



BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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December 2017

Barre Town Parents and Guardians,

I am sharing with you a short video tutorial which two Spaulding High School seniors helped the Vermont School Boards Association create. This video is titled [Making Sense of Vermont's Education Funding System](https://youtu.be/cVYTmuxUOdQ) (<https://youtu.be/cVYTmuxUOdQ>), and is intended to provide educational stakeholders with a thorough and understandable explanation of Vermont's funding system. The video runs about eleven minutes.

The hope is that this resource is useful to all stakeholders in helping them understand the impacts of local budget decisions on homestead and non-residential property tax rates, and uses real examples to illustrate how budgets and tax rates impact all Vermonters.

We expect a continued focus on education funding during this legislative session, and it is critical that all stakeholders impacted by the discussion have a solid understanding of the system we currently have. VSBA intends to share this video with policymakers, partner organizations, public access television and reporters, in order to ensure broad distribution and understanding.

For more information about education funding and tax rates, you can also review the [Education Tax Rate FAQ's](http://tax.vermont.gov/research-and-reports/tax-rates-and-charts/education-tax-rates/faqs) (<http://tax.vermont.gov/research-and-reports/tax-rates-and-charts/education-tax-rates/faqs>) on the Vermont Department of Taxes website. We are certainly proud to have our own students learning through flexible pathways and demonstrating their skills and proficiencies in this manner.

I hope you find this information helpful.

John Pandolfo
Superintendent of Schools
Barre Supervisory Union
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Family School Coordinator	2
Student Council /PTO	3
Crops by Kids/Drama Club	4
Inclement Weather Procedure	5
Act 46/ Winter Concerts	6
Other Events & Happenings	6
Gallery Opening	7
Climate Awareness	8, 9
Calendar	10



Family School Coordinator by Dianna Fecher

Making Holiday Memories with your Family



The "holiday rush" is upon us! Parties, gift-making or purchasing, wrapping, organizing, working extra hours to make the dreams come true . . . the list goes on and on! I was recently reminded of some affordable, memory-building solutions when reading an article entitled ***12 Days of Fun (and cheap!) Holiday Activities for Families*** (Written by Erin Dower, and published on the website (familyeducation.com)). Here is a quick run-down of the list for your reading pleasure:

- Make Gingerbread Houses (from scratch or store-bought).
- Go on a Holiday Lights Tour – jump in the car, add some music, and take a drive!
- Make wreaths – real or paper ones.
- Have a Holiday Movie Night. (Recipe for Grinch Popcorn is below!)
- Make Popcorn or Cranberry Garlands!
- Play in the Snow.
- Bake Holiday cookies.
- Go Caroling (or have a sing-along)!
- Attend a Holiday Concert.
- Craft Homemade Holiday Ornaments.
- Have a ***Hot Chocolate Buffer!***
- Donate toys to Charity with the kids' help!

Here is hoping we all have a safe, enjoyable, and somewhat relaxing time in the weeks ahead!

Grinch Popcorn

Recipe by: Two Sisters Crafting

- 10 Cups Popped Popcorn
- Salt
- 3 tablespoons Butter (Sweet Cream Salted)
- 3 cups Mini Marshmallows
- Blue Food Coloring
- Yellow Food Coloring
- ½ Cup Mini Marshmallows
- M&M Candies – Red



Instructions

- Make popcorn.
- Salt popcorn and set aside.
- Melt butter in medium saucepan on medium heat.
- Add mini marshmallows to pan and stir until melted.
- Turn off heat.
- Add yellow food coloring to the marshmallow mixture..
- Add a small amount of blue food coloring to the marshmallow mixture to get the perfect shade of Grinch Green.
- Coat popcorn with marshmallow mixture to taste.
- Pour coated popcorn into a prepared cookie sheet.
- Drizzle remaining marshmallow mixture over popcorn.
- Add mini marshmallows and Red M&M's while popcorn still warm.
- Allow to cool and serve.

Student Council News



- The holiday food drive is underway. Please continue to send in non-perishable food items through December 11th. We are excited to support our immediate Barre Town community again this year. The elementary classroom and middle school TA that collect the most food will win a pizza party!



- Tuesday, December 5th, all 7th and 8th grade Student Council members will meet at 2:25 in the F&CS room to collect and sort food.
- Tuesday, December 12th, all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Student Council members will meet at 2:25 to sort and pack food.
- The next 7th and 8th grade dance is Friday, December 8th from 6:30-8:30 pm. Admission is \$4. We are also asking kids to bring in non-perishable food items. There will be a cash prize for the student who brings in the most non-perishable food items.

Thank you for your support! Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins, Student Council Adviser

PTO (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! **We will not be meeting in December. If you have a request, please put it in our PTO mailbox. Otherwise, we will meet again on January 16th (Tuesday at 6:30pm). Thank you for these changes!**

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 School Year:**

December 5

January 9

February 6

March 13

April 10

May 8



We are still collecting Box Tops! It is very helpful if you trim the box top and place it in a baggy of 50 (or just label the bags as to how many are inside). We do not collect other labels, just the Box Tops for Education. These really do add up and are an easy way to raise money for our school! Please send these in with your children!

The PTO is on Facebook! Please look us up at **Barre Town PTO** and "like" us! This is a great way to keep up with events and fundraisers.

Thank you for those who came out to support the PTO and have fun on the Family Movie Night! It was lots of fun to see everyone! Thank you!

Megan Spaulding, PTO Coordinator

Crops by Kids Garden



A big *thank you* to everyone who helped put the garden to bed this fall. Hopefully you had a chance to enjoy the garden this year. A blanket of snow covers the garden as this newsletter goes to print. Maybe it will stay?

Those annual seed catalogs will be arriving in mailboxes in early January. Another great way to buy your seeds, in addition to your favorite catalog, is through the **BTEMS Annual Seed Sale**. We will be selling FEDCO seeds once again this year in order to raise money for the garden activities. The order forms will be coming out ***mid to late* January for organic and regular seeds**. I will remind everyone again next month. It is a great way for you to get seeds for our northern climate and help Crops By Kids at the same time.

Amaryllis bulbs are a fun way to grow plants indoors during the winter months. They are available in many places right now. Amaryllis bulbs are so easy to grow, fun to watch, and they seem to bloom overnight. These bulbs are stunning and come in a variety of colors including red, pink, white, maroon and combinations of these! Grown indoors, the bulbs will bloom in about 8 weeks. Once they go dormant they can be brought out into the garden all summer and brought back in fall again to start all over again, once they enjoy another dormant period of time.

Happy Gardening...

Deb Curtis, dcurtbte@u61.net

News from the Drama Club

Announcing Barre Town Middle School's 2017-2018 Musical - Shrek Jr.

Preliminary Auditions will be held December 6, 7, and 8th. There will be sign-up sheets posted outside of Mr. McCurdy's room so those auditioning will know the exact day and time of the audition. (Students will only audition on **one of the three days**. *Note: Planning ahead will help secure a bus pass on the late-bus.*)

Call-back Auditions will be held the following week: December 13, 14, and 15 (We recognize that many of our musical theatre actors are also in Jazz Band and Select Chorus. The fine arts team at Barre Town are all working together to ensure that none of our extracurriculars conflict or interfere with the others.)

Students can expect to see a cast list posted by Monday, December 18 - and we'll be on our way! With the talented team of teachers joining the production team, the dedicated parent volunteers, and the enthusiastic student performers - we have a feeling that this year's production of Shrek Jr. is going to be like a fairy tale come true.

Mark your calendars - Performances are planned for:

- Thursday, March 29 (In-School Performances)
- Friday, March 30 (Evening Performance)
- Saturday, March 31 (Matinee Performance)



Any questions, please contact Jessica Moos at jbasmbte@u61.net or Moss McCurdy at mmccubte@u61.net.

Inclement Weather Procedures

The winter season is soon upon us, and I wanted to update you all on how we will be handling school closing and delays for this year. I am providing an outline below of how the process works.



1. Prior to a “weather event” and early in the morning of an event, we gather information from a variety of sources:
 - We look at forecasts from a variety of sources well in advance.
 - Both prior to and on the morning of events, we receive consultation and advice from NOAA (The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration); in fact, we are registered as a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador. We contract with Roger Hill to provide regular updates and consultation as well, as Roger can often supplement NOAA with specific localized information.
 - We communicate, as appropriate, with the road crews and/or police departments for both Barre Town and Barre City.
 - We communicate with other school superintendents in the region to coordinate closing/delay decisions when it makes sense, realizing localized conditions and other factors may necessitate different decisions for different SUs and districts. The information from other regional road crews is additional useful data we all consider in making our decisions.
2. Our goal is to have a decision made by 5:30am.
 - This is not always possible, as there are a lot of things happening quickly.
 - Most often, we receive a recommendation and we follow it, as the weather experts get automatic input from many sources and have the expertise to perform the analysis. they consider what has happened, what is happening currently and what is most likely to happen as the day goes on. It is rare that our own information does not align with their recommendations.
 - If we do not have a recommendation by 5:30am, we typically wait a little longer.
 - If we feel like we have information and circumstances that requires a different decision than the experts recommend, we review everything again carefully before making that decision.
3. Once a decision is made to delay or close, we communicate in the following ways:
 - We initiate a “Call Em All” through the phone system
 - We contact the media
 - We send out an email to everyone
 - We post on Facebook, Twitter, web pages, and phone greetings
 - We contact the police and road crews
 - We contact the Food and Bus service companies

The decision to delay or cancel is extremely important for everyone’s safety. We take it very seriously. There is no guarantee that we can make the correct decision every time, but we do our absolute best. Please help us by being patient and understanding, and providing appropriate and constructive feedback.

Sincerely,
John Pandolfo
Superintendent of Schools
Barre Supervisory Union

Act 46

Act 46 – New Merger Study Committee

The Barre Town School Board voted on October 4, 2017, and the Barre City School Board voted on November 13, 2017 to re-enter a 706 Merger Study under Act 46. The purpose of the new Merger Study Committee would be to study the advisability of forming a union school district. In order to successfully and voluntarily merge under Act 46, Barre Town and Barre City would both need a positive vote of their communities, and the current Barre Supervisory Union would need to become operational as a single district by July 1, 2019.



If you are interested in serving on this study committee please submit a letter of interest stating your qualifications and why you are interested in serving on the committee to:

- Chad Allen, School Board Chair, Barre Town; callen@bsu61.org
- Sonya Spaulding, School Board Chair, Barre City; sspaulding@bsu61.org
- John Pandolfo, Superintendent of Schools; jpandbsu@u61.net

Winter Concerts

Our Music Department Winter Concerts will be presented in the large gym on Tuesday, December 12 and Wednesday, December 13. The snow date will be Thursday, December 14.



The concerts on Tuesday, December 13 will take place at 1:30pm and 6:30pm. Featured groups will be our 5th Grade Band, 6th Grade Jazz Band, Junior Chorus and 6th Grade Band.

The concerts on Wednesday, December 14 will be held at 1:30pm and 6:30pm and will feature our Select Chorus, Senior Jazz Band, Senior Chorus and Senior Band.

Hope to see you there!

Other Events and Happenings



BASA Spring Soccer

Registration Opens Nov 1st

Season runs from April to mid-June

Ages: 6 to 16

Visit our website www.basavt.org

In celebration of

The Gallery At Barre Town

Please join us for an opening reception on
Wednesday, December 13, 5:00-6:15 p.m.

(Located in Room 267, enter through the main lobby
and follow the signs that lead upstairs.)

The Gallery At Barre Town is dedicated to showcasing the artistic talent of students, alumni, staff and residents of the greater community. In addition to a regular exhibition schedule of visual art, it is envisioned as a common space where BTMES staff can host special events, small classes, and meetings.

(Please contact Anne Leeds or Michael Pope if you would like to schedule its use.)



Eliza Redmond, grade 3, "My Dog," oil crayon

Dear Community,

We are 6th graders from Mr. Sanborn's and Mrs. Kingzett's enrichment class. We are writing to tell you about our project. This project is trying to help slow down climate change. Other schools all around the world are in on it too. We participated in the global-wide Climate Action Project which was created by Koen Timmers. He is an educator and author. This project involved more than 250 schools from around the world and from over 60 countries! Go to this website to find out more about the climate project and to see some of our contributions. <http://www.climate-action.info/> .

Global warming is a big problem. In Antarctica the icebergs are melting. Polar bears in the Arctic region are being affected because there is less ice for them to use to get around. Here in Vermont, winters are getting warmer and we have less snow. This affects the skiing industry and maple syrup manufacturing. Maple syrup and skiing bring a lot of income to Vermont. Climate change also affects our fall foliage. Since fall foliage brings many tourists to Vermont, this also affects our economy.

Our class decided that we needed to take action to bring some awareness to the issue, which could help slow down the change. The calendar attached to this newsletter shows ways you can all help slow down climate change. If you can try to follow along with some of these ideas during the month of December that would be great. Who knows, maybe you'll end up making the change permanent in your home! We are open to all questions and comments. You can contact either Mrs. Kingzett or Mr. Sanborn. (skingbte@u61.net or tsanbbte@u61.net)

Thank you for taking the time to help us out,
6th grade Enrichment Group from Quarter One

CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Go vegetarian for at least one day of the week	2 Do activities that do not require electronics
3 Hang your laundry instead of machine drying	4 Have a "cold meal day" in which no oven is needed	5 When your light bulbs burn out, switch to LED lights.	6 Use hand tools instead of power tools	7 Ride something human powered once a week	8 Spend more time outside	9 Ride the bus to school whenever possible
10 You could try not to leave your engine running/idling	11 Recycle	12 Use mechanical pencils	13 Research composting	14 Only use cars to go to faraway places	15 You could limit your electronics use	16 Turn off/unplugging devices /appliances not in use
17 Always turn off your TV when you're finished watching or when you're not using it at the moment	18 Have a family board game night instead of watching a movie or using any sort of devices	19 Reuse items as much as possible	20 Shop locally for both food and items	21 Make sure your laundry machine is full before you run it	22 Keep the temperature in your house to 65 degrees	23 Shut off your lights when you leave the room
24 Only use as much wood in your stove to keep the temperature comfortable	25 Take air conditioners out of the window for the winter	26 Plan ahead in order to limit the time you need to be driving around run errands	27 Preserve as much food as possible in order to minimize waste	28 Get creative with your leftovers: make new meals with them	29 Pass used clothing on to someone else who could wear it	30 Carpool to work/school
31 Play outside or do any outdoor activity instead of using electronics						

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6 School Board Mtg - 5:30 pm. Library	7	8
11	12 Winter Concert—Gym, Grades 5 & 6 6:30pm	13 Winter Concert—Gym, Grades 7 & 8 6:30pm Gallery Opening 5-6:15pm	14 Snow Date for Winter Concert	15
18	19 PTO Mtg. 6:30 in Library	20 School Board Mtg - 5:30 pm. Library	21	22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Holiday Vacation</div>
25	26	27	28	29
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">Holiday Vacation</div>				



January



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Holiday Vacation</div>	2	3 School Board Mtg - 6 p.m. Library	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Vacation— MLK Holiday</div>	16 PTO Mtg. 6:30 in Library	17	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		