographs exploring social narratives to be found in this interesting and diverse community. I’ve sought out subjects in places where people socialize, such as the VFW or O’Brien Community Center, or in places where people participate in shared activities like gardening or trail maintenance. In other cases the photographs represent individuals or artists whose unique contributions I feel add to the richness of what it means to live in Winooski.

The photographs are staged in collaboration with the people represented. I invite subjects to choose locations, props, and other visual clues that might best reflect their identities and involvement within community. I seek more groups who’d like to participate. Contact me at dhiggins@uvm.edu

We will begin hanging the photographs at the O’Brien Community Center at the end of March, but an opening celebration will not happen until later in April, so there will still be time to visit the exhibition and offer suggestions for subjects I’ve missed that you’d like to see included in this portrait of our remarkable 1.4 square mile community.

Time to get licenses for four-legged friends

Dog Licenses expire on or before April 1, 2018. The Clerk’s Office needs to have a current rabies certificate on file.

Fees before April 1, 2019
- Neutered Male $14.00 • Spayed Female $14.00
- Male $18.00 • Female $18.00

Fees after April 1, 2019
- Neutered Male $16.00 • Spayed Female $16.00
- Male $22.00 • Female $22.00

If you have any questions, send an email to cjbarrett@winooskivt.org or call 802-655-6410.

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.
Winooski Pool Fundraising Challenge

By Scott Olmstead and The Kenneth Myers Memorial Pool Foundation

USA Today and CrowdRise is partnering to give away $2,000,000 in Project Grants.

The Kenneth Myers Memorial Pool Foundation has been selected to participate in “A Community Thrives” fundraising challenge. Beginning Monday, March 18th through Friday, April 12th we will be attempting to raise $10,000 to be eligible for one of sixteen Project Grants of up to $100,000. Throughout the (…almost 4 week) challenge we will be competing with other community fundraising organizations around the country for additional Bonus Grants which are awarded for weekly fundraising and community engagement challenges.

If you have been thinking about making a contribution to the new Winooski Pool, now is the time. During the challenge every dollar raised through our “A Community Thrives” web page will improve our chances to win additional grants. I strongly encourage you to give what you can because every amount counts.

Community building is at the heart of “A Community Thrives” and there are many ways you can help us meet challenges in the next 26 days. Social media socialite? Videographer? Podcaster? Extrovert? Use your talents and your voice to help us get the word out. You can contribute to our team in many ways, from virtually anywhere at any time.

Donations can be made directly and you can find out how to join our team at: https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/kenneth-myers-memorial-pool-foundation-vermont

Our fundraising committee is made up of citizen volunteers. Every dollar that we receive goes directly towards the design and construction of this new public pool.

We are doing this because we love Winooski, and we believe that not only do the children of our little city deserve every opportunity we can give them but we believe the whole community deserves to benefit from a new pool. Thank you for helping make Winooski a safer, healthier, more connected place! Donate now and help us bring the pool back to Winooski in 2020!

You can also learn more about the pool project at: https://winooskipool.com/
A Lifetime Devoted to Improving Our Communities

By Eleanor J. Osborne

Sister Pat McKittrick believes that true well-being extends beyond hospital walls. Her work in the Health Ministries Program – a part of Community Health Improvement – is in many respects a precursor to the concepts behind population health, and unquestionably an invaluable source of support for many in our communities.

Sister Pat started the Health Ministries/Faith in Action Program in 1994. Her work, which has taken on many forms over the years, is focused on improving people's physical, social, emotional, spiritual and psychological health by strengthening existing community partnerships and making them self-sustaining, both in Winooski and surrounding areas.

Much of that work has been carried out by what is now called the Winooski Peace Initiative, a group of organizations including UVM Medical Center departments, local churches, businesses, schools, other city agencies and more to work together to make improvements in the lives of our community members. Work made possible by this group includes:

- Ensuring that people have access to healthy foods through programs like the Summer Lunch and Activity Program, which provides food and activities for school children whose families might not otherwise be able to afford them
- Raising awareness of diversity and cultural issues in Winooski schools and the community through programs that include sponsoring the reading and sharing inspirational books in our schools
- Promoting safety and non-violence through programs like a free self-defense class for women; and establishment of a multi-disciplinary committee to address education and awareness around the subject of vulnerable adults, some of whom may be victims of abuse

Sister Pat says she comes by this work naturally through a blend of nature and nurture: raised in Jersey City, her father was social justice-minded, and she saw in her neighborhood plenty of people who had less. Through her training as a nurse, then joining a convent in Montreal, she traveled to places around the world where, again, she gained a perspective on what it means to “have” – and “have not.”

“That perspective has fueled my work,” she says. “I’ve seen firsthand how, even though there’s a scale of 1-12, not everything is a 12. But we have to come together to do something when the scale starts tipping towards a 12.”

She’s always looking for ways to be creative in addressing the needs of our community. She serves on the Board of the Winooski Food Shelf. She has been involved in implementing innovative programs like “soul collage,” an exercise in which individuals can post images that they find meaningful to share as they feel comfortable. “It helps people forget the problems of everyday life,” she says, “and reconnects us all to what’s important.”

And for Sister Pat, what’s most important is our community. “That’s what drives everything,” she says. “How can we come together as a community to be our best?

Sister Pat McKittrick Receives Women’s Center’s 2019 Outstanding Social Justice Activist Award!

Sister Pat will receive this year’s Women’s Center’s 2019 Outstanding Social Justice Activist Award in recognition of her lifetime devoted to serving the underserved, and the many programs aimed at ending oppression which she has helped bring to fruition.

Every year, the Women’s Center hosts the Women’s Award Banquet. This celebration is an opportunity to recognize the contributions and activism of those in our community working to dismantle systems of oppression.

This award is given to a person who has worked in anti-sexist endeavors and who has drawn connections between various communities to end multiple forms of oppression. This award recognizes that various forms of oppression (e.g. sexism, ableism, racism, classism, heterosexism, religious discrimination) are connected and support one another.

This year’s Awards Banquet was held on Tuesday, March 19th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Silver Maple Ballroom at the Davis Center.

Congratulations and THANK YOU, Sister Pat, for all you do to make our community a better place.
City of Winooski - New Branding and Website Launch

By Paul Sarne, Communications Coordinator

The City of Winooski is excited to announce that our marketing/branding and website re-development initiatives have been successfully completed – implementation of which began on Monday, March 11th, 2019.

New Branding

A revised City Seal maintains the historical and cultural relevance of our previous seal while adopting a modern look to match our Legacy Campaign logo. The Legacy Campaign, which will begin in the coming months, celebrates our new brand story which will be used to highlight community members who exemplify Winooski leading up to the City’s 100-year anniversary in 2022.

The City of Winooski: Vermont’s Opportunity City

For almost 100 years, Winooski has welcomed strivers - people looking to build a better life for themselves and their families. We’re a small city where neighbors know each other. We’re a city where all of our kids learn together, play together, and grow together. We’re a community where everyone can participate in city government, in neighborhood gatherings, and in our lively downtown. We’re always striving to improve our city and to welcome our next new neighbors.

New Website

Our new website is live at winooskivt.gov!

The new website encompasses a modernized design, improved global navigation, a professionally optimized mobile-layout, and much more. Sites for the Winooski Police Department (previously winooskipolice.com) and the Winooski Memorial (previously winooskiliblibrary.wordpress.com) are now available at winooskivt.gov.

Questions regarding our new brand and website can be sent to: Paul Sarne, Communications Coordinator – psarine@winooskivt.gov / 802 655 6410

Woman Shares Her Love For Roller Skating, Family

By Gail Callahan

M. Claire Bisceglio looked down at a photo that was snapped more than 70 years ago and smiled. She looked down on the black-and-white likeness, remembering when she won the World Roller Skating championship as a teenager.

“I started to roller skate when I was 14,” said Bisceglio, 89, who now lives at Our Lady of Providence Residential Care Facility in Winooski. “Somebody asked me to roller skate, and I just went from there. I practiced for about six months before the championships, and when I won, it made me very, very happy.”

A native of Rhode Island, Bisceglio, a widowed mother and grandmother, skated with a partner. They posed side-by-side in the photo. “I naturally thought that if I won, that would be the highlight,” said Bisceglio. “I loved it. “When I got married, I gave it up.”

Bisceglio’s walk down Memory Lane was prompted by the arrival of a package in the mail. The parcel came from her oldest son, Ronald Bisceglio. Among the items packed were the photo of his mother along with two medals attached to ribbons—one gold, the other silver.

Bisceglio was confident when she and her partner completed their skate they would win. Her career at the rink preceded recorded musical sound tracks, so people glided to live music, she said.

“I was almost sure we’d won,” Bisceglio said. “You can tell if you’re there if you’re going to won.”

Bisceglio said she plans on giving the photo and her medals to her younger son, so her legacy continues.
Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for April
By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

**** Please note that the Wednesday hours are slightly revised and we will now close at 4 pm ****

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, April 10th</th>
<th>2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</th>
<th>Pantry staples, meat, eggs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 13th</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Fresh fruit, veggies, bread, pastry and deli items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 24th</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pantry staples, meat, eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 27th</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Fresh fruit, veggies, bread, pastry and deli items</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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. We are seeing a lot of very, very outdated food that we must throw away. Since we like to provide products that are within their expiration date, please check food items to be sure dates have not expired.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Spring Back into Volunteering this April
By Olivia Miller, Community Engagement & Volunteer Coordinator

Youth Football Head Coach Needed

Under the direction of Recreation and Parks, Youth Football Head Coach Volunteers create a positive learning environment where children learn sportsmanship, fundamental skills, teamwork, and responsibility. Winooski’s youth programs emphasize skill development, fair play, teamwork, cooperation, sportsmanship, responsibility, and fun. The assistant coach’s job is to help facilitate a program that allows for youth to grow and develop skills safely. An assistant coach will engage directly with youth, while being a dependable resource for our head coaches. Please contact Alicia Finley for more information at AFinley@winooskivt.gov.

Homework Help Tutors Needed

Under the direction of the Winooski Memorial Library, Homework Help Tutors provide basic instruction in a variety of content areas to local middle and high school students so that students can master skills needed to succeed in school and beyond. Tutors will have an on-site supervisor to provide training, support, and direction as needed.

Time Commitment: Tutoring sessions are Monday through Thursday from 6PM to 9PM. Tutors sign up for at least one 1.5 hour session per week. We are also flexible with schedules and will try to work with you. Questions? Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@winooskivt.gov.

Meals on Wheels Drivers

Happiness knocks when you volunteer to deliver a meal! Meals on Wheels provides so much more than a nutritious meal. The moment you knock on a door, you make a connection. It might be a quick hello or a conversation, but the impact lasts a lifetime - and not just for those receiving the meal, but for you, too.

We need your help. The Winooski Senior Center in partnership with Age Well are looking for volunteers to deliver meals door to door to our Winooski neighbors. The time commitment is based on your availability (weekdays only). Delivery is typically from 9:30a.m. to 11a.m. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@winooskivt.gov.

COSA Volunteers Needed

Winooski Community Justice Center is looking for volunteers to help support an individual reintegrating back into the community from incarceration. For more information please contact Nikki Duran at dduran@winooskipolice.com.

School Bus Monitors

Parents & Youth for Change (PYC) and the city of Winooski are searching for volunteers to ensure that Winooski School District students have a safe ride to school every day.

High School students can earn community service credit for volunteering. WSD Bus Monitors will:

- wait with students at the bus stops-O’Brien Community Center and Elm Street
- remind students of transportation expectations
- some volunteers will ride the bus with students to help count ridership
- assist with a safe ride

We need volunteers at both locations from 7am-8am Mon-Friday. To apply contact Carrie Oliver, (802) 391-6885, momoliver0714@gmail.com or Christine Kemp Longmore, (802) 281-2498 christinepycbtv@gmail.com.
Partnership for Prevention
By Elaine Ezerins, Communications and Development Manager

**Alcohol and tobacco advertising**

Many students walk to and from school five days a week. What do they see from the sidewalk?

Executive Director Kate Nugent ventured out with students from our after school program Above the Influence to walk from the school down Main Street to the circle, capturing photos along the way.

As students walked by several storefronts, they noticed advertisements for alcohol and tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. These ads, often provided by the industry, impact youth’s perception of harm and decision making around addictive substances.

Winooski Partnership for Prevention wants to open up the conversation to community members and residents, to ask what level of advertisements and promotional materials for substances we want to see in our city.

Currently, the draft Master Plan for the City of Winooski states: “The Winooski Partnership for Prevention works on substance abuse prevention through education, policy and data sharing. As an example, they work to assist the community in reducing the amount of youth-targeted alcohol and tobacco messages and thus reduce youth consumption of these substances. There may be a role for the City, either through zoning regulations or liquor licensing, to help limit alcohol and tobacco advertising to youth.”

We are excited to see this language in the Master Plan and we look forward to future conversations with the City on the issue of tobacco and alcohol advertising, with the goal of putting in place a city-wide policy limiting the amount/location of advertising.

Research shows that youth more frequently exposed to tobacco promotion are 60% more likely to have tried smoking and 30% more likely to be susceptible to future smoking, according to the National Cancer Institute.

Limiting point-of-sale advertisements is a proven method to reducing youth substance use. Let’s build healthy community together.

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**A student’s perspective**

Kiana Lee Hill, 5th grade, attends our Above the Influence program. Here are a few of her thoughts about e-cigarettes.

“When you use e-cigarettes, you can injure your brain… When you use a JUUL, it has the same amount of nicotine as 12 e-cigarettes… E-cigarettes can start a fire… Nicotine is toxic to developing fetuses.”

“I wouldn’t use e-cigarettes because when I have a dream [for my future], I want it to happen… and I don’t think it will happen if I use e-cigarettes.”

**Vermont legislative update**

We are excited to see momentum around the Tobacco 21 bill. National data show about 95 percent of adult smokers begin smoking before they turn 21.

By raising the legal purchasing age to 21, the bill is designed to reduce smoking rates.

Research also shows that kids often turn to older friends and classmates as sources of cigarettes. Increasing the tobacco age to 21 would reduce the likelihood that a high school student will be able to legally purchase tobacco products for other students and underage friends.

**Special thanks**

We would like to extend a special thank you to Boom City for performing at our March community dinner, and to everyone who attended and donated to our organization. Your support for our work is appreciated!
Girl Scouts Update

By Amy Lothrop

Winooski Girl Scout Troops 58806 Daisy, 52103 Brownie, 30948 Junior and 30187 Cadettes have been busy selling cookies in order to reach their goals. Together they have sold over 10,000 boxes! A big jump over last year’s 7,819 boxes. Thank you Winooski for pre-ordering cookies in January/February and stopping by our booths in March.

The Cadettes have been planning a trip to Costa Rica since they were Brownies. We are almost ready to go in 2020. This cookie season raised a significant portion of needed funds. We plan to be there for 9 days. We will be visiting volcanoes, cloud forests, white water rafting and eating a lot of delicious food. Our trip will also include cultural events and an environmental service project. In the meantime, we will be traveling to the Maine seacoast to camp for 4 days this summer. When we are not busy with all of that, we will be working on our Silver Award.

The Juniors are excited to spend a day at Jay Peak learning about the engineering that makes the Flow Rider work. We will be sure to relax in the Big River after selling all those cookies! The girls are also looking forward to a camping trip to the Seacoast Science Center. We will participate in a night hike, tide pooling, reconstruct a whale skeleton and learn how to protect an animal’s natural habitat. This summer, we will begin the process of earning our Bronze Award.

The Brownies will be spending a night at ECHO to celebrate their efforts this cookie season. They will explore the exhibit halls, participate in hands-on activities and experience live animal encounters. We also will be camping later this summer to practice the outdoor skills that we have learned.

The Daisies will be attending UVM Chemistry Camp and Society of Women Engineers’ Engineering Day. To celebrate achieving their goals, they will be heading off to Spare Time for a bowling party. All four levels will also participate in Green Up Day, Winooski Memorial Day parade and an outdoor skills festival in May.

Your support means that girls in your community learn what it takes to be an entrepreneur. They learn that success takes teamwork, planning, goal setting and adapting to change. Nurturing business, leadership and financial literacy skills early and often lead to more successful outcomes for girls throughout their lifetimes. Girl Scouts develop five essential skills by running their own business — goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. Whether those goals include travel or camping in the Green Mountains, she will learn to unleash her potential. Without you, we would not be able to achieve our goals. Thank you!

If this sounds like an adventure that you cannot wait to join, contact Amy Snow Lothrop at amylothrop@comcast.net or 802-373-7288 to learn how to join. We are K-12 Girl Scouts from Daisy to Senior and from Winooski and neighboring towns. We are open to and welcome all girls who want to develop courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place!"
The Power of Volunteerism
By Barb Pitfield, Winooski Senior Programs Manager

Volunteerism is a basic expression of human relationships. It is about people’s need to participate in their societies and to feel that they matter to others. We strongly believe that the social relationships intrinsic to volunteer work are critical to individual and community well-being.

The ethos of volunteerism is infused with values such as solidarity, reciprocity, mutual trust, belonging and empowerment, all of which contribute significantly to quality of life.

According to the United Nations, more than 1 billion people volunteer globally! "A healthy society is one in which importance is given to formal and informal relationships that facilitate interaction and engagement and thus engender a sense of belonging. It is also one in which there is broad participation by all sections of the population. Communities with these characteristics do better in moving forward to meet common aspirations."

Volunteerism forms the backbone for our little City. We are always looking for folks who want to contribute to their community and work towards nurturing the well-being of all. Give us a call!

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

MONDAYS:
- AARP Tax-Aide - Monday & Wednesday morning appointments only. Call the Senior Center to schedule a time

TUESDAYS:
- Coffee Talk - (9-11am) - Join us for FREE coffee, treats and conversation
- Senior Exercise - (10-11am)
- Brunch for Lunch - (noon) Special Event! April 9th. RSVP by 4/2 - $5.00 Pre-pay
- Community Lunches - (noon) Menu by Age Well. RSVP $5 by donation
- NOTE: No Community Lunches in April • May schedule: 5/14 & 5/28
- Open House - (1-3pm) Come play cribbage or cards or work on a craft project

WEDNESDAYS:
- AARP Tax-Aide - Monday & Wednesday appointments only. Call the Senior Center to schedule a time

THURSDAYS:
- Senior Exercise - (10-11am)
- Brown Bag BINGO! (Doors open at 11am, BINGO! at 12:30pm) 4/18 - April in Paris Theme
- Mindfulness - (5:30-6:30pm)

FRIDAYS:
- New American Lunch & Learn - (Please RSVP - $5 by donation at the door)
- Tai Chi at 11am and Fresh Nepali Lunch at Noon

We are closed on April 22-26 for cleaning and May 7th for voting.

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.gov.
**HEALTH CORNER**

By Liz Parris, RN, School Nurse, Health Office Coordinator

April is finally here and hopefully that means sunnier days will be as well. Please remember to apply sunscreen to your children whenever they play outside. Encourage your children to drink plenty of fluids to keep them well hydrated. Help keep your children’s smile intact by having them wear mouth guards whenever they play contact sports. On behalf of the health office we want to wish all of you a happy spring break!

**Playgroup at the O’Brien Community Center**

Come and join the fun! Playgroups are for young children (0-5 years old) and their caregivers.

**WHEN:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30am.

Also, save the date for our annual Art Show: April 17th from 5:00-6:30pm at the O’Brien Community Center.

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

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**Mindfulness Practice**

**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 5:30pm, 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.wsdschools.org/mindfulness-in-winooski.

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**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MENUS — APRIL**

**BREAKFAST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>String Cheese</td>
<td>Assorted Cereal</td>
<td>Honey Roasted Sunflower seeds</td>
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**LUNCH**

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crinkle Cut French Fries</td>
<td>Homemadef Flavored Salsa</td>
<td>Vegetable Pizza</td>
<td>Caesar Salad Garlic Breadsticks</td>
<td>Chef’s Mashed Potato Steamed Green Peas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Pepper Strips</td>
<td>Rice Pilaf Baked Beans</td>
<td>Fresh Carrot Sticks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acadian Redfish</td>
<td>Fajita Homeflavored Salsa</td>
<td>Chef’s Mashed Potato</td>
<td>Burger Garden Pasta Salad</td>
<td>Garden Pasta Salad Steamed Corn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crinkle Cut French Fries</td>
<td>Rice Pilaf Steamed Corn</td>
<td>Glazed Carrots</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steamed Broccoli Dinner Roll</td>
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<td>Dinner Roll</td>
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<td>Sesame &amp; White Homeflavored Homenade Tomato</td>
<td>Nacho Cheese Sauce</td>
<td>Vegetable Pizza Broccoli Salad</td>
<td>Maple Dill Carrots</td>
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<td>Twin Sausage Links</td>
<td>Rice Pilaf Baked Beans</td>
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<td>Green Pepper Strips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hand Cut French Fries</td>
<td>Homemade Flavored Salsa</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 18, 2019</td>
<td>Monday April 8, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baked Beans</td>
<td>Rice Pilaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinner Roll</td>
<td>Creamy Coleslaw</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Daily Lunch Offerings:**

Main Meal, Cabot Yogurt Parfait, Deli Bar, Express Lane, Homemade Pizza or Vegetarian Option. Fresh Fruit, 100% Fruit Juice & Milk offered with all meals. Students may take two fruit servings with each meal. They must take at least one to qualify for the meal prices listed.

**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 http://wsdfood.abbeigroup.info.

You can also learn about options for managing your child’s account at the website.
Winooski Public Schools

Superintendent of Schools
Sean McMannon: 655-0485
smcmannon@wsdschools.org

John F. Kennedy Elementary School
Principal: Sara Raabe
802-655-0411
sraabe@wsdschools.org

Winooski Middle and High School
Co-Principals:
Kate Grodin and Leon Wheeler
802-655-3530
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lwheeler@wsdschools.org

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ayin@wsdschools.org

Winooski Public Schools

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 491 students attending JFK Elementary (grades PreK-5) and 389 attending Winooski Middle/High School (grades 6-12).

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