



WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS!

ALSO INCLUDES 12 PAGES OF **Community News!** STARTING ON PAGE 11

MARCH 2021

Celebrating Our Achievements!

Voting Day Info

To help you get to know them a little better, candidates for School Board, Mayor, and City Council have provided details which we share on pages 18-19 for your information.

You are also invited to attend an information meeting **Monday March 1st, 2021**. The beginning of the meeting will be held in-person at 7:30pm following strict COVID-19 safety precautions in the WSD Performing Arts Center. Then, at 7:45 pm, there will be a Budget Information Session presented virtually. **Join the Budget Info Session via Zoom: bit.ly/WSDMeeting or call in: 1-929-436-2866.**

Please do your part and become informed, and then vote on March 2, 2021 at the Senior Center, 123 Barlow Street, between 7am and 7pm.

*** DO YOUR PART ***

VOTE!

MARCH 2, 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Notes from the Central Office	2-5
District and Contact Information	3
Announcements	6
School Matters: K-12	7-10
Community News	11-19
Health Corner	22
Menus	23

Afterschool: "I Love Everything"

By Nancy Keller, Middle School Teacher

Learning can happen anytime and anywhere. With Zoom connections and small in-person meetings, the 21C Afterschool Programs offer middle and high school students an opportunity to connect with each other and engage in fun and educational activities.



High school student Aden routinely logs into an afterschool Zoom meeting for Technology Support with Courtney Poquette. "I have finished a lot of work," Aden reports, "and I just come in [to the Zoom meeting] and everything just makes sense. Ms. Poquette helps me with my personal finance work and, really, everything else, too."



Meanwhile, middle school students are learning to knit, to play games, to write their first novel, to cross country ski, to create visual art, and to play music--all in 21C Afterschool programs. "I usually have three to four students join me for knitting [on Zoom]," says Lisa Italiano, Winooski Middle School's ELA Coach, as she displays models of knitting projects she uses to teach students remotely.



"I like the afterschool Gaming Club a lot," adds middle school student Dahlia.

"It allows me to play video games with my friends." Matt Gile, Winooski School District's Librarian and Gaming Club Teacher, agrees. "The students make it so much fun to play games. Amelia and Dahlia are hilarious when playing Among Us," he adds with a broad smile. "Dahlia is always scheming."



Winooski Middle School's Writing Club gathers on

(continued on page 10)

Will You Be Away on Town Meeting Day?

- **You can vote early** at the City Clerk's Office (27 W Allen St) 9:00am to 3:00pm.
- Did you know that **you can register to vote at the polls the day of the vote!**

NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

A Season for the Penguin Plunge

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent

I am excited to participate in the Special Olympics Vermont (SOVT) 26th annual Penguin Plunge. This year, instead of one day, there will be an entire Plunge season, from February 6-March 27!

The SOVT Penguin Plunge is a unique winter event where participants raise funds to take a dip in Vermont's icy lakes. The funds raised support programs that foster inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities, through sports activities.

Our district team, the Winooski Spartans, is part of the Cool Schools Penguin Plunge, which will be fully remote in 2021. The Spartans will need to get creative and produce a one-of-a-kind Penguin Splash video to be included



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.



in the Penguin Plunge Celebration live stream! We will be developing our unique "plunge" in February and will share the video in mid-March.

The Winooski Spartans have raised over \$70,000 for this worthy cause in seven years. These funds have allowed us to create the WSD Unified Sports program, which includes over 40 Winooski student-athletes! During this challenging year, my goal is to raise \$2000. Please consider supporting the Winooski Spartans Penguin Plunge, SOVT, and the WSD Unified Sports Teams by following the link below to securely donate via my fundraising page: bit.ly/WSDPenguinPlunge2021

All donations are greatly appreciated!

PPE Packs Donated to Winooski Students with IEPs

By Robin Hood, Director of Support Services & Early Learning

Many thanks to Kirsten Murphy, the Executive Director for Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council, who traveled to Winooski on a snowy day to deliver enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) packs for our students with disabilities. The packs have 5 cotton masks, a bottle of hand sanitizer, and some information about COVID-19, the COVID-19 vaccine, and resources for families. Packets will be distributed this week.

There are two different packs, based on the age of the student:

- Pre-K to 3rd grade has 5 child-size masks and information targeted to the parent.
- Grade 3 through High School has 5 adjustable size masks and information in plain language that the student may find useful. Booklets on COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccine are written by Green Mountain Self-Advocates, specifically for individuals who understand best when there are visual prompts and

the reading level is around 3rd grade. Kristen would like families to know that these COVID-19 related expenses for the PPE are supported through the RISE Fund (Resilience and Independence in State of Emergency), which is administered by the Vermont Center for Independent Living. They still have plenty of money for grants (And a flier is included with each packet). There are 235 children in preschool through grade 5 who are eligible for special education

The RISE fund may be used for: computers for telehealth and remote learning, cleaning supplies for staying healthy, utility payments, and other equipment and services to mitigate isolation.

You may apply by calling 1-800-639-1522 or by emailing info@vcil.org

There are no income requirements and no co-pays. The maximum amount is \$2,500 and you may apply more than once, until you reach that amount.



Robin Hood, Director of Support Services & Early Learning, and Kirsten Murphy, Executive Director for Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council.

School Board Update

By Mike Decarreau, Board of School Trustees

As we approach spring, with the days getting longer and the daylight arriving earlier each morning, I would normally be thinking about getting outside and engaging with my neighbors. I am hopeful that normalcy will make a comeback in the near future. March also brings about another routine that, as a school board member, always brings a bit of anxiety, which is the annual school budget vote. Educating our children as a community is one of our fundamental tasks that requires the entire community to be involved. Whether that is by example in our every day lives or in the classroom as an educator we all have a part in this education process. Voting is a very personal thing. As a child I can remember asking my parents who they voted for, especially in presidential elections, and the response was that "I cast my vote for the person that I believe will do the best job." Through the years I came to understand that the act of voting IS the important part not how any individual actually voted. I also came to realize that if you choose not to vote then you should not complain about the outcome. (You can but it is a hollow complaint)

Below are the details of our final budget numbers after many meetings that showed a deep compassion and understanding for balancing the needs of our students and the needs of our

community. I can't tell anyone how to vote but I can implore you to please VOTE. This gives us as a board our best view into how the city of Winooski residents, collectively, feel about the direction we are taking. Off the soapbox and on to the budget details.

To say that 2020 was a challenging year would be, literally, the understatement of the century. The impact of COVID-19 has been devastating. Vermont state revenues have been hit hard as have all of us by lockdowns, job losses and a massive change in our routine daily lives. With this in mind we have prepared a budget that does not move the district backwards rather it maintains the current programming we have but nothing extra. Our primary task and biggest opportunity as a board is on the cost side of the equation.

We have held spending increases to 2.69%. Consider that our costs are made up of nearly 80% salaries and benefits for all our staff. This cost increase is close to completely built on current programming with salary and benefit cost increases. On the revenue side we originally had a large tax increase as the state tried to keep the budget balanced through increased taxes. As time went on and some additional federal help came through we landed at a tax increase estimated to be 6.68%. This is half of the original estimate at the lower state funding level. I believe we were

*** DO YOUR PART ***
VOTE!
MARCH 2, 2021

very fortunate as we were diligent in our spending increases.

On the ballot Article 6 is the budget being presented for FY22 with the estimated tax impact. Article 5 is a request to accept federal funds to support federally mandated programs. This Article has no impact on local taxes but if rejected we are still required to provide the services without the funding to go with it. Please consider this when voting this article. Article 7 is a request to allow SunCommon to place solar panels on the roof of the new additions and the district will be able to access a portion of this.

Hopefully you were able to review the budget flyer to see the anticipated tax impact for those that pay their education tax based on salary (household income less than \$99K), based on household value (household income above \$138.5K) or an extrapolation between the two for household income in the middle.

The board implores you to vote and greatly appreciates your support in helping us understand where we are as a district. For more detail please join us on Monday March 1 for the city and school budget presentations.

WINOOSKI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Tori Cleiland, *President*, 802-655-7678
tcleiland@wsdvt.org
Steven Berbeco, 858-376-7269
sberbeco@wsdvt.org
Mike Decarreau, 802-310-4032
mdecarreau@wsdvt.org
Liz Edsell, 802-595-2447
ledsell@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

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>.

The YPAR Process Taking Shape

By Carly Ngo and Kayla Loving



The purpose of the Winooski Youth-Adult Participatory Action Research (YPAR) Team is to focus on inclusion and restoration by utilizing various research methods in order to properly address oppressive relationship-

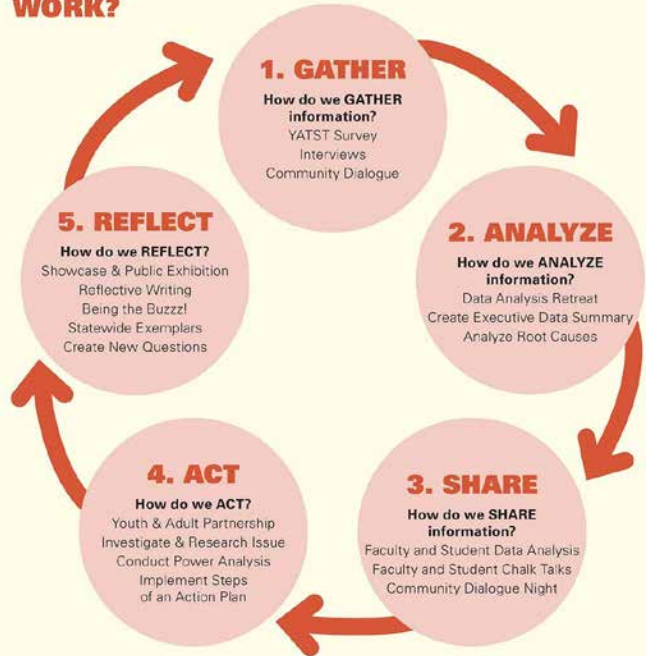
building and repairing throughout the Winooski community. In addition, partnering with UP for Learning provides the team with beneficial experience and support by “holding the space”, meaning to create and nurture an environment in which feelings of safety and belonging are prioritized. Through focus groups, surveys, peer-to-peer advisories, community dialogues, school faculty and staff collaboration, and more, the YPAR team intends to inform the community and mobilize social actors across race, class, gender, ability, etc. to dismantle systems of oppression with the ultimate goal of igniting individual, community and systems level of change.

The team has separated into three groups: 1) Interview group 2) Survey group and 3) Community group. Each group is focused on either a data collection strategy or a specific subject. All of the data collection is centered around ideas of safety, belonging and inclusion. Members of the team chose which aspect interested and resonated with them the most.

The Interview group is focused on hearing the voices of those that are traditionally marginalized in the community with a focus on the students. The team plans to attend different advisories and ask questions about what safety (physical and emotional), belonging, and inclusion mean for them. The team recognized that it's more likely someone will open up to you if you are willing to open to them, so we will let advisory classes interview us before we interview them. They'll also utilize collaborative tech tools that promote representation and equal voice to gather the information they need.

The Survey group will analyze a survey that's going out to all K-12 students in the district. The survey will be distributed each year to help us understand how the implementation of restorative justice is impacting the school district. It was adapted from a survey that was designed by the Burlington School District in collaboration with UVM. The results will be shared with the community and analyzed by the Youth-Adult Restorative Justice team and Spectrum staff. Based on the results of the survey, the team will come up with follow-up

HOW DO WE DO OUR WORK?



questions to dig deeper into the strengths and areas for growth for the school district. A version of the survey will also be distributed to WSD parents once it has the option for audio interpretation.

The Community group is focused on elevating and placing community voices at the center of their own local support. The purpose is to creatively involve and engage with various members within the Winooski community in order to properly address feelings of safety, belonging and inclusion. Through surveys and community outreach, such as phone/video calls, online local forums, community boards and more, the group plans to collect qualitative data that will aid in recognizing the authentic needs of the Winooski community.

After all of the groups have concluded their data collection, it'll be time for a larger in-depth analysis and then we'll share the information with the community.



New Gym Scores Big Points with Students

By Emily Hecker, WSD Communications Director

When we asked Winooski students what excites them most about the Capital Project the clear winner is the new gymnasium.

One 3rd grade student said, “I’m excited for the new gym, because there is going to be more space to run around in, and we can play gaga ball.” A high school student said she’s looking forward to athletics competitions in the new space...and not having to eat lunch in a gym.

The current Winooski schools facility has a combination gym and cafeteria (aka the “gymeteria” and sometimes the “cafenasium”) which is not widely popular with students. The Capital Project will also create a separate, stand-alone cafeteria which ranks high among students’ priorities as well.

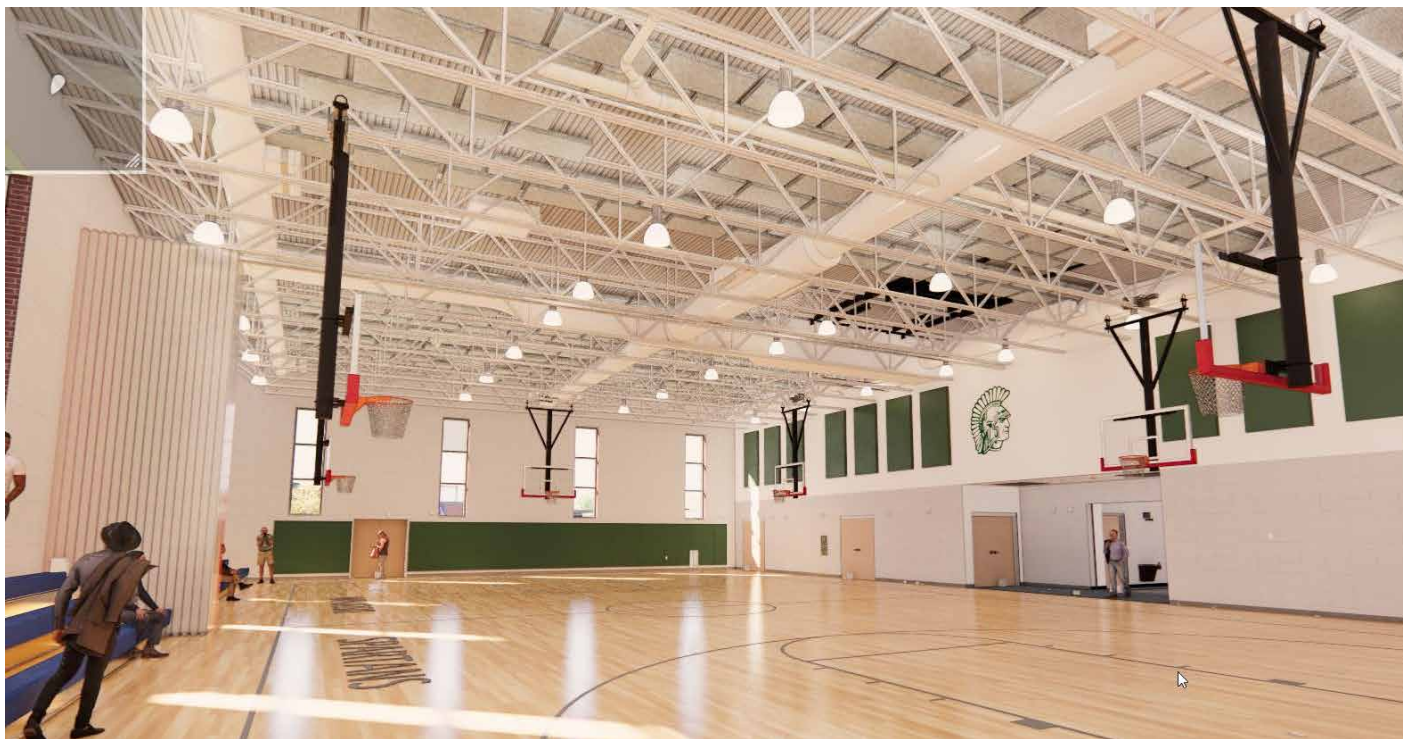
The new gym is an expansive 7850 square feet, with soaring 24’ ceilings. The interior will be finished with painted CMU blocks, athletic pads and acoustic panels to reduce echo.

Student athletes will enjoy six adjustable-height basketball hoops and a roll down vinyl fabric partition that will divide the space for two full sized basketball courts. Fans will be able to take in all the Spartan Hoops action from electrically controlled collapsing bleachers.

Proving its versatility and usefulness already, beginning this month the new gym will be used as temporary classroom and office space while renovation of existing school building speeds along.



Construction of the new gym began the summer of 2020. In the image below, the WSD Leadership Team donned hard hats and reflective vests for a behind-the-scenes visit of the construction site. The bottom image is an architectural rendering provided courtesy of TruexCullins.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winooski Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball

By Jeffrey Brosseau

Online registration is currently open, see our website address below. Open the link to set up your account, and register your child; you can also volunteer as Head Coach, Assistant or Team Manager.

Fees for Little League are \$50 for one player, or \$90 for a family, Babe Ruth Baseball 13-18 year old fee is \$75.00. You will have the option to pay either by Visa/Master Card, or to pay by check. Let me know if you have any issues.

After March 31st, a late fee of \$10 will be added. Winooski Little League and Babe Ruth is open to all Winooski residents and anyone who attends St. Francis School and the Winooski School System who may reside outside of our city boundaries. Website Address: <http://tshq.bluesombrero.com/winooskibaseball>.

For more information contact Jeffrey Brosseau at 802-233-5530, jeffrey.brosseau@aol.com.

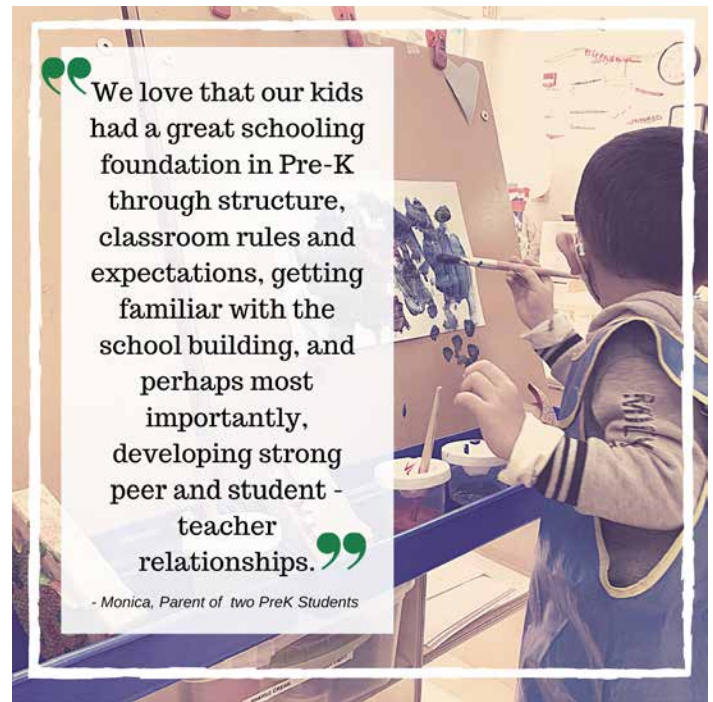
★ **A VIRTUAL EVENT** ★

“CELEBRATING WINOOSKI’S TALENT” Show!

March 25th at 7:00pm

Free Event!

WWW.TINYURL.COM/WINOOSKITALENT



Preschool Registration for 2021-22

Registered PreK Students:

Families who are already enrolled in the WSD preschool collaborative programs with Head Start (on site and at the Winooski Family Center) and whose children are enrolled in another Act 166 partner program, (and who will be returning to preschool in fall 2021), will receive a special code (called a Snap code) via email over the summer so that you can update your registration information on PowerSchool.



PreK Students who are not registered:

All families who have children who will be new to preschool need to complete a full online registration through PowerSchool (PS). Due to maintenance, PS is not ready to accept new or updated student registrations at this time. We will share more information once registration is open.

Students interested in Head Start: If you are interested in applying for one of our Head Start Collaborative programs, you may complete an application at bit.ly/HeadStartAppVermont. You will be notified if you are eligible and if there is a spot for your child. Once PowerSchool registration is open, you will need to register online, as both an application and registration will be required.

PreK screenings: For health and safety reasons, we are postponing preschool screenings until the weather is warmer and we can work outside. You will be notified once the date is set.

Kindergarten Registration

By Sara Raabe, Principal

It is the time of year that we start living in two school years—finishing the current school year and looking forward to the 2021-22 school year! One of the things we always start planning first is Kindergarten registration. If you have a child that turns 5 by September 1, 2021, we are excited to have them join JFK this fall.



As with everything else this school year, we have had to adapt our Kindergarten registration and screening process. We typically invite all Kindergarten students into the building for a screening, while families fill out paper registration packets.

For the 2020-21 school year, we switched to PowerSchool as a school district. This means that student registration moved from paper registration to online registration. As with all online systems, they occasionally need to be updated. Our PowerSchool system will be updated in March. Once the update is complete, we will be able to open registration for our new Kindergarten students, and we will communicate that timeline with families. Once registration is open, you can find the links to register on the WSD website (www.wsdvt.org) under the Parent & Families tab. To register, you will need to upload the following documents: Your student's birth certificate; Your student's immunization records; Proof of residency. (Proof of residency is something that proves you live in Winooski, such as a bill with your name

and your Winooski address, a rental lease, or a mortgage statement)

I am planning a Zoom informational meeting for families in April. At that time, I will talk to families about the school and what you can expect for Kindergarten. I will also give families information about our Kindergarten Summer School. Summer School will hold even more importance this year as we will be unable to hold in-person screenings for our incoming Kindergarten students. The Zoom Meeting for our English speaking families will be Tuesday, April 6th at 6pm.



To join the English Zoom Meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting at
bit.ly/WSDKindergartenInfo
Meeting ID: 934 4637 3579

I will work with our liaisons to also offer a meeting for each language group in our learning community.

During the month of June, our kindergarten teachers will meet with our preschool teachers to help with student transition. This means that the teachers will talk about each student—their strengths and what works for them in school. If your student did not attend preschool, we may reach out to your family directly to get information about your student's strengths.

Our JFK Summer School runs in July. For Kindergarten, summer school runs the first two weeks. Families are highly encouraged to sign students up for one



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

week of summer school. Once summer school is over, the Kindergarten team meets to develop balanced class lists for the 2021-22 school year. Once those lists are developed, you will receive a letter in August from your student's teacher introducing themselves.

We will continue to communicate with families as we have more information and dates are solidified. We communicate through Front Porch Forum, this monthly newsletter, our school social media accounts, and our electronic sign. WSD and JFK have Facebook pages, and WSD is on Twitter @winooskilearns. Feel free to reach out to the school directly with any questions about Kindergarten registration!

Science Field Trips

By Mary Carleton

The 4th graders in Mrs. Carleton's VTVC remote learning class have been on several virtual field trips this school year. Most recently, through a pilot program with The Clemmons Family Farm, they welcomed Vermont musician Michael Dyke to their virtual classroom to connect their learning about slavery and The Middle Passage and the importance of music and rhythm as a comfort. They created music and movement together; experiencing the comfort that music can bring.

In Science they traveled to The Galveston Bay Foundation in Kemah, TX. They (virtually) got up close and personal with all sorts of backyard items, the educators used specialty microscopes to show students what dirt, rocks, and plants look like on the microscopic level. Students compared what they observed and connected it to their Science work with rocks and minerals.



Learning About Student Opinion Writing

By Angela Moulton, VTVLC Teacher

Second graders in Mrs. Moulton's VTVLC virtual class debated recently should we celebrate non-holidays. To prepare for this writing we researched the following made up holidays: National Squirrel Appreciation Day (1/21) Bubble Wrap Day (The Last Monday of January) Lost Sock Memorial Day (May 9) and several others. As a class we certainly enjoyed liberating the air of bubble wrap and learning that it's original intention was wallpaper and that there is a young inventors award yearly given to kids who repurpose this amazing tool, or toy! The main reason for all of this fun work was done to support students' opinion writing. They have to write a paragraph that provides evidence to support why everyone should celebrate their families favorite tradition. Providing students with shared experiences and writing helps model for them how to do this challenging type of writing.

After talking it through and having some great celebrations we created a list of pros and cons. We overwhelmingly are in favor of celebrating these silly days. This is what we wrote:

We Can Celebrate Anything!

People should celebrate the holidays that feel right for them. We think that everyone should celebrate some of the non-holidays out there. They are silly and fun. Bubble wrap day is fun and silly and makes us happy!

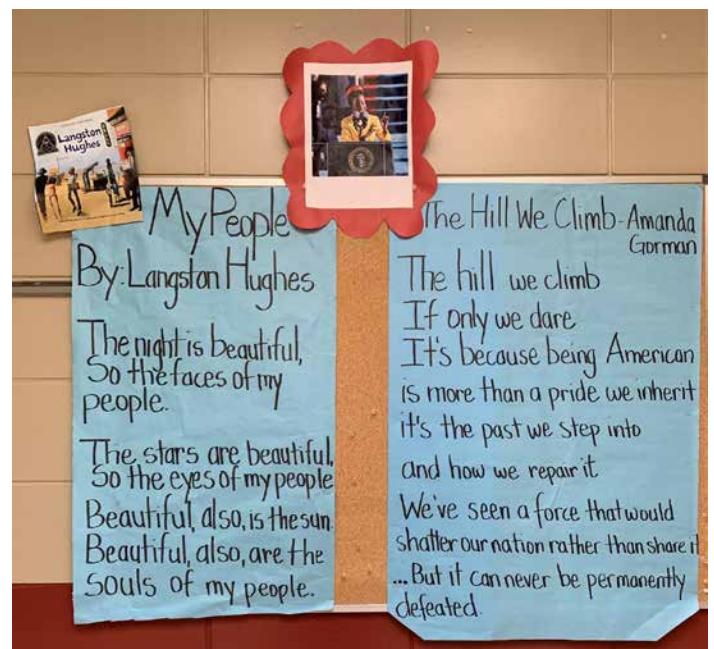
Holidays are for spending time with your family. Being with family is important and we can have fun doing unusual things like celebrating hot sauce! When you hear about them or celebrate them they make you and others smile. It is pure joy! Who doesn't laugh when they hear it's answer your cat's important questions day?

Holidays, no matter what they are, bring families together, and that's a reason to celebrate!

What Teacher TikTok Taught Us

By Miss Dee and Miss Wood

I was scrolling through TikTok on January 25th when I came across a teacher who wanted to do something for Black History Month for her students. She created a periodic table of Black History to display the contributions of people of color in all areas of society. Exploring this periodic table of Black history inspired us to create one of our own. Miss Wood and I decided to make a version for JFK Elementary School. The reason behind creating this piece is to remind students of color that they should be celebrated. We wanted to give a visual representation of who they are and who they could become. They can see the accomplishments of other people of color in America and know that anything is possible. We are hoping that other teachers will take the time to explore the periodic table of Black history with their students and discuss the importance of who these figures are and how they have helped the people of the United States grow. In words of our new Vice President "But while I may be the first woman in the office, I will not be the last...and the children of this country: dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see yourselves in a way that others may not, simply because they've never seen it before.



So I Don't Get Lost

Memoirs written by students at Winooski High School • Published online in January 2021

Students in Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver's class wrote memoirs about moments of injustice in their lives, or about the people in their lives who stand up for them. They answered questions such as: How can I be an upstander to injustice? Who are the upstanders in my life? To what extent can writing be a form of protest? In January, students then presented their memoirs during a publication celebration in front of a live audience.

The Incident on the Playground

By Sarbin Majhi

I will never forget the time when I was at the school playground. It was a bright, sunny day and the smell of clean air was everywhere.

This was the year 2014. It was my first year in the USA. I was nine years old. My family and I had just moved to Winooski from Nepal. When I first learned that my family was taking an airplane to America, I thought the US was some magical place in the sky without any problems. I imagine a beautiful paradise. Even though this playground was not quite the paradise that I thought America would be, it was still the perfect place to play as a nine year old.

I was there to play on the playground on the slide. After a while, we went to the small playground we played there then me and my cousin went to get our backpack to go home. We were just carefree kids, content with a fun afternoon of sliding on the bright green slides and talking nonstop about playing Xbox.

Then, out of nowhere, I heard someone say something loudly. I looked around to try to see where it was coming from. I saw an old white man sitting on the bench. He was dressed in normal looking clothes: blue jeans and sweatshirt.

He said, "go back to your country." At first, I didn't fully understand what he said. What? Did he really say that? But even though I questioned what I heard, his words rang true in my ears.

Even though I was only nine years old, I would not be silent. I said, "what is the problem of me being here?"

The old man replied back, "the playgrounds are for kids. You need to leave." His voice sounded forceful and



authoritative. What!? I am a kid! I am only in third grade. Only now, years later, do I realize what we truly meant: he meant that the playground was not for kids who look like me.

Then, my cousin said, "let's go home." Even though I was so mad, I knew that in this moment, my cousin was right. He had been in the country for longer than I had so I trusted him. It was time to walk away. But as I walked away, I was still fuming with anger. This was not the America that I had ever imagined. At that moment, I realized that we weren't going to change his mind and it was best to just walk away.

"Did he really say that?" I asked my cousin again.

"It's nothing, let's just go home," my cousin said again.

From this moment, I learned that sometimes it is best to just walk away from people who are saying bad things to you because if you talk back, you could make the situation worse. I also learned that America is not the paradise I thought it was. There are hateful people and there are injustices everywhere, even in Winooski. But I learned that it is important to always stand up for what you know is right, even if that means just saying one small thing.

Friendship

By Ayush Pradhan

I will always remember the time when I met my friend Sarbin. It was in 2014 and it was the first time I was going to school.

It was a sunny May day. I was so nervous. I was only nine years old. Even though we had been in the US for a few months, it took a while to get sorted out to go to school. For the past few months, I had just stayed home with my family as we all learned about our new life in America.



The first thing I remember was seeing the silver lockers everywhere. In Nepal, we didn't have anything that looked like this. We just carried our cloth bags. My teacher, Ms. Benjamin, was a friendly older woman with brown straight hair.

"Hi, welcome!" she smiled and said.

I don't think I said anything. I was so shy but thankfully Tul was there to introduce me. Tul then explained in Nepali to me that we were going on a field trip on my very first day at school.

I went into class, still shaking and nervous. Wow! Will people like me? Will I understand anything? When can I go home?

Immediately, I noticed two Nepali-looking boys and one girl. Thank god! I am lucky to have people that might speak my language.

"Ayush, introduce yourself to the class," Ms. Benjamin said.

"Hello," I said nervously. The other Nepali students smiled and waved at me. I went to sit at the same table with the other Nepali students. They all gave me friendly smiles and said hello in Nepali.

"I'm Sarbin," one of the boys said to me. I was thankful to have some instant friends. Sarbin was Nepali as well so I could understand what he was saying. It was great having someone I could talk with.

Later that morning, we all loaded onto a yellow school bus. It was my first time on this type of bus and it was nothing like the crowded micro-busses in Nepal. We went on a field trip to the swimming pool. It was great because I like swimming a lot because I used to swim in Nepal. I even taught my older cousin how to swim.

At the swimming pool, Ms. Benjamin was talking so fast. I could barely understand anything. Sarbin would whisper to me in Nepali translations so I would be able to understand what Ms. Benjamin was saying.

I realized I had to go to the bathroom. In Nepal we did it anywhere so I started looking around for a tree. I walked away

from the group towards the tree.

Then, Sarbin yelled at me and said in Nepali “not there!” He explained in Nepali to me that it was not okay and he showed me where the bathroom was. The rest of the field trip, Sarbin kept telling me what was going on, where I could go, and where I couldn’t go.

We all have that one friend who has always been there and it’s Sarbin for me. He has been there for me since I came to Vermont. Even though we get mad at each other, the next day we are back to being best friends again. He is the person who I turn to when I need help with anything. I am so lucky to have him as a friend.

AFTERSCHOOL

(continued from cover)



Wednesday afternoons on Zoom with Winooski Middle School’s ELL Teacher Sona Iyengar. Sebastian, a future novelist and current seventh grader enthusiastically reports, “I love writing and I am writing a book.” Netalya, Kianalee, and Mu July share in this love of writing, too, as they speak fondly of their time together.

“I like playing, painting, and cross country skiing after school,” middle school student Ketila proudly exclaims when asked what she likes about The Library Welcomes You Program with Winooski High School teacher, Mauve Poleman. Mapenzi adds, “I like soccer, badminton, and cross country skiing, too.” Bora summarizes the sentiments of all of the 21 C Afterschool Program participants when she happily declares, “I love everything.”

WSD Alumni Profile: Mukhtar Abdulkhleiq

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, ehecker@wsdvt.org.

What are you doing now?

I currently attend UVM as a sophomore. I’m a fulltime student, trying to transfer to the Grossman School of Business. I’ve always liked business because my whole life I’ve been surrounded by people who are business-driven. My two brothers run their own very successful taxi business, my uncle has his own grocery store (Nada), my other uncles run businesses, too. Part of being Middle Eastern is that entrepreneurial mindset.



Mukhtar Abdulkhleiq
Class of 2019

What kind of business are you interested in running?

This summer, I’ll be running my own painting business. It’s part of my internship program with school. My goal is to get intense hands-on business experience while earning money to pay for my tuition. We can do different sizes of jobs. I’m excited to serve Winooski. To contact Mukhtar, email mukhtar.abdulkhaleiq.ce@gmail.com

What is something people should know about you?

I was born in Iraq and lived there the first 8 years of my life. I had to leave because of the war. Then, I moved to Syria. After that, I immigrated to Vermont. My whole life I’ve been a low-income child. Every step of the way, it was harder being a low-income individual. Coming to a new country and learning a new culture and new language was incredibly challenging. It feels like a high accomplishment to be studying at a university and understanding everything.

Winooski helped me best with that. If I had gone to any other school I wouldn’t be the person I am today. The languages and cultures I was exposed to naturally helped me develop skills to communicate with anybody. In the real world you’re always going to deal with people who are different from you and you have to learn to communicate with them.

What are you most proud of?

I’m most proud that I’m able to attend a major university in Vermont. I overcame many obstacles and didn’t let hardships define who I am.

What is your advice for current students?

Cherish the connections you make in high school-with your teachers and everyone in the community, such as VSAC. Down the line, when you are in college or working, or when you need help from a teacher or friend, building good, honest connections is key in going about your life.

Fondest memory of your time in Winooski?

It makes me happy when I think of those TA (Teacher Advisory) meetings — taking the time to connect with people. When I look back at my high school memories I think of lunch breaks and times with friends, because in my college life those things don’t happen as often anymore. I want to tell students to cherish those opportunities. In the moment, you might not want to do certain things, but now that I don’t have those options, I miss them! I loved how small our school was. The bus rides from soccer games, blasting music, there was a real vibe. And I miss the teachers. All of them.

Why do you heart Winooski?

I love Winooski School District because they took a situation where they saw they have such a large immigrant population coming to the school and they adapted quickly and provided programming to support those newcomer students. Programs like the free lunches or fresh vegetables at school for families who needed more food at home.

I see Winooski schools as great human beings who are running a school. Providing food to students shows you really care about your students and the community.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Municipal Update March 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 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

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. 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.

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.

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 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

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

Visit the city website at 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.vt

little something for everyone, organized by department:

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

To view our remote resources, visit: 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

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

Business owners can also access their Winooski Business Portal for an extensive list of resources for businesses: 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

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
- healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/homeowners
- healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/landlords-renters
- healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/building-professionals-realtors
- healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/resources
- cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html
- 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) Registration is preferred, but walk-ups are welcome. Testing hours and availability vary from month-to-month. To view the current schedule, please visit winooski.vt.gov/covid-19.

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.

Transportation options are available. To schedule transportation to the COVID-19 testing site, please call the Vermont Public Transportation Association at least two days before the appointment: 833 387 7200.

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.



COVID-19 Vaccines

As you may know, the Vermont Department of Health has begun the COVID-19 vaccination process based on the amount of vaccine made available by the Federal government. As of February 2021, the Vermont Department of Health is only vaccinating people 75 and older. To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine process and to see which age group is currently being vaccinated, please visit healthvermont.gov/myvaccine. Can't make an appointment online? You can make an appointment by phone: 855 722 7878. To speak with someone in a language other than English, call this number, and press 1.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Kristine Lott, klott@winooski.vt.gov

As I write this, we are approaching one year since COVID-19 arrived in our community and changed our way of life. Over this past year, Winooski faced numerous challenges, yet we persevered as a connected community. While the pandemic is still with us, I remain hopeful



for an amazing year. With hope in mind, I'd like to highlight some of the work we'll be doing in the coming months.

Hiring is underway for an Equity Director, who will help focus Winooski's services and engagement in an equitable way. This position will be supporting a new Equity Commission and will collaborate with our school liaisons and was funded through a generous three-year grant from the Working Communities Challenge. Our policy commissions have also engaged in the ongoing equity discussion related to representation among our commissions. We are always seeking resident volunteers to get involved and weigh in on Winooski's future. To learn more about our policy commissions, visit winooski.vt.gov/commissions or contact me if you'd like to learn more.

Myers Memorial Pool passes are available! To get yours and learn more, visit winooski.vt.gov/pool. Winooski Recreation and Parks are monitoring the status of COVID-19 as we get closer to the summer season and will adjust opening/operations accordingly.

In other infrastructure updates, Hickok Street reconstruction continues where street, curb, and sidewalk upgrades are scheduled for completion. Additionally, sidewalk replacement in the area of Reginald/Bernard/Gail streets is planned. Final designs for the Main Street Revitalization Project are nearly complete, and construction could begin later this year. Although there have been COVID-19 delays, the new downtown municipal garage (lot located behind CCV) is still in the works. As we look ahead at future projects, we're also planning a number of informative studies, including historic preservation, parking, and traffic calming. These initiatives will help us plan our municipal infrastructure projects with a strong connection to resident-identified needs.

Lastly, I want to thank our residents for participating in the FY22 Budget Process. This publication will likely be available right before or just after Town Meeting Day. Many thanks to our voters – many of whom voted early – for engaging in our local decision-making process.

I look forward to an amazing year with all of you! As always, feel free to reach out at any time.

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.

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: winooski.vt.gov/parking.

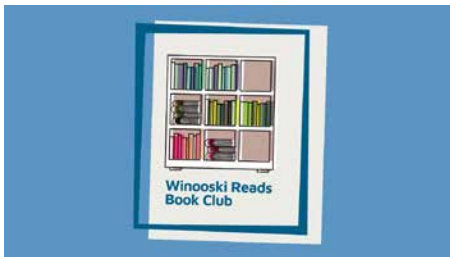
Community Services Updates

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

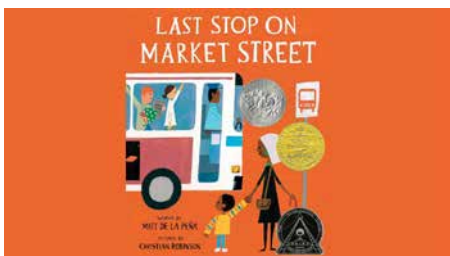
with the Winooski School District to provide a community where children in grades K-5 explore, learn, and grow during their after school hours. During Thrive, students engage with creative arts, STEM and Makerspace activities, literacy skills, cooperative and socio-emotional learning, outdoor play, and 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 to learn more and enroll!

Winooski Memorial Library



Winooski Reads Book Group

The Winooski Library is excited to offer a chance to participate in our new Winooski Reads Book Club for adult readers (18+)! Join your friends and neighbors for a lively discussion of each month's selected title and share your thoughts, insights, and reactions to the book. Free to take part, email or call Nate Eddy, Library Director: neddy@winooski.vt.gov / 802 655 6424



Read-Aloud Picture Books via YouTube

Did you know we have many read-aloud picture books available for online listening? Follow along as our Youth Services Coordinator, Mr. Josh, reads from classics such as Frog and Toad, Last

Stop on Market Street, The Lost Words, and more! Check them out and be sure to subscribe – search for “City of Winooski” on YouTube!



Browse and Borrow Sessions Reminder

Memorial Library remains open by appointment for 30 minute “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 or call 802 655 6424.



Virtual Dungeons and Dragons

Welcome to the world of cooperative narrative role play where the story is told by participant players! Build amazing worlds and learn all about collaborative storytelling through our series of information and gaming sessions. This program is designed for youth ages 10 -18 and parents are welcome to participate. Join us via Zoom on Mondays from 4 – 6pm (elementary) and 6 – 8pm (middle/high school). To sign up, call or email Josh Neilson, Youth Services Coordinator: jneilson@winooski.vt.gov / 802 655 6424



Virtual Academic & Career Support

The Winooski Memorial Library is proud to continue to provide academic & career support for students!

Our 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.

Monday-Thursday, 4:30pm-7:30pm

Virtual/remote sessions via Zoom*

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 / 3-4:40pm-Tutors will test your trivia knowledge in this gameshow favorite.

To sign up, call or email Josh Neilson, Youth Services Coordinator, at jneilson@winooski.vt.gov / 802 655 6424

*Participants will receive a custom Zoom link and password for attendance before the session begins.

Recreation and Parks



Winooski Rec. & Vermont Patriots 2021 Spring Season

Registration is now open for the 2021 spring season of our Youth Soccer program in partnership with Vermont Patriots! The Vermont Patriots base their philosophy primarily on the guidelines by the US Youth Soccer and the Vermont Soccer Association, but their multicultural founding members have included aspects of coaching philosophies from Europe, South America, and Africa. Coaching sessions are first and foremost child-centered, age-appropriate, and fun. The program's training emphasizes technical abilities, mental and physical speed and agility, and tactical comprehension—each at their age-appropriate level. To view the full schedule and details, visit winooski.vt.gov/rec and sign up today!



2021 Myers Pool Passes Now Available

The City of Winooski is excited to announce that 2021 seasonal passes are now available for the Myers Memorial Pool. To get your season passes today, please visit winooski.vt.gov/pool.

Passes:

- Adult Season Pass (18-54)-\$60 resident, \$75 non-resident
- Family Season Pass (all ages)-\$120 resident, \$150 non-resident
- Senior Season Pass (55/up)-\$45 resident, \$56 non-resident
- Youth Season Pass (17/under)-\$45 resident, \$56 non-resident

Lap Swim Schedule:

- Weekdays 7am-9pm (Tuesdays-Reserved for Woman-Identified Community Members)

- Tuesdays 7pm-8pm
Open Swim Schedule
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday / 12pm-5pm
- Tuesday, Thursday / 2pm-7pm
- Saturday 12pm-8pm
- Sunday 12pm-6pm

Information regarding operational dates and aquatic programming for the 2021 season will be posted in the spring.

COVID-19 Disclaimer: The City of Winooski continues to adhere to the guidance provided by the Vermont Department of Health. While the City plans to operate the Myers Memorial Pool in summer 2021, certain restrictions may be in place. Restrictions include but are not limited to: limited capacity, time slot reservations for open swim, closed locker room facilities, mask requirements, and social distancing. In the event the Myers Memorial Pool is not allowed to operate, all season pass holders will receive a full refund, or a pro-rated refund if closure occurs after pool operations have begun.

Questions about the Myers Memorial Pool and season pass scholarships can be sent to Jenny Hill, Recreation Programs Manager: jhill@winooski.vt.gov / 802 777 1621



Virtual Music for Toddlers

Winooski Recreation is excited to offer a brand-new virtual music course for toddlers! This special course is designed to engage children ages 3-6 with an amazing opportunity to learn, have fun, and express themselves artistically. Participants will explore music through hands-on activities including music-making, creating instruments, and collaborating with each other. Course subjects include rhythm, melody, and musical families.

This program is free for Winooski residents – visit winooski.vt.gov/rec to sign up today.

- Wednesdays February 24-March 24, 2021 / 11:30am-12pm

This program is run virtually via Zoom. A special Zoom meeting invite

will be sent to you before each session.

About the instructor: Kaylee Contois is a music education professional who has been teaching in Vermont since 2013! Kaylee is a graduate student at Lesley University pursuing a Masters Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Music Therapy and holds a degree from the Berkeley College of Music.

Questions regarding this program can be sent to Kate Nicoletti, Youth Programs Coordinator: knicoletti@winooski.vt.gov
Winter Activity Passports and Art Kits for Kids

Looking for some fun and excitement to get you through the rest of the winter? Winooski Recreation and Parks has an incredible Winter Activity Passport and themed Art Kits available for pickup at the Winooski Memorial Library! Be sure to ask for one at your next curbside pickup or browse/borrow session. Learn more at winooski.vt.gov/library!

Upcoming Activities

Keep an eye out for our upcoming Youth and Adult Tennis programs, our Middle School Nature Walks, and more! Sign up to receive our news updates at winooski.vt.gov or check out our current listings at winooski.vt.gov/rec.

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.

Meals on Wheels

If you know of an older Vermonter 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.

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 for the weekly menu and to register for this program.

Pop-Up To-Go Cafe

Looking to get outside? Stop by our one of our free once a month Outdoor Pop-Up Cafes. Have a hot drink and a treat, hear great music and catch up on all of our programs and activities. Dress warmly and wear a mask. Stop by from

1–3pm. Please call to RSVP.

- Sunday, March 14th-National Pi Day!
- Sunday April 11th-April in Paris!

Senior Library Time

Tuesday is Senior Day at the Winooski Memorial Library. Visitors and staff are required to wear masks and maintain a minimum 6' social distance while inside the library at all times. On your way out the door, grab a goodie bag from the Senior Center to go! For full details and to make your reservation, please visit winooski.vt.gov/library or call the Library at 802-655-6424.

AARP TaxAide

We are working our hardest to have our partners at AARP TaxAide come back to the Senior Center this year. We are in the process of creating a safe plan, but

at this time there is no start date set for in-person tax assistance in our facility. Stay up to date by going to: www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide or call the Senior Center at 802 655 6425 for updated information.

AARP Smart Driver Online Course

When you take the AARP Smart Driver™ online course, you could be eligible for a multi-year discount on your auto insurance. Safer driving can save you more than just money! The course teaches proven driving techniques to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road. Taking the online course is convenient and cost-effective. And you get 60 days to complete it! Go to aarpdriversafety.org

VOLUNTEER CORNER

To learn more and apply for any of our volunteer opportunities, please visit winooski.vt.gov/volunteer.

Winooski Run/Ride Club Ambassadors

Under the direction of Recreation and Parks, Run/Ride Club Ambassadors will aid the Recreation Programs Manager in the creation and facilitation of weekly (weather dependent) group runs/rides. These weekly community exercise opportunities will cater to all skill levels all while remaining local, reminding participants that Winooski has plenty to offer in terms of fun, safe opportunities to get on your bike or go for a run.

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 an 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.

Meals on Wheels

Our Meals on Wheels program is made possible through our partnership with Age Well and is operated through the Winooski Senior Center. We are currently looking for volunteers to deliver meals in Winooski, M-F. Meal pick up is located at the Winooski Senior Center (9:30am) and the current route takes about an hour.

Trex® Plastic Recycling Program

Under the direction of Recreation and Parks, Trex® Plastic Recycling 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.

Youth Soccer Head Coach

Under the direction of Recreation and Parks and in partnership with Vermont Patriots, Volunteer Youth Head Soccer Coaches work closely with the Vermont Patriots Board to create a positive learning environment where children can play soccer with a focus on sportsmanship, fundamental skills, teamwork, and responsibility. Our youth soccer program emphasizes skill development, fair play, cooperation, and fun.

Youth Soccer Assistant Coach

Under the direction of Recreation and Parks and in partnership with Vermont Patriots, Volunteer Youth Assistant Soccer Coaches work closely with the Vermont Patriots Board to create a positive learning environment where children can play soccer with a focus on sportsmanship, fundamental skills, teamwork, and responsibility. Our youth soccer program emphasizes skill development, fair play, cooperation, and fun. Assistant coaches will engage directly with youth while being a dependable resource for our Head Coaches.

Girl Scouts

By Amy Snow Lothrop

We have started 2021 using Zoom to connect with each other while respecting social distancing. We are eagerly looking forward to springtime which we hope will allow us to meet in person and outdoors. In the meantime,



All the ingredients for the baskets

cookie season is underway through March. The girls are hard at work selling cookies to fund future activities like camping, travel, higher awards and community service. We will be holding cookie booths in the rotary in March. You are able to purchase cookies online that can be mailed to you for a small fee. Also an option is to have a contactless delivery, order and pay online using this link: <https://DigitalCookie.GirlScouts.org/scout/troop30187-126>

Our Daisy, Brownie, Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts participated in a virtual Cookie Rally with thousands of other Girl Scouts across New Hampshire and Vermont. It was an opportunity to learn about the key skills that they will develop from selling cookies: money management, decision making, people skills, goal setting and business ethics. Each girl can potentially earn enough credit to purchase her own uniform, pay her own registration and even pay for a week or two of Girl Scout summer camp. The proceeds to the troop have funded camping in Maine, 22 Bronze Awards, 8 Silver Awards, a trip to Costa Rica in 2021 and numerous community service projects. Cookie season empowers their entrepreneurial spirit. We thank you for supporting us!

The Daisy Girl Scouts of Troop 58806 have been working on their leaves and petals. We started with the "Count it Up" leaf. They enjoyed playing a memory game to learn about the 8 cookies (Tagalongs, Do Si Do, Lemon Ups, Thin Mints, Trefoils, Toffeetastic, Samoas & S'Mores) and their \$5 price. We also worked on the "Courageous and Strong" and brainstormed ways that we can stand up for ourselves and others.

The Brownie Girl Scouts of Troop 52013 were able to explore STEM careers and had a guest speaker to introduce cool options. They worked on their computer expert badge. The Junior, Cadette and Ambassador Girl Scouts of Troop 30948 are working on Detective and Special Agent badges. They are learning to practice their observation skills, crack codes, identify fingerprints and explore forensic science.

The Senior Girl Scouts of Troop 30187 have kept up our connection by meeting over Zoom. We discussed plans for the upcoming year including cookie season, our trip to Costa Rica and camping. In February, we played a version of Chopped. They chose Bronze, Silver or Gold level baskets. Jen and I shopped for the secret ingredients and delivered it to their door just before the meeting. On Zoom, we opened the baskets and established the rules. They had 75 minutes to make an entree to share visually at least on Zoom. Afterwards, we ate together and very competitively played Among Us.

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 or 802-373-7288. Stay well.



★ WATCH ★
★ LOCAL ★
VOTE
LOCAL

WATCH ELECTION FORUMS

JOIN US FOR OUR
LIVE RESULTS SHOW
ON TUES. MAR. 2ND

TUNE IN

On Comcast 1087, BT 17 & 217,
ch.17.tv, or LIVE on YouTube



YOUR LOCAL MEDIA

Watch local programs, election coverage, regional events, and municipal meetings on cable TV and online. Learn how to make your own community media.



- VERMONTCAM.ORG + Channels 15 (BT), HD 215 (BT), 1074 (Comcast)
- RETN.ORG + Channels 16 (BT), BTV-HD 216 (BT), 1094 (Comcast)
- CH17.TV + Channels 17 (BT), 217 HD (BT), 317 (BT), 1087 (Comcast)



Meet the Candidates

Here is information submitted by the candidates to help you get to know them better. For more information about the school's proposed investment in Winooski students for the 2021-22 school year, join us **Monday, March 1st**. The beginning of the meeting will be held in-person at 7:30pm following strict COVID-19 safety precautions in the WSD Performing Arts Center. Then, at 7:45pm, there will be a Budget Information Session presented virtually. **Join the Budget Info Session via Zoom: bit.ly/WSDMeeting or call in: 1-929-436-2866. Please do your part and become informed, and vote on March 2, 2021 at the Senior Center, 123 Barlow Street, between 7 a.m. and 7pm.**

STEVEN BERBECO

Running for: School Board, 3-year term

Contact: Leclair Street, 858-376-7269.

Work: I have many years of experience in education, most recently as the Deputy Commissioner for Vermont's Child Development Division in the Department for Children and Families. I have also worked as a superintendent, high school teacher, curriculum developer, and instructional coach. I have taught Arabic in an urban high school, Hungarian in a refugee camp, and ASL to my children.

Community service: Involved with many areas of the community, including the Finance Commission, the Library Committee, and as a Justice of the Peace.

Reason for running: I'm running for the board running for this position because I believe in the importance of public schools, both to serve Winooski's families and their children, as well as a way to grow the city in the future.

KAMAL DAHAL

Running for: School Board, to serve remainder of 3-year term

Contact: Solarview Drive. 802-503-7195

Work: Database Developer / CSL Software Solutions, Inc.

Education: Bachelor's degree in Management Information System from Rochester Institute of Technology

Hobbies/activities: Meeting new people, cooking, reading, and spending time with families.

Community service: Helping and advocating Nepali community members in the Winooski and Burlington area.

Reason for running: Winooski is becoming an increasingly diverse town, yet there is a clear lack of representative voices in the decision-making groups. My primary reason to run for the WSD school board is to bring that voice to the board. As a refugee immigrant myself, I have lived the experience of a newly immigrated high school student. My goal is to bring awareness and work on

resolving the challenges new Americans are currently facing in Winooski schools.

JIM DUNCAN

Running for: City Council

Contact: Hall St., 802-310-7103,

jimduncan4@gmail.com

Work: I am the Director of the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative and a research staff member at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at UVM.

Education: I received my MS in Human-Environment Geography from Oregon State University

Hobbies/activities: I love gardening, crafting, camping, cross-country skiing, anything my kids like, and messing around with building things by hand

Community service: I have served on City Council for almost two years, and I have been an active member of the Winooski Tree Advisory Committee since 2016. I have served as a board member of the Heart of Winooski foundation, a participant in the Winooski Equity Dialogue, a staff union organizer and a citizenship tutor for New Americans.

Reason for running: After two years as a City Councilor, I am convinced that Winooski has a bright future ahead, and I am running to make sure that as we move ahead, we are building a city where families can grow, thrive and stay; a government that is open, accessible, equitable and anti racist; a community that changes at a rate taxpayers can bear; and a city that preserves the beauty and value of our open spaces.

KRISTINE LOTT

Running for: Mayor

Contact: W. Spring St., 802-766-1988

Work: Business Analyst for education non-profit TNTF

Education: B.A. from Michigan State University

Hobbies/activities: Dog walks, cross country skiing, and local food and drinks

Community service: Have been serving the city for 4 years, in the role of Mayor for the past 2

Reason for running: I've been grateful to serve as Mayor over the past 2 years and look forward to continuing. Moving forward, I will continue to respond to our shifting pandemic needs while carrying out the Master Plan goals and existing commitments: Sustainable growth and affordability, more workforce housing, upkeep of critical infrastructure, financial planning so expenses don't outpace revenue, and continuing to increase equity in our policy making process. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Winooski.

JAMES McCORMICK

Running for: City Council

Contact: West Allen St., 802-355-9820.

Work: I manage property here in Winooski, previously I worked in Healthcare IT and for Rights and Democracy.

Education: I grew up in Vermont, I graduated from Essex High School in 2010 and Castleton State College in 2014 with degrees in business marketing and political science.

Hobbies: I enjoy hiking and skiing, I've been brewing beer for the last 6 years, and am passionate about growing my own garden in the summer.

Volunteer Work: I have volunteered with Camp Ta Kum Ta and the Special Olympics here in Vermont, and look forward to engaging more with volunteer opportunities in Winooski.

Reason for running: I want to provide a vote to ensure equality for all, regardless of: race, religious, residency, LGBTQ rights, mental and physical health, or poverty. We cannot continue a system that provides barriers to individuals based on prejudice. I am running to help impoverished families afford to live in their homes in Winooski, feed their families, and to report to the residents,

my positions and voting record in a transparent manner. To learn more: <https://www.jamesmccormick.org>.

SAM MYERS

Running for: City Council
Contact: Manseau St., 802-310-5327
Work: 14 years at Farrell Distributing, currently in Sales
Education: Essex Jct High School, Valencia Community College Orlando FL
Hobbies/Activities: Working out, eating healthy, learning about the craft beer industry, skydiving
Community Service: The Winooski Non-Profit Kenneth R Myers Memorial Pool Foundation, Winooski Charter Commission, Winooski Tee-Ball Coach
Reason for running: I want to serve my community, tackle problems and talk with community members about fair solutions. Important issues are: property taxes, TIF distribution in 2024, tax relief, growing our tax base, equity, education, an aging infrastructure, lack of parking, and a lack of affordable family size units. I will go above and beyond bringing balance and fairness, equity and compassion for all because that's what we do in Winooski. Thank you for your consideration.

DALLAS WHEATLEY

Running for: City Council
Contact: Elm Street, 207-991-4998
Work: IBM, Essex Junction
Education: MS, Climate and Quaternary Studies from University of Maine BA, Environmental Studies from Mount Holyoke College
Hobbies/activities: Creating radio plays, making soap, tabletop role-playing games and board games
Community service: I co-directed a charity event in June 2020 which raised over \$10,000 for The Trevor Project, a non-profit organization who helps LGBTQ+ youth across the country.
Reason for running: I love Winooski so much, but I know we can be even better. As a renter, I believe that if we lead with empathy and understanding for our most marginalized residents, we can turn this city into a safe haven for everyone -- not just those who can afford to buy a house.

NAME: ALEXANDER "ALEX" YIN

Running for: School Board, 2-year term
Contact: Winooski Falls Way, 516-423-9601
Work: Executive Director of Institutional Research, University of Vermont

Education: Doctorate in Higher Education, Penn State, Master's Degree in Applied Statistics, Penn State, Master's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Georgia Tech, Bachelors in Electrical Engineering, Georgia Tech
Hobbies/activities: Rooting for New England Teams. eating BBQ
Community service: Board Member, Caminar Latino, Advisor to Asian Student Union and Jazbaa at UVM
Reason for running: I've been taught that education truly allows a person to be free. More importantly, if we truly believe in having a democratic government then we need to have an educated populace. Thus, I am running for this school board position to ensure that we are creating an equitable environment that allows all of our children to learn. They are our present and future and I've no doubt will keep our community vibrant.

*** DO YOUR PART ***
VOTE!
MARCH 2, 2021

SAMPLE

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL CITY AND SCHOOL BALLOT
CITY OF WINOOSKI, VERMONT
MARCH 2, 2021**

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this:

B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.

C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

FOR MAYOR	FOR COUNCILORS
<p>Three-Year Term (Vote for not more than ONE)</p> <p>KRISTINE LOTT <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>Two-Year Term (Vote for not more than TWO)</p> <p>JAMES DUNCAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>JAMES MCCORMICK <input type="radio"/></p> <p>SAMUEL MYERS <input type="radio"/></p> <p>DALLAS WHEATLEY <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>

ARTICLES

ARTICLE THREE: CITY BUDGET
 Shall the voters of the City of Winooski approve the budget for the Fiscal Year for 2022 in the amount of Eight Million, Two Hundred Thirteen Thousand, Six Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and Thirty-Five Cents (\$8,213,695.35)? The amount to be raised from property taxes is Six Million, Eighty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Twenty-Three Dollars and Twenty-Six Cents (\$6,085,223.26). YES NO

ARTICLE FOUR:
 Shall the City Council be authorized to apply for and accept funds from sources other than property taxation, and to expend the same for the benefit of the City in addition to sums for which budget appropriation has been made? (Approval of this article will not impact property taxes.) YES NO

ARTICLE FIVE:
 Shall the voters of the City of Winooski permit the operation of cannabis retailers within the City of Winooski, pursuant to 7 V.S.A. §863(a) (1), and subject to such municipal ordinance and regulation as the City Council may lawfully adopt and implement? YES NO

ARTICLE SIX:
 Shall the City of Winooski urge the State to halt F-35 training flights in a densely populated area, such as Winooski? YES NO

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

SAMPLE

WINOOSKI INCORPORATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE	FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE	FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE
<p>Three-Year Term (Vote for not more than ONE)</p> <p>STEVEN BERBECO <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>Two-Year Term (Vote for not more than ONE)</p> <p>ALEXANDER YIN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>To serve remainder of Three Year Term (Vote for not more than ONE)</p> <p>KAMAL DAHAL <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>

ARTICLES

ARTICLE V:
 Shall the District accept and expend the sum of Three million, Twenty-six thousand, One hundred ninety-nine dollars (\$3,026,199) or whatever sum is provided by federal programs for the support of compensatory education and special programs? Said sum shall be exclusively federal funds received by the District. (No local or statewide school property taxes included in these funds.) YES NO

ARTICLE VI:
 Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend nineteen million, Five hundred and sixteen thousand, Two hundred and Forty dollars (\$19,516,240), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of Sixteen thousand, Six hundred and Twenty one dollars (\$16,821) per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.84% higher than spending for the current year. YES NO

ARTICLE VII:
 Shall the voters of the school district authorize the school board to enter into a twenty-five (25) year lease with SolarCommunities, Inc. d/b/a SunCommon, to lease portions of the roof of school property located at 60 Normand St. to SolarCommunities, Inc. d/b/a SunCommon, to install and operate a solar-powered electric generating system, pursuant to the term of the Lease Agreement and Group Net Metering Credit Agreement negotiated by the school board? YES NO

CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT

FOR CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
<p>Three Year Term (Vote for not more than ONE)</p> <p>JONATHAN STOCKBRIDGE <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>

ARTICLE

ARTICLE I:
 Shall general obligation bonds of Champlain Water District in an amount not to exceed One Million Ninety Thousand Six Hundred Seven Dollars (\$1,090,607) representing the balance of previously authorized bonded indebtedness, be issued for the purpose of funding the acquisition of various capital assets through the District's Capital Reserve Fund? YES NO

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

Legislative Update

By Kesha Ram, Vermont Senator

The first month of our legislative session has flown by, and many bills are still being introduced. I wanted to discuss two bills, one I have introduced and one I vehemently oppose.

The bill I have introduced, Senate Bill 27, supports the work of cultural liaisons in our schools. Even prior to the pandemic, it was clear that our cultural liaisons play a critical and sometimes life-saving role for our immigrant and New American families. They also serve our families' needs holistically, while their charge and their wage may dictate that they can only provide school-related information. This has led communities like Winooski and Burlington to look at shared municipal funding of these positions so they could be better paid and less constrained in their support of families. Shared funding between schools and municipalities is generally not allowed because of our statewide education funding system, so I have introduced legislation to enable shared funding for this position specifically. The Senate Education Committee has indicated interest in this legislation and it looks likely to advance.

Regarding the bill I oppose, I am always grateful to hear from young people, but I am sad to note that recently it is because many of our students in Chittenden County are upset and

concerned about House Bill 92. This bill seeks to prohibit any flags flying at our schools besides the American and Vermont flags, which many see as a thinly veiled attempt to ban Pride and Black Lives Matter flags. While this bill has almost no chance of even being taken up for discussion, I know it makes many Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and LGBTQ+ students feel further silenced and marginalized, and I apologize on behalf of the legislature. It strengthens my resolve to advance legislation to better support BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students, such as increasing the use of restorative justice practices in our schools and creating more funding mechanisms for multicultural liaisons.

On a related note, all BIPOC Vermonters deserve to feel safe and welcome in our state, and I wrote an Op-Ed about our collective focus needed on the support and retention of our BIPOC neighbors and co-workers, not simply seeking to advance racial diversity through recruitment. It clearly struck a chord, with over 900 shares from the VT Digger website, and I encourage you to take a look: <http://bit.ly/KeshaRamVTDigger>

Please stay in touch: kram@leg.state.vt.us

What's Happening At North End Studios

North End Studios at the O'Brien Center in Winooski has been offering International Take-Out dinners at their 32 Malletts Bay Avenue location every Saturday since July 2020 and will carry this forward through 2021. Tickets for meals are available at sevendaystickets.com, \$20 per person, with meat or vegetarian options available.

March dinners will include:

• **Bosnian Cuisine-March 6, 4-6 pm**

Bosnian cuisine, like its language, has a base of South Slavic culture. This meal will be prepared by Mediha Goretic and will include: Grilled Ćevapi (meat kebabs) stuffed into homemade lepinja (bread), ajvar (eggplant spread), paradajz salata (tomato salad), and oblatne for dessert.

• **Argentinian Cuisine- March 13, 4-6 pm**

Lorena & Javier of Dale Boca are cooking this meal which will include pork chili over Spanish saffron rice and 2 chicken empanadas with chimichurri sauce or vegetarian chili over saffron rice and 2 corn and cheese empanadas with chimichurri sauce. Add on 3 guava and goat cheese empanadas for just \$10.

• **German Cuisine- March 20, 4-6 pm**

Jennifer Lian's family came here from Germany after WWI. Mediha Goretic is from Bosnia, but she also lived in Germany for 8 years. Jennifer and Mediha will be preparing this meal together.



They will be serving traditional German bratwurst, red cabbage, and homemade spaetzle, a savory Bavarian-style noodle dish.

• **Ethiopian/Eritrean Cuisine- March 27, 4-6 pm**

Meat option: minchet abish wat, (spicy ground beef), or vegetarian option: yemisir wat, (spicy lentil sauce). All meals include: kik alicha, (mild split peas sauce, gomen, (chopped collard greens or kale), green salad, rice, and of course, injera.

OTHER NES NEWS: North End Studios is pleased to announce their partnership with Winooski's Physician's Computer Company (PCC) on the project "Knowledge Saves Lives". The project is made possible by a grant from the Vermont Department of Health, and is working with young people in Winooski, teaching them the basic information they need to know about controlling the spread of COVID-19, as well as the creative skills they will use to reach members of their own ethnic communities and their peers at school and in their neighborhoods. PCC will be providing the hardware and expertise to assist these young people in creating their message about COVID to share with others in the community.

For more information about North End Studios programming, go to northendstudios.org.

Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for March

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

Wednesday, March 10th	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, meat and eggs
Saturday, March 13th	9:30 am to 11:00 am	Fresh food
Wednesday, March 24th	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, meat and eggs
Saturday, March 27th	9:30 am to 11:00 am	Fresh food

The volunteers at the Winooski Food Shelf remain grateful for the support of local businesses, organizations, residents and friends in nearby communities. Your financial donations, food drives and toiletry drives make a huge difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.

Food Shelf Policy: Winooski residents coming for the first time should bring proof that you live in Winooski such as a utility bill or rental lease. Winooski residents may access the pantry staples one Wednesday each month. They may also come both Saturdays to stock up on bread, pastry and some fresh fruits and veggies. Shaw's in Colchester and Winooski's own Commodities Natural Market help supply Saturday's food.

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 and make an electronic donation.

Donation Drop Off Locations: **Please do not leave food on our doorstep when we are closed.** Instead, please bring **unexpired and unopened**

food donations to: Commodities Natural Market, 65 Winooski Falls Way, phone: 448-3340 or to J & J's Corner Market, 12 Malletts Bay Avenue, phone: 654-8003. **We especially need toiletries: toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, shampoo, disposable razors and toilet paper.** Thank you for caring about our neighbors!

Food Shelf Volunteers Needed

If you have some free time and would like to do some pickups and deliveries, pack food boxes, set up for food shelves or serve our clients, please reach out to us at our e-mail address: winooskifoodshelf@gmail.com. We have a great group of volunteers but always need more. We especially need help serving clients on Wednesdays. Volunteers should be able to lift 25 pounds.

Howard Center Update

By Adam C. Brooks, Assistant Director of Communications

Over the past year our lives have dramatically changed. We've learned to adapt during a pandemic which has profoundly impacted our community. If you or a loved one is experiencing adverse effects during the COVID-19 pandemic and need support for mental health, substance use, or developmental needs you are not alone, and we encourage you to reach out for help. .

Our Access and Intake Main Number 802-488-6000 is available M-F 8:00am – 6:00pm. Our staff will help you find the services that best fit your need. Our First Call for Chittenden County crisis hotline 802-488-7777 is available 24/7/365.

Each spring and fall, Howard Center's free and open to the public Community Education Series presents expertise and dialogue on important and timely issues often bringing together community members with diverse perspectives. This year is no exception as we explore alcohol use, and hoarding and clutter using a community support approach.

Registration is free at howardcenter.org.

- March 9, 2021 6:00-7:15pm: **Dr. John Brooklyn | Alcohol Use – Why we should be talking about it.**
- April 6, 2021 from 2:00-3:30pm: **Erin Roelke and Millie Richard | Hoarding and Clutter: Community Support Approaches.**

Also, our virtual annual conference, **Perspectives on Connection, Compassion, and Belonging** will be held on March 30, 2021 from 9am – 1pm. The conference, designed for a broad audience, will be a day of inspiration and learning and feature national speakers, Rev. angel Kyodo williams, Dr. Laurie Santos, and V (formerly Eve Ensler) reflecting on how connection, compassion, and belonging impact overall health and well-being. For more information and to register, visit howardcenter.org.



Family Support Group

By Martina Kerkering

The New Year is in full swing! We hope that you have been able to recharge, and have found new strength to get through these challenging times.



Sadly, our well-loved playgroups are still on pause, but we are here to help and support you during this time.

You can join us for some much needed time together during our virtual family support group. Whether you would like to do a little Yoga, read a story, or just enjoy a chat. We offer family support every Tuesday from 11:15am-12pm via ZOOM.

Please reach out to receive the ZOOM information: mkerkering@howardcenter.org or (802) 324 6405.

Happy Spring from the Health Office!

By Katharine Monje RN BSN

School Athletics have been very different this year but we are hopeful for spring sports to begin soon!

If your child plans to or is interested in playing sports, now is the time to make sure they have their updated sports physical and any medications if they have a known medical diagnosis. Feel free to give us a call in the health office if you'd like some help or have questions.

It's not too late to get your flu shot! If you haven't already, call your primary care provider to see if it is right for you.

Access to the COVID vaccine is progressing through a phased approach in Vermont. It has been so nice to see some of our most vulnerable being vaccinated.

If you have any COVID related questions, please feel free to contact the WSD COVID Hotline at 802 556 2243!

Feeling Isolated?

COVID Support Counselors are here to help.

Call 2-1-1, option #2.

Confidential and FREE
Monday–Friday, 8am–8pm

COVID SUPPORT VT

Promoting mental health and wellness for all

   @COVIDSupportVT | Find more resources at COVIDSupportVT.org

Winooski Partnership for Prevention

By Jane Henderson, Grants Manager

Join Above the Influence

Is your student looking for a way to get involved in the community? Have them reach out to hear more about Above The Influence (ATI). The ATI is an empowering national campaign that is inspired by what young people have to say about living a substance-free lifestyle. It is also a place to talk about ways to acknowledge and deal with influences, while also encouraging youth to lend their voice and be an ambassador for policy change in our community.

The ATI club meets on Wednesdays after-school, and is virtual for the time being. If you think your student might be interested in joining, email Kate at katenugent@winooskiprevention.org.

Take-Out Community Dinners

We loved getting the chance to connect with so many Winooski residents at the end of 2020 through our new take-out community dinners, that we're bringing them back! We'll be hosting one community dinner per month that will feature the cooking of a local chef that represents a New American cuisine. Each community dinner will come with tips for speaking to your Winooski student about substances (for example, conversation starters for around the dinner table) and will also provide updates on different policies that can help us move towards being a substance-misuse free city (like making sure that substances such as tobacco are not being aggressively marketed to young people).

Meals are free and available for up to four people per family. To reserve a meal, sign up for our newsletter (at winooskiprevention.org) or follow us on social media. As soon as the chef is announced, folks will be asked to reserve a meal by sending us an email. Sixty meals will be available per event and we'll be taking reservations on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Animation Course Still Available!

We started a free online animation course for Winooski students last month that will meet twice more in March (Wednesday, March 3rd and March 10th after-school). This course is being offered in partnership with Scout Digital and their on-staff animator, Ian. He'll be teaching students the history of animation and the basics for creating – culminating in the development of a student-directed animation to be completed following the conclusion of the three courses. Don't worry if your student missed the first class, we can catch them up! If you are interested and would like to sign them up, please email Suzanne at sskaflestad@wsdvt.org.

My Life, My Quit

This is a free and confidential resource for teens to quit smoking or vaping. Know a teen that wants to quit? Have them text "Start My Quit" to 36072 or scan the QR code here to go to the My Life, My Quit website.





Winooski JFK Elementary School Breakfast

March 2021



Menus are subject to change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 No School	2 No School	3 Remote- See Side Panel	4 Maple Burstn Pancakes Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	5 WG Iced Honey Bun Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
8 Whole Grain Bagel Cream Cheese Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	9 Blueberry Bread Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	10 Remote- See Side Panel	11 Maple Burstn Pancakes Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	12 WG Iced Honey Bun Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
15 Whole Grain Bagel Cream Cheese Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	16 Blueberry Bread Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	17 Remote- See Side Panel ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 Maple Burstn Pancakes Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	19 WG Iced Honey Bun Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
22 National School Breakfast Week! Whole Grain Bagel Cream Cheese Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	23 National School Breakfast Week! Blueberry Bread Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	24 Remote- See Side Panel	25 National School Breakfast Week! Maple Burstn Pancakes Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	26 National School Breakfast Week! WG Iced Honey Bun Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety
29 Whole Grain Bagel Cream Cheese Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	30 Blueberry Bread Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety OR WG Asst. Cereal Graham Crackers Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Milk Variety	31 Remote- See Side Panel		

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:

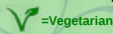


Click Image Below for employment opportunities



Winooski JFK Elementary School Lunch

March 2021



Menus are subject to change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 No School	2 No School	3 Remote- See Side Panel	4 Cheeseburger Oven Crisp Tater Tots Assorted Green Peas Fresh Apple Deli Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Fresh Apple Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	5 Sweet & Sour Chicken Rice Pilaf Pineapple Tidbits Deli Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Pineapple Tidbits Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety
8 Sloppy Joe on a Bun (Ground Beef) Assorted Green Peas Pineapple Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Pineapple Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	9 French Toast Sticks Turkey Sausage Patty Assorted Green Peas Fresh Blueberries Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Fresh Blueberries Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	10 Remote- See Side Panel	11 Oven Baked Herbed Chicken Dinner Roll Rice Pilaf Chef's Mashed Potato Assorted Green Peas Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Creamy Cole Slaw Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	12 Corn Dog Assorted Green Peas Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Fresh Apple Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety
15 Chicken Teriyaki Rice Pilaf Assorted Green Peas Sliced Peaches Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Sliced Peaches Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	16 Homemade Shepherd's Pie (Ground Beef, Corn & Mashed Potato) Dinner Roll Applesauce Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Fresh Apple Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	17 Remote- See Side Panel ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 Dress Your Own Beef Burger Crispy Cut French Fries Assorted Green Peas Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	19 Chicken Fajita w/ Sauteed Onions & Peppers Rice Pilaf Cajun Sour Cream Sliced Peaches Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Sliced Peaches Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety
22 Chicken Patty Sandwich Oven Crisp Tater Tots Assorted Green Peas Sliced Peaches Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Sliced Peaches Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	23 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce (Ground Beef) Assorted Green Peas Dinner Roll Apple Crisp w/Maple Drizzle Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Apple Crisp w/Maple Drizzle Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	24 Remote- See Side Panel	25 Macaroni and Cheese Assorted Green Peas Maple Muffins Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	26 Pancakes Real Maple Syrup Turkey Sausage Patty Assorted Green Peas Sweet & White Homefries Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety
29 Beef Nachos Supreme Assorted Green Peas Cajun Sour Cream Assorted Fresh, Dried or Canned Fruit Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	30 Chicken & Cheese Calzone Caesar Salad Pear Slices Deli Turkey Sandwich Assorted Green Peas Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Granola Milk Variety	31 Remote- See Side Panel	Harvest of the Month: Maple Syrup Click on the maple syrup to learn more fun facts about the harvest of the month!	

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

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

Pre-made Deli Sandwiches

- Milk
- Condiments
- Fresh, Dried Or Canned Fruit

Pay for meals on-line. Click Image Below



Click Image Below for employment opportunities





WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Newsletter of the Winooski School District

60 Normand Street
Winooski, VT 05404

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

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



Winooski's Capital Project

The district broke ground on the Capital Project this summer, after months of planning and preparing. As of January, ReArch Construction Company has already completed much of the new construction, including the new middle and elementary school wings, as well as the new gymnasium. Fortunately, disruptions have been fairly minimal for students and staff.

The project is slated for completion in the summer of 2022. Follow along on the construction: cp.winooski.org

VOTING DAY is on Tuesday, March 2 • 7:00am to 7:00pm • Winooski Senior Center

