



Louise O'Connor Photo

BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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October 2017



Dear Families,

This month's cover story is focused on our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) and field trips; both need our help/assistance. The BT PTO meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30p.m. in the BTMES library.

The PTO meeting dates for the 2017-2018 school year

October 17 November 21 December 19 January 16
February 20 March 20 April 17 May 15

This year PTO will be working collaboratively with the administrative team to creatively fundraise in an effort to help defray the cost of field trips. Now that we're working with a contracted bus company, our new reality is the cost of transportation for all trips off-campus (driver, mileage, fuel, etc). With everyone's help, we are confident that together, we can continue to provide learning opportunities so that all of our children can benefit from these experiences.

How can I help?

*Attend any of the PTO meetings outlined above. Bring your ideas, lend a hand, offer support...for one event or all!

*Check-out our new BT logo-gear. This year every Friday is spirit day where logo gear and/or green and white apparel is encouraged.
<https://barretownpto.itemorder.com/sale>

*The PTO Bookstore will be set up in the front lobby on the following Tuesday mornings:

October 10 November 7 December 5 January 9
February 6 March 13 April 10 May 8

*Offer your time. For example, we're looking at bringing popcorn back if we have adults who can volunteer time to help support this.

*Fundraise/Participate. While we have a few fundraising ideas that we're hoping to bring to fruition, we're hopeful that each family will be able to take part in whatever capacity works best for them.

*Clip those labels! BTMES participates in the Box Tops for Education. Clip these labels found on a variety of cans and boxes and send them into school. These are 0cashed-in for a variety of materials that your school benefits from.

As we work together to provide and maintain a great school for the BTMES community, your input, ideas and assistance can only help foster amazing opportunities for our PreK-8 students. Thank you, in advance, for your help and on-going support of our students and programs.

Yours in education,

Jennifer W. Nye	Scott Griggs	Erica Pearson
PreK-4 Principal	5-8 Principal	PreK-8 Assistant Principal
476-6617 ext. 6308	476-6617 ext. 6309	476-6617 ext. 6241
jnyebte@u61.net	sgriggbte@u61.net	eppearbte@u61.net

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P.S. "Like Us" on FaceBook at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School and bookmark our school website at www.btmes.org! Also, remember to like the Barre Town PTO page on Facebook for updates and news!

Crops by Kids News



This had been crazy weather for growing crops. The rain in the spring and early summer dampened (bad pun) the growing season. The garden didn't get many types of squash this year. Now we are experiencing hot weather and crops like spinach and lettuce bolt and stop growing.

The kiwi, yes we are growing kiwi, is beginning to mature. It takes approximately 5 years from planting until harvest. Right now there are a limited number of kiwis ready to eat and students have sampled them. For many this is the first time they have eaten kiwis. The kiwis are the vines growing over the tables near the back of the garden.

The Crops by Kids School/Community garden has continued to be busy as the school year gets under way. Students, along with faculty and staff, have enjoyed the garden in various ways.

~ In Mrs. Leed's art class, first graders used their observation skills to draw the plants that they noticed.

~ Ms. Singer, Occupational Therapy Assistant, took a student out to weed and harvest vegetables. It was a good sensory experience for the student and absolutely loved it.

~As a special treat for fabulous Friday, Mrs. Burroughs and the kindergartners had snack in the garden. They also taste tested the cherry tomatoes, basil and spinach!

~ Holding a meeting with teachers in the garden.

~ The 4th grade students who went above and beyond in their summer reading, enjoyed a celebration in the garden. They had lunch out there, got popsicles, got a free new book, and most important of all, wandered about the garden, eating Sungold tomatoes and talking about the different plants.

We had a fabulous response to the fall 2017 **Fall Garden Club**. Ten second grade students were selected to participate this fall. Garden Club continues to enjoy the enthusiasm from the students. There will be a spring session of the garden club, so if your student was not selected this time, perhaps they may participate in the spring.

The students in the Garden Club will help put the garden to bed in the next couple of weeks, depending on the first frost. Mrs. Thygesen's gym classes will also help put the garden to bed.

Again this fall, we hosted the CBK **Farmer's Market** on September 28th, the night of the PreK-4 Open House. It was great to see students and adults in the gym viewing the Farmer's Market produce and enjoying the other informational tables. All proceeds from the market and supper go to support the Barre Town Crops by Kids garden. Local farmers, staff and Barre Town families donated crops for parents, faculty and community members to purchase. We sincerely appreciate the donations and are grateful for the ongoing support. We hope you had a chance to see or purchase some of the crops. You can view pictures on the Barre Town website. The final count on what we raised from the Farmer's Market, combined with the Harvest Dinner, is complete. We raised \$1700.00 with your help! The Harvest supper was a great success serving a delicious spaghetti dinner. Our raffle this year included 3 different pumpkins. Congratulations to the winners.

A BIG thanks to Susan Barnard for organizing this event. Other thank yous go out to Suzy Kleinfelter, Tina Glosser, Bridgett Apfel, Karen Moran, Cassie Major, all of the folks who painted pumpkins, and students and staff who helped out in various ways.

Happy Gardening !

Deb Curtis, Garden Coordinator, dcurtbte@u61.net



Home and School Coordinator By Dianna Fecher

Tips for Encouraging School Success!

As parents, we would like to see success at school- and that success can start at home! Studies have shown that poor academic performance can be linked to “factors such as a lack of sleep, poor nutrition, obesity, and a lack of parental support. The good news is that those same studies also show higher test scores for students who live in homes where healthy habits, regular routines, and good communication exist”. (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2015)

Below are a few tips to help keep your child’s school year going in the right direction:

***Talk to Your Child’s Teachers-** Open communication is the key!

Here at BTMES, our teachers can be reached by telephone, email, or written notes.

If you have a question or concern, please feel free to request an appointment!

***Read Together for Fun!** In addition to having your child read out loud to you, model reading in front of him. Allow him to “catch you” reading!

***Enforce Healthy Habits –** We all thrive on routine! A set bedtime to allow for adequate rest, proper nutrition , plenty of outdoor activity, and limiting electronic usage will all be helpful.

***Get Involved in School Events.** Attend your school’s Open House, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and volunteer for the events that interest you or your child.

***Reward Effort – Not Just Results.** Celebrate your child’s efforts – whether at home, the ball field, in academics, or anything else.

Here is hoping this school year is a great one, filled with many pleasant memories! Enjoy!

Fall Hiking Trails

K-2 physical education classes have been exploring the Barre Town Nature trails this month. You will find the map in this newsletter so that you can come back and enjoy the trails as a family. The blue trail to the “secret bridge” and orange trail have been popular ones to enjoy. Green trail leads to “Bobcat Cave”, continue down blue trail to the pond which has nice benches for a picnic. Not only great exercise, but children have been looking for signs of wildlife, animal habitat, and listening to the sounds that nature brings! Bring the map and create your own adventures!

Mrs. Laura Thygesen



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thursday, November 9

Students in Gr. 3-8 are asked to attend conferences

Early Dismissal for Students

11:30—Grades 5-8

12:30—Grades K-4

No Preschool

PTO News

PTO Meetings: We meet in the BTMES Library, every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome! You do not need to be a member to participate. Our next meetings will be: October 17th and November 21st, both at 6:30pm in the BTMES Library.



PTO Bookstore: The next bookstore dates are: Tuesday November 7th and December 5th from 8am-Noon in the Lobby. Parents, family members, staff and kids are always welcome to attend. Books make great gifts for the Holidays! We have a wide selection of books and school supplies. Please stop in and check us out!

PTO Facebook Page: The BTMES PTO has their own Facebook page! You can find us under “Barre Town PTO”. Please “like” us and follow along. We do post some pictures of events that we organize. We also post reminders of fundraising events and other activities like Movie Nights. It is a helpful way to keep parents updated and connected.

BTMES Logo Gear: A flyer showcasing the available items is attached. Please feel free to go online to see available options and order your Barre Town School Logo Gear. The website is <https://barretownpto.itemorder.com>. Orders are due by Friday, October 13th. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Apfel at 272-7572 or email him at tournamentdesigns@gmail.com.

Movie Night: We will be hosting another movie night on Friday, November 17th at 6:30pm in the BTMES Tim Crowley Gym. Admission to the movie is free, however, we will be selling popcorn and water bottles for reasonable cost. Please come join the fun and be sure to wear your pajamas if you'd like! We will be showing the 1977 Disney movie Pete's Dragon! Come enjoy this classic movie with us!

Box Tops: We are NO longer collecting labels for education. We are collecting the Box Tops. Please trim the Box Tops and place them in bags of 50 each. Please write the number of Box Tops in each bag. This is extremely helpful to us, since we need to make sure each Box Top is trimmed and counted before sending them in. If you cannot trim, or do not have a total of 50, please don't worry! Just send them in anyways. These little Box Tops really do add up to a big amount of money over the year. So, we love seeing Box Tops! Thank you for your help!!

~Megan Spaulding -PTO Secretary

Unloading PreK and Kindergarten Children From The Bus

We want to send a reminder regarding the new expectation for unloading our youngest students, those in prekindergarten and kindergarten. The parent or caregiver must meet the child at the bus steps upon arrival. The bus monitors will not leave the bus. We understand that this may be different than you have experienced in the past, but it is necessary for student safety.



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Picture Day

is coming!

Wednesday, October 11

Student Council



We had our first student council meeting of the year with nearly 50 kids in attendance! At the meeting we split into groups and did some ice breaker/get to know each other games. Next we discussed some basic public speaking skills, and the kids all got an opportunity to practice by introducing another Student Council member to the large group. They all did a great job!

Friday, October 20th is the first dance of the school year. 6:30-8:30pm. ****Please note, parents/guardians are required to come in the school lobby to sign out your child. Please be on time to pick up students.** Dance permission slips will be sent home in the coming days. A signed permission slip must be on file prior to the 20th in order for your student to attend the dance. Thank you!

Stay tuned for details for this year's annual holiday food drive and the upcoming student council store.

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



News from the Nurse's Office

Free Radon Home Test Kits

for Barre Town Residents

October 16-November 17

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Pick up your kit at one of these locations:

Barre Town Clerk/Treasurer office

CVMC Cancer Center

and, for parents of students only

Barre Town Middle & Elementary School office

A high level of radon in your home can cause health problems. Test your home for free!

Northern New England Poison Center

Someone calls a poison center about a poisoning every 13 seconds in the U.S. With over-the-phone advice from the poison center, most poisonings can be treated on site. Poison centers are available 24 hours a day to help you treat a poisoning or to answer poison-related questions. All calls are free, confidential and answered by specially trained medical professionals. The national hotline is 1-800-222-1222. Website: www.nnepc.org.



When to Keep your Child Home from School:

Children who are ill should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

Children ill with vomiting should stay home for 24 hours after the vomiting has stopped. This is to not only prevent the spread of their illness, but also to protect them from contracting other illness at school.



ABSENT STUDENT?

- ⇒ Call 476-6617
- ⇒ Press "1"
- ⇒ Leave a message regarding an absent student.

Chess Club



Barre Town Elementary School will be offering a chess club for 2nd through 4th grade. It will be held from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m every Thursdays at no cost. Please pick up your student promptly at 4:30 p.m. in the lobby. The chess club starts on November 2nd and ends on April 26th. Beginners as well as experienced students are welcome. Don't know how to play? Don't worry, we will teach you. This club is a fun, informal way to learn new skills. Chess is not only fun, but it also improves attention, memory, strategic thinking and creativity. You may bring a snack if desired and don't forget to bring your new excitement to learn chess. Please contact Melissa Lindhiem at mlindbte@u61.net or 476-6617 ext. 5174 for additional information.



David Stefaniak Memorial Holiday Food and Gift Drive 2017

The planning for the David Stefaniak Memorial Holiday Food and Gift Drive is now underway. Our goal is to provide food, winter clothing and gifts for Barre Town families who need a bit of help this holiday season.

Years ago, Barre Town parent, David Stefaniak, brought community attention to the needs of some of our families and friends for assistance, particularly at Christmas time. Since David's death, volunteers have continued his work allowing his efforts to live on.

If you are a family in need and are not participating in another community holiday program, please contact Dianna Fecher, Home/School Coordinator (ext. 6188) or the Gift Drive Coordinators Bridgett Apfel (ext. 6186) or Kim Benson (ext. 6305). We are accepting applicants now through Friday, November 10. Our goal is to provide winter wear needs and toys for each child who attends our school. We hope to have all of our participating families adopted this year.

If you are willing and able to help, we would really appreciate your support by adopting a family or individual child. We welcome donations of food, money, holiday gifts or adoption of a family. If your family, friends or business would like to donate please contact the holiday drive coordinators, Kim Benson or Bridgett Apfel at 476-6617.

Thank you for reaching out to families in our community in this wonderful holiday season!



Reserved Parking Spaces

Please be mindful of all reserved parking in our parking lot. These include:



*Premier Paw Parking

*Handicapped Accessible Parking

These parking spaces are reserved for a specific population. Thank you.

Other Happenings and Offerings



The UVM Extension 4-H program has some great opportunities for youth in grades 7-12 this Fall. Check out **TRY for the Environment** and the **Youth Environmental Summit**. And, if you live in the greater Burlington area or are willing to travel to Burlington, then check out **TRY Teen Science Cafe**. We are recruiting for a leadership team to get these cafes started.

A little more about TRY for the Environment...

Recipient of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

TRY stands for **Teens Reaching Youth** and is an **environmental leadership opportunity for students in grades 7-12**. It is an environmental education program taught by teens and designed to increase environmental literacy and responsibility in younger youth.

TRY for the Environment includes five program areas to connect young people to real-world environmental problems allowing them to be key change agents contributing to real-world solutions.

- **Energy FUNDamentals** highlights wind and sun energy engineering.
- **Climate Change Through Waste Solutions** focuses on the 4Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle and rot.
- **Food Systems** explores the food system and the need to protect our soil, seeds, pollinators and climate.
- **Forests & Trees** investigates the basic concepts of forest and tree stewardship.
- **TRY 4-H₂O** examines the water cycle, watersheds, water quality and health, and aquatic life.

Learn more at <http://go.uvm.edu/teen-leadership-programs> or contact **Lauren Traister**,

4-H Teen & Leadership Program Coordinator, University of Vermont Extension, [\(802\) 888-4972 x 402](tel:8028884972x402)

PTO Color-A-Thon 5K

Back for a second year! This is a fantastic fundraiser that is not only easy, but it's such a fun and healthy activity for the whole family! The **Color-A-Thon date is Sunday, October 8th at 1pm, registration starts at noon**. We will meet at the picnic shelter at BTMES and will be walking/running on the bike path. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather at hslayton75@gmail.com. Thank you!



Other Offerings continued

Barre Town Ski & Board Program

2017-2018 Sugarbush Ski Program for Barre Town Families – (5 Sundays from noon – 4:00 pm). The dates are as follows: Jan 7, 21, 28 and Feb 4, 12. This program has something to offer for ages 6 and older and all levels of experience! Sign yourself and/or your kids up for 5 lessons. Don't need lessons? Put your kids in the lessons; purchase a 1/2 day pass for yourself and ski with the other parents/guardians! **DEADLINE FOR ENROLLMENT IS NOV 20, 2017**

Product	1/2 Day Rate Per Person
Lift Ticket	\$135
Lift Ticket and Rentals	\$185
Lift Ticket & Clinic	\$225
Lift Ticket, Rental & Clinic	\$250
Clinic only (w/season pass)	\$120
Rental only	\$105
Sugar Xpress Media Fee	\$5

Discounted Season Ski Passes

Not interested in the 1/2 day ski pass or lessons? Get a PASS at a discounted rate!

2017/18 Season Pass Rates:

PRICES GOOD UNTIL 11/10/17 – prices increase on 11/11/17

Value Pass – (Mt Ellen...Lincoln Peak early season and late season)

Adults (40-79) \$599
 Youth (7-18) \$299
 College \$249

Premium Pass – All Mountain (Lincoln Peak and Mt. Ellen)

Adults (40-64) \$999
 Senior (65-79) \$749
 Boomer Pass (65-89) - \$139
 Silver Senior (80-89) \$229
 Age 90 & Up – Free
 Child (6 & Under) \$40
 Youth (7-18) \$399
 Early 30s (30-39) \$599
 For 20s (19-29) \$399
 College \$349

Threesome College - \$389 (includes Madriver)

CONTACT MARY RUBALCABA AT 802-522-4470 OR 802-472-3469 OR KRISSY BELLAVANCE AT krisssyb@bellavancetrucking.com or 802-249-8784 to sign up! Hope to see you on the mountain.



October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4 School Board Meeting—6 p.m. Library	5	6 Staff Development Day—No school for students
9 Columbus Day—No School	10 SHAC Meeting 3:40-5pm in Library	11 Picture Day	12	13
16	17 PTO Mtg. 6:30 in Library	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			



November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 School Board Mtg - 6 p.m. Library	2	3
6	7 PTO Bookstore	8	9 Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences - Early Dismissal for Students	10 Staff Development Day—No school for students
13	14 SHAC Meeting 3:40-5pm in Library	15	16	17 PTO Movie Night 6:30pm Gym
20	21 PTO Mtg. 6:30 in Library	22	23	24
		Thanksgiving Vacation		
27	28	29	30	



BTMES PTO Storefront

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Go to the online store at <https://barretownpto.itemorder.com>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

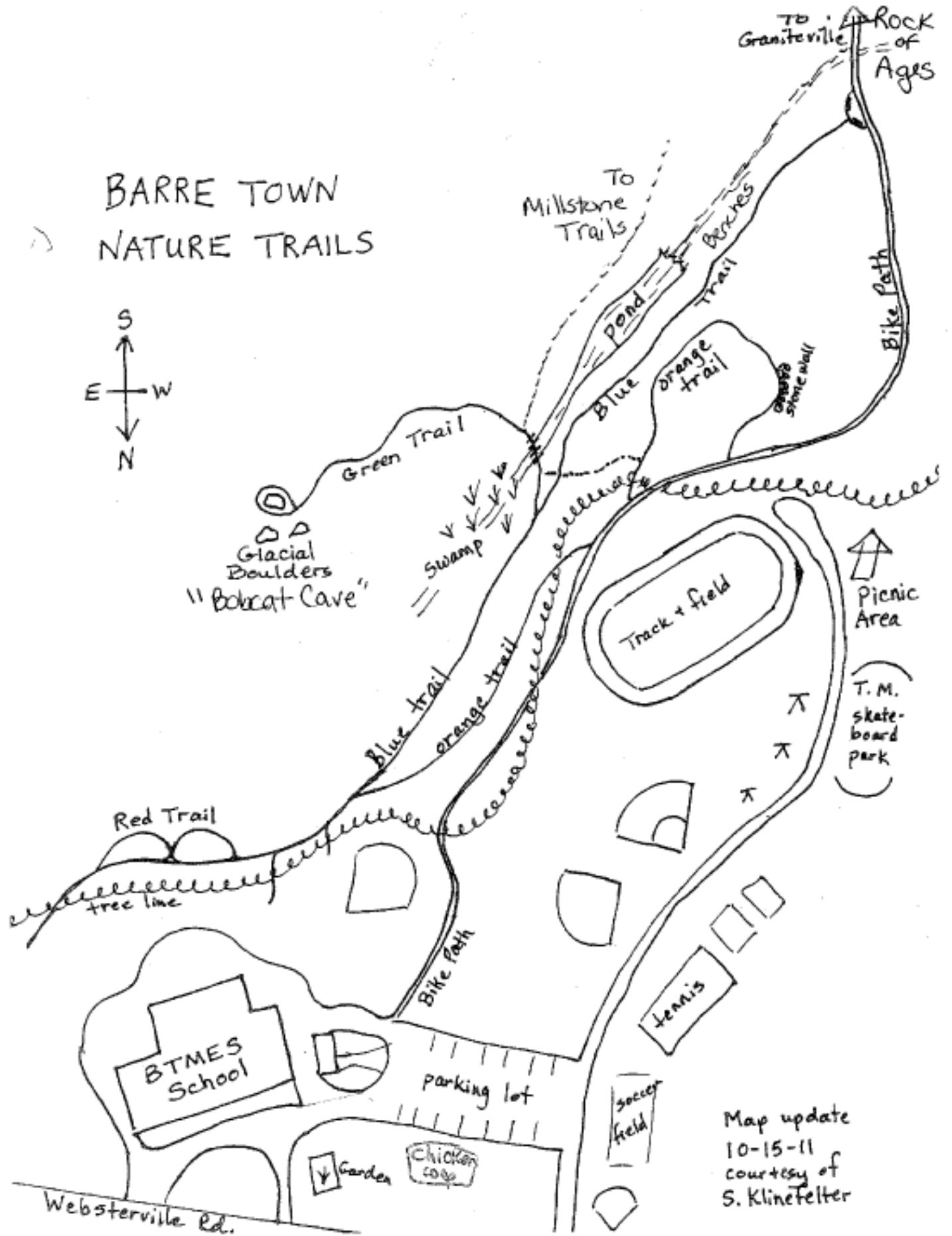
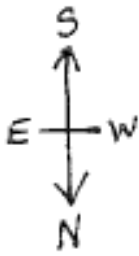
Online Store Deadline: Friday October 13th, 2017 (11:59pm EDT)

Protect Custom Performance Socks  2 Colors	Youth Tie-Dye Tee 	Adult Tie-Dye Tee 	Youth Carbon 1/4 zip Warmup 	Adult Carbon 1/4 zip Warmup 	Acrylic Winter Knit Cap 
Long Sleeve Cotton T-Shirt 	Youth Stratos Performance Tee 	Adult Stratos Performance Tee 	Adult Moisture Wicking Tee  2 Colors	Ladies S/S V-Neck Moisture Wicking Tee  2 Colors	Youth L/S Moisture Wicking Tee  2 Colors
Adult L/S Moisture Wicking Tee  2 Colors	Ladies L/S Moisture Wicking Tee  2 Colors	Ultimate Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt  2 Colors	Youth/Adult Horizon Hoodie - Pennant 	Youth EcoSmart Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt 	Heavy Blend Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt 
Youth Fleece Jacket 	Ladies Fleece Jacket 	Adult Fleece Jacket 	Ladies Fleece Vest 	Adult Fleece Vest 	

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Questions?
Jeffrey Aptel
(802) 272-7572
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BARRE TOWN NATURE TRAILS



Map update
10-15-11
courtesy of
S. Klinefelter

10/3/2017

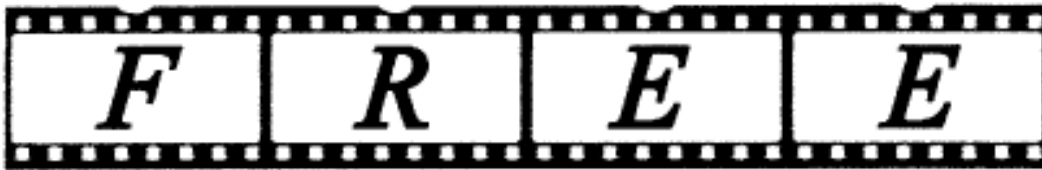
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BTMES PTO PRESENTS:

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17th

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF BIG SCREEN FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT! WEAR YOUR FAVORITE PAJAMAS AND BRING A BLANKET, IF YOU WOULD LIKE!



COME AND JOIN THE FUN IN THE BTMES GYM FOR

DISNEY'S: PETE'S DRAGON

ORIGINAL 1977 ANIMATED CLASSIC

**DOORS OPEN @
6:00p.m.**

MOVIE will be FREE

**DRINKS
AND
POPCORN**

**WILL BE ON SALE
AS WELL AS
BTMES LogoGear!**



**FILM STARTS @
6:30p.m.**

