



# WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS!

ALSO INCLUDES 8 PAGES OF **Community News!** STARTING ON PAGE 13

DECEMBER 2019

## *Celebrating Our Achievements!*

### WHS Students Share Powerful Message at Conference on Equity in Education

By Emily Hecker, Communications and Development Director

In late October, 450 Vermont educators, administrators, and students attended the 9th annual Rowland Foundation conference at the University of Vermont - one of the largest gatherings of Vermont educators in the state. The conference theme was *Equity in Education*.

Scranton said the Rowland Foundation board was laser-focused on extending the conversation on equity. "Vermont is a very white state. While there is great socio-economic diversity that contributes to the achievement gap and the opportunity gap, there is very little diversity in terms of race, culture, and ethnicity. That creates an enormous responsibility for those of us who teach in Vermont. We hope today's theme can elevate the conversation."

The Rowland Foundation passionately believes in teacher and student voice. To support their passion they established the Rowland Fellowship, a unique professional development opportunity for Vermont secondary school teachers. During the past 11 years, they've invested

\$4M in 73 Vermont teachers who work across the state in 40 schools. Rowland Fellows are selected, in part, because they see a clear connection between their school's culture and climate and students' classroom performance, and are ready to take significant leadership roles to tackle systemic change.

Winooski School District is fortunate to benefit from the work, perspective, and energy of three accomplished Rowland Fellows: Lindsey Cox, who developed a robust advisory program for Winooski High School; Principal Jean Berthiaume, whose work was focused on student voice; and current Fellow, Luke Dorfman, who is working to create a more equitable educational system.

The conference keynote speaker was Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*, who gave an incredibly thought-provoking speech called, "Seeing the Racial Water: Combating Institutional Racism in Schools." Her keynote can be seen here: [bit.ly/DiAngelo\\_RFC](http://bit.ly/DiAngelo_RFC)

Demonstrating their commitment to student voice, Rowland Foundation invited Winooski High School students to be keynote speakers for the afternoon session of the conference. "When thinking about diversity in Vermont, there is no district in the state more representative of that than Winooski," Mr. Scranton said during his introduction to



the students' presentation.

Eight students from the Winooski High School Culture and Community Capstone class, taught by Luke Dorfman and Nellie Maley, bravely addressed the crowd. In her speech, one student reflected on the value she sees in Winooski School District, "I feel most comfortable in Winooski. This is mainly due to its diversity. I meet people from all over the world with all different experiences, and I find they are kind, welcoming people."

The students shared their personal stories and reflections about equity in education and introduced a video their classes made, called "Change from

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## NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

### WSD Winter Transportation Starting December 2nd!

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools

On Tuesday, November 12th Old Man Winter and Mother Nature reminded us where we live and dropped 6-8 inches of snow overnight on Chittenden County. After closing school for the day and shoveling my driveway I headed into the office to crank out some of the work that had been piling up. Snow days in a school are quiet, a bit eerie without students and staff, and golden opportunities to make a significant dent in one's task list. After settling in with a few emails and voicemails I remembered thinking the night before that I wished we had been able to start our winter transportation for students given the early snowfall and the unusually cold temps arriving right after the storm.

About four years ago, I invited stakeholders to join me in researching the transportation needs of WSD families. With the participation of city officials, parents, students, Safe Routes, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) members, and Parents & Youth for Change (PYC) leaders we developed a guiding mantra of "Getting WSD Students to School Safe, On Time & Ready to Learn". While we knew what we wanted to accomplish, the hard work was figuring out a way to pay for it.

We researched several grants, partnerships and public transportation options and in the end determined that WSD would need to find a way to support winter transportation for students through the operating budget. A bid process revealed high costs and few bidders. We turned to our neighbors in the county who already operate their own transportation and asked if anyone would be willing to partner with WSD and South Burlington School District (SBSD) stepped forward.

In January of 2018 WSD created a district-to-district agreement with SBSBD to provide 45 days of transportation from January through March. During the 2018-19 school year we were able to increase the number of days of transportation to 75, provide an additional bus stop and began accruing some modest transportation aid from the State of Vermont to offset expenses.

Our third year of winter transportation will increase to 81



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days and begin on Monday, December 2nd for students who live 3/4 of a mile or more away from school. It will run from December 2nd through March 27th. There will be 2 buses, doing 2 runs each, at 3 different pick-up locations. The bus stops will be at: 1) O'Brien Community Center (OCC) with two pickups — one at 7:15 and a second at 7:45; and 2) on the corner of Elm and Forest Street, and Elm and Malletts Bay Avenue with two pickups — one at 7:15 and a second at 7:45. There is no afternoon transportation. Parents, please review the bus expectations below with your student(s) prior to Monday, December 2nd and revisit weekly during December, January, February and March. Thank you for working with WSD to benefit our students!

#### Bus Expectations

<b>Honest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Own your actions</li><li>• Ask for what you need</li></ul>
<b>Engaged</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep your bottom on your assigned seat and face forward</li></ul>
<b>Appropriate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safe bodies, stay in your personal space</li><li>• Use kind words</li><li>• Use a quiet voice</li><li>• Say "Hello" and "Thank you" to the bus driver</li></ul>
<b>Responsible</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clean up after yourself</li><li>• Take care of school and personal property</li><li>• Food and drinks stay in your bag</li></ul>
<b>Timely</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow the directions the first time</li><li>• Wait for the signal to get off the bus</li></ul>

### Hannaford Expands Foodbank Program for Winooski Community

By Jaycie Puttlitz, Wellness Coordinator

Representatives from Hannaford Supermarkets and the Vermont Foodbank were at our school in mid-November to announce a large monetary donation from the supermarket chain to continue supporting our Veggie VanGo fresh produce program.

Twice a month, approximately 450 students, staff, parents, and community members are able to access fresh fruits and vegetables right here at our school.

Thanks to both of these organizations for giving Winooski families the gift of sharing healthy meals together!



# December School Board Notes

By Matt MacNeil, Board of School Trustees

The falling snow not only signals the approach of another Vermont winter, it's also a reminder that the Winooski School District (WSD) is about to begin this year's budget development cycle. Our administrators and staff undergo a painstaking process to allocate every single dollar of funding to the exact areas that we believe will provide the highest educational value to our students and families. The ultimate goal is a budget that creates the conditions for WSD to flourish as an innovative educational system. At the same time we constantly attempt to balance attainment of that goal with keeping a watchful eye on maintaining the affordability of life in our great city. Clearly, this is no easy task. The challenge is only magnified by the multitude of complexities within educational funding here in Vermont.

Have you ever looked at an educational budget proposal and experienced some confusion in tracking where the money is coming from and going to? Don't worry, you're not alone. All school funding is a mix of federal, state, and local funding sources distributed through complex and ever-changing formulas. During our November Board Meeting we were very fortunate to be joined by Senators Phil Baruth and Debbie Ingram, Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate Education Committee. Senator Baruth related an anecdote about his own history with fully understanding and communicating educational funding. He and a colleague from the State Agency of Education were conversing on this topic when Senator Baruth asked the AOE Staffer "Can you please create for me a single, one-page summary of the most important points people should understand about Ed funding in VT?" To which the AOE staffer replied: "No".

Ultimately, Senator Baruth's colleague did create an explanatory document for him. It topped out at three pages, just for the summary! While this story highlights the intricacy of Vermont's funding system, there are several important factors that all citizens can become more versed in that will help shed light on what factored into the budget proposal here in Winooski. Our district is very fortunate to have an outstanding Finance Manager, Rebecca Goulet. After our November meeting, I asked Rebecca if I could talk to her about what she considers to be three high-priority concepts for anyone to better understanding educational funding. Rebecca was very gracious in accommodating my request but made sure I would report out with a caveat. The caveat being, that things are constantly changing in the world of educational funding. So even understanding the three following factors has to done in the context of swirling changes that no one currently can predict the impact of. These changes include a shift in staff health care coverage and a reworking of the special education funding mechanism. With that qualification noted, here are Rebecca's top three concepts for better understanding of educational funding:

**1. Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)** - According the Vermont Department of Taxes, CLA is a method of ensuring that each town is paying its fair share of education property



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tax to the state's Education Fund. Each town/city in Vermont keeps a grand list of property values. The CLA was created to check the accuracy of the town grand lists since they are maintained by town listers, not the state. If the grand list in a town didn't reflect fair market value, then a town would have end up sending more or less tax revenue than its fair share to the statewide Education Fund.

Right now in Winooski, homes are selling for more than their appraised prices. While that is good news for sellers, it is more advantageous for school budgeting when sales match or fall below appraised value. To learn more about CLA, please visit <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/understanding-property-taxes/education-tax-rates/faqs>

**2. Equalized Pupil Count** - According the Agency of Education, Equalized Pupil Count assigns weights for different types of pupils, is designed to reflect the per capita spending on students who fall under varying criteria. Under this formula, pupils have specific weights for different grade levels, socio-economic status, language proficiency as well as other factors. Students "weighted" more highly in this rating system result in higher levels of state funding to school districts. This information is due to be delivered districts by AOE by December to aid in budget planning. To learn more about Equalized Pupil Count, please visit: <https://www.vtvsba.org/copy-of-funding-video>

**3. Special Education Funding** - There has been a considerable amount of press regarding potential changes to the funding mechanism for special education in Vermont. Rebecca noted that there are several important factors to keep in mind when reviewing special education funding in our district. The first is that the population of students who receive these services is unpredictable. When any given student moves in or out of district, their IEP and any related costs come with them. This law was enacted to ensure students always have access to necessary services no matter which Vermont address they hold. Secondly, special education services also result in reimbursement for WSD. In essence, for every dollar that the district allocates to special education services, it recoups about 55 cents from the state. To learn more about special education funding in Vermont, please visit: <https://education.vermont.gov/student-support/special-education/funding>

I recognize that while these three factor are a great start on understanding education funding (and in turn our budget), that they are only the tip of the iceberg. Please remember that your Board of School Trustees are here to answer any questions that may come up. And our budgeting meetings are open to the public. We encourage anyone and everyone to attend.

## WSD Alumni Profile: Canary Ly

Winooski School District prepares students to lead healthy, productive and successful lives. The paths our students take after graduating can be as different -- and interesting, as our incredibly diverse students themselves. So, we created a place to celebrate the work WSD grads are doing in Winooski, in Vermont and around the world. If you know of a person who should be featured, please email Emily Hecker, [hecker@wsdvt.org](mailto:hecker@wsdvt.org). Canary Ly graduated in 2013.

### What are you doing now?

I'm at the UMASS Medical School, Graduate School of Nursing. I'm pursuing my DNP (Doctorate of Nursing Practice). I'll graduate June 2022. I am also Assistant Director of Fundraising for an organization called Hoby - started by Hugh O'Brian the late actor. I help the Vermont chapter remotely and check in with volunteers. We run an annual seminar at St Mikes. We select two high school sophomores from each high school in Vermont and help them develop different leadership styles and abilities (showing by example and how to make changes in their communities). I went in 2011 and I still do a lot of volunteering, and it made a big impact on me. I also volunteer at a free clinic called Akwaaba, which means "welcome" in Ghanaian. It's a clinic for people who don't have insurance, or anyone who needs medical help. I work as a phlebotomist. I'm working to get my RN licensure so I can work while I complete the rest of my program.



Canary Ly, Class of 2013

diverse it is. I also really appreciate how people support you regardless of your background. Winooski plays on people's strengths - not just focusing on one skill that everyone needs to master equally. Teachers are flexible and always available. The small class sizes are amazing. We are so privileged to get one-on-one time with teachers.

### What's your best memory of your time here?

The Homecoming parade, seeing people come and support the teams. Also, hanging out in the hallway, even though we weren't supposed to. And texting under the table...we weren't supposed to that either, but we had flip phones so it was easier because we could feel the buttons (laughs). Also, I'm still playing soccer - that definitely stuck with me.

### Have any advice for current students?

No matter how you are trying to get through life - don't forget your roots. To anyone learning a new language or anyone who grew up with a language other than English, don't forget it! Work on it every day. It will come in handy later on. I was so thankful that my mom made me speak Vietnamese. She drilled it into me. As I'm looking for jobs, it's nice that I can relate to and serve patients who don't speak English. If you have a chance to ask someone how to say things in a different language, ask them! It's a lifelong skill.

Regardless of what you try to do or

how you feel you should conform, never forget who you are.

Also, to current students: you might be a big fish here, but you will probably be a minnow elsewhere...but don't be afraid of that. You can adapt and learn.

When I got to Middlebury I was so intimidated. It felt like everyone there had been to private boarding schools and their parents were very wealthy. It was really disarming because I was there on a full scholarship.

I studied neuroscience and education. If I could go back and do it over I would have studied American studies and done a pre-med background. If you think you're going pre-med don't think you have to major in a science. I would have enjoyed to learn more about cultural studies for my undergrad. I would still have gone to Middlebury, because it was close to home. I pushed through even though I had doubts. So, put in scholarship applications now because it will pay off.

### Why do you heart Winooski?

I heart Winooski because of the way you're always made to feel welcome, no matter who you are or where you're from. Your ideas are always taken into consideration. We embrace new ideas and that's reflected in the way we welcome new families, new businesses...Now when people think of Winooski, they think, "That's the place to be!" rather than that negative reputation from when I was younger. And I heart Winooski because when I come back it always feels like home.

### How did your WSD education prepare you for success?

I really appreciate the sense of community. Everyone knows everyone. It's only getting stronger because there are new people coming all the time. When I started kindergarten, I was one of a handful of people of color, now we have so many people from so many backgrounds. Whenever I make it to soccer games I'm just amazed at how

## Share the Gift of Knowledge

By Stephanie Hackett, Winooski High School Tutor Coordinator

Winooski High School is searching for volunteers that have experience teaching, mentoring, or who want to become involved in our high school community. We are looking for individuals who specialize in math, science, English language learning, and language arts.

Our volunteers will meet with their student(s) in the Winooski School library

for an hour and a half once or twice a week (Monday-Friday: 8am-4:00pm, except school closings/ holidays). Each volunteer and student will be paired based on the subject area, availability and other specifications.

If you are interested in volunteering with our tutoring program, we will need:

- Complete application with resume

and provide three references

- Interview
- Background check/ fingerprinting process (\$ 30.00)
- Volunteer orientation

If you would like to learn more about our program please contact the Winooski High School Tutor Coordinator, Stephanie Hackett at [shackett@wsdvt.org](mailto:shackett@wsdvt.org).

## Thanks to the Knights of Columbus

By Robin Hood, Director of Support Services & Early Learning

Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus Saint Stephen's Council #2284 and Greg Clairmont, Worthy Grand Knight. Through their tootsie roll sales, they were able to contribute to Winooski School District's Unified Sports program. Winooski School District is a Special Olympics Unified Champion School. Catrina Hughes is our coach! Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools offer a unique combination of sports, education and leadership activities to equip young people with tools and training to create sports, classroom, and school climates of acceptance and inclusion. The activities and opportunities provided through the program help to reduce bullying and exclusion, promote healthy activity and interactions, combat stereotypes and stigma, eliminate hurtful language in schools and engage people in social activities that lead to personal growth.

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools is a comprehensive program of the Unified Schools strategy that combines Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement to create the greatest impact.



## About Our After School Program

Our K-12 afterschool programs are intentionally designed programs with a literacy, math, science, technology or arts focus. Our instructors are licensed teachers. Our afterschool academic coach and afterschool coordinators provide feedback and support to our afterschool teachers and review weekly lesson plans so that our teachers are provided with ongoing input and support about their work.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is designed to provide opportunities for academic enrichment, including providing tutorial services to help students, particularly students who attend low-performing schools, to meet State and local student academic achievement standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and mathematics.

21st Century Community Learning Centers offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students.

Throughout the U.S. about 6,800 rural and inner-city public schools in 1,420 communities—in collaboration with other public and non-profit agencies, organizations, local businesses, post-secondary institutions, scientific/cultural and other community entities—are now participating as 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

Questions? Please contact Suzanne Skaflestad, Afterschool Program Director, 802-383-6041, [sskaflestad@wsdvt.org](mailto:sskaflestad@wsdvt.org).

## The Faces of the Winooski School District

Get to know the people who work for the Winooski School District every month in this column.

### What do you do at WSD?

I'm the Network Administrator for the Winooski School District.

My role here is more of a traditional Information Technology (IT) Director most days rather than a Network Administrator. As such I serve as the point person for the IT Department while supervising some of the team members. I'm responsible for the entire district network infrastructure, development, planning, maintenance, data and security as well as monitoring annual software and support contracts with vendors.

Throughout the year I meet with department heads to discuss and plan for technology needs in the district. In addition, I meet and collaborate with other school district IT professionals within our region to maintain a working knowledge base of cyber threats, new technologies and the challenges we face.

All members of the IT team perform helpdesk tasks to support our users, myself included. I generally receive the escalated tickets that other team members are not able to complete for various reasons, or that require more in-depth, time consuming work.

### How long have you worked for the district?

Winooski welcomed me on board July 1st 2017.

### What do parents and students need to know about you?

I'm a parent too! My wife and I have 2 wonderful teenagers, a boy 13 and a girl 15. And as I remind them both routinely: "Remember Dad works in IT; we can see what you're doing on your school computers! So use them responsibly! Access to technology is a privilege, not a right!"

### What's something people in the district might not know about you?

Once upon a time I was a licensed Property & Casualty insurance adjuster in Vermont. I was employed by the largest independent adjustment firm in the world. I finally let my licenses lapse a couple years ago. At that time, I held licenses in VT, NH, ME, RI and CT.

The experience was interesting, although I don't miss driving 500 plus miles a day. As someone who spent most of their life working in professions helping others, it was very disheartening to be an adjuster at times – to see hard working people who had lost everything and have to deny their insurance claim when they needed it the most!

### Why do you heart WSD?

The Winooski School District is such a close community of people. It's like being in a small rural town where everyone knows you. We're fortunate to have such great people who truly care so much about each other and the students and families here. I'm proud to be a part of that and this district.



Ron Mack

## Ask WSD

### THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

**When and how do you inform all new students what appropriate behavior is and what staff member they can go to when they need help? What are the actions taken against students who bully others? What are comments from administrators about how they are addressing this growing concern in the schools?**

**ANSWER:** At JFK Elementary, during the first six weeks of school, we teach and practice expectations of HEART - (Honest, Engaged, Appropriate, Responsible and Timely). Students learn how to be respectful and kind in all spaces of the school including the bathroom, cafeteria, and hallway.

If a student demonstrates minor, but unexpected behavior, they are encouraged to take a break, visit another partnering classroom, or go to a buddy room. Sometimes just a change of scene can help the student regulate so they can get back to learning.

If behavior is very disruptive or unsafe, students are sent to the student support room (SSR) - where they have a safe space to process with one of the behavior team members. Sometimes that's all a student needs - to voice why they were behaving in a certain way. Depending on the behavior, the consequences vary.

It's important to note that "bullying" is a pattern of behavior with the intent to cause harm (emotional or physical) done to an individual over time.

The process for reporting very rare cases of bullying are as follows:

- The student, or the student's caregivers, can report the behavior to a teacher, guidance counselor, student support room staff, or principal.
- There is an online system to submit incidents. Trained adults, including a behavior coach and guidance counselors, start an investigation. They talk to teachers, students, and any observers about a pattern of behavior. Once an investigation is started, phone calls and letters are sent home to the families of the students involved. Information is kept completely confidential.
- Once the investigation is completed, letters and phone calls are also made to inform parents/guardians of the outcome of the investigation. We also include our school policies with those letters, seen here: [bit.ly/HHBpolicyWSD](http://bit.ly/HHBpolicyWSD)
- If the investigation proves that there has been substantiated bullying or harassment, then we set up a meeting with the aggressor and their family. We work to put a plan in place to help support the students involved and keep everyone safe and acting according to school-wide expectations.

As a school, our focus is on teaching all students the tools and skills to be safe and respectful.

We are pleased to share that the rates of investigations into alleged bullying and harassment are decreasing at our school. Over the past three school years, investigations into bullying have decreased by over two-thirds.

- 2016/17 - 30 investigations (not all investigations result in a substantiation of bullying or harassment)
- 2017/18 - 18 investigations (not all investigations result in a substantiation of bullying or harassment)

- 2018/19 - 9 investigations (not all investigations result in a substantiation of bullying or harassment)

We credit the marked decrease in investigations to our bullying prevention curriculum, Second STEP, our school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system, and the focus on HEART for all students.

"We try to avoid using the word 'bullying' and say 'mean behavior,'" explains JFK Guidance Counselor, Grace Holcomb. They teach how mean behavior may become bullying. Their focus isn't only on students directly involved in bullying or mean behavior. "We also teach students about being allies, and how to speak up for someone who is being treated meanly," Grace adds.

Grace also leads a class that teaches, among other skills, how to process *big emotions*. "In our class we talk about how to be a kind friend and what to do when we are feeling really sad and frustrated. We all have times when we might say mean things, so what can we say and do to stop ourselves?" Grace says. Students come up with strategies to prevent unexpected behavior, such as "mindfulness, taking breaks, and checking in with teachers. Also, morning meetings and closing circles are great times to build community and engage in social emotional learning."



Here are the main ways to connect with us for district news and updates.



#### Website

[wsvdt.org](http://wsvdt.org) is your "go to" source for information about our district and schools. Our calendar and news section are updated regularly. We invite you to look around and check back often.



#### District Newsletter

Delivered monthly to each mailbox in Winooski, our newsletter features district news, celebrations, and events. Also available online: [wsvdt.org/newsletter](http://wsvdt.org/newsletter)



#### Social Media

We are active on Twitter & Instagram @winooskilearns Facebook @wsdschools Engage with us using #winooskiasheart

#### Notifications

Urgent notifications are sent in the form of calls, texts and emails. Make sure your child's enrollment information is updated with your contact information.



#### School Updates

JFK Elementary, WMS and WHS all have specific communication tools - connect with school principals if you'd like to get in the loop.



# Updates on the Capital Project — December 2019

## A Virtual Visit to the New WSD Building

By Emily Hecker, Communications and Development Director

The Winooski School District Capital Project (CP) work is still prioritizing logistics and phasing, but recent renderings by architecture firm TruexCullins bring our dreams of a beautiful, new building to life!

### Permitting

WSD Capital Project Executive Committee members met with the City of Winooski Director of Public Works, Jonathan Rauscher, and his team to discuss permitting. Barring any delays, ReArch plan to start staging the project in May. “The staging/logistics plan is almost complete. We have decided to use the school campus for our staging area instead of the adjacent UVM property because of permitting concerns. To avoid disruption of the on-site school traffic, we will have a temporary road made from Main Street,” says Owner’s Project Manager, Tom Barden.



### Kitchen Design

Bill Fieldings, the CP kitchen consultant, will be redesigning the new kitchen in conjunction with the new cafeteria. He met with the director of the Abbey Group, the organization that provides food service for WSD, to look at flow and design of the current cafeteria. They are also planning some upgrades for equipment. Considering the new cafeteria design, they are hopeful they will be able to offer a wider variety of food offerings.

### Traffic Flow

Resource Systems Group Inc. have been conducting traffic studies. Cameras have been placed and physical traffic counts have been done. The data is now being used to design the final entrance and egress points and directions for school traffic. With the new Exit 16 Double Diamond work, the City’s Main Street Revitalization project, and the WSD Capital Project all happening, we are using the opportunity to collaborate to improve traffic flow and safety for everyone.



### Geothermal Results

Results from the well drilling are favorable for a geothermal heating system for the school district. The yield data from the well and the ability to return the water to the subsurface is now being used to design the district’s geothermal heating/cooling system.

### Environmental Testing

Phase 2 Environmental Testing results came back favorably, with no immediate needs for remediation. KD Associates performed air quality testing in areas of the building where water damage occurred during recent storms, and there were no findings that require action.

### Design in 3D!

The architects are starting to put their designs in 3D. If you have a QR reader on your phone, you can download this link to see the overall plan with QR codes: [bit.ly/WSDCP3Dtour](http://bit.ly/WSDCP3Dtour)

(If you don’t have a QR code scanner app it is free & easy to download.)

When you scan the QR codes you can enjoy a virtual tour of several

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Renderings by TruexCullins

features our new building, including the cafeteria, main entry, and high school lobby!

Cam Featherstonhaugh, architect at TruexCullins, notes, “We are still in the schematic (early) phase of design, so even though materials may be shown, they are gestural and may be revised based on cost, maintenance, and preference. Final material selections will be made between December and February.”

“The overall cost of the project has been estimated again (in November and early December) based on the schematic design drawings. We anticipate there will be some value engineering needed, so some features of the project and spaces may change in order to reconcile (balance) the budget.”



Scan the QR code above to virtually visit the main lobby! Then go to [bit.ly/WSDCP3Dtour](http://bit.ly/WSDCP3Dtour) to get all the QR codes that have been created to visit other sections of our new building.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Winter Performance by JFK Elementary

By Mrs Poland

JFK's annual Winter Performance will be held on Thursday, December 12th at 6:30pm in the gym. Please join us in celebrating all the hard work and efforts our students have shown over these past few months! We look forward to seeing you!



### Dismas House Donation

*Left: Knights of Columbus Saint Stephen's Winooski Council #2284's Worthy Grand Knight Greg Clairmont presenting a \$100 donation to Kimberly Parsons, Dismas of Vermont Buell Street Director.*

### Special Coffee Hour

By Sr. Pat McKittrick, RN

Coffee Hour is every Friday at the O'Brien Community Center from 9 AM- 11AM.

**A special coffee hour will be held on Friday, December 13th** between 9am and 11am. Refreshments will be served, along with a few new treats. Also, we will offer crafts and activities for children, and opportunities to write cards or make cards for the holidays.

As mentioned last month, we are collecting small gifts to be shared on the morning of the 13th. If you would like to share some small gifts, please drop them off on any Friday morning at the O'Brien Community Center between now and December 13th.

For other time options to drop off gifts, please contact Sr. Pat at 802-233-5509 or pat.mckittrick@uvmhealth.org.



**Community Holiday  
Pot Luck  
December 21st. 5-8pm  
Bring your favorite dish to**



**share with your community!  
Winooski Peace Initiative &  
2Creative Community Inc.  
110 W.Canal St.# 102 Winooski,VT  
2creativecommunity@gmail.com**

## ALL ABOARD!

### The 2019 Winooski Train Show

Saturday, Dec. 7th from 10 am to 3 pm

At the Winooski Education Center

80 Normand Street  
Winooski, Vermont



- Operating layouts and displays!
- Buy trains, accessories, parts and more!
- Books and Videos

- Railroad Memorabilia
- Learn about this great hobby by talking to the experts!
- Free appraisals on your railroad items

Admission - \$5.00

Children between 12 and 6 - \$1.00

Children under 6 enter free

(All Children must be accompanied by an adult)

Sponsored by the Champlain Valley Chapter of the NRHS to benefit Winooski Education



## December Playgroups

Stay warm during the colder months!

Join the Winooski Family Center playgroup for some cozy and fun playtime.

Come with your children (5 years and younger) to enjoy winter themed activities, stories, songs, and a small snack.

When? Tuesdays: December 3rd, 10th, 17th from 9:30-11:30am at the Winooski Family Center on 87 Elm Street.

Please note that we will be closed when the Winooski School District is closed (holidays/ snow days).



JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY BRUNCH TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE NEW WSD CAFETERIA AT

*Misery Loves Co.*

Sunday | December 8, 2019 | 10 am - 2 pm  
Misery Loves Co.  
46 Main St, Winooski

Enjoy a delicious brunch and support Winooski schools! A portion of the day's proceeds will fund the district's capital project - plus there will be opportunities to bid on raffle items from local shops, restaurants and more!



THE WINOOSKI CLOTHING GIVEAWAY  
WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

**We couldn't have done it without the following:**

*Shalom Shuk, St. Stephen's Church,  
Sue Ryan & Essex Alliance Church,  
Greg Clairmont & the Knights of Columbus,  
UVM Medical Center Rehab (Winooski),  
A Little Something (Shelburne),  
Pebbles & the Chattering Hens,  
Winooski school employees  
and community members who  
donated new and gently used items.*

*Special thanks to Dale Magnant,  
Ann Goering & Sharon Hopper.*



**Thanks to generous community support  
Winooski students will stay warmer this winter!**

**CONNECT TO  
VOLUNTEERING**



Get started today!  
Visit [unitedwaynwvt.org](http://unitedwaynwvt.org) and click the  
"Volunteer" button.



**United Way of  
Northwest Vermont**



## December Update: Focus On Reading At Home

*By Sara Raabe, JFK Principal*

Each fall and spring, JFK Elementary hosts a Scholastic Book Fair. There have been a variety of studies linking literacy activities at home to students' long term success. Students that read and write at home build executive functioning skills. These skills allow students to pay attention, organize and plan, start tasks and finish them, understand different points of view, regulate their own emotions, and keep track of what they are doing. These are critical life skills that we work on at school with students. Students choosing to read and/or write at home enhance the development of these skills.

Our only homework at JFK is daily reading for students. There is research to support that if students read regularly at home, by third grade that activity

happens automatically for most students without adult support needed. Studies also show that 15 minutes tends to be the magic number. Students that read at home for 15 minutes every day start seeing substantial gains in reading achievement. Students that read more than 15 minutes every day see even bigger gains. Students that read less than 15 minutes a day make fewer gains.

By hosting a Scholastic Book Fair each fall and spring, we hope to get books into students and families hands at affordable prices. Some of our younger students have favorite books that they will read over and over until they have them memorized. As students get older, they tend to have specific genres or series that they like to read. The Scholastic Book

Fair has a wide variety of books. The hope is that all students and families can find books that the students will want to read with an adult or independently.

This year our fall book fair coincided with parent teacher conferences. This was done deliberately so that families could have access to purchasing affordable books when they were already at school for conferences. Classes go to the book fair, and students will often make a wish list to share with the adults at home. By giving students and families another way to access books, we hope that our students have books to read each night for at least 15 minutes independently or with a family member.

## It's Electric! How Sun and Water Technologies Power Our World

*By Allie Monahan, 4th-grade special educator, and Amanda Chung, 4th-grade science/writing teacher*

Fourth graders are learning about energy transformations and sustainable energy sources available to Vermonters. To launch the Project Based Learning unit, fourth graders had the opportunity to visit the Winooski One dam, a 7.4 Mw hydroelectric generating station located on the Winooski River. Students learned about how the dam is used to transfer the power of the water into electricity to power homes in Burlington. The hydroplant was purchased in 1993 by Burlington Electric and is run largely by one man, John, who toured our students around the plant. Students observed three turbines, which drive synchronous generators, to generate highly efficient electricity. Additionally, they were able to observe how the fish lift is used to return fish upstream. Students enjoyed this exciting opportunity to see sustainable energy transformation in action in our own community.

In addition to visiting the dam, a representative from SunCommon, a solar company located in Waterbury, Vermont presented to the fourth grade. SunCommon works to provide Vermonters with affordable clean,

renewable energy generated from the sun. Students were able to learn about how solar energy is harnessed using solar panels and then generated into electricity. Both the visit to the dam and the presentation done by SunCommon

provided real-life examples of how energy is transferred from one form to another. Community partnerships such as these provide enriching opportunities for our

students to learn how sustainable energy sources help our community generate clean energy sources.





## Sixth Graders are “Powered by Persistence”

By Kate Grodin, WMHS Co-Principal

Mid-November marked the culminating event for the 6th grade academy’s fall expedition: *Powered by Persistence!* Every student participated in a three-week residency with Circus Smirkus. For the third year in a row artist-in-residence, Josh Shack, demonstrated and taught students the circus secrets such as: try, try a new way, watch, go slow, go step by step, and imagine. These secrets, which align closely with our Persistence Graduate Expectation (GX), support students to learn all kinds of new skills like juggling, clowning, and acrobatics.

Persistence was integrated across many disciplines this year. 6th grade mathematicians studied geometry, which allowed students to build their own miniature circus tents. In art, students painted colorful and imaginative posters to advertise the event, and in Language Arts students wrote their own bios for

the program. After their performances, students celebrated with a reflection opportunity... and cake, of course! Students responded to prompts that guided them to thank people who helped them persist, to recognize memorable moments, and to pinpoint just which new skill was the most challenging.

What do teachers say is the best result of this residency? After their participation, the 6th grade has fully transitioned from elementary school into a middle school learning community. Learning and practicing circus skills with the goal of a performance, supports communication and collaboration with high levels of engagement. These skills are then drawn upon and developed all year long. Plus, it’s a lot of fun!



## Business Student of the Month - David Klinker

By Courtney Poquette, Business Teacher

David Klinker has brought energy, enthusiasm and excitement into the business department. David is not only in Entrepreneurship class, but runs two of his own businesses outside of school! He completed an impressive internship this summer at Quarter Zero in New York City & shares his business knowledge with others. Thank you David for inspiring me to introduce a new tradition, Winooski Business Student of the Month. You can find David’s businesses below:

### DJKSS Productions

Website: [djksfilm.com](http://djksfilm.com)

### Waggy Tail Stickers

Website: [waggytailstickers.com](http://waggytailstickers.com)

## ROWLAND FOUNDATION CONFERENCE *(continued from page 1)*

the Inside,” highlighting how students from their class felt about the power of diversity and changes we must make inside ourselves and our schools to achieve equity. Watch the video here: [bit.ly/RFC\\_students](https://bit.ly/RFC_students)

For Luke Dorfman, the opportunity to see his students share their stories with hundreds of Vermont educators and students, while addressing a topic he is currently working on as a Rowland Fellow, was very moving. “It is inspiring to hear our students share their stories and to witness their courage as they become activists for justice and equity in the community. The presentation they



delivered at the Rowland Conference is a beautiful example of the powerful voice our students have to influence and shape conversations happening both locally and globally,” Dorfman said.



*Winooski teachers and staff attended the Rowland Conference at the University of Vermont Davis Center in October.*

## Artist of the Month: Ta Ray Pe Say

*By Jessica Bruce, Fine Arts Teacher*



Ta Ray Pe Say is the WHS Artist of the Month for November! She has been working to improve her portraiture skills in Drawing class. Her shading and mark-making skills are impressive. I am excited to see how her artwork comes together this semester. Congrats, Ta Ray!



## Varsity Boys Soccer Team

*By Stephen E. Feiss*

The Varsity Boys Soccer Team finished a tremendous 2019 season with a final record of 13-3. We reached the Semi-Final in the State division 3 tournament and set a new team record for goals scored in a season with 118. We were the NVAC Mountain League Champions for the 3rd year in a row making a total of 5 times in the history of our program.

We had several players receive individual honors:

- **Lek Nath Luitel** - All-State; Mountain League (Player of the Year); 119 career goals (#2 all-time for VT boys soccer)
- **Milan Magar** - All-State; Mountain League 1st Team
- **Albert Busimba** - All-State; Mountain League 1st Team
- **Dhiraj Dhakal** - All-State; Mountain League 1st Team
- **Hussein Amuri** - Mountain League 2nd Team
- **Thien Nguyen** - Mountain League 2nd Team
- **Nuru Mami** - Mountain League Honorable Mention
- **Yusufu Mami** - Mountain League Honorable Mention
- **Sebastian Syharaj** - Mountain League Honorable Mention
- **Ayoob Musanovic** - Mountain League Honorable Mention



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Municipal Update — December 2019

By Paul Sarne, Communications Coordinator

### Council Liaison Update Highlights

Here are a few highlights from our City Council Liaison Updates. To read our full Council Liaison Updates (and to subscribe), visit [winooskivt.gov](http://winooskivt.gov)



- **Joined the Mayor’s Challenge** to pass a resolution and proclaim November as “End Veteran Homelessness Month,” encouraging Chittenden County Vermont agencies to allocate resources and programs to End Veteran Homelessness.
- **Approved a contract with Omnes** for up to \$32,000 for the development of a Parks and Open Space Plan for the City of Winooski (paid for by grant funds the City was awarded). The consultant will conduct a series of public outreach events, so that all Winooski residents can weigh in on the future of our parks and open spaces.
- **Approved the Community Services Scholarship Program Policy and Guidelines.** As the City of Winooski believes in equity as a core value, The Community Services Department has established a scholarship program to minimize barriers for residents seeking to register for Community Services programs (including Recreation and Parks, Thrive, Senior Center, Community Gardens, Library).
- **The Housing Commission** met on October 28th for an initial discussion of parking minimums and how they relate to housing availability and affordability in the City. The Housing Commission will be providing input to the Planning Commission on parking as it relates to housing as the Planning Commission considers changes to zoning and form-based codes related to this and other issues.

### City Updates

Reminders from the City Clerk’s Office:

- Join us for our regular City Council meetings: December 2nd, 9th, and 16th
- Winooski City Hall will be closed early (1/2 day at 11:30 AM) on December 24th and full day on December 25th for Christmas
- Winooski City Hall will be closed early (1/2 day at 11:30 AM) on December 31st and full day on January 1st for New Years
- Petitions for City Council and School Board candidates will be available in the Clerk’s Office in December



On Monday, November 4, 2019 – the Winooski City Council voted affirmatively to enter a negotiation phase with Nedde Real Estate, a developer who met the response requirements for the City’s Lot 7D Request for Proposals issued in July 2019. The negotiation phase would explore the terms of a public-private partnership to create a 100-room boutique hotel, a municipal parking structure for more than 300 cars, and a new 36,000sf office for VEIC, a nonprofit

sustainable energy company. View the full Lot 7D press release at [winooskivt.gov](http://winooskivt.gov)



### Winter Parking Bans 2019 – 2020

Remember, overnight street parking is prohibited during winter parking bans in Winooski. To receive up-to-date winter parking ban alerts, text ‘Winooski’ to 888-777 or register for our emergency alerts at [nixle.com](http://nixle.com)

- Winter parking bans are made on a case-by-case, weather-dependent basis or for area-specific snow removal.
- When issued, bans may last more than one evening and are in effect until further notice
- The City of Winooski reserves the right to tow vehicles at the owner’s expense
- Overnight street parking is prohibited in Downtown Winooski from 2:30 AM to 6 AM (December 1st to March 31st) regardless of notification.
- Landline users must retrieve their updates by calling the dedicated parking ban line at 802 655 3908
- Winter parking ban signs (located on East Allen Street near the Exit 15 off-ramp and at the entrance to Winooski over the Burlington/Winooski Bridge)

Your City Officials	Email addresses	Telephone
Mayor Kristine Lott	<a href="mailto:klott@winooskivt.gov">klott@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-766-1988
Councilor Hal Colston	<a href="mailto:hcolston@winooskivt.gov">hcolston@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-922-2908
Councilor James Duncan	<a href="mailto:jduncan@winooskivt.gov">jduncan@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-310-7103
Councilor Amy Lafayette	<a href="mailto:alafayette@winooskivt.gov">alafayette@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-598-7704
Councilor Mike Myers	<a href="mailto:mmeyers@winooskivt.gov">mmeyers@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-355-5348
City Manager Jessie Baker	<a href="mailto:jbaker@winooskivt.gov">jbaker@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-655-6410

Visit the city website at [winooskivt.gov](http://winooskivt.gov) or call 802-655-6410.

Keep up to date with announcements and news:

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

- will flash when a winter parking ban is in effect
- Overnight parking in the Winooski Parking Garage on Cascade Way is available for \$2 (pay at kiosk or by ParkMobile app) from 6 PM to 7 AM
  - If you have questions regarding winter parking bans, please call 802 655 6410 or visit [winooski.vt.gov/parking](http://winooski.vt.gov/parking)

### Programs and Events at the Winooski Memorial Library



#### Playgroup and Storytime for Kids Under 5

Families with children under the age of 5 are welcomed to our Friday playgroup and read-aloud. As the weather gets colder, bring your young kids for some indoor fun with us! Connect with other parents in the community while your children enjoy play tunnels, collaborative games, and sensory play. Join us for

- one or both! All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Fridays - November & December 2019
  - Playgroup: 9:30 - 10:30 AM @ the O'Brien Community Center
  - Storytime: 10:45 - 11:45 AM @ the Winooski Memorial Library
- Call or email with questions regarding this program: 802 233 8188 / [thrive@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:thrive@winooski.vt.gov)



#### English Language Learning

The Winooski Memorial Library is proudly hosting the USCRI English Language Learning (ELL) Classes!

- Mondays & Wednesdays 9 AM - 11 AM

Communication is a vital skill for survival and the key to leading independent lives. Language is the power that guides our emotional well-being, our social interactions, and our educational pursuits.

### Recreation and Parks

We've got an amazing lineup of winter programs coming up, including:

- CPR & First Aid Course (Dec 10 and 12)
  - Youth Basketball starts Jan 11
  - Chill – our new ski program partnership, begins Jan 14
  - VT Patriots Indoor Soccer (sign up today)
  - Sign Language – Starts Feb 7
- Visit [winooski.vt.gov/rec](http://winooski.vt.gov/rec) for full program details!



Winooski Recreation and Parks would like to congratulate the **Winooski-Burlington Youth Football** team on winning the Championship game vs. South Burlington!

Reminder – registration for returning **Community Garden** patrons will be available soon.

## 2Creative Community Welcomes You!

By Heather Fromkin

We are an eco art and design studio/ school/performance space.

2C offers classes and on the job training programs which integrate the arts with environmentally friendly practices, featuring multiple disciplines for students to express themselves and impact the community and world at large in a positive and green way.

We are located at 110 W.Canal Street #102 in Winooski. Call 718-415-7135 for more information or visit us online at .

- **Monday Night Movies** at 2Creative Community Inc. 5:30-7:30ish. Starts Nov. 11th
- **Community Sewing Night** every Wednesday 5:30-7:30pm at 2Creative Community Inc. Come join the fun! Opened to all fiber arts! Sewing machines available but bring your own if you prefer!
- **Spoken Word Sundays** 4-6pm byob at 2Creative Community inc.

*All events donation based — give what you can afford!*



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

By Olivia Miller, Community Engagement & Volunteer Coordinator — [volunteer@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:volunteer@winooski.vt.gov) / 802-734-1836

The City of Winooski has a number of amazing volunteer opportunities available – visit [winooski.vt.gov/volunteer](http://winooski.vt.gov/volunteer) to learn more and apply today!

### Youth Basketball Coach

Under the direction of Recreation and Parks, Youth Basketball Coaches create a positive learning environment where children learn sportsmanship, fundamental skills, teamwork, and responsibility. This Saturday morning skill-development program is for children in grades K-6 and emphasizes having fun while being active and learning the basics of basketball. 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. Program begins January 11th.

### Morning Support Volunteer

Under the direction of the Winooski Senior Center, Morning Support Volunteers will be the first friendly face that people see as they walk in. Morning Support will greet seniors, encourage senior engagement, answer the phones, and assist with our nutrition programs.

### TREX Program Volunteer

Under the direction of Recreation and Parks, TREX Program Volunteers will ensure the continuation and success of Winooski's plastic bag collection program. Volunteers will collect, weigh, and deliver plastic bags as well as encourage the community to be more aware of plastic use. We need one volunteer who is available for 1 hour per week between the hours of 9-5 Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

### Library Youth Activities Volunteer

The Winooski Memorial Library is looking for volunteers to do a read-aloud, play music, and more at the Friday Playgroup and Story time between 10:45-11:45 AM. Interested in learning more? Please contact Olivia Miller, Volunteer Coordinator: [volunteer@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:volunteer@winooski.vt.gov) / 802 734 1836

### Meals on Wheels Delivery Driver

Under the direction of the Winooski Senior Center, Meals on Wheels

Delivery volunteers help to combat hunger and to provide a lifeline and companionship for under-resourced community members who might otherwise be isolated. Meals on Wheels are delivered every weekday, Monday through Friday from 9:30-11 AM.

### Circle of Support and Accountability (COSA) Volunteer

Under the direction of the Winooski Community Justice Center, COSA Volunteers serve as a source of support and accountability for someone transitioning into the community after a period of incarceration (the core member). Volunteers with COSA meet once a week with two to three other volunteers and the core member. They walk with a core member as they transition from prison to community, and work through all of the changes and challenges that come with that transition.

## Landry Park Landscaping Project

By Greg Clairmont

The Golden Angels from Saint Francis Xavier were simply awesome with their gallant efforts at Landry Park most recently, moving ten truckloads of topsoil from the left field foul line to the Field of Dreams infield with joy in their hearts.

The boys brought to fruition a smooth, level playing surface on the baseball diamond, no doubt preventing multiple injuries next spring due to the hard work they so exemplified during their past two visitations to 'our beloved ballpark'.

Peter, Coach Mike Daigle, Landry Park Superintendent Chuck Rollins and Father Paul Houde for their due diligence too. The Golden Angels enjoyed a few M&M's in celebration from Team Sponsor Mars Candy Bars at the break of day.



Amazing efforts in adverse conditions by Dallas St. Peter, Aiden Rivait, Stosh Zuk, Aaron McKay, Logan Bushway, Elijah Wood, Markus Hammer and Charlie Daigle made all the difference in the world. They shall be justly rewarded on opening day! Most special thanks to our MVP Manager John Madden, Coach Jay Rousseau, Coach Thom Wood, Coach Travis Saint



# Winooski Partnership for Prevention

By Elaine Ezerins, Communications and Development Manager



**Winooski Partnership  
for Prevention**  
Education | Awareness | Engagement

## WPP Annual Meeting and Holiday Community Dinner

Join us for Winooski Partnership for Prevention's Annual Meeting and Holiday Community Dinner on **Wednesday, Dec. 4** from 5:30 to 7:00pm at the O'Brien Community Center!

We would like to thank all of our community partners and donors for collaborating on and supporting our youth substance use prevention efforts in 2019, and look ahead to what's in store for 2020. The free community dinner is sure to be festive and fun! Everyone is encouraged to attend and celebrate the year with WPP. Free childcare will be provided.

### Above the Influence

Students in our after school program visited retailers to identify alcohol and tobacco product advertising that appeals to youth because once students learn to recognize industry marketing tactics, they are empowered to live above the negative influences.

**Drug Free Communities Grant Announcement:** We are thrilled to announce Winooski Partnership for Prevention (WPP) was awarded a five-year, \$625,000 Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy on October 31 to strengthen community partnerships and reduce youth substance use.



Recognizing that local problems need local solutions, DFC-funded coalitions engage 12 sectors of the community and use a variety of community-level strategies to address local substance use problems.

The 12 sectors are youth, parents, businesses, media, schools, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement, religious/fraternal organizations, civic/volunteer groups, healthcare professionals, state, local or tribal government agencies with expertise in the field of substance abuse, and other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse. In the first year of the grant, WPP and the community sectors will focus efforts on youth alcohol and marijuana use.

"This is a significant step in Winooski's commitment to its residents and visitors health and wellbeing," Kate Nugent, WPP's Executive Director, said. "We very much look forward to carrying out the work ahead with our community partners, and building upon our vision of a community where well-being is accessible to all."

"What an awesome testament to the community of Winooski," said Daimeyon Williams, president of WPP's board of trustees. "It is due not only to the diligent and authentic work of the WPP staff that makes this possible, but the fact that the community is so very committed to continually investing in the health and wellness of our youth."

## All Roads Lead from North End Studios to Vermont International Festival

North End Studios is now offer programming and facility rental at its newest location, the O'Brien Community Center on Malletts Bay Avenue, as it does at its two Burlington locations (Studio A and the Event Hall). All three locations feature classes in dance and fitness and host events including everything from Hindu weddings to children's birthday parties.

**The Vermont International Festival**, which will be held on December 6-8 at the Champlain Valley Expo, is an extension of North End Studios programming and relationships. Many of the people who rent space for their family gatherings and celebrations also want to share their cultures in other settings including music, dance performances, ethnic cuisine and cultural traditions. For 27 years, the Vermont International Festival has given new Americans and long-time Vermonters a place to share

traditions and art that reflect their heritage.

At this festival, over forty vendors offer reasonably-priced, unique, imported handcrafts including clothing, pottery, home décor, instruments, and jewelry. Restaurants like Winooski's Argentinean Dale Boca Café sell their authentic cuisine in the international food court which includes offerings from many parts of the world including Asia, Latin America, Europe and Africa. This year's music and dance performances will include Winooski's Nepali Heritage Dancers as well as performers from as far away as Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

Hours of the Vermont International



Festival are Friday, December 6, 5pm-8pm; Saturday, December 7th, 10am-6pm; Sunday, December 8th, 10am- 5pm.

Tickets are on sale at the door: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 6-12 years old; \$5 for seniors (65+); \$25 family pass; children under 6 are FREE. Admission is good for the entire weekend.

For more information about the Vermont International Festival, go to [vermontinternationalfestival.com](http://vermontinternationalfestival.com). For classes and facility rental at North End Studios, go to [northendstudios.org](http://northendstudios.org).



# Celebrating Community and the Holidays at the PTO Craft Fair

By Heather Win

The Winooski PTO Craft Fair took place in late November.

With 80+ vendors selling everything from hand-knitted scarves to jewelry to baked goods, it was a good way to showcase local talent and load up on gifts for the holidays.

The money raised generously supports end-of-year field trips and other school programs. We're also grateful to all the vendors and shoppers for making this event a huge success!



# Halloween at OLOP Stirs the Community Cauldron

By Gail Callahan, Communications Director

Halloween plans were brewing and bubbling for weeks at Our Lady of Providence (OLOP) Residential Care Facility here.

Decorating the building with scary witches, monsters and black cats showcased the countdown for the holiday.

Our Lady of Providence's Halloween celebration spread out over two days, featuring Bingo! with Bea, visits from elementary school students and a party.

Halloween's arrival was ushered in by overcast skies. The morning was jammed packed as students from tw, local Catholic schools visited and paraded in costume. Behind every Harry Potter, princess, bee and cat was a child's smiling, impish face.

First up, Mater Christi students paraded through the building, delighting residents and staff. Their entertaining repertoire of Halloween songs brought grins to everyone's faces.

On the heels of that, St. Francis Xavier

Pre-Kindergarten students made the short journey across the street to the facility. Smiling staff and residents eagerly waited to see the tots in their costumes.

Later in the afternoon, Emilie's Haunted Hall Halloween party took place. The room boasted spooky decorations. Once the action got started, games, contests and an array of delicious treats were on the agenda.

Many staff members dressed in costume; later, residents voted for their favorite ensemble. Human Resources Coordinator Jen Hanley was inspired by *The Wizard of Oz* and designed her own version of the House that Fell on the Wicked Witch of the East costume. Director of Dietary Services Chris Lavalette portrayed death and housekeepers Joanne Fish and Kadira Mostarlic dressed as an old man and a



Photo by Gail Callahan

Joanne Fish (left) and Kadira Mostarlic (right) model their Halloween costumes

witch, respectively.

Staff weren't the only ones who dressed up. Most residents donned costumes that included masks, leaving party goers guessing who was wearing the false faces.

Slips of paper and pencils were handed out to residents to vote on the best costume. After the ballots were tallied, Fish came out on top. She received a gift card to Hannaford Supermarket.

# Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for December

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

Please note that we will be open the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays in December and closed the 4th Wednesday, December 25th.

<b>Wednesday, December 4th</b>	2:00pm to 4:00pm	Pantry staples, meat, eggs
<b>Wednesday, December 11th</b>	2:00pm to 4:00pm	Pantry staples, meat, eggs
<b>Saturday, December 14th</b>	9:30am to 11:00am	Fresh fruit, veggies, bread, deli items
<b>* Monday, December 16th</b>	1:00pm to 4:00pm	<b>Must register by 12/4: Handout of holiday meat and fixings</b>
<b>Saturday, December 28th</b>	9:30am to 11:00am	Fresh fruit, veggies, bread, deli items

We desperately need more community support! We now have 10% of Winooski's population registered with us. We send a 3 day supply of food home to over 150 people each Wednesday we are open. We provide hope, dignity and respect to our ill and disabled neighbors.

Please help us make the December holiday meals memorable for our clients. We need volunteers and donors. Our neighbors in need rely on the community and businesses to put together and donate meal fixing bags. Bags should include: 2 cans of fruit such as pineapple and applesauce, 2 canned veggies such as peas and corn, 1 box of stove top style stuffing, 1 or 2 cans of chicken or turkey gravy or 2 packets of dry gravy mix, 1 can of cranberry sauce, 2 envelopes of instant mashed potatoes, 1 stick of butter and one prepared dessert such as a box of store bought cookies. And of course, we need hams, turkeys and whole chickens. We anticipate over 100 households. We hand out the holiday meal fixings on Monday, December 16th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Food Shelf Policy:** Winooski residents may access the pantry staples one Wednesday each month. Folks may come both Saturdays to stock up on bread, pastry and some fresh fruit and veggies. Hannaford's and Winooski's own Commodities

Market supply 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 802-318-0460.

**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 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 of the food must be purchased since donations of food items cannot meet demand. Checks can be mailed to: The Winooski Food Shelf, P.O. Box 53, Winooski, VT 05404.

**Donation Drop Off Locations:** The Winooski Senior Center, 123 Barlow Street, will accept donations of food Tuesday thru Friday from 9:00am to 2:30pm. Their phone number is 655-6425. And J & J's Corner Market, located at 12 Malletts Bay Avenue is our other drop off location. They are open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 9pm Their phone is 654-8008. Thank you for caring about our neighbors!

## Battle of the Badges Blood Drive

- **Thursday, January 9, 2020**
- **11am - 5pm at the Winooski Fire Department**
- **120 Main St, Winooski, Vermont**

Join the Winooski Police and Fire Departments to see which badge can donate the most! Members of each department will be donating all day and encourage our friends and neighbors to do the same. The need for blood is constant and your contribution is important for a healthy and reliable blood supply - help us save lives! This event is free and open to all.

Are you eligible to donate? Donors must schedule ahead of time. To schedule, visit our event page at [winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.gov) or call 802-660-9130.

Remember, your donation can save a life.

Questions regarding this event can be sent to Erika Bailey, Assistant Fire Marshal/Captain: [ebailey@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:ebailey@winooski.vt.gov).



# December Girl Scouts Report

By Amy Snow Lothrop, Troop Leader

Daisy and Brownie Troop 58806 completed the It's Your World Change It journey with a take action project. Their project was to build and paint bat boxes as well as educational posters about why bats are crucial to our ecosystem. Did you know that 5 of Vermont's 9 bat species are endangered or threatened? Little Brown Bats can eat up to 1,200 mosquito sized insects per hour! For more information on how to help our Vermont Bats, go to <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/living-with-wildlife/got-bats>



**Girl Scouts®**  
Where Girls Grow Strong™



*Bridging, Investiture & Rededication Ceremony*

on Wheels nationally serves 500,000 veterans? Meals on Wheels needs

volunteers. If you can help, please go to <https://www.agewellvt.org/giving-back/volunteer>

Cadette Troop 30187 also participated in making thank you bags for Meals on Wheels. These Girl Scouts have been particularly focused on their Silver Award, which is the second highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. Our projects reflect the diversity of our Girl Scouts and the ways they are choosing to serve their communities with their projects. We have teams

working on animal rescue, suicide prevention, hospice and access to bicycles to help girls gain independence. We are in the early stages of development so stay tuned for ways that you will be able to support their efforts to make the world a better place.

On October 19th, we held our annual Bridging, Investiture and Rededication ceremony. We welcomed brand new girls to the troop. Their membership pins are placed upside down to start with. Once three good deeds have been completed, the pin may be turned right side up. It is a reminder that their everyday actions have purpose and must be used to make a positive impact on their communities. We honored 6 Cadettes with their Summit pin for completing three journeys and three take action projects. Other Girl Scout Cadettes were honored for the leadership and service. The Silver Torch for leadership was earned by Gabriella, for being a co-captain of her track team and advisory representative, and by Amira for her role as an advisory representative. Zoe earned her Service to Community Bar for her work with the Franklin County Animal Rescue.

If this sounds like an awesome adventure, contact Amy Snow Lothrop for more information about Girl Scouts at [amylothrop@comcast.net](mailto:amylothrop@comcast.net) or (802) 373-7288.

Our mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. We are open to ALL interested girls, K-12.



*Daisy & Brownie Troop 58806 building bat boxes.*

Brownie and Junior Troop 52013 and Junior, Cadette and Senior Troop 30948 have been working on tie-dye techniques. We used sharpies to create patterns on a handkerchief and then drops of rubbing alcohol to blur the colors together. We tried lots of different patterns and developed some really great designs. We also bagged some candy as a thank you gift to Meals on Wheels volunteers for Halloween. Laura Need, of Meals on Wheels, came with her daughter Zoe, to share with us the importance of delivering meals to our community. This allows more people to stay at home with greater independence. Laura and Zoe are also members of our Cadette Troop 30187. Did you know 1 in 6 seniors struggle with hunger? Did you know that Meals



*Troop 52013 working on sharpie tie-dye techniques*

# Senior Center Updates

By Barb Pitfido, Winooski Senior Center Programs Manager

## Come Play with Us!

In our later years, many of us become more prone to issues that can affect our health and happiness. Having fun is a lot more powerful than most people probably realize. Scientific studies show that play and fun activities—for older adults or people of any age—can have several major benefits. For example, play has the power to help:

- Improve how your brain works.
- Heal, establish, or maintain relationships.
- Improve your mental and emotional well-being.
- Extend your life and improve your physical vitality.

With so many great activities to choose from, it would be silly not to play as often as possible. So get back in touch with your child-like qualities and start celebrating them. You deserve to smile! Check out our programs and events and join us for a giggle or two!

## Programs and Events

### Mondays

- Bone Builders Exercise Program - (3 – 4 PM) Free drop-in on Mondays and Wednesdays, this program is designed to prevent (and even reverse) the effects of osteoporosis. Presented in partnership with RSVP/United Way. Lead by certified instructor, Jim Shea.

### Tuesdays

- Coffee Time - (9-11am) Free drop-in for coffee & breakfast treats.
- Senior Exercise - (10-11am) Follow along to Barbara Jordan's video and work on balance and stretching. (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Free drop-in.

### Wednesdays

- Coffee Time - (9-11am) Free drop-in coffee & breakfast treats. Enjoy conversations with special guests from our community and discuss topics of interest to Seniors.
  - » 12/4 - Brigitte Harton, RD, CD, Consultant Dietician Age Well. Join us for a conversation on the nutritional needs of older adults. Bring your questions about food and nutrition.
  - » 12/11 - Kristine Lott, Mayor of Winooski Come and chat with Mayor Lott as she explains new community initiatives and plans, answers questions and listens to your comments.
  - » 12/18 - Kathy Johnson, Case Manager, HomeShare Vermont. Learn how HomeShare is helping seniors, people with disabilities, and others to match with a compatible housemate. Find out whether you, or someone you know, may have interest in the program.
- Senior Fun & Games - (12:30-2:30pm) Come play cribbage, cards, Wii bowling or work on a craft project (all materials supplied). Enjoy popcorn while you play! Free drop-in.
- Bone Builders Exercise Program - (3-4pm) Free drop-in on Mondays and Wednesdays.



### Thursdays

- Senior Exercise - (10-11am) Free drop-in program
- Brown Bag BINGO! (Doors open at 11am, BINGO! at 12:30pm)
  - » 12/5 - Black and White Theme - bring canned goods for the Winooski Food Shelf
  - » 1/16 - Squirrel Appreciation Theme
  - » 2/13 - Valentine's Day Theme
- Community Mindfulness - (5:30-6:30pm) Free drop-in sessions led by instructor Andrea O'Connor

### Fridays

- Coffee Time - (9-11am) Free drop-in for coffee & treats
- New American Senior Lunch & Learn with Age Well
  - » 11am - Tai Chi led by certified instructor, Viviane
  - » Noon - Age Well's Fresh Nepali Lunch \$5 at the door - RSVP

## Upcoming Special Events

- Senior Holiday Party - Tuesday, December 10th at Noon. Menu from The Rotisserie. Live music and sing along by Jazzou Jones. Yankee Gift Swap. You must have a reservation to attend. Seating is limited. RSVP by 12/4. \$5.00 at the door.
- Holiday Cookie Swap & Paper Crafting Party - Wednesday, December 18th from 9am-2pm. Bring cookies to share. Stay and create holiday cards, tags and ornaments. Holiday buffet foods. FREE! RSVP by 12/12.
- From the Parlor to the Polling Place: Stories and Songs from the Suffragists - Saturday, January 25th at 1:30pm. Join us for an engaging presentation from singer and historian Linda Radtke. Dressed in period garb she will celebrate the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment by specifically highlighting the decades-long persistence of Vermonters. Brought to you by the Winooski Memorial Library and the Winooski Senior Center
- Senior Great Gatsby Theme Party - Tuesday, January 7th at Noon. Menu items created from the novel. 1920's attire and creative black tie optional. Jazz music, door prizes and tons of fun! You must have a reservation to attend. Seating is limited. RSVP by 1/2. \$5.00 at the Door
- Roaring 20's Arts & Crafts Party - Wednesday, January 15th from 9am-2pm. Try your hand at Pyrography (aka Woodburning), Tramp art, create Art Deco paper crafts. Enjoy a Bagel Buffet, hear vintage music and have fun! FREE!

*The Winooski Senior Center...the most exciting place in Winooski!* Connect with us anytime:

Visit: 123 Barlow Street • Phone: 802 655 6425

Email: [seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov)

Web: <https://www.winooskivt.gov/247/Senior-Programs>

Facebook: @winooskiseniorcenter

Please note we will be closed 12/24-12/27 and 12/31-1/1.

# HEALTH CORNER

## Health News

By Elizabeth Parris, School Nurse

A UVM nursing student has been working with us and created an informative pamphlet on vaping. We have copies in the office, but thought we would share a few highlights here with you.

### What are the facts?

As of November 5, there have been 2,051 cases of EVALI reported in the US.

- 14% of patients are under 18 years old.
- 70% of patients are male.
- 39 deaths have been confirmed in 24 states.
- In Vermont, there are 3 confirmed cases with no deaths.

In all cases, patients have a history of vaping, with most products containing THC and vitamin E.

In the past month,

- 4.9% of middle schoolers and 20.8% of high schoolers nationally reported they had used e-cigarettes.

### What is an e-cigarette?

Electronic cigarettes heat a liquid to produce an aerosol that is inhaled into the lungs. The liquid may contain nicotine, THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) and CBD (cannabinoid), along with other flavors and substances.

E-cigarettes may also be called vapes, juuls, vape pens, tank systems, mods, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). Using an e-cigarette is often called vaping.

### What is marijuana/cannabis?

The dried leaves of the cannabis plant are also called weed, pot, and dope.


### What is THC?

Cannabis contains THC, a psychoactive compound, and CBD, a non-psychoactive compound.

### Getting Support to Quit

- Text "VtVapeFree" to 88709 to get help and support in quitting e-cigarettes and vaping.
- Visit 802Quits.org if you need help quitting nicotine, including e-cigarettes.
- Call 2-1-1 or go to [healthvermont.gov/find-treatment](http://healthvermont.gov/find-treatment) for help quitting marijuana.




# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MENUS — DECEMBER



## Winooski Elementary School Breakfast

### December 2019

Menus are subject to change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Iced Honey Bun WG Cheerios Cereal Honey Roasted Sunflower seeds	3 Strawberry & Cream Cheese Bagel Stick WG Frosted Flakes Cereal String Cheese	4 Danimals Yogurt Scooby Grahams Cinnamon Toast Crunch Bar	5 Breakfast Round WG Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal String Cheese	6 Blueberry Bread Rice Chex Cereal String Cheese
9 Iced Honey Bun WG Cheerios Cereal Honey Roasted Sunflower seeds	10 Strawberry & Cream Cheese Bagel Stick WG Frosted Flakes Cereal String Cheese	11 Danimals Yogurt Scooby Grahams Cinnamon Toast Crunch Bar	12 Breakfast Round WG Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal String Cheese	13 Blueberry Bread Rice Chex Cereal String Cheese
16 Iced Honey Bun WG Cheerios Cereal Honey Roasted Sunflower seeds	17 Strawberry & Cream Cheese Bagel Stick WG Frosted Flakes Cereal String Cheese	18 Danimals Yogurt Scooby Grahams Cinnamon Toast Crunch Bar	19 Breakfast Round WG Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal String Cheese	20 Blueberry Bread Rice Chex Cereal String Cheese
				
30	31	 <p>Harvest of the Month: Winter Squash</p>		 <p>Happy Birthday Celebration Friday, December 6, 2019</p>

**Meal Prices**


Community Eligibility Provision  
Meals to all Students are free  
Snacks & Snack Milk not included  
Adult Breakfast \$1.85  
Adult Lunch \$3.85  
Milk \$ .50

Breakfast in the Classroom  
Please Click Links Below for Nutrition Information on Daily Options


OFFERED DAILY  
100% Fruit Juice & Fresh Fruit  
1% White Milk, Skim White Milk & Fat Free Chocolate Milk  
Students may take two fruit servings with each meal. They must take at least one to qualify for the meal prices listed.

Fresh Fruit & Juice Milk  
Condiments


Pay for meals on-line. Click Image Below



Click Image Below for employment opportunities






This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## Winooski Elementary School Lunch

### December 2019

Menus are subject to change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Dress Your Own All Beef Hot Dog Oven Crisp Tater Tots Fresh Carrot Sticks Wild Maine Blueberry Cups	3 Beef Taco Bar w/ The Works Garden Salsa Rice Pilaf Steamed Corn	4 Cheesy Breadsticks Marinara Dipping Sauce Cheddar Broccoli Soup Fresh Celery Sticks	5 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce (Ground Beef) Butternut Squash Garlic Breadstick Steamed Green Beans	6 Layered Chicken Bowl (Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potato, Corn, & Gravy) Homemade Dinner Roll
9 Dress Your Own Beef Burger Hand Cut French Fries Butternut Squash	10 Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla Garden Salsa Rice Pilaf Black Bean & Corn Salad	11 Meatball Sub (Beef & Chicken Meatballs on a Bun) Roasted Sweet Potato Fries Fresh Celery Sticks	12 Homemade Shepherd's Pie (Ground Beef, Corn & Mashed Potato) Homemade Combread Kale Apple Salad	13 Pancakes Real Maple Syrup Scrambled Eggs Sweet & White Hometies Green Pepper Strips
16 Cape Cod Fish & Chips Tartar Sauce Hand Cut French Fries Homemade Dinner Roll Creamy Coleslaw	17 Beef Nachos Supreme Garden Salsa Rice Pilaf Warm Black Beans	18 Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Veggie Pizza Broccoli Salad Fresh Cucumber Sticks Wild Maine Blueberry Cups	19 Oven Baked Herbed Chicken Chef's Mashed Potato Butternut Squash w/Apples P.J's Cranberry Sauce Creamy Coleslaw Homemade Dinner Roll	20 Chicken Patty Sandwich Oven Crisp Tater Tots Fresh Carrot Sticks
				
30	31	 <p>Harvest of the Month: Winter Squash</p>		 <p>Happy Birthday Celebration Friday, December 6, 2019</p>

**Meal Prices**

Community Eligibility Provision  
Meals to all Students are free  
Snacks & Snack Milk not included  
Adult Breakfast \$1.75  
Adult Lunch \$3.75  
Milk \$ .50


Please Click Links Below for Nutrition Information on Daily Options

Daily Lunch Offerings:  
Main Meal, Cabot Yogurt Parfait, Chef Salad or Vegetarian Option  
Students must take a minimum of 1/2 cup of fruit vegetable with every meal.


Fresh Fruit, 100% Fruit Juice & Milk offered with all meals

Deli Bar K-8 Fresh Fruit & Juice  
Condiments Milk

Pay for meals on-line. Click on link below:



Click Image Below for employment opportunities



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### 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.abbeygroup.info>.

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.wsdvt.org](http://www.wsdvt.org)

#### **Superintendent of Schools**

**Sean McMannon:** 655-0485  
smcmannon@wsdvt.org

#### **John F. Kennedy Elementary School**

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

#### **Winooski Middle and High School**

Co-Principals:  
**Kate Grodin and Jean Berthiaume**  
802-655-3530  
kgrodin@wsdvt.org  
jberthiaume@wsdvt.org

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

**Mike Decarreau**, President: 802-310-4032  
mdecarreau@wsdvt.org  
**Margaret Bass**, 315-854-0646  
mbass@wsdvt.org  
**Tori Cleiland**, 802-655-7678  
tcleiland@wsdvt.org  
**Matthew MacNeil**, 802-999-3218  
mmacneil@wsdvt.org  
**Dr. Alex Yin**, 516-423-9601  
ayin@wsdvt.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 490 students attending JFK Elementary (grades PreK-5) and 396 attending Winooski Middle/High School (grades 6-12).

As 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: [newsletter@wsdvt.org](mailto:newsletter@wsdvt.org)*