



# WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS!

JANUARY 2021

ALSO INCLUDES 10 PAGES OF  
**Community News!**  
STARTING ON PAGE 9

## *Celebrating Our Achievements!*

### Three WHS Students Nominated for Vermont Presidential Scholarship

*By Jean Berthiaume, WMHS Co-Principal, with student nomination contributions from Dave McNally, Luke Dorfman, Karen Greene, Liz Edsell, Sean McMannon, Lindsey Halman, Emily Hecker, and Betsy McLane*

Our learning community celebrates three Winooski High School students who exemplify the value of a quality education. Hussein Amuri, Penny Ly, and Evelyn Monje have been nominated as Vermont Presidential Scholars. Each of these students demonstrate an unwavering commitment to their education and, most important, applying their education to benefit their community.

Each year, the Vermont Presidential Scholars Program recognizes students for academic success, artistic and technical excellence, community service, and leadership.

A selection of 25 Vermont Presidential Scholars will be invited by the U.S. Department of Education to apply for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, which recognizes some of the country's most distinguished high school seniors.

During the first week of May, the scholars are announced. 121 students are accepted as academic scholars, 20 students are chosen as art scholars, and 20 in career and technical education.

**Hussein Amuri** has first-hand experience in civic engagement at both the local and state level. He held an internship role in the political campaign for Gubernatorial candidate Rebecca Holcomb, and has said that he is interested in becoming a political leader in Vermont some day.



Hussein is also a student representative on the City of Winooski's Charter Commission, which was formed to advise the City Council on potential changes to the Municipal Charter, the foundational governance document of the City of Winooski. The Charter Commission was charged with examining options to present Winooski voters with a charter change that would enable non-citizen residents to vote in Winooski municipal elections. The proposed change would allow more than 10% of Winooski's residents who are now barred from voting in local elections a chance to participate. The charter change was adopted by the citizens of Winooski on November 3, but the proposed charter change still has a number of steps before it becomes binding.

Hussein was a vocal supporter of this charter change. As a fairly recent immigrant to the city, the issue was personal for him. "I love Winooski because I've known it as a city where everyone is welcome," Hussein said. "I want us to be a welcoming city in how we are governed and how we elect people."

He went on, "It is an honor and a privilege to be nominated as a Presidential Scholar. I'm extremely proud and humble of everything that I've accomplished during my time here at Winooski. But as much as this

is my accomplishment, it is also the accomplishment of everyone who helped me get here. My teachers, the community members that I got the chance to meet under the Charter Commission, my friends, as well as the entire Winooski School District for its outstanding academic leadership with the proficiency-based learning system that has done more than educate me. I feel I am prepared to be the change that I want see in the world."

**Penny Ly** is a natural leader in the classroom and in her community. Penny is a bright light and always leads by example. She has a very warm and welcoming personality that puts everyone at ease. She is very mature and is well respected by adults and her peers. Penny is a very hard worker who is focused on her future and engages, each day, in all the Vermont educational system has to offer.



Penny is this year's WHS UVM Green and Gold Scholar, which indicates that she is the top student in her class. Currently, she is enrolled in Burlington Technical Center's Health Sciences Academy program. Students in this program have the opportunity to choose one of two levels of rigor: a more rigorous honors level or a less rigorous standard level. Students choose the level they wish to participate in and, as such, have different opportunities to earn dual enrollment credit. Penny chose to take our entire program at the honors level and will finish our program with 17 dual enrollment credits which is the maximum number we offer. These courses include VTC Anatomy & Physiology I and II, Human Growth and Development,

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Introduction to Nutrition and CCV Medical Terminology. What is remarkable is the fact that Penny has maintained an A average in Health Sciences Academy as well as all of her dual enrollment classes!

**Evelyn Monje** is a self-motivated and self-directed youth. Evelyn not only takes full advantage of everything our educational system has to offer, but seeks opportunities that will address her passions as a leader



and activist. Evelyn is a talented, compassionate, creative thinker, as well as a strong communicator.

Evelyn exudes a strong passion for educational equity and has played a critical role in leading the work of the Winooski Students for Antiracism (WSA). In doing so, she has supported the Winooski School District School Board in understanding what is needed to become an anti-racist school district. She is now co-facilitating a portion of each monthly School Board meeting to

ensure that the Board continues to center anti-racism and youth-adult partnership in their work.

According to Lindsey Halman, Executive Director *UP for Learning* "Evelyn's leadership role has been exemplary and critically important to the work of *UP for Learning* in ensuring that we are truly living our mission of empowering youth and adults to reimagine and transform education together."

## NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

### Happy New Year!

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Winooski families, I wish all of you a Happy New Year filled with health and prosperity! These past ten months of pandemic has challenged our community in ways we never imagined and we have responded with incredible care and perseverance. As I compose this message there is an outbreak at Our Lady of Providence and forty positive cases in our WSD learning community. Thanks to our tireless and professional School Nurses/COVID-19 Coordinators Liz Parris and Katharine Monje for their leadership during this hectic time.

WSD had a great run of in-person instruction from September 8th through December 9th without a single positive case. This was in large part due to the thoughtful work of our staff in constructing and teaching mitigation strategies and learning models, the amazing support of parents/guardians who have supported all the health precautions and the in-person and virtual learning models and our magnificent students who have shown tremendous adaptability.

During all of this uncertainty WSD has managed to keep our focus on three significant priorities in addition to the daily operations of the school district:

**1. Capital Project:** After six months the new middle school, additional elementary pods, new gym and maintenance shed are enclosed and awaiting windows. The road around the building is fully cut and all underground

utilities are safely buried. ReArch will be working inside the new additions during the winter. We are completing our moving plans for March 2021-June 2022 with the goal of impacting our youngest students the least. We have two minor moves in March and April 2021 and the bulk of the office and classroom moves will be during the 2021-22 school year.

**2. Antiracism:** Deep, sustainable learning is always messy and antiracism work is about as complicated and important as learning can be! WSD is forging ahead as thoughtfully and inclusively as possible so we can create equitable and antiracist systems, policies and experiences. The school board has asked a Planning Team to build an inclusive Antiracism Steering Committee and Demand-Based Teams to dig into this important work. Also, the board is considering a proposed budget from Winooski Students Against Antiracism (WSA) to support the work. For a description of the demands please view here: <https://www.wsdvt.org/antiracism-work-in-winooski/>.

In addition, I invite you to read about the racial disparities Vermonters who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) are disproportionately experiencing relative to COVID-19 at [bit.ly/BIPOC-covid19](https://bit.ly/BIPOC-covid19).



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**3. FY22 Budget:** The school board has held four budget meetings so far, will meet Wednesday, January 6th, and are slated to adopt a budget on January 13th. All FY22 budget materials can be found here: <https://www.wsdvt.org/school-board/budget/>

Of the \$1million or 5% year-to-year increase, \$500K is to support the Capital Project through debt service, \$370K is salaries and benefits increases and the remainder is primarily due to special education tuition. We are doing our very best to contain expenses as we navigate a challenging budget cycle due to Vermont COVID-19 related revenue shortfalls.

Lastly, please continue to take care of yourself and everyone in Winooski by following social distancing precautions, avoiding leisure travel and multi-family gatherings, wearing masks when you go out, washing and sanitizing your hands frequently, contacting your doctor if you are sick, and staying positive!

We will get through this together and be stronger because of it! Thank you for working with WSD to benefit our students!

# School Board Update

By Alex Yin, Board of School Trustees

In engineering, a stress test is often utilized to examine the robustness of a new product or system. The goal of this type test is to better understand the product/system strengths and weaknesses. In many ways, 2020 was the ultimate stress test to every aspect of our lives. It would be an understatement to say that 2020 was a difficult year as the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the racial and economic inequities in our city, state and country. 2020 was the ultimate stress test to our schools and community. It was the stress test that allowed us to truly see the character of our community.

There is no doubt that this stress test revealed areas where we could improve, yet it also revealed a grit and resilience that provides hope for our community and future. I have watched our teachers, administration, and other staff, work incredibly hard and with passion to make the hybrid model work, so that students can have as much in-person instruction as possible. I have seen students and alumni challenge and hold the school board and community accountable in the creation of an anti-racist environment so that education is accessible for all. More importantly, these students and alumni are willing to collaborate with all Winooski community members so that we do this work together. They are teaching us that diversity is not an add-on to the curriculum, but instead it is crucial and necessary for a democracy in this country. I feel grateful as the community continues to support our school district by passing our budget.

Even though these are difficult times, we are serving as a beacon of light for others in Vermont and in this country. This is why the USDA provided us a loan for our capital project that will save us over 11 million dollars over its lifespan. We are receiving investment because we have not only the vision, but also the grit and resilience, to succeed. We received a generous gift from Bruce Lisman and Kyla Sternlieb to support our schools because they believe in the district's vision. It's not hard to see why people believe in us. We are producing great community members



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such as Hussein Amuri, Penny Ly, and Evelyn Monje who were selected as Vermont's 2021 Presidential Scholars. Yes, that is *three* students from our district! These students were selected because of their outstanding leadership and service to our community. I have no doubt that we will see many more Presidential Scholars from our district because our teachers and curriculum empowers students to be leaders.

In all this work, I believe that we are redefining what it means to be a true Vermonter. Instead of having it defined by the numbers of generations that lived in the state, we recognized that a true Vermonter is defined by their grit and resilience to pursue equity and inclusion for all (and a love for maple syrup doesn't hurt). This is why we are the beacon of light and hope for the rest of the state. Yet we still have much to do and it won't be easy, but I have faith we can do this together.

Let's go into 2021 knowing that not only have we the character to face the challenges ahead but also the appreciation to enjoy our successes. We have Winooski grit.

## Watch School Board Meetings Online!

Did you know you can watch Winooski School Board meetings on the internet on your



own schedule? Visit [www.retn.org](http://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.

### WINOOSKI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

#### Superintendent of Schools

Sean McMannon: 655-0485  
[smcmannon@wsdvt.org](mailto:smcmannon@wsdvt.org)

#### John F. Kennedy Elementary School

Principal: Sara Raabe  
802-655-0411  
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#### Winooski Middle and High School

Co-Principals:  
Kate Grodin and Jean Berthiaume  
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#### Board of School Trustees

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#### 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.

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## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN THE WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT

*The Winooski Restorative Justice for Multicultural Youth Project, launched in 2020, is a collaboration between the Winooski School District, Spectrum Youth and Family Services, UP for Learning, and the City of Winooski with funding from the Vermont Department of Children and Families and an anonymous donor. This monthly column will highlight the Restorative Justice work happening across the district among different groups. For more information please visit our website at <https://tinyurl.com/antiracism-equity>.*

### School Staff Reflect on the Benefits of Being a Circle Keeper

By Kayla Loving and Carly Ngo

A fundamental part of professional learning for restorative justice is providing staff members opportunities to experience and become comfortable with restorative justice circles. We've been offering voluntary district-wide weekly restorative justice circles for staff. Through this approach, staff are able to become more familiar with how circles operate before they're faced with facilitating one for students. Staff are given the option of being a participant or circle keeper. A circle keeper facilitates and poses questions for everyone in the circle to respond to. They're responsible for maintaining the space and ensuring the mutually agreed upon circle agreements are adhered to. A circle keeper plays multiple roles, not only do they hold the role of facilitator, but they're also a participant too. Circle keepers meet with the Restorative Justice Coordinator to review the circle script and discuss their experiences.

The WSD Wellness Coordinator Jaycie Puttlitz, described her experience as a circle keeper: "Our circle topics often tackle issues that can be hard for people to discuss. Sometimes the topic is deeply thought-provoking, sometimes it evokes an emotional response. What I have found, is that the structure and respect at the foundation of the circle gives everyone in it an equal voice. Participants can safely voice their thoughts without the fear of a negative response from others. I wanted to lead circles for our staff because I was curious if restorative practices could have a positive impact on staff wellness. These restorative practices have been particularly helpful for staff this year as they bear the stress and anxiety of working in a pandemic. Having a time and space to open up and connect with colleagues has been incredibly important to staff well-being. And, I believe that the more we practice these circles as a staff the better we will be able to support our students in becoming circle keepers in our classrooms and community."



Behavior Interventionist Mohamed Diop said: "Circle keeping has been a great experience holding space for our WSD staff and administrators to come together, listen to each other, share their authentic perspectives and learn from one another in trusted bubbles through prompts, or topics of discussion that are designed to connect us as employees, foster Restorative Justice, or practice approaches to treat and serve our students better in our school district."

ELL Teacher Jean Plasse said: "I'm really glad my coworkers encouraged me to be a circle keeper. It's really been a powerful way for me to connect with other people. I enjoy helping and this makes me feel like I'm helping in a powerful way. It's not just something else that I do; it's an important part of my Wednesdays. It makes me feel empowered, heard and helpful. I like making space for others and listening to what they have to say. It feels right. I also really appreciate the structure."

High School Math Teacher Luke Dorfman said: "Participating in the staff circles this year as a circle keeper has been a source of joy for me, especially in the midst of so much turbulence and stress that comes with teaching during a pandemic. Having a consistent time and space to connect with my colleagues — to hear about their experiences and emotions and to share my own — has helped me remain balanced and centered. I have valued the opportunity to facilitate these spaces as well, giving others a chance to find connection and community too. My skills as a facilitator have strengthened over time, and I have a growing understanding of and appreciation for the indigenous practices at the heart of circles. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow moving forward."



## Free Meal Kits for Winooski Children

While the School District is fully remote, we are still committed to providing healthy meals for our students, and all children in Winooski. In order to better meet the needs of our families, our food service providers will be offering “make your own meal” kits so that students can make their own meals at home with the groceries provided through the district.

Every child in Winooski, aged 0-18, is eligible for one meal kit which has enough food for seven days for that child. The kits include breakfast and lunch. Meal kits typically include two pre-made meals, as well as bread, milk, meat, cheese, vegetables, fruit, and other staples.



These meal kits will be available for pick-up at the dates listed below from 9-10 am at three locations:

1. Winooski School District  
60 Normand Street
2. Winooski Family Center  
87 Elm Street
3. O'Brien Community Center  
32 Malletts Bay Avenue

If WSD goes back to the previous in-person learning schedule, meal kits will include enough food for five days, rather than seven.



### Meal Kit distribution dates:

- January 6
- January 13
- January 20
- January 27

If your family is experiencing extenuating circumstances (due to quarantine or health issues, for example) please contact your child's teacher or guidance counselor to arrange for home delivery. Due to staffing issues, families must request meal delivery every week and delivery is not guaranteed.



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## Wellness Support and Resources Available

By Declan McDaid, LICSW, Student Assistance Program Coordinator

As many of you might be aware, Centerpoint partners with Winooski Middle and High School to provide health and wellness support and resources to students, parents, and caregivers.



As you know, adolescence is a stage of development which features change and transition—and this change and transition has meaningful impact on an entire family. This year, and notably with COVID-19, has brought some additional considerations and complexities for parents, guardians, caregivers, and students. It can sometimes make things feel better to have someone offer connection, a listening ear, or a space for you to communicate. I also want to take

this time, to recognize and thank you for all that you do.

Winooski-connected parents and caregivers are invited to reach out to me to ask questions, explore developmentally-matched parenting considerations and strategies, learn about community resources, or just have a space to share about parenting or caregiving. I've set aside some time to dedicate to connecting with parents/caregivers by phone:

- Monday 4th January, 12 noon-1pm
- Monday 11th January, 12 noon-1pm

If you would like to schedule time to connect with me, feel free to email me or give me a call (my contact information is below). I realize that these times will not work for everyone, so please be in touch if you would like to figure out a different

day, time or way to connect by calling 802-488-7705 or sending me an email at [dmcdaid@wsdvt.org](mailto:dmcdaid@wsdvt.org)

Additionally, I'm available to remotely facilitate a small group for parents and caregivers who want to discuss, share, vent, listen, or give/receive feedback about topics such as navigating the additional feelings of overwhelm while parenting during this time of COVID-19, ways to focus on your own health and wellbeing while caregiving, and other topics of interest brought by participants. Parents telling each other that "you are not alone" is often the most powerful message in such small groups. Please be in touch if you would like to express interest or to learn more.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### First Foundation Dedicated to Winooski Schools Celebrates \$100,000 Gift

By Emily Hecker, WSD Communications and Development Director

#### Donor Hails the Capital Project a "Vision of Equity"

December 4, 2020, Winooski, VT - The Heart of Winooski (HOW) Foundation is pleased to announce that it has secured a lead gift from Shelburne residents, Bruce Lisman and Kyla Sternlieb.

"In recent years, we've mostly focused our gifts on rescuing dogs and planting trees, but when we heard what was happening in Winooski I knew that we needed to be a part of it," said Bruce Lisman. Kyla Sternlieb owns Under the Weather, a Winooski-based company that produces wellness products for dogs and cats.

Mr. Lisman visited the district several years ago and was struck by how crowded the classrooms were, but also how critical the role of the school is in the lives of all community members—not just the students. More recently, after a virtual tour of the Capital Project design, he saw the project as forward-thinking, innovative, and really designed to meet the entire community's needs. He said, "This initiative is way past a remodeling of Winooski's schools. This is a comprehensive action-oriented effort to change the course of generations of children!"

"Superintendent McMannon presented his vision for the future of the school system and his passion is contagious. The schools in Winooski are places where children will have access to medical, dental, and psychological care in a private setting, in addition to a terrific education fitted to the needs of a highly diverse population," said Lisman. "Community members can access free, healthy food, and parents can receive culturally appropriate support so they can get the skills they need to engage in a modern educational system. In order to build on a vision of equity, they need new space...a lot of it."

"The Winooski Capital Project is an action step that aims to solve the problems of inequity. After all, 37% of the students are English Language Learners and Winooski has among the



**HEART OF WINOOSKI**  
Foundation

highest poverty levels of all cities in Vermont," said Lisman. "The proof will be in the opportunities that are created for each student. They will go on to do great things long after I'm gone. We've chosen to make public our commitment in order to highlight both an extraordinary vision for one of Vermont's most diverse schools

but to remind others that this effort will require the help of many."

The HOW Foundation was established to support the ENDS statement of the Winooski School District, specifically as it pertains to the ongoing Capital Project. "I am incredibly grateful and humbled by Kyla and Bruce's generous investment in our project! Our hope is that others will be motivated to join them in this human-centered, community-driven effort to support innovative, personalized and supportive learning for all students and provide a hub of learning, connection and essential support for all Winooski residents," said Sean McMannon, WSD Superintendent.

The HOW Foundation Board, composed of 12 members, including two students, WSD staff members, a PTO member, a Winooski City Council member and Winooski community members, will work together on an investment plan for this and other donations.

The Capital Project, slated for completion in August 2022, will create approximately 75,000 sq ft of new space including a new gymnasium, middle school, and elementary school wing, as well as the renovation of approximately 125,000 sq ft of existing space. The new design reflects the modern advancement of the educational sector, incorporating a pod design rather than lecture structure, a full health office suite including a school-based health center, a large performing arts center and cafeteria.

Contact: Emily Hecker, ehecker@wsdvt.org, 802-338-7061.

### WSD Needs Your Input!

The WSD school board has requested a community engagement, education, and voice process about broad school safety and security. This process is intended to increase feelings of safety and security in our schools that have been impacted by systemic racism as described in the Winooski Students for Anti-Racism (WSA) letter (<https://bit.ly/WSAdemands>)

The board wants to conduct this community process throughout this month so they can hear from the community to inform their decision-making about general school safety and security by late January and specifically the SRO program for the future.

All community members are encouraged to complete the School Safety and Security Questionnaire ([bit.ly/WSDSafetySecurity](https://bit.ly/WSDSafetySecurity)). Thank you for sharing your input!

### Stay in the Loop — Join the 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](http://www.frontporchforum.com).



HELPING NEIGHBORS CONNECT



## Mission To Mars — 21C Afterschool

*By Suzanne Skaffestad, 21C Director*

Mission to Mars is being offered on Mondays and Thursdays afterschool to 4th grade students in Ms. Haynes and Mr. Cafferky's classes.

In Mission to Mars, they spent the last two sessions planning a mission to send a spacecraft to Mars which included a budget of \$250 million. Students needed to work within budget and decide all aspects of the mission to include the power system, communications, how they would collect samples and finally, which spacecraft would be appropriate to launch all the equipment they would need. Students have now moved onto the next step of planning this mission by creating rovers (made with pasta noodles) that they imagine transporting to Mars as a part of their mission.

Check out the creative rovers from the Monday and Thursday classes!

Thank you, Ms. Haynes, 4th grade teacher for bringing this afterschool opportunity to our students. Thank you, to the parents/guardians for allowing your child to participate. And, thank you, to our AWESOME students for sharing their creativity and enthusiasm with us.



## Linking Engineering To Life — 21C Afterschool

*By Suzanne Skaffestad, 21C Director*

Linking Engineering to Life (LEL) is a new afterschool program that is being offered in person and virtually for six students in Ms. Bissonette's class supported by Jen Lapointe and two UVM engineering students, Brianna Alwell and Paige Melcher.

LEL hybrid experience involves team building ice breakers, video-guided engineering tasks, inspirational videos of women engineers, and explores issues of equity and inclusion as well as meet youth from other LEL clubs across Vermont. The program will culminate in an engineering showcase for friends, family and guests.

The UVM Mentors were trained by Tracy Truzansky, STEM consultant for Vermont Afterschool. Winooski's 21C afterschool program was one of 13 sites that agreed to offer engineering experiences for students. It is pretty amazing that we are able to offer new programs to students, despite Covid-19!

It is also pretty amazing that teachers are ready to support 21C classes and students afterschool. And, it is even more remarkable that students want to stay after school after they have been wearing their masks all day! I think that says a lot about our students, staff and the quality of afterschool opportunities in Winooski.

Thank you, to Jen Lapointe for facilitating this class, thank you, to Brianna and Paige for being the lead LEL mentors and instructors, and thank you, to Vermont Afterschool and Tracy Truzansky, for all the resources that you provided to make this class possible.

Even though Winooski moved to remote learning in December, this class



was able to continue because students were prepared in advance to take their learning materials home for their next class, which can happen remotely.

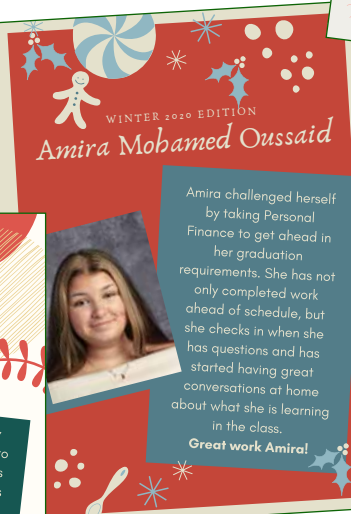
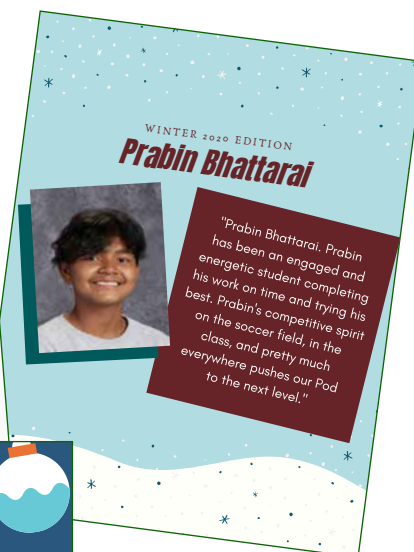
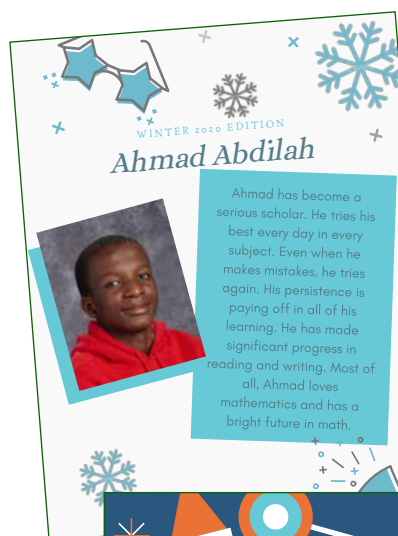
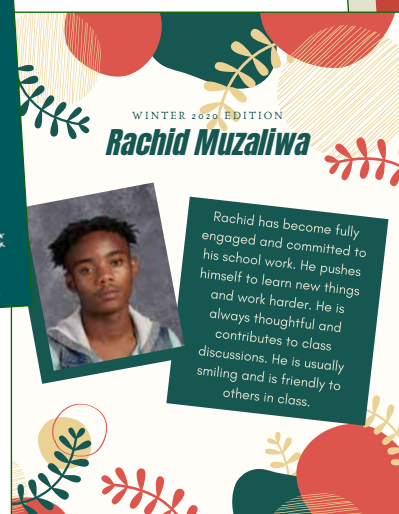
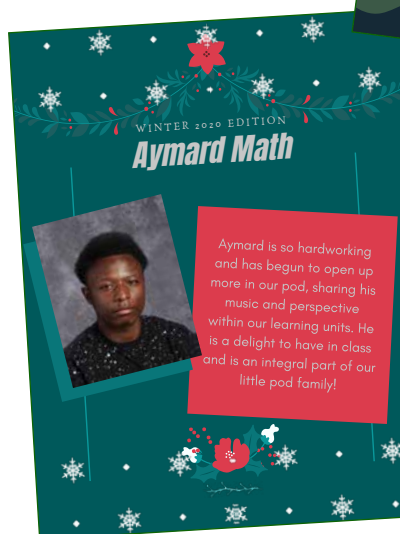
Take that Covid-19!!



# Congrats to this Season's Student Spotlights!

By Jessica Bruce, Visual Arts Teacher

Winooski High School teachers and staff would like to recognize and congratulate these fine students for their hard work and dedication to their education this school year. Amidst all the challenges these students face in 2020, they have been rockin' it!







## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Municipal Update January 2021

By Paul Sarne, Communications Coordinator



**COVID-19  
Information  
& Updates**

## Municipal Services

**The City of Winooski is following up-to-date guidance from the CDC and the State of Vermont to continue to provide municipal services during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Winooski City Hall is open to the public, M-F, 9am - 3pm where:**

- members of the public are required to wear a mask or face-covering - masks are available for those without them
- stanchions, dividers, and standing points are installed to facilitate a socially distanced line that may be extended outdoors if needed
- a log of all individuals will be maintained by the City Clerk's Office
- the land records vault is only open by appointment - call 802 655 6410 to schedule
- a maximum of two individuals will be allowed in the vault at a time
- no more than 10 staff will be present at any time
- phones are answered at City Hall between 7:30 and 4:30
- online business is strongly encouraged - visit [winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.gov) to learn more.

### Police, Fire, and Public Works

Services remain fully operational.

### Public meetings

City Council, board, commission, and committee meetings will continue to hold their meetings remotely via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Participation information is shared with each meeting warning. Sign up for our meeting notices and email updates at [winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.gov)

### Utility Disconnections

All disconnections due to utility non-payments are canceled for the quarter.

### Parking and Code Enforcement

– Parking is being enforced Downtown. We encourage people to use the ParkMobile app as much as possible, available at [parkmobile.io](http://parkmobile.io). Parking kiosks will be sanitized daily.

### Code Enforcement Residential and Commercial Inspections

Following public health guidance, we have restarted inspections with safety procedures in place. Housing complaints continue to be processed.

### Zoning Permit Application Submission

To the extent possible, applications for zoning permits including any supporting documents should be sent via email to [evorwald@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:evorwald@winooski.vt.gov).

### Building Permit Application Submission

To the extent possible, applications for building permits, including any supporting documents should be sent via email to [lkeating@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:lkeating@winooski.vt.gov).

### Public Parks

Following state guidance, parks and trails remain open for safe, responsible use.

- If you are feeling sick or have been exposed to someone who is sick, please stay home
- Masks or face coverings are required when near others
- Please respect 6' physical distancing

and maintain small group sizes and do not congregate/gather - especially in our parking areas

- The softball field at Landry Park is open for informal use by groups of 10 or fewer
- Portalets at Landry Park are not provided, so please plan accordingly

For current updates, resources, and municipal service information please visit [winooski.vt.gov/covid-19](http://winooski.vt.gov/covid-19) or dial 802 655 3908. At this site, you'll find many links and resources organized by topic, including:

- Businesses and Employees
- Families and Childcare
- Federal/State/Local Support
- Food Security
- Health and Safety
- Multilingual/Translation
- Seniors & Older Vermonters
- Volunteering
- Winooski School District

Seniors and older Vermonters can call our dedicated support line: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10am-2pm / 802 655 6425 / Voice Mail 24/7.

Our Community Services Department has provided remote resources for community members during this difficult time. They include everything from health and safety resources to education and entertainment offerings. We've got a little something for everyone, organized

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

**Visit the city website at [winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.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 @winooski

by department:

- Children and Family Programs
- Recreation and Parks
- Senior Programs
- Winooski Memorial Library

To view our remote resources, visit:  
[winooski.vt.gov/remoteresources](http://winooski.vt.gov/remoteresources)

We also encourage you to go to the Vermont Department of Health for regular state-wide updates, data, and resources: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19>

## Wear a Mask or Face Covering in Winooski



Governor Phil Scott's Statewide mask mandate remains in effect. The mandate requires all Vermonters to wear masks or cloth facial coverings any time it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet with others from outside their household. Those who are not required to use masks include those exercising outdoors, those under the age of 2, those with a medical or developmental condition that is complicated by a facial covering and those with difficulty breathing. Businesses and other entities may require customers to wear masks, including signage explaining mask requirements and denial of entry or service to those who decline to wear masks.

Please visit our COVID-19 page for full details regarding the mandate and view our comprehensive mask and face-covering resources: [winooski.vt.gov/covid-19](http://winooski.vt.gov/covid-19)

## Business Resources



We are proud and grateful to our business community in Winooski for taking good care of their customers and employees during this challenging time. Please continue to support our small business community if you are able! Downtown Winooski has created a "support Winooski businesses

page" where you can find out how to help and support our business community: [downtownwinooski.org/support-winooski-businesses-during-covid-19](http://downtownwinooski.org/support-winooski-businesses-during-covid-19)

Business owners can also access their Winooski Business Portal for an extensive list of resources for businesses: [downtownwinooski.org/covid-19-winooski-business-portal](http://downtownwinooski.org/covid-19-winooski-business-portal)

In response to the profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Winooski business community, the City of Winooski has adapted the Winooski Small Business Loan (WSBL) Program to provide businesses with emergency loans to assist them in bridging this difficult time. The new Tier 4 COVID-19 Relief Loan through the Winooski Small Business Loan Program offers businesses a 0% interest rate for the first 24 months of the loan term through a City interest rate buy-down and defers the principal payments for the first four months of the loan. This proposed loan structure will allow businesses leeway while they remain under mandatory closure orders and is serviced by Opportunities Credit Union. To learn more about this program and to apply, visit [winooski.vt.gov/332/Small-Business-Loan-Program](http://winooski.vt.gov/332/Small-Business-Loan-Program)

### Housing Assistance for Homeowners, Renters, and Landlords

To help slow the spread of COVID-19, many resources are available through the Vermont Department of Health, the CDC, and the EPA. These pages, documents, and signs offer guidance and instructions that cover a wide range of subjects including health, safety, prevention, hygiene, sanitization, and more. Translated materials are provided.

- [accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/individuals](http://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/individuals)
- [healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/homeowners](http://healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/homeowners)
- [healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/landlords-renters](http://healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/landlords-renters)
- [healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/building-professionals-realtors](http://healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/building-professionals-realtors)
- [healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/resources](http://healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/resources)
- [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html)
- [epa.gov/coronavirus](http://epa.gov/coronavirus)

## COVID-19 Testing in Winooski

**The City of Winooski has partnered with the Vermont Department of Health and CIC Health to provide daily on-going COVID-19 testing in Winooski at the O'Brien Community Center (32 Malletts Bay Ave) for the rest of December 2020 and January 2021.**

To register, please visit [vermont.force.com/events/s/selfregistration](http://vermont.force.com/events/s/selfregistration) or call 211.

- Mondays, 5 - 8pm
- Tuesdays, 9am - 3pm
- Wednesdays, 9am - 3pm
- Thursdays, 9am - 3pm
- Fridays, 9am - 3pm
- Saturdays, 9am - 3pm
- Sundays, 9am - 3pm

*Please note, testing will not be available on the following days:*

- Wed. 12.23.20, Thurs. 12.24.20, Fri. 12.25.20
- Wed. 12.30.20, Thurs. 12.31.20, Fri. 1.1.21

For registration help in English: Call 211 or 802 828 2828.

For registration help in other languages: Call 802 503 5402 or 802 355 0795. Interpreters will be provided at all Winooski events.

View our COVID-19 resources (including translation information) at [winooski.vt.gov/covid-19](http://winooski.vt.gov/covid-19).

The Health Department recommends testing as soon as possible when:

- you have symptoms of COVID-19
- you are referred by your health care provider
- a person in your workplace or household, or a person you attended an event with, tests positive for COVID-19
- you plan on going to a social gathering with people you don't live with (other than recreating with one masked person outside).

You should get tested before the gathering, right after, and again on day 7. If you often gather socially with people you don't live with, you should get tested weekly. College students returning to Vermont from out of state should quarantine and be tested on or after day 7 of quarantine after returning home. Travelers to Vermont and Vermonters returning from out of state must follow quarantine requirements. You have the

option to get a test on or after day 7 of quarantine and end your quarantine early with a negative test result.

Testing is provided at no cost. When you register you will be asked for insurance information – but, insurance is not required for testing, and you will not receive a bill or be charged a copay. The Health Department encourages people to provide their insurance information when registering. Because the companies can be reimbursed for their charges, it offsets some costs to the state, allowing the Vermont Department of Health to continue offering widespread testing.

For full details on testing and to view other testing locations in Vermont, please visit the Vermont Department of Health COVID-19 testing page: [healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing](https://healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing)

## Mayor's Update

Every January, city leadership is focused on the annual budget process. We're in the thick of planning the budget for the fiscal year 2022 (FY22) and there is still time to have your voices heard during this important decision-making process. FY22 budget meetings coincide with our remote City Council meetings and can be attended by computer or phone via Zoom. For full meeting information, presentations, and participation instructions, please visit [winooskivt.gov/fy22](https://winooskivt.gov/fy22).

We've held a few of these meetings by now - our proposed city budget maintains current services without any big new asks and a modest tax rate increase (less than the cost of living or about \$47 more per year for the average homeowner in Winooski). As always, you'll vote on the final budget on Town Meeting Day. We usually provide an in-person community dinner and hold a joint budget presentation at the Winooski School District before Town Meeting Day, but this year we'll be meeting virtually. Even so, I'm hopeful that everyone will be just as engaged and join us! Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you have ahead of the final vote.

Speaking of Town Meeting Day, I'd like to remind folks that while voters did approve the charter change to allow all -resident voting back in November, that change still requires approval by the state legislature and the process is still ongoing.

US citizenship will be required to vote in Winooski during the 2021 Town Meeting Day - you can learn more about the charter change/all-resident voting process at [winooskivt.gov/charter](https://winooskivt.gov/charter).

While our next city budget doesn't include any new asks, it does include some exciting new work. Winooski was recently awarded a \$300,000 grant to support equity in our city, as part of the Working Communities Challenge, a program designed to advance local collaborative efforts that build strong, healthy economies and communities in northern New England. Winooski will use this 3-year resource to establish systems to lift underrepresented voices and involve the area's diverse population in decision-making and community dialogue. We are partnering with the Winooski School District, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, AALV, and the Winooski Housing Authority on this important work.

I hope everyone was able to enjoy the holiday season in some manner this year, even though we couldn't gather or travel. While it has been tough to live in this pandemic, I am so thankful for our welcoming and caring community; thank you for continuing to wear your masks, socially distance, and follow the Health Department's guidance. We are a strong and resilient community, dedicated to supporting each other.

Feel free to reach out any time.

— Mayor Kristine Lott,  
[klott@winooskivt.gov](mailto:klott@winooskivt.gov)

## 2021 Winter Parking Ban Reminder



Winter is here, and 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 at [nixle.com](https://nixle.com).

Overnight street parking is prohibited in Downtown Winooski from 2:30am to

6am (December 1st to March 31st). For the rest of the City, winter parking bans are made on a case-by-case, weather-dependent basis or for area-specific snow removal where overnight street parking is prohibited from 11pm to 7am.

- 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
- Landline users must retrieve their updates by calling the dedicated parking ban line at 802 655 3908
- Winter parking ban signs (East Allen St. near the Exit 15 off-ramp and entering Winooski via the Burlington/Winooski Bridge) 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 the kiosk or by the ParkMobile app) from 6pm to 7am

If you have questions regarding winter parking bans, please call 802 655 6410. If your vehicle has been towed, please contact Elite Auto and Truck Service and Sales: 802 497 0176 Visit our parking page at any time: [winooskivt.gov/parking](https://winooskivt.gov/parking).

## Winooski Receives Working Communities Challenge Grant



Winooski received a three-year, \$300,000 grant to implement an initiative which will focus on engaging the full diversity of the Winooski community in critical decision-making. Winooski is the most diverse municipality in northern New England and the only majority-minority school district in Vermont. The initiative aims to establish systems that lift underrepresented voices and accurately reflect the area's demographics. Census data demonstrates that 31% of Winooski residents live below the poverty threshold. Many of these at-risk individuals are new Americans and face very real language, cultural, and trust barriers to



participating in community dialogue. Without intervention, more than one-fifth of the low-income community will have no voice in the decision-making processes that directly impact them.

The grant will allow Winooski to:

- Establish an Equity Commission geared towards making sure diverse voices are included in community decision-making processes.
- Expand the existing Community Cultural Liaison roles to build and strengthen partnerships between the city, school district, businesses, and community organizations.
- Hire a city Equity Director who would lead these changes and anti-racism work.
- Enhance the city's commitment to inclusion.
- Ensure that the strategic advantages diversity brings are accompanied by a future in which all voices are heard in decision-making and represented in the seats of power.
- Be a model for the future communities of Vermont.

About the Working Communities Challenge - The Working Communities Challenge advances local collaborative efforts that build strong, healthy economies and communities in Vermont's rural towns, regions, and smaller cities. Launched in 2019, the initiative supports diverse, local teams as they tackle complex challenges facing their communities. This unique three-year grant competition focuses on economic opportunity for communities and residents with low incomes. It's supported by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the State of Vermont, national and local philanthropy, and private sector employers.

To read the full press release, and for additional details, visit [winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.gov).

## Reminders from the City Clerk's Office

### New After Hours Drop Box

The City Clerk's Office has installed a new, after hours drop box! Need to get us a document, payment, or other information after we close? Simply use the box built into the wall of the City Clerk's Office, just outside and to the left of the main entrance of Winooski City Hall.

Regular hours are M-F, 9 am-3pm.

### Open Elected Official Positions and Last Day to File

The last day to file the consent form for City Councilors (2 open seats), Mayor, School Board Members, and Champlain Water District Commissioner is Monday, January 25, 2021 at 5pm. Please call or stop by the City Clerk's Office for details on how to file your intent to run the positions listed above:

Winooski City Hall  
27 West Allen Street  
M - F, 9am - 3pm  
802 655 6410

### Important Dates

#### Virtual City Council Meetings and FY22 Budget Process Meetings:

- January 4 - Community Services Budget Presentation (Library, Senior Center, Thrive, Recreation, and Parks)
- January 11 - Public Safety Budget Presentations (Police, Dispatch, Fire, Code Enforcement, and Rental Registry)
- January 19 - Overall Budget Discussion
- January 25 - Final Budget Vote and Ballot Items

Please visit [winooski.vt.gov/fy22](http://winooski.vt.gov/fy22) for full budget information, presentations, and participation instructions.

#### City Hall Closed:

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 18 - Martin Luther King Day

## Community Services Updates

### Winooski Receives Youth Council Grant



The City of Winooski's Community Services Department is pleased to announce that they were awarded a grant through the Vermont Afterschool, Inc. Youth Council Grant program to support the creation of Winooski's own Youth Council.

Grant funds will allow our team to develop and sustain a Youth Council that will provide on-going leadership and help create an expanded slate of programs that will be relevant and accessible for our young people. Members will also be tasked with developing a participatory budgeting process by which they will

sub-grant between \$2,000 and \$5,000 out to community-driven projects that will enhance or add youth programming options to our community. Members will be provided a stipend for their participation at \$25 per meeting.

Applications are now open for Winooski's Youth Council! Interested applicants in grades 6 - 12 can simply visit [winooski.vt.gov/youthcouncil](http://winooski.vt.gov/youthcouncil) and fill out a brief survey. A hardcopy application is also available. The Youth Council will be supported by a staff team made up of the AmeriCorps VISTA Youth Programs Coordinator, the Recreational Programs Manager, and staff from the Winooski Memorial Library.

The Youth Council Grant Program is designed to create a structure for engaging youth and young adults in leadership development and decision making in a meaningful way, where they can see and experience the impact of their efforts on their peers and their broader community. To learn more, visit [vermontafterschool.org](http://vermontafterschool.org).

Questions regarding this press release can be sent to Ray Coffey, Community Services Director: [rcoffey@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:rcoffey@winooski.vt.gov) / 802 373 0500

### Thrive After School Program

Thrive continues to run after-school programming for JFK Elementary students. Thrive is a state-licensed, 3 STAR childcare/enrichment program that runs from 3-5:30pm. We partner with the Winooski School District to provide a community where children in grades K-5 explore, learn, and grow during their after school hours. During Thrive, students engage with creative arts, STEM and Makerspace activities, literacy skills, cooperative and socio-emotional learning, outdoor play, and more. Students in grades K-5 can attend Thrive After School on their 4 in-person learning days once the new schedule begins. The cost is \$72 per week, and we accept state childcare subsidy as well as offer scholarships to families in need. Thrive follows all health and safety guidance from the CDC and Vermont Department of Health as well as Winooski School District rules. Visit [winooski.vt.gov/thrive](http://winooski.vt.gov/thrive) to learn more and enroll!

## Winooski Memorial Library



### Now Open by Limited Appointment

The Winooski Memorial Library is now open by appointment for 30 minute "Browse and Borrow" sessions. Starting on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, the Library will be open on a by-appointment basis by reserving half-hour "Browse and Borrow" sessions.

Visitors and staff are required to wear masks and maintain a minimum 6' social distance while inside the library at all times. Visits are limited to one appointment per week per individual or household/family group, and a family group is up to four people who all live together in the same household. Children under 10 must be accompanied at all times by a parent or caregiver 16 and older.

For full details and to make your reservation today, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/library](http://winooski.vt.gov/library) or call 802 655 6424.

### Curbside Pickup Still Available

- Monday - Friday 10am – 4pm
- Saturday - 10am – 2pm
- Call or email to request items: 802 655 6424 / [winooskilibrary@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:winooskilibrary@winooski.vt.gov)



### Virtual Academic & Career Support

Virtual Academic & Career Support is here to help you with your challenging assignments for class and life. Are you stuck on an assignment? Trying to write an essay for your college applications? Applying for a job? We've got the support you need - experienced community volunteers and tutors from the University of Vermont's Education Program will personally help you with your academic and professional development. This program is supported by the VT Agency of Education 21st Century Learning Center Grant in partnership with the Winooski School District.

Now featuring special breakout sessions - give your brain a break and

enjoy one of our special activities!

**Pictionary** / Tuesdays / 3 - 4:30pm - Play a round of Pictionary with us. In this quick-draw classic, the guesses can be just as hilarious as the sketches. You only need your imagination.

**Karaoke** / Wednesdays / 3 - 4:30pm - Sing your favorite songs karaoke-style with your friends.

**Jeopardy** / Thursdays / 3 - 4:30pm - Tutors will test your knowledge during this gameshow favorite.

Learn more at [winooski.vt.gov/library](http://winooski.vt.gov/library). To sign up, please call or email Josh Neilson, Youth Services Coordinator: 802 655 6424 / [jneilson@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:jneilson@winooski.vt.gov)



### Virtual Dungeons and Dragons

The Winooski Memorial Library is excited to announce the continuation of our Dungeons & Dragons program, now virtual via Zoom! Welcome to the world of cooperative narrative role play where the story is told by everyone playing. Learn about collaborative storytelling through our series of information and gaming sessions - build amazing Worlds with us during a series of lessons and adventures. This program is designed for youth ages 10 - 18.

- Begins January 4, 2021 Mondays / 3 - 7pm via Zoom - free!
- To sign up, call or email our Library Youth Services Coordinator, Josh Neilson: [jneilson@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:jneilson@winooski.vt.gov) / 802 655 6424.

### Take Home Art Kits

The Winooski Memorial Library and Winooski Recreation and Parks have teamed up to provide our first take-home art kit - please enjoy some indoor fun on the cold winter days in Winooski! Enjoy our "owl" theme kit, which includes:

- art supplies and instructions on how to create your very own pinecone owl
- a local owls info sheet for discovering feathered friends in Winooski's parks
- a special QR Code for story read-along of "Owl Babies"

These amazing kits are available for curbside pickup at the Winooski Memorial Library. Kits are free and available first-come, first-served. Call or email to request today: 802 655 6424 / [winooskilibrary@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:winooskilibrary@winooski.vt.gov)



### Library of Things

Did you know the Winooski Memorial Library has more than books to get you through the winter? We're so excited to introduce our "Library of Things"! This collection of nontraditional items available for you to borrow - we have snow shovels for your steps and driveways, mood lights for those winter blues, board games, blood pressure kits, and even a projector/screen kit to host your own family film night!

To view the full list of items, simply visit the Library's online catalog and search for "Library of Things" at [winooski.vt.gov/libraryofthings](http://winooski.vt.gov/libraryofthings).



### Recreation and Parks

#### Winooski Winter Art Walk - Snow Artists Needed!

Winooski Recreation and Parks is planning our very first Winter Art Walk, but we need participants to sign up before we launch. This fun and engaging outdoor activity is meant to provide a socially distant opportunity for community members to express their creativity, get some exercise, and enjoy our local parks. We need households, families, individuals, and businesses to get involved.

Would you be interested in creating an amazing piece of winter art? Participants will be asked to build their most creative and unique snow person, animal, or custom creative display. Any space

works - front yards, public parks, patios  
- anywhere that doesn't obstruct street or sidewalk access is fair game.

Winooski Recreation and Parks will be judging your creations - we'll have special prizes for:

- best classic snowperson
- best snow animal
- most creative fan favorite (you pick!)

We need at least 10 participants to sign up, but more are welcome! This project is weather/snow dependent - we're hoping to launch later in January or February, that's when you'll be creating your sculptures. To sign up, or if you have questions - call or email Jenny Hill, Recreation Programs Manager: [jhill@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:jhill@winooski.vt.gov) / 802 777 1621. We'll need your contact information, where you intend to display your art, and a fun title for your creation. Full details on the program launch to follow!



#### Plastic Recycling Partnership with Trex®

Winooski Recreation and Parks are partnering with Trex® to reduce our community's plastic waste footprint. Do you have unwanted plastic waste? Help us collect 500 lbs or more and we'll turn it into a brand-new park bench!

We are currently accepting:

- bread bags
- bubble wrap
- case overwrap
- cereal box liners
- dry cleaning bags
- grocery & retail bags
- ice bags
- newspaper sleeves
- plastic eCommerce mailers
- produce bags
- resealable bags (Ziploc)

Donated plastic should be clean, dry, free of stickers. Drop off your plastic in the marked Trex® collection bins at these participating locations:

- Winooski City Hall (27 West Allen St.)
- Winooski Senior Center (123 Barlow St.)
- Winooski Memorial Library (32

Malletts Bay Ave)

- Commodities Natural Foods (65 Winooski Falls Way)

Thank you for helping us reduce Winooski's plastic waste! We're also looking for volunteers to help with this program. Please email Gwennie Talbot, Parks & Community Gardens Manager for more information: [gtalbot@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:gtalbot@winooski.vt.gov).



#### Yoga in the Park Volunteers Needed

Winooski Recreation and Parks are looking for enthusiastic, creative, and passionate volunteer yoga instructors who can partner with us on an outdoor, public parks Yoga program we're planning for the spring/summer months. Looking to give back to the community? If you are a certified 200-hour Registered Yoga Teacher and interested in getting involved, please call or email Jenny Hill, Recreation Programs Manager: 802 777 1621 / [jhill@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:jhill@winooski.vt.gov)

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Learn more and apply for any of our volunteer opportunities at [winooski.vt.gov/volunteer](http://winooski.vt.gov/volunteer).

#### Nordic Ski Park Attendant

Under the direction of the Winooski Recreation Department in partnership with the Catamount Trail Association, we need 2 Nordic Ski Park Volunteers to support the Nordic Ski Rental program. This exciting outdoor opportunity will be taking place in Winooski's own Gilbrook Natural Area Trail network.

Participants interested in the program will register through Winooski Parks and Rec and then Catamount Trail Association will provide us with the equipment. Our volunteers will help facilitate the distribution of equipment on location to registered participants and answer any questions/provide assistance to less experienced Nordic Skiers.

We need 2 volunteers each Saturday starting January 9th, 2020 going until February 13th, 2020. Volunteers will need to be present from 9:30am to 12:45pm.

#### Exercise Video Instructor Volunteer

Under the direction of the Winooski Recreation Department, Exercise Video Instructor Volunteers will work with the Rec Department to record an exercise, wellness or fitness class in their area of expertise to be posted on the Winooski Rec page to be accessed by our community.

#### Eco-Educator Volunteer

Under the direction of Winooski Recreation & Parks in partnership with the Winooski Valley Parks District, the Eco-Educator volunteer will lead a group of kids through Winooski's natural parks introducing them to the wildlife living as their neighbors. Each week, for six sessions, the Eco-Educator will assist students in their exploration of local birds and animals. They will provide structure so that the participants may gain understanding of how to use binoculars, basic tracking techniques, and snowshoes. Students will journal their findings in this ecological investigation of their hometown. Ultimately, our volunteer will work alongside Winooski's Youth Programs Coordinator to help facilitate a fun and educational experience for middle schoolers.

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# Girl Scouting in Winooski

By Amy Snow Lothrop

Please join Winooski Girl Scouts in congratulating 12 of our scouts in persevering during an unprecedented year to earn the Bronze and Silver awards. We are incredibly proud of their determination, compassion and desire to fulfill the Girl Scout mission of making the world a better place. The Bronze Award is the 3rd highest award a Girl Scout can earn. It requires the group project to be sustainable, inspire others to act and invest a minimum of 20 hours per girl. The Silver Award is the 2nd highest award. It also requires sustainability, addressing a problem's root cause, education and inspiring others. This project is for a minimum of 1-4 girls and each must invest 50 hours.

Bronze Award Girl Scouts Amelia Slade, Bayley Hayes, Carmen Johnson and



Isabella Soutiere decided to help foster teens. In their experience with friends in the foster care community, their needs are often overlooked. They wanted to make sure these teens would have a positive experience if they had to switch schools. They used their 2020 cookie funds to purchase backpacks complete with school supplies, masks and hand sanitizer. We donated these to DCF for distribution.

Silver Award Girl Scouts, who also were Bronze earners, Amira Mohamed-Oussaid, Amoni Barratt-LeBlanc, Aundrea Nunez, Gabriella Lothrop-Penn, Logan Erwin, Olivia Johnson, Thera Neilson and Zoe Need completed four different projects. Amira and Zoe addressed the need for volunteers at Franklin County Animal Rescue with their video about why to help out. Amoni, Gabriella and Logan addressed teens at risk for suicide at WHS by creating a Tree

of Life with resources to suicide hotlines and hopeful quotes. Aundrea and Olivia choose to address access to books during a pandemic with their Little Free Library. Thera and her friend, Sali, worked on helping Union de Cyclistes de Guinee to build a website to promote their work and seek donations. Their mission is to help young men and women access bicycles for sport, education and employment. All of these projects create lasting change to make the world a better place.

Congratulations to everyone for their leadership, compassion, dedication and desire to make a difference in their world. These young ladies are part of the Winooski Girl Scout troops. We are Girl Scouts from Daisy to Ambassador level and open to all girls. If you are interested in joining our adventure, contact Amy Snow Lothrop via [WinooskiTroops@gmail.com](mailto:WinooskiTroops@gmail.com) or 802-373-7288. Stay well.



## CONNECT TO VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEERS

NONPROFITS

BUSINESSES

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

United Way

United Way of Northwest Vermont

## Support Winooski Businesses

Your continued support of Winooski's business community is so valuable! Please check out the 'Support Winooski Businesses' list for information about what businesses are open: [www.downtownwinooski.org](http://www.downtownwinooski.org). We are proud of the Winooski small business community for taking such good care of their employees and customers.



## For families, caregivers, and kids!

By Martina Kerker

Please join me for some much needed time to connect.



Whether you would like to do a little yoga, read a story, or just enjoy a little chat. I offer family support every Tuesday from 11am-12pm via Zoom online. Please reach out via email or phone to receive the Zoom link information!

If that time does not work, feel free to send an email or a text message to me at [mkerker@howardcenter.org](mailto:mkerker@howardcenter.org) or call 802-324 6405.

## Winooski North End Studios "Knowledge Saves Lives"

### Looking for Kids to Help on an Important Project

Preparations have begun on the active phase of the "Knowledge Saves Lives" program at North End Studios in Winooski, which is focused on engaging youth in creating messaging about COVID-19. "Knowledge Saves Lives" is a partnership between North End Studios and the Vermont Department of Health. The primary goal of the project is to use the energy and creativity of kids to spread important and life-saving information to their peers and families, using techniques that the kids consider most likely to be successful. Also contributing to this collaboration are the UVM Center for Rural Studies and Matthew Dugan with past and present students from the UVM Department of Community Development and Applied Economics.

North End Studios would like to put out a call to kids in Winooski! We are looking for kids approximately 10-15 years old who are interested in learning new things and finding ways to express their thoughts to others in creative ways.

Do you like to paint, write, dance, or sing? Would you like to gain skill in performing, videography, sound and lighting production, script-writing or directing? You'll need to commit to attending discussions to increase your knowledge about COVID-19 and how we can control it. You'll participate in trainings to learn the skills you need to be part of the creation of videos to air on social media, posters to distribute through the community, and/or live performances to present at community events when that becomes possible.

We want to make sure to include kids of different ethnic backgrounds so if you are Somali Bantu, Bhutanese, Congolese, Middle Eastern, or from another ethnic background, please consider joining. If this sounds interesting, we want to hear from you! You can call or text Ben at 802-233-3144, or talk to him about it if you see him around the O'Brien Community Center. You can also email [ben@northendstudios.org](mailto:ben@northendstudios.org). He'll tell you more about what the program has to offer you and what it expects from you in return.

## Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for January

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

<b>Saturday, January 9th</b>	9:30 am to 11:00 am	Fresh fruit, veggies, bread and deli items
<b>Wednesday, January 13th</b>	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, meat and eggs
<b>Saturday, January 23rd</b>	9:30 am to 11:00 am	Fresh fruit, veggies, bread and deli items
<b>Wednesday, January 27th</b>	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, meat and eggs

**Food Shelf Policy:** Winooski residents may access the pantry staples one Wednesday each month. Folks may come every Saturday we are open 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. We are 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 at 24 West Allen Street. 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. You may also go on-line to our website: [winooskifoodshelf.org](http://winooskifoodshelf.org) and make an electronic donation.

**Donation Drop Off Locations:** The Winooski Senior Center is currently closed. Please visit our other donation drop off locations: Commodities Natural

## Christmas Tree Pickup Fundraiser

The girls and boys basketball program will be doing a fundraiser on Sat. Jan. 9th between 10am to 2pm.

A suggested donation of \$10.00 to be left in the tree at the side of the road. Pickup will be Winooski, Colchester and bordering Essex. Contact Coach Robinson by January 8th at [jprob13@yahoo.com](mailto:jprob13@yahoo.com) if you would like to schedule a pickup.

# YOUR LOCAL MEDIA

Watch local programs, events, and meetings on cable TV and online.

Learn how to make community media.

- [VERMONTCAM.ORG](http://VERMONTCAM.ORG) + Channels 1074 (Comcast), 15 (BT), HD 215 (BT)
- [RETN.ORG](http://RETN.ORG) + Channels 1094 (Comcast), 16 (BT), BTVD-HD 216 (BT)
- [CH17.TV](http://CH17.TV) + Channels 1087 (Comcast), 17 (BT), 317 (BT)



# Winooski Senior Center

By Barb Pitfido, Senior Programs Manager

As we continue to practice steps to stay safe and work on decreasing the spread of COVID-19 in our community, we want to stay connected with you! Seniors and older Vermonters can call our dedicated support line: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10am - 2pm / 802 655 6425 / Voice Mail 24/7.

## Pen Pal Program with Winooski Youth

The Winooski Senior Center and the Thrive After School program are partnering to offer a new intergenerational pen pal program! Each month, participants will be presented with a prompt. Following the prompt, both seniors and students will write a personalized letter to their pen pal. Staff will deliver the letters between the Senior Center and the school. No stamps required! This is an excellent opportunity to connect with a community member that you otherwise might not get to know. Call us at 802 655 6425 for a reservation to participate.

## Meals on Wheels

If you know of an older Vermont who has special nutrition requirements or is having difficulty with meal preparation, please call Age Well at 802 863 0360 to

find out the eligibility requirements. No one is denied meals due to an inability to donate. Volunteer drivers are always needed. We are currently looking for volunteers to assist in processing and packaging meals daily from 8:30-10am. Interested? Visit [winooski.vt.gov/volunteer](http://winooski.vt.gov/volunteer) to learn more or call 802 655 1392.

## More than a Meal

In partnership with Age Well, we are offering Older Vermonters (60+) a free nutritious meal on Wednesdays. We want to continue to support you being well at home and provide you with an opportunity to stay connected to your community while enjoying a healthy and deliciously prepared meal, and some goodies from us! We offer contactless delivery to your Winooski home or apartment building entrance. Curbside pickup is also available. Reservations must be made by Noon the Friday before the scheduled Wednesday meal. Please call us at 802 655 6425 or email us at [seniorcenter@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@winooski.vt.gov) for the weekly menu and all the details.

This program was featured via UVM's student run project "The Winooski News" - see it at [thewinooskinews.com!](http://thewinooskinews.com!)



Here are some holiday photos from 2019 – we hope they bring you some joy. Wishing you all a safe and healthy 2021!

— Winooski Senior Center





# Celebrating Prevention in 2020 and Looking Towards 2021

By Jane Henderson, Grants Manager, Winooski Partnership for Prevention

Happy 2021, Winooski! From everyone at the Winooski Partnership for Prevention, we hope that you each had a safe, joyful, and warm holiday.

**Free Student Animation Course in February:** Through a partnership with Scout Digital (a local creative and video marketing agency), we will be offering three virtual classes for Winooski students focusing on the 101s of creating animations. In the first class the students will learn the basics by creating their own flipbooks, in the second installation students will get to see firsthand how different elements are created, and in the final installation, the students will be creating their very own prevention animation (all creative direction is in their hands!).

Each class will also feature a discussion around remaining healthy and substance free! Classes will start in February (exact dates are TBD, but keep an eye on our socials and our website for the time being). If you have any questions or would like to sign your student up for the course, please reach out to Jane at

[jhenderson@winooskiprevention.org](mailto:jhenderson@winooskiprevention.org).

We can't wait to see what they come up with!

**Celebrating Community in 2020:** In the month of November and December we were able to partner with some incredible local chefs to offer over 80 free meals to members of the Winooski community. Special thanks for the talented cooking of Sherpa Foods (Himalayan cuisine) and Jilib's Giblets (Somali Bantu cuisine). Through these take-out community dinners, we were able to connect with many of you that might not have joined us for one of our in-person community dinners - thank you for connecting with us. We hope to continue this event series in some capacity throughout 2021, to get notified when meals get scheduled, visit our website and sign-up for our monthly newsletter.

At each dinner we featured different resources for parents and adults around prevention. Interested in seeing conversation starters to use at the dinner table to start talking with your child about



substance-use? Visit the resource page on our website: [winooskiprevention.org](http://winooskiprevention.org) or we have shared the handouts on our social media accounts.

## HEALTH CORNER

### Happy New Year!

By Katharine Monje, RN, School Nurse

This school year has been different for everyone because of Covid-19. We know that keeping ourselves and our neighbors safe by not visiting, not traveling, always wearing a mask and washing our hands frequently can be exhausting but it is still really important. If you visit with others from outside of your home or you travel outside of Vermont please plan to quarantine and get tested.

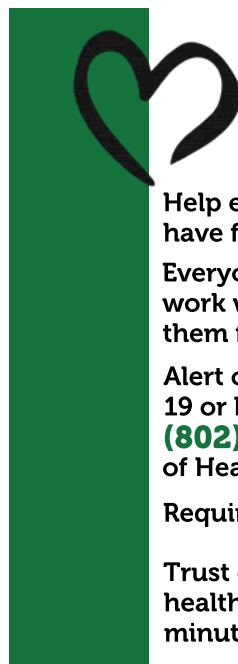
Flu season is in full swing so if you haven't already, please call your family doctor to discuss getting flu shots!

If your child is sick and experiencing flu like symptoms please keep them home from school.

Liz and I are the WSD Co-Covid Coordinators. Please call us on the WSD Covid Hotline with any Covid related questions! The number is 802 556 2243.

Take care and stay warm!

*Here are our expectations for families and students to keep our learning community healthy during the pandemic.*



### Having HEART during COVID-19



**Help everyone stay healthy. Keep your child home if they have fever, shortness of breath, cough, or flu-like symptoms.**

**Everyone must wear a mask at all times. Our nurses will work with students and their families whose needs prevent them from wearing a face covering.**

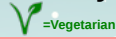
**Alert our school nurses immediately if your child has COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 by calling (802) 556-2243 & comply with the Vermont Department of Health contact tracing protocols.**

**Requirements: masks, hand washing and physical distancing.**

**Trust our nurses to make the right decisions for everyone's health. If they call, you must pick up your child within 30 minutes.**



# Winooski JFK Elementary School Breakfast January 2021



Menus are subject to change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>4</b> Whole Grain Bagel Cream Cheese Fresh Pear Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Pear Milk Variety	<b>5</b> WG Croissant Grape Jelly Assorted 100% Juice Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted 100% Juice Milk Variety	<b>6</b> Remote- See Side Panel	<b>7</b> Breakfast Round Fresh Apple Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Apple Milk Variety	<b>8</b> WG Iced Honey Bun Fresh Grapes Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Grapes Milk Variety
<b>11</b> Whole Grain Bagel Cream Cheese Fresh Pear Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Pear Milk Variety	<b>12</b> WG Croissant Grape Jelly Assorted 100% Juice Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted 100% Juice Milk Variety	<b>13</b> Remote- See Side Panel	<b>14</b> Breakfast Round Fresh Apple Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Apple Milk Variety	<b>15</b> WG Iced Honey Bun Fresh Grapes Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Grapes Milk Variety
<b>18</b> <b>No School</b>	<b>19</b> WG Croissant Grape Jelly Assorted 100% Juice Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted 100% Juice Milk Variety	<b>20</b> Remote- See Side Panel	<b>21</b> Breakfast Round Fresh Apple Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Apple Milk Variety	<b>22</b> WG Iced Honey Bun Fresh Grapes Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Grapes Milk Variety
<b>25</b> Whole Grain Bagel Cream Cheese Fresh Pear Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Pear Milk Variety	<b>26</b> WG Croissant Grape Jelly Assorted 100% Juice Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted 100% Juice Milk Variety	<b>27</b> Remote- See Side Panel	<b>28</b> Breakfast Round Fresh Apple Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Apple Milk Variety	<b>29</b> WG Iced Honey Bun Fresh Grapes Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Grapes Milk Variety

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Meals Are Free To All Students

Adult Breakfast \$1.85  
Adult Lunch \$3.85  
Milk \$0.50

Please Click Links Below for Nutrition Information on Daily Options:

- WG Assorted Cereal w/Graham Crackers
- Fruit Filled Muffin w/Cheese Stick
- Iced Honey Bun

100% Fruit Juice, Fresh, Dried, or Canned Fruit, 1% White Milk, & Fat Free Chocolate Milk Offered With All Meals.  
Milk is Optional

100% Fruit Juice Condiments

Fresh, Dried Or Canned Fruit

Milk

Pay for meals on-line. Click on Link Below:



Click Image Below for employment opportunities



# Winooski JFK Elementary School Lunch January 2021

Menus are subject to change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Harvest of the Month:</b> Beets  Click Beets Image to get fun Harvest of the Month information on Beets!				
<b>4</b> Cape Cod Fish & Chips Hand Cut French Fries Creamy Coleslaw Fresh Apple Wedges OR Deli Turkey Sandwich Creamy Coleslaw Fresh Apple Wedges OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	<b>5</b> Chicken & Cheese Calzone Caesar Salad Pear Slices OR Deli Ham Sandwich Caesar Salad Pear Slices OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	<b>6</b> Remote- See Side Panel	<b>7</b> Cheeseburger Oven Crisp Tater Tots Steamed Corn OR Deli Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Caesar Salad Fresh Apple Wedges OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety Deli Turkey Sandwich	<b>8</b> Sweet & Sour Chicken Rice Pilaf Fresh Pineapple OR Deli Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Broccoli Salad Fresh Pineapple OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety Deli Turkey Sandwich
<b>11</b> French Toast Sticks Turkey Sausage Patty Mini Hash Browns VT Blueberry Cups OR Deli Turkey Sandwich Fresh Carrot Sticks VT Blueberry Cups OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	<b>12</b> Chicken Parm Sandwich Lemon Broccoli Pear Slices OR Deli Ham Sandwich Broccoli Salad Pear Slices OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	<b>13</b> Remote- See Side Panel	<b>14</b> Oven Baked Herbed Chicken Rice Pilaf Chef's Mashed Potato Squash Smiles OR Deli Turkey Sandwich Veggie Sticks Sliced Peaches OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	<b>15</b> Corn Dog Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges Steamed Green Peas Fresh Apple OR Deli Turkey Sandwich Veggie Sticks Fresh Apple OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety
<b>18</b> <b>No School</b>	<b>19</b> Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets Dinner Roll Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges Fresh Apple Wedges OR Deli Turkey Sandwich Fresh Carrot Sticks Fresh Apple Wedges OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	<b>20</b> Remote- See Side Panel	<b>21</b> Beef Nachos Supreme Steamed Corn Turkey Gravy Steamed Salsa OR Deli Turkey Sandwich Steamed Corn Sliced Peaches OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	<b>22</b> Hearty Meatloaf Garlic Breadstick Steamed Carrots Applesauce OR Deli Turkey Sandwich Carrot Coins Applesauce OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety
<b>25</b> Chicken Teriyaki Rice Pilaf Steamed Corn Sliced Peaches OR Deli Turkey Sandwich Steamed Corn Sliced Peaches OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	<b>26</b> Homemade Shepherd's Pie (Ground Beef, Corn & Mashed Potato) Fresh Apple OR Deli Turkey Sandwich Carrot Coins Fresh Apple OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	<b>27</b> Remote- See Side Panel	<b>28</b> Oven Roasted Turkey Turkey Gravy Chef's Mashed Potato Steamed Green Peas OR Deli Turkey Sandwich Veggie Sticks Crackers OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	<b>29</b> Chicken Fajita w/ Sautéed Onions & Peppers Rice Pilaf Cajun Sour Cream Sliced Peaches OR Deli Ham Sandwich Fresh Green Pepper Strips Sliced Peaches OR Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Meals Are Free To All Students

Adult Breakfast \$1.85  
Adult Lunch \$3.85  
Milk \$0.75

Please Click Links Below for Nutrition Information on Daily Options

Remote Lunch Offerings:

- Cheesy Bread Dippers w/Marinara Sauce & Steamed Corn
- Oven Baked Pasta, Sauce and Beef Casserole, Garlic Bread, Green Beans
- Chicken & Rice, Broccoli w/Chick Peas

Offered Daily: Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich, Yogurt Parfait  
Fresh, Dried, or Canned Fruit, Skim White Milk, 1% White Milk & Fat Free Chocolate Milk

Milk Condiments

Fresh, Dried Or Canned Fruit

Pay for meals on-line. Click Image Below



Click Image Below for employment opportunities



## Newsletter of the Winooski School District

60 Normand Street  
Winooski, VT 05404

POSTAL PATRON  
\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*  
WINOOSKI, VT 05404

## Students Connect with Radio and Netflix Celebrity

*By Emily Hecker, Communications Director, and Luke Dorfman, WHS Math Teacher*

On Wednesday, December 16th, Winooski students met with Latif Nasser, co-host of the award-winning podcast Radiolab, and host and executive producer of the Netflix science documentary series, *Connected*. After connecting and coordinating with Latif via Twitter, Luke Dorfman (HS teacher) organized a time for students to talk with him over Zoom, creating space for students to learn more about his life and journey as a storyteller and reporter as well as an opportunity to ask him questions of their own.

Students' questions ranged from how he earns listeners' trust, to lead and environmental justice, to using storytelling to increase cultural understanding, and how it feels breaking barriers in his field as a person from a historically underrepresented group. Latif answered students' questions, offered to connect some with experts for further research, and urged them all: "You should all take on the world because you can...and you should. We need you!"

Latif expressed his appreciation for the students and their thoughtful questions and offered to continue the conversation in the near future.

Luke plans to organize another time for students to connect with him again soon.

