



BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Barre, VT 05641
(802)476-6617
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btmes.org

April 2018

Dear Barre Town Families,

School safety and security has been on everyone's mind as one of the most important things all schools in America need to address. As many of you know, Barre Town Police Department has been a more visible part of our school community. Chief Dodge and the Barre Town Officers are focusing on community policing and creating positive relationships with our students and community as a whole. Below is a list of Barre Town Police Department (BTPD) members you may see in and about our building:

Chief William Dodge
Sgt. Paul Thayer
Officer Damian Hook
Officer Ben Hammond
Officer Jacob Frey
Officer Kyle Laughlin
Officer Paula Russell

We are thankful to these men and women who proudly serve our community for their desire to connect with our students and for putting the safety at BTMES at the top of their list.

You may have also heard a lot regarding training referred to as A.L.I.C.E. and how our staff will be trained fully in A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) protocol. This June, Officer Damian Hook, Assistant Principal Erica Pearson, and Behavioral Specialist Bill Waller will become certified trainers in A.L.I.C.E. protocol, and BTPD will assist in the training of our staff. Please look for information which will be coming soon about a community night in May regarding this program and our school.

With all of these changes, you will also see a tightening-up on our security procedures already in place. Here are some important reminders for our families:

- Only parents of Kindergarten and Preschool students may walk their students to their classrooms. *You must have the badge that was issued to you, and you must sign in at the front desk first. This is only allowed from 8:30-8:45 am. If your child arrives after 8:45 am you may will be escorted to their classroom.*
- Students may not wait for rides outside. All students must be signed-out of the building and leave with the adult responsible for them; they may not meet a ride in the parking lot.
- Students may not return to classrooms or lockers after dismissal time for any items left at school (including band instruments or sporting gear).

These procedures help us ensure we know who is in the school building and when. We thank you for assisting us in this effort.

Respectfully,

Erica Pearson Jennifer W. Nye Scott Griggs
BT Assistant Principal BT Co-Principal BT Co-Principal

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Home and School Coordinator

Making a Difference: The Importance of Recycling!

By **Dianna Fecher** – BTMES Home/School Coordinator



So, what about this “re-cycling” thing? What is all of the hype about? Is it really important? Does it make any measurable difference? There have been times that I have been guilty of “not wanting to deal with one additional thing”. On the other hand, I recognize the need for teaching responsibility to my children. “Recycling” is basically taking something that is old, or waste, and making it into something new, or useful.

Let’s look at plastic bottles, for example. NASA has published an article on “Climate Kids” stating that as “Americans, we use **2,500,000 plastic bottles every hour**. Those same bottles will sit in a landfill – or worse, float in the ocean – for thousands of years.” When we recycle those same bottles, however, they become park benches, playground equipment, insulation, and many other things! (Now THAT reality becomes an excellent motivator for our children!) The article goes on to remind us that if this country would recycle all aluminum cans for one year, we could “save enough energy to light Washington, D.C. for 3.7 years”! The cardboard and paper we recycle can be used to make new paper, and in the process saves 17 trees, and uses half of the amount of water used to “make paper from scratch”. And ONE glass bottle that is recycled saves enough energy to sustain a light bulb for 4 hours! And, what about metal, is it worth recycling? Well, “In 2008, Americans recycled 7 million tons of metals -- the equivalent of taking 4.5 million cars OFF the road for one year!” (NASA, Climate Kids, March 6, 2018)

Here is a list of the basic Dos and DON’Ts of recycling, published by the Vermont Department of Conservation:

- **DO** rinse recyclable containers clean. They don’t have to be perfect – just free of residue.
- **DO** breakdown and fold large cardboard boxes.
- **DON’T** put anything smaller than two inches on two sides in your recycling bin.
- **DON’T** place plastic bags in the recycling bin. Bags clog up the sorting machines.
- **DON’T** put anything with leftover food on it in the recycling.
- **DON’T** place Styrofoam in the recycling. Vermont recycling facilities do not accept Styrofoam.

Here’s hoping you will enjoy sharing these facts with your children, and reminding them that every little bit makes a huge difference!

Smart Snacks in School



Starting in 2014, all food sold during the school day had to meet nutritional standards. These regulations, called Smart Snacks in School, includes calorie limits and sugar caps along with general nutritional guidelines. All food sold during the day now has to have less than 200 calories per serving with less than 35% of the calories coming from fat. If you are interested in more information about these guidelines or if you would like some snack inspiration please check out the School Snack Guide at <https://foodandhealth.com/usda-school-snack-guide/>.

News from the 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! **THERE IS A CHANGE OF DATE FOR APRIL!** We are meeting **APRIL 24TH** due to the April vacation. We will also be meeting on May 15th. Thank you for your flexibility in April.



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:

- 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. Thank you for sending in your Box Tops!



Thank you for joining us for the last movie night of Trolls! What a great turn out! We hope to see at the movies next school year!

Megan Spaulding, PTO Coordinator

Yearbook Orders

Middle School Families,

2017-2018 Yearbooks are available for purchase online. Please follow the link below to order your child's yearbook before April 23rd! The cost of the yearbook is \$21.50.

Visit: ybpay.lifetouch.com
Yearbook ID# 1968818

ybpay.lifetouch.com
Order a Yearbook today!

Credit cards accepted:

- MasterCard
- Discover
- Visa
- American Express

Yearbooks

Kindergarten Screening and Registration

BTMES Kindergarten
Screening and Registration
for the 2018-2019 school year



Will your child be 5 years old by August 31st and is NOT currently enrolled in our PreK program?

If you answered yes, please call Betsy Pearce, BTMES Registrar, at **476-6617 x6306** to schedule your screening appointment and request a registration packet no later than **Monday, April 23.**

We look forward to meeting you and your child!

Screening Dates:

Thursday, April 26th and Friday, April 27th

Barre Town Crops by Kids



Yay! It's officially Spring! (At least according to the calendar)

The FEDCO seeds arrived and classrooms will be sowing some seeds indoors in anticipation of transplanting them in June.

Thanks again to all of you who bought seeds from the FEDCO seed fundraiser. We had a significantly lower number of participants this year, resulting in fewer orders. We raised approximately \$325.00 this year but every bit of fundraising helps.

The survey yielded interesting results.... Hope you had a chance to fill it out. There was a total of 46 responses. Thank you to all who filled it out.

To respond to a few items from the survey.....

Children, parents, teachers and staff enjoy the garden in several ways.

There is no income qualification to pick produce from the garden. If you are a BTMES family, feel free to stop by the garden during the summer and pick vegetables. There might be a sign indicating some vegetables should not be picked, however most everything is available to families.

Some people don't know about the garden activities. I will try to get the word out in various ways. If someone has ideas, please let me know. Send me an email at dcurtbte@u61-net.

A few people asked about raising pumpkins. We have tried for the last 2 years. Unfortunately, raising pumpkins seems to bring vandalism to the garden. Both years have resulted in smashed pumpkins and parts of the pumpkins have been thrown in the water troughs. Thanks for the many suggestions of crops that we might plant.

Wishing the FEDCO seed order form was different. Unfortunately, this is how the FEDCO company operates the fundraiser. I would be interested in how we might help families with this? Any suggestions? Please send me an email at dcurtbte@u61.net.

The winner of the \$50.00 gift certificate was Renee Holbrook. Congratulations and enjoy the gift certificate.

If you requested more information about volunteering, I will send them along later in the spring. Also, forms for volunteering will go to families and be posted on BTEMs page and Facebook. Stay tuned...

We will start a tea garden this spring. Several teachers expressed interest in planting, growing, drying and using the herbs and plants in tea with students. A group met to work out the details of what should be planted. More details to follow.

Happy Gardening! Deb Curtis, Garden Coordinator

SBAC Testing Dates Grades 3-8	
Week of:	Testing:
April 2-6	Grade 5 SBAC (ELA) (Mon-Thurs.)
Apr. 30-May 4	Grade 8 SBAC (ELA) (Mon-Thurs) Grade 4 and 7 Fitness Gram (Wed, Thurs)
May 7-11	Grade 3 SBAC (ELA) (Mon-Thurs) Grade 4 SBAC (ELA) (Mon-Thurs) Grade 6 SBAC (ELA) (Mon-Thurs) Grade 7 SBAC (ELA and Math) (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)
May 14-18	Grade 3 SBAC (Math) (Tues-Thurs) Grade 4 SBAC (Math)(Tues-Thurs) Grade 5 Science (Tues-Thurs) Grade 8 SBAC (Math)(Tues-Thurs)
May 21-25	Grade 5 SBAC (Math) (Mon-Wed) Grade 6 SBAC (Math) (Mon-Wed) Grade 8 Science (Monday, Tuesday)

**Step-Up Night
Tuesday, May 29th
Spaulding High School Auditorium**

This is a night for students and parents to have an opportunity to go through your student's projected schedule and meet their teachers who will provide a brief overview of course expectations. This can help reduce your student's anxiety about high school.

If you have any questions about this process, or about high school in general, please feel free to call me at 476-6617 ext. 6240 or email me at sgoodbte@u61.net.

--Sarah Goodrich, 5-8 School Counselor

Other Events and Happenings



Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking / Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking

Music & Arts Summer Camp

For students entering Grades Four through Eight
Date: June 25—June 29
Time: 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
Location: Barre Town Music Room and the Barre Town Campus
Cost: \$185 per week, art materials included

Please plan to bring snacks, lunch, sunscreen, walking shoes, and a water bottle

Enrollment deadline: May 1, 2018

For an application contact:
 Tamara Cooley at scoobycat@t1.net 476-6617 ext. 3162 or
 Peg Mehuron at mmehubte@u61.net or 476-6617, ext. 5287
 Scholarships available—Please contact Diane Fisher at 476-6617, ext. 6188

Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking / Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking

GUITAR and UKULELE LESSONS

Mrs. Peg Mehuron will be offering private guitar and ukulele lessons this summer.

If interested please contact her at mmehubte@u61.net for more information.



UVM Soccer Day Camp - Montpelier

Coached by UVM men's soccer coaches and players



The University of Vermont Men's Soccer Coaching Staff is thrilled to be offering a camp outside of Burlington! The VFA Day Camp in Montpelier features five days of excitement and challenge. The focus of camp is enhancing a passion for the sport with a positive learning environment coupled with excellent skill training and fun competitions. Players will work on technical training to improve their skills, compete in fun challenges to test themselves, and play in a week-long world cup format tournament. This will give beginners to advanced players the opportunity to learn about the game and themselves alongside current and former Catamount standouts.

July 16th - 20th

Boys & Girls Ages: 6 - 14

Location: Montpelier Parks & Rec

Time: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Full-Day: \$225

Half-Day: \$165

For more information: Visit <http://www.vermontfutbolacademy.org/>

April

2	3	4 School Board Meeting—6 p.m. Library	5 Parent Teacher Conferences—1/2 day for students No Preschool	6 No school for students—Staff Development Day
9	10 Spring Concert Grades 5-6, 6:30pm Gym PTO Bookstore	11 Spring Concert Grades 7-8, 6:30pm Gym	12	13
16	Spring Vacation			20
23	24 Snow date for Spring Concerts No Preschool—Parent/Teacher Conferences PTO Meeting 6:30pm Library	25 No Preschool—Parent/Teacher Conferences	26 Kindergarten Screenings	27 Kindergarten Screenings
30				



Spring!



May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2 School Board Meeting—6 p.m. Library	3	4 Student Council Dance 6:30-8:30 Gym—Gr. 6, 7 & 8
7	8 PTO Bookstore	9	10	11
14	15 PTO Meeting 6:30pm Library	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25 Memorial Day Program 10:00am
28 No School—Memorial Day Memorial Day Parade in Barre	29	30	31	

Barre Town Middle and Elementary School
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(802)476-6617

March 26, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

An important responsibility of the school staff each year is to assign students to a class for the upcoming year. We start the process of completing tentative class groupings in late spring.

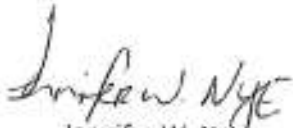
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School places students in ways that best meet their needs. Our goal is to provide equitable opportunities for all students in a balanced classroom environment while accommodating their academic, emotional and social needs. Our staff members consider all of the following points when placing each child.

- a. Students in each classroom who have a positive influence on each other in learning.
- b. A balance in the number of boys and girls.
- c. An equal distribution of children enrolled in special programs.
- d. A need to keep classes approximately equal in size and stay within the BTMES Board's class size policy.
- e. Parent input.

We invite you to give us specific information about the learning needs of your child that we may not be aware of, on the back of this letter. You may wish to share information about your child's needs: academic, social, emotional, physical. The information will be considered in conjunction with school information on each child and with the broader needs listed above to complete student placements. This information will be shared with the current and next year's teacher.

Parent information on student placement should be submitted to the front office, no later than Friday, April 27, 2018. Please use the form on the back of this letter for this purpose.

Sincerely,


Jennifer W. Nye
BTMES Co-Principal


Scott Griggs
BTMES Co-Principal


Erica Pearson
BTMES Assistant Principal


Don McMahon
Special Services Director

BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT/GUARDIAN PLACEMENT INFORMATION FORM
2018-2019 School Year

This form is designed to provide the teaching teams and administration with parent input regarding the needs of your child. It is not required.

STUDENT'S NAME:

GRADE IN 18/19 SCHOOL YEAR:

NAME OF CHILD'S CURRENT TEACHER:

Completion of this form does not determine or guarantee placement of a student with any specific teacher. Please do not specify the name of a particular teacher. Please return this form to the front office no later than Friday, April 27, 2018. Thank you.

1. What are your child's greatest academic, social and emotional strengths and needs?
Strengths:

Needs:

2. Describe a learning environment in which your child can be most successful.
3. What additional information would you like to share with us, which we may not be aware of, that you feel would be relevant to your child's class placement?

This form was completed by: