

JFK Weekly Newsletter

Friday, November 10, 2023. Sara Raabe, JFK Principal

Language Matters

As a school, we take our commitment to all our students and the community seriously. Part of that commitment means full inclusion of all our students and each part of their identity. We have found that some of our students are using language that constitutes Harassment under the Vermont State Law:

(26)(A) "Harassment" means an incident or incidents of verbal, written, visual, or physical conduct, including any incident conducted by electronic means, based on or motivated by a student's or a student's family member's actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability that has the purpose or effect of objectively and substantially undermining and detracting from or interfering with a student's educational performance or access to school resources or creating an objectively intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Harassment only has to happen once for an investigation to be opened, unlike bullying where it has to happen more than once in a relevant time period. All adults in our students' lives must report incidents of potential harassment that happen at school immediately using the [Bullying and Harassment Report Form \(Student Conduct Form\)](#) or by contacting the school directly.

We have three designated investigators in the building for Bullying and Harassment investigations; Amanda Babcock, Grace Holcomb, and Sarah Murphy. All three staff members, and myself, have completed extensive training on investigations and determinations. Once a Report Form is completed, we meet as a team and one of the investigators takes over. If an investigation is warranted, families are informed and an investigation starts.

Epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, or threatening, intimidating, or hostile language that relate to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability are all considered unacceptable language and may constitute harassment, even if the student thought what they were saying was funny or just a joke. When these types of words are used, they affect not only the individual they were directed at, they also affect the other people in the space, the class, the school, and the community.

We need support from our families to ensure that students understand what language constitutes harassment language. Discussions around slurs and emotionally charged words can be challenging, and students must hear the correct information from trusted adults. If the adults in their lives do not

address these issues with them, students will take the lead from what they see and hear on social media or other sources, which does not always have a positive impact on your student's development. Below are some resources for you to look at so you feel prepared to have these discussions with your student(s). Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

[Talking to Kids About Race and Racism](#)

[Let's Talk! Discussing Race, Racism, and Other Difficult Topics with Students](#)

[Talking to your child about slurs: When words hurt](#)

[Talking to kids about discrimination](#)

[How to talk to kids about racism: An age-by-age guide](#)

Student Flu Shot Clinic

There will be a Flu Shot Clinic on Friday, November 17th in the WSD Health Office from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for WSD students only. If you would like your student(s) to get the flu shot at this clinic, please complete and return the attached consent form.

Craft Fair - Volunteers Needed

The Winooski PTO is excited to announce that they will be hosting a Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair this year. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at the Winooski School District and have over 100 crafters/ vendors signed up to participate. We are in need of volunteers to help make this event a success. Please sign up using the Sign Up Genius link below:

signupgenius.com



Calendar

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

All School Morning Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 2023

11:00 am Early Release for all students

No PK

JFK Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, November 17, 2023

Veggie Van Go

11:00 am Early Release for all students

JFK Parent Teacher Conferences

Monday, November 20 - Friday, November 24, 2023

No School

Thanksgiving Break

Friday, December 1, 2023

Veggie Van Go

Thursday, December 14, 2023

12:15 p.m. Early Release for all students

Friday, December 15, 2023

Veggie Van Go

Friday, December 22 - Monday, January 1, 2024


No School





JFK Elementary

 Facebook

 @WinooskiLearns

 60 Normand Street, Winooski, ...

 sraabe@wsdvt.org

 802-655-0411

 wsdvt.org