

# BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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



November 2017

Dear Families,

This month's cover story is all about how you might know more about what's happening at BTMES.

Here's how . . .

- Keep reading these monthly newsletters, where you will continue to find information about what's happening at BTMES along with the greater Barre Town community.
- Follow Barre Town Middle and Elementary School on Facebook
- Visit our webpage: [btmes.org](http://btmes.org).
- You are welcome at all Barre Town School Board meetings as well as Barre Town and Barre Supervisory Union committee meetings. Our board meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 6:00pm in the library (see our website for full meeting schedule and minutes of past meetings)
- Teachers and all of us who work with your students are pleased to answer your questions, or direct you towards someone who does.
- Schedule a parent-teacher conference. Our next official parent-teacher conference day is Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Last but certainly not least... ask your child(ren). They will have all kinds of stories to give you an idea of all that is happening in their school.

Join in on opportunities to contribute to the work and direction of our school . . .

- Last month's story shared about our Parent Teacher Organization. With ideas of how you might join the work here. Next meetings are November 21<sup>st</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Consider joining a board committee or become a member of the school board (see page 5).
- Watch for job openings (see the employment opportunities link on [btmes.org](http://btmes.org))

We are continually grateful for the opportunity to work with the children of the Barre Town community. Please, do contact any one of us if you are not able to find all the information that you need, or if you have suggestions about how we might better keep you informed.

Yours in education,

Scott Griggs  
5-8 Principal  
476-6617 ext. 6309  
[sgrigbte@u61.net](mailto:sgrigbte@u61.net)

Jennifer W. Nye  
PreK-4 Principal  
476-6617 ext. 6308  
[jnyebte@u61.net](mailto:jnyebte@u61.net)

Erica Pearson  
PreK-8 Assistant Principal  
476-6617 ext. 6241  
[epearbte@u61.net](mailto:epearbte@u61.net)



Crops by Kids/Lost and Found	2
PTO	3
BT Spelling Team/ Home School	4
School Board Opening/Art News	5
Student Council/Child Health Study	6
Basketball/Parent/Teacher Conferences	7
Gift Drive/Chess Club	8
Other Events and Happenings	9
Calendar	10
PTO Movie Flyer	11

## Crops by Kids



This is interesting weather - May and June were cool and rainy and September and October have seen record warm temperatures and near drought conditions.

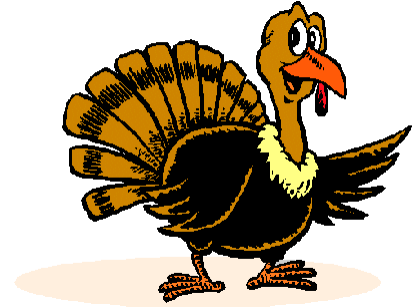
The Crops by Kids School/Community garden has been "put to bed" for the season. The crops have been harvested, the beds had been cleaned bins and the weeds taken away. Thank you to the teachers and students for helping out. Mrs. Thygesen and several PE classes weeded, picked old, squished tomatoes and composted old plants. Michael "Moss" McCurdy and students will plant garlic again this year from the crop we grew this summer. Thanks go to Mrs. Wiggins for taking the water fountain to her house for winter. This garden is truly a student, faculty and community garden!

As you know, we hosted the CBK Farmer's Market and Harvest dinner on September 28th, the night of the PreK-4 Open House. This year we made over \$1,800.00. *Wow!* Thank you to all the Barre Town families, teachers, and community members for their

This fall several second graders participated in the Garden Club. We sampled the kiwi growing in the garden, picked vegetables to eat right then or to take home and also cleaned up the garden.

If you grow house plants, you may be interested in a new book by Will Creed, *Don't Repot That House Plant !: And Other Indoor Plant Care Mistakes*. Will suggests that house plants do not need to be repotted unless the soil is so old that you have to water the plant 3 - 4 times a week. He has plants that have been in the same pot for over 5 years. According to Will, "repotting is rarely necessary. A plant may seem root bound—but it loves its pot just the size it is. If it is healthy, it is thriving. Contrary to conventional wisdom, repotting a plant isn't always the answer". Another suggestion is that if you do need to re pot a plant, use a pot just one size bigger. A larger pot will inhibit growth.

Happy Gardening.....  
Deb Curtis, dcurtbte@u61.net



### Barre Town Families:

The Lost & Found items that we have collected over the last few months, will be put out on tables in our front lobby on Wednesday, November 8 & Thursday, November 9 during conference. If your child has lost or misplaced an item, please feel free to take a look.  
Thank you!

## PTO News

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 two meetings will be on Tuesday, November 21st and Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30pm.**

**Color-A-Thon:** What a great day! Thank you to our amazing children who raised funds to support our school. We had a blast! We want to give a huge thank you to Richard Pitonyak, Jen MacAuley (from Jazzercise), Hannaford, Jen Nye, Erica Pearson, Chris Ghiringhelli, Tina Lunt, Lori Robinson, and Kris Belisle for helping with this event. Thank you also to many parents who came to volunteer to help with various tasks. We greatly appreciate your time and effort in making this fun event happen.



PTO Bookstore Dates are 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:**

**November 7**

**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.

Please join us for a **Family Movie night on Friday, November 17th!** Doors open at 6pm and the movie will start promptly at 6:30pm. We will be showing the 1977 classic Disney edition of Pete’s Dragon. The movie is free, however, we will be selling popcorn and water bottles. Feel free to wear your PJ’s!



Megan Spaulding, PTO Coordinator

## Barre Town Spelling Team

**Congratulations to our Grade 5-6 Spellers who competed against Barre City in the District Competition. It was close, but Barre City ultimately won. Our team was:**

Ryan Allen  
Christopher Ferrant  
Benjamin Fifield  
Carel Paquin  
Averill Parker  
Laurel Slagle



**Our Grade 7-8 team competed as well, and won! These students participated in the regional competition at Barre City School on Saturday, October 28th. They took first place in the preliminary competition and finished fourth in the final round. This means we will not be moving on to the State Competition - but we are incredibly proud of their wonderful work and outstanding effort.**

Grady Chase  
Logan Kelley  
Isaac Lobb  
Ella Pitonyak  
Michael Rea  
Alaina Rueda

Thanks, also, to the Barre Town Coaches - Ms. Jessica Moos and Ms. Liz Reiss

## News from our Home/School Coordinator



### ***World Kindness Day is November 13, 2017!***

By *Dianna Fecher – BTMES Home/School Coordinator*

The “***Random Acts of Kindness***” movement is gaining momentum!

A few years ago, the local and national news highlighted how those of us here in Barre, Vermont, understand this concept. Following a 12-hour shift at the hospital, a local nurse stopped in to the ***L & M Diner*** on Main Street for breakfast. She noticed a father and son sharing a meal together, and she chose to pay for their food. They, in turn, paid for someone else, who paid for someone after them . . . and before the diner closed at 3 pm, the good deeds continued - with a total of 46 guests who “paid it forward”! What a fantastic experience!

As we approach “World Kindness Day,” let’s take note of some of the benefits of being kind: “***kindness makes us happier, gives us healthier hearts, slows aging, makes for better relationships, and is contagious!***” (Published by Good News Network, February 11, 2015.) Wow! That is quite the incentive!

How can we encourage kindness with our children? *Dr. Claire Nicogossian*, a psychologist writing for the ***Today Parenting Team***, published some suggestions on November 3, 2015:

*Be a Role Model* – treat yourself, your children, family, friends, and strangers kindly.

*Community Service* – assist those in your community with their various needs.

*Talk about Kindness* – ask your children how they feel about how others treat them.

*Use Teachable Moments* – use the opportunities that naturally take place to talk, process, and teach your child.

Our children are constantly influenced by the culture that surrounds them. Let’s use the daily events to encourage them to accept the strength that comes from kindness. And enjoy finding ways to show random acts of kindness.



## BTMES Student Council



At our October meetings, we discussed one-way communication vs two-way communication. Ask your students which communication method was easier and how they learned this through working in pairs on the "pretzel" activity. We also began preparations for the upcoming annual food drive.



### David Stefaniak Holiday Memorial Food Drive:

The annual food drive is upon us, and we will again be supporting local Barre Town families. Please send in non-perishable food items with your students in all grades. The elementary classroom and middle school TA that collect the most items over the next month will receive a pizza party. Last year, we collected over 4,000 items to help support local families! We are looking forward to exceeding that number this year. Thank you for your support!

There will not be a regular Student Council meeting in November. Instead, students should listen to the announcements for the dates and times that we will meet to collect, count, and sort food.

The next dance is scheduled for Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 pm.

Thank you for your support! Rebecca Kerin-Hutchins, Student Council Adviser, [rkeribte@u61.net](mailto:rkeribte@u61.net)

## Brain Development and Child Health Study

### BE PART OF THE LARGEST STUDY OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD HEALTH!



Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development  
*Teen Brains. Today's Science. Brighter Future.*

#### WHAT IS THE ABCD STUDY?

ABCD stands for Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development, and it is a landmark study supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Across the country ABCD investigators will enroll 10,000 families and follow children from ages 9 – 10 into early adulthood. The goal is to understand how children's experiences affect brain development and other aspects of their life - including school, friendships, behavior and health.

#### WHY SHOULD VERMONT KIDS PARTICIPATE?

The University of Vermont is one of only 21 sites selected to run the ABCD study. This is a great opportunity to ensure that Vermont youth and their experiences are included in this nationwide study. All data will be treated confidentially and kids and their parents will be reimbursed for their participation.

#### HOW CAN MY FAMILY PARTICIPATE?

If you are the parent or legal guardian of a 9 or 10 year old your family may be eligible to participate. Look for printed material to come home from school with your child soon. We look forward to meeting your family!

You can sign up for the study by following this link:

<https://abcdcontact.me/school/500204000024>

For more information:

Call the UVM team at (802) 847 – 4562

Email us at [ABCD@uvm.edu](mailto:ABCD@uvm.edu)

Visit the ABCD website: [www.ABCDStudy.org](http://www.ABCDStudy.org).

**Barre Town Basketball  
2017-2018**

Tryouts for the Barre Town 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' and girls' basketball teams will begin on **Monday, November 27 through Wednesday, November 29**. In order for students to tryout they must be academically eligible, have completed an Athletic Permission form, and have completed a Well Exam form or proof of physical within the past two years. Both forms may be found on our school's website at [btmes.org](http://btmes.org).

An important parent informational meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 15th at 6:00 p.m.** in the gymnasium. If you have any questions, please feel free to email James Carpenter at [jcarpbte@u61.net](mailto:jcarpbte@u61.net). The tryout schedule for the three tryout dates will be as follows:

- 2:45-4:15 7th Girls
- 4:15-5:45 8th Girls
- 5:45-7:15 7th Boys
- 7:15-8:45 8th Boys



**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

The text is enclosed in a decorative border of red apples.



## 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!



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 Thursday 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](mailto:mlindbte@u61.net) or 476-6617 ext. 5174 for additional information.





## Other Events and Happenings

### **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 ½ 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 ½ 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

[krissyb@bellavancetrucking.com](mailto:krissyb@bellavancetrucking.com) or 802-249-8784 to sign up!

Hope to see you on the mountain.



## **BASA Spring Soccer**

Registration Opens Nov 1st

Season runs from April to mid-June

Ages: 6 to 16

Visit our website [www.basavt.org](http://www.basavt.org)

# 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	15 Picture Retake Day	16 Harvest Lunch Grades 1 & 2	17 PTO Movie Night 6:30pm Gym
20	21 PTO Mtg. 6:30 in Library	22	23	24
		Thanksgiving Vacation		
27	28	29	30	



# December



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6 School Board Mtg - 6 p.m. Library	7	8
11	12 Winter Concert—Gym, Grades 5 & 6 6:30pm	13 Winter Concert—Gym, Grades 7 & 8 6:30pm	14 Snow Date for Winter Concert	15
18	19 PTO Mtg. 6:30 in Library	20	21	22
				Holiday Vacation
25	26	27	28	29
	Holiday Vacation			

10/3/2017

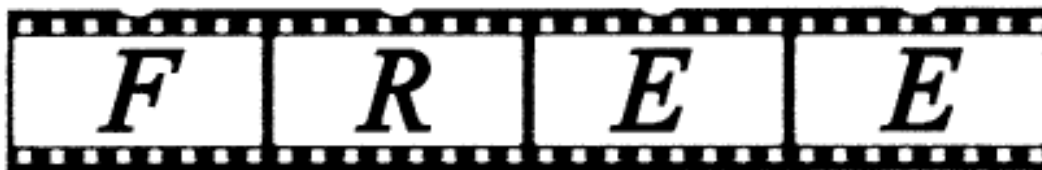
petesdragonmovieflyer.png

**BTMES PTO PRESENTS:**

# FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>**

**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.**

