

Barre Town Middle and Elementary School

January 2019 Newsletter

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Happy New Year!



Happy New Year!

As we ring in 2019, we wanted to take a moment and ask for your help in an effort to maintain a safe environment for everyone in the parking lot. Since the start of the school year, we have had several situations where safety has been a concern. The majority of these incidents have occurred during student drop-off and pick-up in the parking lot and crosswalk. Simply stated, several vehicles dropping-off and picking-up our students are not paying attention to basic safety, courtesy, and traffic laws.

As you drop-off or pick-up your child, please follow these guidelines:

*Please watch your speed when entering, driving through, and especially exiting the parking lot and crosswalk. There have been several close calls with some vehicles exiting this area way too quickly.

*Please park in one of the 200 plus parking spots. There have been many vehicles reported parking along the woodchip facility driveway and in the crosswalk that lines the right side of our parking lot. As stated within Vermont's Motor Vehicle Statutes, no person may stop, stand, or park a vehicle on a crosswalk.

*Handicapped parking spots are to be used only by those vehicles that have a handicapped plaque visible on the dash.

*Please be courteous to those that choose to walk and be aware of pedestrians, not only at the crosswalk, but also at street corners near our school. Please drive slowly and stop for pedestrians.

*When able our local police department will sometimes be visible in the parking lot. Please be respectful and courteous to them. They are following the safety procedures that have been established for our students, staff, families, and guests, essentially for everyone who accesses our parking lot. Please know that they have full authority to ticket cars and drivers who are not adhering to driving laws within our parking lot which can include speed, crosswalk and/or parking issues.

***No students are allowed to meet a ride in our parking lot.** - All students (including those in middle school) must be signed-out in the front office, at the end of the day.

We appreciate your attention to these matters as we continue to strive to provide the best and safest learning environment for all. The safety of our students is everyone's responsibility and only by **working together** can we ensure that our students travel to and from school as safely as possible.

Respectfully,

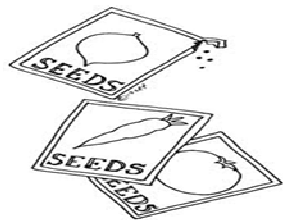
BTMES Administration Team
Jennifer W. Nye Erica Pearson

Scott Griggs

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Crops by Kids



Some years snow blankets the ground, some years we have had green peeping through in January. The recent rain certainly decreased the snow cover. Snow is an important insulator, especially for perennials. Let's hope for more.

Maybe some of you have seed catalogues already on your counter. It isn't too early to think of all the plants you want to grow this summer. We hope many of you are anticipating the annual Crops by Kids **seed fundraiser**.

This year we will be trying something new. The seeds will come from **High Mowing Seeds**, a local, organic seed company. Your seed orders support necessary purchases for our school/community garden. The survey that was distributed this past year indicated that the current company didn't offer the variety that gardeners want. Let's see if **High Mowing Seeds** offers what you are looking for.

Be looking for the seed order forms by mid-January. If you don't receive one, and would like to, email dcurtis@u61.net with your child's name and homeroom teacher. We want to support your gardening needs, and we'd like you to support ours.

This year we encourage you to invite your family, friends and neighbors to buy seeds with us. The more seeds sold, the greater percentage we get. Ask family and friends to participate and feel free to make copies of the seed order forms that come home or ask your child's teacher for more.

So here's to a winter with the hope of plenty of snow to cover the garden and for plain 'ol fun in the snow. For those who want to continue to garden in the winter, Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor University of Vermont lists a few ideas.

~**Windowsill gardens**. When snowdrifts keep children inside, try cultivating a windowsill garden. All you need is a sunny spot and a few containers of soil. Herbs are an excellent choice for windowsills. You can start from seeds or purchase small plants.

~**Watch seeds sprout**. Line a glass jar with a damp paper towel and insert several zucchini seeds between the glass and the towel. Place a lid on the jar, leave it on the kitchen counter, and check the paper every day to make sure it's still moist. Seeds should sprout in a few days. Or try bush beans instead of zucchini. Make a simple chart of the progress or have the children draw what they see each day.

~ **Terrariums**. Carefully place some soil and a few mosses and plants (with roots) inside a clean mayonnaise jar. Keep your indoor garden moist with a plant mister, and cover the opening with clear plastic wrap.

Deb Curtis, Garden Coordinator, dcurtbte@u61.net

News from the Art Department



Congratulations to the following students whose works were chosen for two special exhibits.



In the office of Curt Healey, DC, in downtown Barre. Dr. Healey is a proud supporter of Barre Town's art program and enjoys the opportunity to showcase the creative talents of our students. These works will remain on display for one year:

Grade 1:

Taya Lunt, "Fox"

Jordan Semprebon and Zane Demarais, "Drawing Emotions"

Grade 2:

Addie Elliott, "Owl"

Grade 3:

Cameron Aldrich, "Zebra"

Brayden Bartlett "Wild Cats"

Grade 4:

Mollie Clark, "Bird"

Eli Duke, "Zoo Escape"

Amelia Healey, "Fireworks"

Kaya Moulton, "Oh My, A Fly!"

Rylee Pelletier, "Macaw"

Kellen Robtoy, "Steamer Ship"



And, new works in Jen Nye's office! These pieces will remain on display through the end of the year:

Kindergarten:

Landon Lamberti, "Shark"

Hudson Lytle, "Stuffie Playing Soccer"

Jacqueline Perry, "Flower"

Grade 1:

Ethan Hoyt, "Opossums"

Stella Thomas, "Owl"

Grade 2:

Caleb Nicastro, Ellia Thompson and Rhys Verret, "Drawing Emotions" and Bentley Young, "Bird"

Grade 3:

Addie Howald, "Dogs"

Grade 4:

Callie Thompson, "Raccoon"

Additionally, I'm collecting clear plastic water bottles. These will be sanitized and used for a special art project. I need a lot, so I'll be collecting up to February break. 12-20 oz. sizes are good. (The ones that sound really crinkly when you squeeze them are best—easy for small hands to cut apart with scissors.) If you have any at home, I'd appreciate you sending them in with your child. There's a large box outside the elementary art room for your donations.

Anne Leeds, Art K-5, aleedbte@u61.net



Student Council



Thank you to everyone who helped support this year's Holiday Food Drive! We have such a generous community and raised over 4,800 food items for 21 local families!



Save the Date:

Friday, January 11, 2019— 5-8 Student Council Meeting at 2:30 in Mr. Pope's room.

Friday, February 1, 2019—Semi-formal dance for students in grades 7 and 8. Please note our dress code.

****Semi Formal Dance Dress Code****

The annual semi-formal school dance is always an exciting time. Please keep in mind that the school dress code applies to this event. Specifically:

- dresses must be of appropriate length
- dresses must have straps
- no sheer materials
- open backs are not permitted

Please remember that students may not have their cell phones out during dances. All dances end at 8:30 pm. Parents/Guardians are expected to come in to sign their student(s) out by 8:30pm.

Admission is \$5 and we're excited to announce RPM Entertainment is BACK!

Happy New Year!

Thank you for your support!

Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins and Michael Pope

rkeribte@u61.net or mpopebte@u61.net

Other Events and Happenings



BASA Spring Soccer

Registration Open Now

Ages: 6 to 18

Visit our website www.basavt.org

David Stefaniak Holiday Food and Gift Drive



As Coordinators for the David Stefaniak Holiday Food and Gift Drive, we want to thank everyone who participated. Anything you contributed whether it be a can of vegetables, a box of food, hygiene products for our tree, monetary donation or perhaps, sponsored a family... we thank you! We could not have done it without your help! This year we were able to make the holidays a little easier for 21 Barre Town families and the community through our donations to Capstone (Community Action). With Student Council collecting an astonishing 4,800+ food items, we were able to provide enough food for these families and community members to help them over the long holiday break and the long winter months ahead. This type of care and support is why the school and the community are often referred to as a "Barre Town Family".

Thank you for taking care of our Barre Town Family.

Kim Benson and Bridgett Apfel



News from the Nurse's Office

Keep Your Home Safe from Carbon Monoxide Reprinted with permission from Vermont Department of Health

As you heat your home this winter, keep it safe from an invisible, deadly gas – carbon monoxide. Many heating systems burn fuel - like natural gas, propane, oil, or wood - which produces carbon monoxide (CO). When it's cold out and homes are closed up tight, carbon monoxide can build to dangerous levels if it's not properly ventilated.

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, so you may not know if your family is at risk. But you can take steps to prevent CO poisoning in your home:

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm. Change the batteries regularly and replace the alarm when it expires.
- Have your heating system and other fuel-burning appliances serviced every year.
- Keep the vents outside your home clear of snow and ice.
- If you lose power, only use generators outside – at least 20 feet away from your house.
- Never run a vehicle inside your garage, even if the door is open.



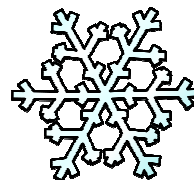
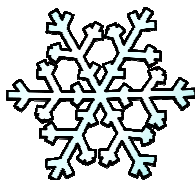
Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness and upset stomach/vomiting. This can sometimes be confused with the flu. If your CO alarm goes off, go outside immediately to get fresh air, then call 9-1-1.

For more tips and a video on carbon monoxide safety, visit: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/CO>

And check out more tips for staying safe during the winter: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/climate/winter-weather>

January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Holiday Vacation	2 School Board Mtg 6pm Library	3	4
7	8 PTO Bookstore— Lobby 8am-12pm	9	10	11 End of Quarter 2
14	15 PTO Mtg. 6:30 in Library	16 6:00 p.m. – School Board Meeting, Library	17	18 Report Cards Sent Home
21 No School for Students/Staff	22 Staff Development Day— No school for students	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	



February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Grade 4 Band Concert Semi Formal for Gr. 7 & 8, 6:30-8:30pm
4	5 PTO Bookstore— Lobby 8am-12pm	6 School Board Meeting—6 p.m. Library Snow date for Grade 4 Concert	7 Winooski Valley Music Festival	8 Staff Development Day—No school for students
11	12	13	14	15
18	19 PTO Mtg. 6:30 in Library	20 School Board Meeting—6 p.m. Library	21	22
25	26	27	28	March 1
V a c a t i o n				