

# JFK Weekly Newsletter

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**Friday, November 7, 2025**

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## DiNovember Is Here!

This month, Adriana and Madison, our school-based social workers, are bringing DiNovember to life in room D167! Inspired by *What the Dinosaurs Did at School* by Refe and Susan Tuma, each day of November will feature a new window display showing what the dinosaurs have been up to at school. Be sure to stop by and see their daily dinosaur adventures!

Families can join in the fun at home by visiting the DiNovember website (<https://dinovember.com/dinovember>) and watching a short read-aloud of the book (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0mZPJ0EAjc>)

What Do School Social Workers Do?

School-based social workers help support students' social, emotional, and behavioral well-being so they can learn and grow at their best. They work with students individually and in groups, collaborate with teachers and families, and connect families with community resources. Most importantly, they help create a welcoming, supportive school environment for all students.

Adriana and Madison are excited to use DiNovember as a fun way to connect with students and reduce the stigma around visiting the social work space.



**Dinos play Soccer in honor of the Boys and Girls HS Soccer Teams!**



**Dinos play instruments!**



**Dinos Under the Sea!**

## Attendance Matters

As we settle into the school year, we want to take a moment to highlight how important it is for students to be at school every day. Regular attendance builds strong learning habits, fosters connection with peers and adults, and sets students up for long-term success. Even small changes—like getting to school on time each morning—make a big difference in how children learn and feel about school.

### Why Attendance Matters

- Missing even 10 % of the school year (about 18 days—or just 2 days each month) can make it harder for students to keep up academically.
- For children in kindergarten and first grade, frequent absences can disrupt the development of early reading and math skills.
- Students who attend school consistently in the early grades are much more likely to be reading on grade level by third grade.
- Both excused and unexcused absences add up—each day of learning matters.
- Consistent attendance also helps students build friendships, routines, and confidence that carry throughout their education.

### What This Means for Our Students at JFK

At JFK Elementary, being in school—and being on time—every day helps our learners in many ways:

- Maximizes instructional time. Students receive the full benefit of our focused work.
- Builds consistent routines. Regular attendance teaches responsibility and reinforces that school is a priority.
- Strengthens our inclusive community. Each student's presence contributes to belonging, collaboration, and classroom momentum.
- Supports equity. Every day in school ensures that all children have access to the learning and opportunities they deserve.

### How Families Can Help

You play a vital role in helping your child build good attendance habits. Here are a few ideas:

- Establish a steady morning routine—consistent wake-up times, breakfast, and backpacks ready to go.
- If your child isn't feeling well, please reach out to us early. We can help determine if they're well enough for school and offer support if needed.
- Schedule appointments or trips outside of school days whenever possible.
- Talk with your child about school—ask what they learned, what they enjoyed, and remind them how showing up helps them grow.
- If transportation, health, or other challenges make attendance difficult, please connect with us. We're here to help find solutions together.

### Our Commitment

As a school community, we are committed to ensuring that JFK is a place where students feel safe, cared for, and excited to learn. We will continue to monitor attendance closely, reach out early when concerns arise, and partner with families to support every student's success.

Let's keep working together so every child at JFK shows up, belongs, and thrives!

## Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

We would like to invite all families to our annual Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 13th and 14th, 2025.

Conference Schedule:



- Thursday, November 13th: 11:15 a.m. – 7:15 p.m.

- Friday, November 14th: 11:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

All conferences will be held in person this year.

Families should have received an invitation through their Language Liaison or directly from their classroom teacher via Reach My Teach to schedule a time for their conference.

If you would like other adults to attend your conference in addition to your child's classroom teacher, please reach out to your teacher to include any of the following staff members:

- Grace Holcomb (K–2 School Counselor)
- Sarah Murphy (3–5 School Counselor)
- Sara Poland (Music Teacher)
- Kyle Blindow (PE Teacher)
- Dennis Barcomb (PE Teacher)
- Renee Weertman (Art Teacher)
- Drew Blanchard (Media Literacy, Grades 3–5)
- Matt Gile (Librarian)
- Daviah Lawrence (Ethnic Studies, Justice, and Belonging Teacher)
- Angela Moulton (Health and Science Teacher)
- Amanda Babcock (Behavior Coach)
- Jacie Barber (Literacy Coach)
- Stefanie Hamble (Math Coach)
- Jody Weimer (K–2 Literacy Interventionist)
- Jen Lapointe (3–5 Literacy Interventionist)
- Mag Thomas (K–2 Math Interventionist)
- Lindsay Day (3–5 Math Interventionist)

We look forward to connecting with all families to celebrate your child's growth and set goals for the year ahead!

## JFK Calendar

Thursday, November 13, 2025

11 AM Early Release for all students

JFK Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, November 14, 2025

11 AM Early Release for all students

JFK Parent Teacher Conferences

November 24, 2025 - November 28, 2025

No School PK-12

November Break

## JFK Elementary

**Website:** [wsdvt.org](http://wsdvt.org)

**Location:** [60 Normand Street, Winooski, VT, USA](#)

**Phone:** [802-655-0411](tel:802-655-0411)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/winooskilearns>



**Sara Raabe**