

Barre Town Middle and Elementary School

January 2018 Newsletter

70 Websterville Road
Barre, VT 05641
802-476-6617
FAX: (802)479-5723
www.btmes.org



Happy New Year!



Dear Barre Town Families,

We are looking for your help! Due to the change in contracting out our transportation department, the additional cost of transportation for our student field trips was overlooked in our current school budget. In order for students to take advantage of the learning opportunities provided by attending field trips, we need to raise funds to pay for the transportation portion. This amounts to a minimum of \$15 per child.

The Fall Color Run, recent Positive Pie discount card sale, and additional fundraising efforts you may have seen, will provide a portion of the necessary funds. Unfortunately, as profitable as these events were, it still leaves us a little short.

Knowing that not everyone can afford to make a donation, we urge you to consider donating more if you are able. Any additional funds raised will go toward reducing the admission costs for these field trips.

To help with this, we are currently holding a Bakeless Bake Sale beginning today! This bake sale is quite unique as no baking or shopping for ingredients is involved! Simply put; you can make your generous donation by mailing a check payable to Barre Town PTO to: 70 Websterville Rd., Barre, VT 05641 ATTN: Tina Lunt or simply drop it at the front office into the cake box labeled "Bakeless Bake Sale for Transportation" by Friday, January 12th.

Thank you for your time and ongoing support of our school community.

Sincerely,

BTMES PTO and Administration



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Parent Teacher Organization

Our PTO (parents teachers and organization) meets once a month on the third Tuesday of every month. We meet in the BTMES Library at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome! You do not need to be a member, feel free to just drop in and check us out! **Our next meetings are January 16th and February 20th at 6:30pm in the BTMES Library.**

PTO Bookstore Dates are on one Tuesday a month from 8am-Noon in the Lobby. Parents, relatives and kids are all welcome to attend, books always make great gifts! These are the **PTO Bookstore Dates for the remainder of the School Year:**

January 9
February 6
March 13
April 10
May 8



Box Tops are an easy way that many families can help us out. Simply cut the Box Tops label and send them into school with your child. We collect Box Tops in bags of 50 each and they need to be trimmed for us to send in to get funds. If you can trim and send them in bags marked with 50 per bag, that would be a huge help. Thank you!

Megan Spaulding, PTO Coordinator



Please Update Contact Information

Has your home telephone number changed? Your work number? Your address? Your cell phone? Email? Contacts?

Please give us a call at 476-6617 or email Kim Benson (grades 5-8) at kbensbte@u61.net or Betsy Pearce (grades PK-4) at bppearbte@u61.net to keep the information up-to-date in your child's records.

School closing and delay information will be available at:

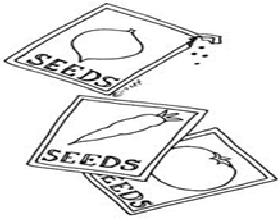
Your local radio and TV stations, including: WSNO (AM1450), WSKI (AM1240), WDEV (AM550, FM96.1), FRANK (FM107.1), The Point (FM104.7), ABC22, WCAX (Channel 3), and WPTZ (Channel 5)

The following websites: [SoVerNet](#) [VPR](#) [WCAX](#) [WPTZ](#) [BTMES](#)

Reminder: On early-release days or school cancellation days, the information we have in our system will be the telephone numbers called ---- home and cell --- by our automated system.

If school is delayed, there is no morning preschool, and the Barre Town before-school YMCA is also closed.

Crops by Kids



As I write this, snow blankets the ground. Snow is an important insulator, especially for perennials. Let's hope it stays.

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. We will, once again, be offering regular and organic seeds from the FEDCO Seed Company. Your seed orders support necessary purchases for our school/community garden.

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 last couple of years we had record sales! 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.

We are looking to hire someone to prune the kiwis. Much of the proceeds from the seed sale will help fund this need. You may notice the lime green tags blowing around the kiwi vines. The tags will help to identify which branches produced kiwis this summer. This information will be important when they are pruned, as they need to be pruned *before* they produce fruit again.

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.

Deb Curtis, dcurtbte@u61.net

How to Force Paper Whites (a great project to do with young children)

Ideas taken from <https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-force-paperwhite-narcissus-indoors-1402282>

Paper whites are the original "Just Add Water" plant. The [fragrant flowers](#) bloom within about 3 weeks of planting, for almost instant gratification. While paperwhite bulbs can be planted in soil, more commonly they are grown in pots or dishes with some stones or marbles to anchor them in place and a little water.



Select a container that is about 3 - 4 inches deep that has no drainage holes. You won't be adding soil and you do not want a container so deep that the bulbs will be completely submerged.

Spread an inch or 2 of stones, marbles or even gravel, along the bottom of the container. Whatever material you choose, it should be clean. Position your paper white bulbs, [pointed end up](#), on top of the stone layer. Go ahead and squeeze them in tightly. They not only look better in a large group, the tight fit will help keep them from toppling over. Add another layer of stones to fill in any gaps and cover the bulbs up to their shoulders. The pointed tips should still be showing. Do not bury the bulbs completely.

Add water so that the level just reaches the base of the bulbs. Allowing the bottom of the bulb to sit in water will stimulate growth. Covering the entire bulb with water could cause it to rot.

(continued on next page)

Crops by Kids - Forcing Paper whites (con't)



The bulbs don't need light at this point and they prefer to be kept on the cool side, at about 65 degrees. Unlike other bulbs that are forced, you do not need to put your paper whites into darkness. It is probably better if they are left out in the open, so you will remember to check the water level. Check your bulbs daily to see if they need more water. You want the level to remain just touching the base of the bulbs. They will slowly uptake some of the water and you will lose some to evaporation, but you shouldn't need to add large amounts of water.

When you see roots developing, it is time to move the container to a sunny window. The sunnier the better, but try not to let them get too warm or they'll grow leggy. Most windows are a little cool in winter, so don't be afraid to get them close to the windowpane.

Once the plants flower, they will last longer if moved out of direct sunlight, to a cool spot with indirect or diffused light. If you keep your house warm, your paper whites will last longer if you move them to a cooler room when you are not home, and then move them back to your living area, to enjoy when you are home.

Student Council News



Thank you to everyone who helped support this year's Holiday Food Drive! We have such a generous community and collected over 4,600 food items for 30 local families!



Save the Date:

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 — 7-8 Student Council meeting at 2:30pm

Friday, February 16, 2018—Semi-formal Dance at 6:30pm. 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:

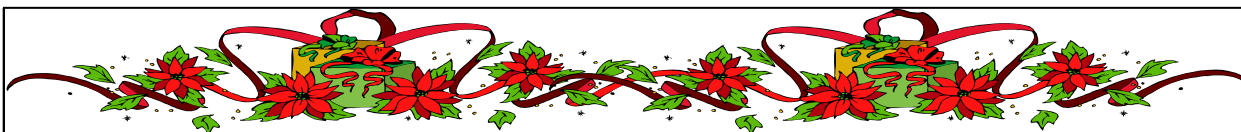
- dresses must be of appropriate length
- dresses must have straps
- no sheer materials

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.

Happy New Year!

Thank you for your support! Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins, Student Council Advisor rkeribte@u61.net

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, socks 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 30 Barre Town families which included 69 children. With Student Council collecting an astonishing 4,560 food items, we were able to provide enough food for these families to help them over the long holiday break. 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



Other Events and Happenings

LEARN TO PLAY HOCKEY!!!

FREE EVENT

4-9 YEAR OLDS

@ BOR IN BARRE

JAN. 6TH, 13TH, 20TH AND 27TH

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

info: www.barreyouthsports.com



BASA Spring Soccer

Registration Opens Nov 1st

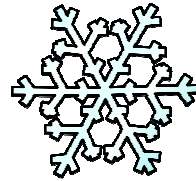
Season runs from April to mid-June

Ages: 6 to 16

Visit our website www.basavt.org

January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Holiday Vacation	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15 Vacation— MLK Holiday	16 PTO Mtg. 6:30 in Library	17 School Board Mtg 5:30pm Library	18	19
22 Staff Development Day— No school for students	23	24	25	26 Grade 4 Band Concert
29 Snow date for Grade 4 Concert	30	31		



February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Winooski Valley Music Festival	2
5	6	7 School Board Meeting—6 p.m. Library	8	9 Staff Development Day— No school for students
12	13	14	15	16
19	20 PTO Mtg. 6:30 in Library	21	22	23
25	26	27	March 1	March 2
Vacation				