



BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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btmes.org

March 2018

Dear Barre Town Middle and Elementary School Community,

With the warming temperatures and calendar shifting to March, we are also just weeks away from the end of our 3rd marking period. One of the biggest changes at BTMES this year has been the shift to Proficiency-Based Learning (PBL) including changes in our report card to reflect Proficiency-Based Grading (PBG). This is a good opportunity to provide an update on this initiative, using elements of what was presented by your BTMES administration and Jackie Tolman (BSU Curriculum Director) at the February 21st Barre Town School Board meeting.



PBL/PBG in Vermont: The nationally growing PBL and PBG movement is expanding rapidly in Vermont, having been legislated as a part of Flexible Pathways (Act 77 of 2013) and through Vermont's State Board of Education Quality Standards.

History of PBG and PBL at BTMES

- During the 2016-2017 school year the middle school prepared for transition with a focus on building teacher understanding and development of content-based standards.
- During the current year we began full implementation in the middle school with the first proficiency-based report cards released at the end of quarter 1.
- We are also partnering with Barre City Elem. Middle School and Great Schools Partnership for training and support. The intent is to continue the partnership next year with the direct involvement of Barre Town and Barre City elementary schools.

Report Cards: The PBG-based report cards are the work of a Barre Supervisory Union report card committee with representatives from each school, taking 1 ½ years to develop. The report cards are implemented in both the elementary and middle school.

- In the elementary, the report cards shifted from numerical grades of 1 - 4 to Beginning/Developing/Proficient/Expanding (BDPX). The goal is for all students to become proficient.
- In the middle school the shift is from ABCDE to BDPX.
- A key component of PBG is to separate out the personal and social skills development grade from the academic grades. At Barre Town and Barre City we call these "Habits of Learning."
- Comments are an important element of PBG report cards. The purpose of comments are "to inform parents/guardians, students, and others about student achievement of specific learning goals and life-long habits of learning and identifies a student's level of progress with regard to these goals and guides next steps."

We encourage you to view the PBL page on our website (btmes.org) where the full Feb 21 presentation is posted along with other information and resources. There is also a link on that page to ask any questions that you may have.

We appreciate the ongoing dialogue related to this important topic. Wishing you and yours an opportunity to get outside and enjoy Vermont this Spring.

Your BTMES Admin Team,

Scott Griggs Jennifer W. Nye Erica Pearson
5-8 Principal PK-4 Principal Assistant Principal

Home/School Coordinator	2
Important Dates for 8th Grade	2
Message from the Superintendent	3
Crops by Kids	4
PTO/YMCA	5
Graduation/School Safety	6
School Safety con't	7,8
Field Hockey/Student Council	9
Calendar	10
Milk & Cookies Flyer	11
Trolls Movie Flyer	12
Music & Arts Camp Flyer	13

“The Importance of Summer Camp”

By *Dianna Fecher – BTMES Home/School Coordinator*

How valuable is the opportunity to go to summer camp for the youth of today?

"The biggest plus of camp is that camps help young people discover and explore their talents, interests, and values. Most schools don't satisfy all these needs. Kids who have had these kinds of (camp) experiences end up being healthier and have less problems which concern us all."

Peter Scales, Ph.D., noted author/educator, and Senior Fellow, The Search Institute

Dr. Michael Unger printed an article in the February 5, 2012 edition of Psychology Today. He stated that Summer Camps are “the perfect place to help children optimize their psychological development” and to aid in making children more resilient to the stresses of life. He continues on to list seven reasons he finds summer camp for today’s youth to be of great value:

- New relationships – with other children and trusted adults.
- A powerful identity – a good camp counselor is going to help your child find something to be proud of, something he/she can do well.
- Camps help children feel in control of their lives, to become problem-solvers.
- Camps make sure all children are treated fairly. No camp tolerates bullying.
- At camp, children are given what they need to develop physically: fresh air, exercise, good food, and a balance of structured and unstructured time!
- Perhaps best of all, camps offer kids a chance to feel like they belong.
- And finally, camps can offer children a better sense of their culture. Campers receive cultural roots, and the opportunity to understand others who have cultures very different than their own.

There are many supports that BTMES has in place for camp: if you would like to send your child to camp, but it does not seem financially feasible, please contact: Dianna Fecher at 476-6617 x 6188.

Here are some of the local camps:

Rustic Moose Camp

Rosie’s Girls/Dirt Divas

Camp Daybreak

Soccer Camp

Lotus Lake

Music and Arts Camp

Earthwalk

Barre Parks and Recreation

Joni’s Dance

Green Mountain Conservation Camps: Kehoe and Buck Lake

Young Hacks

Barre Town Middle and Elementary School would like to thank our sponsors:

North Country Federal Credit Union, Kiwanis Club of Barre, BTMES PTO, and BTEA.

Support Our Sponsors



PAW PARKING

We have two parking spots in our main parking lot that are reserved for "Paw Parking." These two spots are labeled and intended for designated staff. Thank you for keeping these spots "reserved" for this purpose.



Important Dates for 8th Graders

Parent Night—Tuesday, March 13th
5:30pm—Spaulding High School Auditorium

Barre Town Course Registration—
Monday, March 26 and Tuesday, March 27—
by appointment only—scheduled during Parent
Night

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

Graduation—Thursday, June 21 6pm

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Students and Families,

I apologize for the inconvenience of the late call on Wednesday night, February 21st, and appreciate all feedback that came my way. I share below the message I sent through Front Porch Forum and other venues to parents and the community.

One question I have heard from parents is what are we doing to provide support for students to help them feel safe. I attempt to respond to that in my message below, and want you to be aware of what I say. I would ask that you continue to emphasize, in an age appropriate way, what supports we provide to students within our schools to keep them safe and help them feel safe. I'm sure that communication already happens.

My message reads as follows:

Given the events of the past weeks, including my robo-call Wednesday night, I want to again reassure you that we are doing everything within our power in the Barre Supervisory Union schools to keep our students safe and to help them feel safe and supported in these challenging times. We know that as parents you entrust us with the most valuable things in your lives, your children, and we want you to understand how seriously we hold that trust. We offer the following as some of the ways we try to do that:

- As the Superintendent, I made the robo-call on Wednesday night because a perceived threatening situation caused concern among our community. Even though this situation happened across the country, the initials of the school involved had the same initials (SHS) as Spaulding High School. Many in our community, including students, saw social media posts circulating and became concerned that the post was about Spaulding High School, when in fact it was not. The robo-call was sent to explain that the social media posts posed no credible threat to Spaulding High School or any Barre schools. I made the decision that it was important to get accurate information out as soon as possible, even though it was the middle of the night.
- We will always attempt to communicate with relevant and accurate information in the most timely manner, and use the guidance of law enforcement, emergency response, and the Vermont State School Safety Liaison in making decisions around safety and communication regarding safety.
- We make every attempt to keep our schools safe for our students. We have safety plans, evacuation plans, crisis emergency response teams, protocols and procedures in place in every building. We constantly review and look to improve our protocols, with after action reviews following any major event and drill we experience. The implementation of the A.L.I.C.E. emergency response protocol is one example of an improvement we are implementing to our protocols.
- We train our staff to be trauma-informed, and train them in social curriculum such as Developmental Design and Responsive Classroom, with a goal of supporting students emotional needs at all times, but especially in times of crisis. We have advisory systems in place to connect students with a caring adult, and our school counselors and behavioral support staff are available to help students in need.

Again, we want you to feel comfortable sending your children to our school and we want them to feel safe when they are here.

Sincerely,
John Pandolfo
Superintendent of Schools
Barre Supervisory Union



Please know that as BT Police Chief Dodge examines proactive community policing and focuses on creating positive relationships with those in our town, we may see more walk-throughs from the department. The hope and goal is for our students to see friendly faces who are in uniform. The BTPD is not a large department and they cannot give us a firm schedule of when they will be here, but we did not want any of you to worry if you see an officer in our building. They are hoping to become a positive presence for our students and our staff.



Crops by Kids



The FEDCO seed orders were due before vacation and were sent to FEDCO during the break. The orders will be given to teachers in March to disperse to students. The total money earned for this fundraiser will be listed in the next newsletter.

TAKE THE SURVEY... Please take a few minutes to log on to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HrJISwGopYZ1DG_l1Vwtoj0kzVvWZa8JbGpJNY6PNEk/edit and complete the garden survey. You can cut and paste this or go to the school's website and click on this link. One lucky participant will win a gift certificate to Amanda's Greenhouse in Marshfield. The purpose is determine what parents, community members, teachers and staff like about the garden and the activities and to see what improvements can be made. The survey link is open until Friday, March 23, 2018. That gives everyone about 2 weeks to complete it.

This year the garden soil was analyzed by the UVM Extension Service. The soil has had compost added every year, which in many ways, is fabulous for the soil and crops. One problem is that the compost created a high level of potassium. Our garden has a very high level. So, what to do? We will not need to add compost this year. The compost bins can stay unused for another year and any weed seeds in there will eventually die. Otherwise the soil is in great condition.

Stay tuned for upcoming events.....

~There will be a Garden Club again this April or May. This is a 4 week, afterschool event. Details to follow.

~ I am available to assist teachers with seed planting for students in pre-K through 4 throughout during the growing season. This can be planting seeds in the classroom or directly into the garden. Let me know if you want me to help with planting or other gardening activities.

Happy Gardening....

Deb Curtis, Garden Coordinator, dcurtbte@u61.net



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! Our next meeting is March 20th at 6:30pm.

PTO Bookstore is open 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:

- 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 receive funds. Thank you for sending in your Box Tops!

Family Movie Night: March 16th - Friday at 6:00pm doors open. We will be showing the Dream-Works movie called "Trolls" promptly at 6:30pm. Feel free to wear your pajamas! We will be selling water bottles and popcorn for a small fee. Come join us for some fun!



YMCA School Vacation & Specialty Camps



It's tough to find balance in your family's busy life, but Y School Vacation Camps can help with relevant program opportunities when and where you need them. Each camp offers kids creative, engaging and fun choices – all designed to help them learn, grow and thrive.

Registration is open!

Vacation/Specialty Camp locations in Chittenden, Franklin, Addison and Washington counties.

Age: All sites accept children kindergarten to age 12. Founders Memorial in Essex accepts children to Vacation Camp only to age 14.

Online registration is preferred, but is available over the phone at 802-862-9622. Enrollment deadlines are the Monday prior to the start of camp.

School Vacation Camps

For kids in kindergarten through age 14. The Y offers imaginative themed camps during every school break.

Hours: 7:30am-6:00pm

Cost: Vacation Camp is \$40 per day with a non-refundable \$25 deposit. State subsidy is accepted.

Visit <https://www.gbymca.org/> for more information or to register for any available camps.

School Emergency Information Guide



FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS



◆ *When And Why Are Students and Staff Asked to Lockdown, Lockout, Shelter-in-Place, or Evacuate?*

SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

A school crisis can take a number of forms including an environmental event, such as a chemical spill or gas leak; a weather emergency, such as a tornado warning; or an intruder in or near the school. The nature of a school crisis dictates whether school officials will put in place a lockdown, lockout, shelter-in-place, evacuation or any combination of these protocols, as a means to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff.

◆ *Parent Responsibilities During a School Emergency and Reunification After a School Emergency*

THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN AN EMERGENCY

In a school emergency, the first instinct as a parent is to pick up the telephone and start calling the school or rush up to the school and get your child/children. The truth is, this only complicates matters from a safety and security standpoint.

Parents too close to an incident often hinder the rescue attempts of police and fire officials on the scene. The best action parents can take in an emergency is to stay close to their phone and email and to monitor local radio and TV reports for regular updates and instructions.

Safety Terms & Procedures

In the event of an emergency at your child's school, it is important to know these terms:

LOCKDOWN

A lockdown takes place if an internal or external threat is identified at the school. All school doors are locked and students are confined to classrooms. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an "all-clear" announcement is made. Students will **NOT** be released during a lockdown.

LOCKOUT

A lockout recovers all students from outside the building, secures the building perimeter, and locks all outside doors. Criminal activity, dangerous events in the community, or even a vicious dog on the playground would trigger a lockout response.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Students take refuge in designated areas to protect them from hazardous materials or severe weather. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an "all-clear" announcement is made. Students will **NOT** be released during shelter-in-place.

EVACUATION

In the event of certain building emergencies, students will be relocated to an evacuation assembly area. Students will be released to parents/guardians through a formalized family reunification process to ensure the safety of all children.

◆ **How Will You Be Reunited With Your Child?**

Parents/Guardians will be directed by school or public safety officials via TV/Radio or other emergency notification systems to their child's specific location. Based on internal standard operating procedures, students will be released to parents/guardians at the family reunification center. The reunification process can be time-consuming so parents are urged to be patient.

◆ **How Can You Help?**

BE PREPARED FOR A SCHOOL EMERGENCY

Ensure that your child's emergency contact information is accurate and current.

Become familiar with your schools' emergency communication procedures. Each school is committed to providing accurate and timely information in the event of an emergency.



◆ **In Case of a School Emergency**

Although your first reaction would be to call or rush to your child's school, **please** follow the tips listed below.



DO tune into local TV/Radio Stations for official school news alerts.

DO rely only on official communication from school or public safety officials.

DO listen for official information regarding reunification with your child.

DO NOT call or rush to your child's school. Your presence could interfere with emergency responders.

DO NOT phone your child or school. Staff and students are discouraged from using cell phone communication for safety reasons.



These resources have been developed from materials provided by Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS).

Spring Field Hockey

Spring 2018 Field Hockey

Coach Molly Ciecierski, along with players from her Middle School Team, will be working with all interested 5th and 6th grade girls (7th and 8th grade girls are welcome, too) who would like to learn how to play field hockey, and/or keep their skills sharp (BYSA field hockey players are encouraged to attend). This is an opportunity for girls in grades 5-8 to learn the game, improve their skills, work together, and have fun!

When: From 2:30-3:25 (see dates below)

Where: Middle school gymnasium, and outside (weather permitting)

Who: Girls in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8

Equipment needed:

- Gym clothes (for inside and outside)
- Field hockey stick (you can borrow from BTMES)
- Sneakers
- Shin guards
- Mouth guard
- Old sock (to cover hook of stick to protect floor) and rubber band
- Water bottle
- Protective eye wear (goggles, limited number to borrow from BTMES)



Dates to Play on Wednesday:

- March 7 (gym), March 14 (meet in locker room), March 21 (meet in locker room), March 28 (meet in locker room)
- April 4 (gym), April 11 (meet in locker room)

*No dates are available after April vacation because of Mrs. Ciecierski's maternity due date of April 20.

Questions? See Mrs. Ciecierski room 216, x5216 (Parents can call 476-6617 x5216 or email at mciecbte@u61.net)

Go Bobcats!!!

Student Council News



Talent Show Auditions will be held March 13, 14, and 15th from 2:30-4:30 each afternoon. Students should sign up with their teacher or TAa by Thursday, March 8th

Friday, March 23rd is the Barre Town's Got Talent production. 6:30 pm at BTMES!



No regular Student Council meeting in March since we will be so busy planning and producing the talent show. Hope to see you there!

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

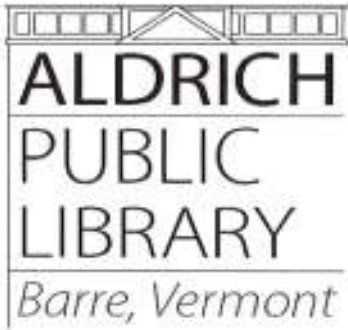
March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5	6 Voting—Polls open at BTMES 7am-7pm	7 School Board Meeting—6 p.m. Library	8	9
	Winter Vacation			
12	13 PTO Bookstore Parent Information Night for 8th Grade, SHS, 5:30pm	14 U61 District Concert, SHS 6:30pm	15	16 Family Movie Night 6pm
19	20 PTO Mtg. 6:30 in Library	21	22	23 BTMES Talent Show 6:30pm
26 SHS Course Registrations for 8th grade	27 SHS Course Registrations for 8th grade	28	29	30 Drama Production Shrek Jr. 6:00pm Gym



April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4 School Board Meeting—6 p.m. Library	5 Parent Teacher Conferences—1/2 day for students	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	17	18	19	20
	Spring Vacation			
23	24 Snow date for Spring Concerts	25	26	23
30	May 1	2 School Board Meeting—6 p.m. Library	3	4 Student Council Dance 6:30-8:30 Gym—Gr. 6, 7 & 8



MILK & COOKIES NIGHT



Wednesday, March 28, 2018

6:00 to 7:00pm

Aldrich Public Library

Barre, VT



Children are invited to an evening storytime at the library! Come in your PJs and bring your favorite snuggie to listen to our VIP readers, principals Jim Taffel of Barre City School and Jennifer Nye of Barre Town School, share their favorite books.

Enjoy milk & cookies and go home with a free book!

Thank you for the donations of milk from Booth Brothers / HP Hood and cookies from Barre City Schools.



In the event of inclement weather we will broadcast cancellations on WDEV or you can call the library.



**Like us on Facebook –
Central Vermont Success by Six & Aldrich Public Library**

BTMES PTO PRESENTS:

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, MARCH 16th

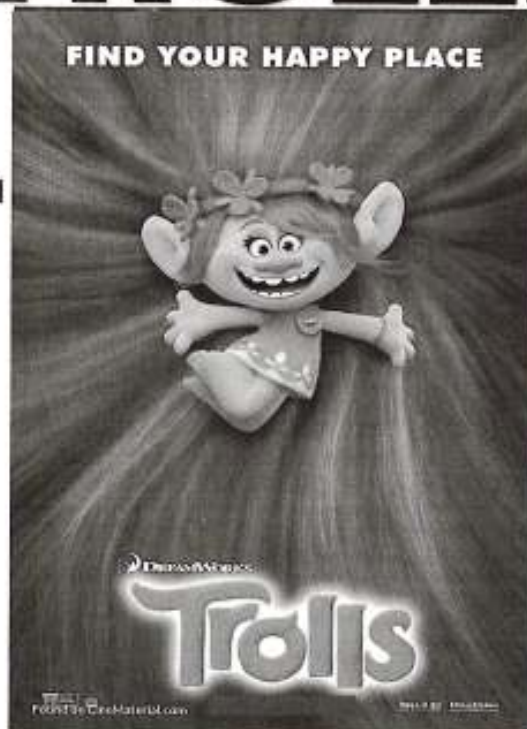
JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF BIG SCREEN FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT! WEAR YOUR FAVORITE PAJAMAS AND BRING A BLANKET, IF YOU WOULD LIKE!



COME AND JOIN THE FUN IN THE BTMES GYM FOR DREAMWORKS

TROLLS

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



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

MOVIE will be FREE

**DRINKS
AND
POPCORN**

WILL BE ON SALE
AS WELL AS
BTMES LogoGear!





Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking



Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking



Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking



Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking



Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking

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 snack, lunch, sunscreen, walking shoes, and a water bottle

Enrollment deadline: May 1, 2018

For an application contact:

Tamara Cooley at tcoolbte@u61.net 476-6617 ext. 5162 or

Peg Mehuron at mmehubte@u61.net or 476-6617, ext. 5287

Scholarships available—Please contact Diana Fecher at 476-6617, ext. 6188



Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking



Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking



Music, Art, Theater, Singing, Dance, Hiking

