



## Children's Literacy Foundation Grant

In mid March, we found out that BCEMS has been awarded a Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) Grant. The Foundation's "year of the book" provides \$25,000 worth of literacy programs, support, and new children's books over one school year to help build a culture of literacy in elementary schools across New Hampshire and Vermont. For Barre City Elementary and Middle School, the focus will be on engaging young learners in the 1st and 2nd grades to become lifelong readers. Some of the supports we will receive will include author visits and book donations to students and families. Three cheers to **Library Specialist Lindy Johnson**, who worked tirelessly to get this grant for Barre City students.

## ECI-Outdoor Classroom

ECO or Educating Children Outdoors is a new program being offered here at BCEMS. The program provides the opportunity for students to be immersed in nature and to make connections with their natural communities. Currently, five elementary classrooms are participating in some type of ECO program; two first grades and three kindergarten classes. The classes spend about half of their day, once a week, outdoors in a forest or field setting learning about nature. So far this year, classes have learned about animals that live in Vermont by being exposed to their furs, tracks and skulls. River otters, red squirrels, and gray squirrels have been topics of more in-depth study. Camouflage and how animals survive the winter have been taught as well. In addition to animal topics, the classes have studied trees, plants and leaves. Upcoming lessons for the end of the year will include stream invertebrates, dandelions, and frogs. Throughout the whole year, students learn about stick and fire safety and how to care for themselves, others and the earth. Often sessions end with a cup of hot tea made in a Kelly Kettle and quiet minutes listening to nature in "sit spots". Teachers who are implementing the program have been trained through the North Branch Nature Center by participating in a summer course titled Educating Children Outdoors I and II.



## Lifetime Achievement Award

On March 26, Barre City Elementary and Middle School counselor Joanne Campisi was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Vermont School Counselors Association.

The award recognizes an outstanding counselor who is either retired or who has served in the field for over 20 years making a difference in young people's lives. Joanne has dedicated over 30 years of her career to the children and families of Barre.

Joanne was recognized during a recent BCEMS full faculty meeting and it was a wonderful celebration! Thank you, and congratulations Joanne!

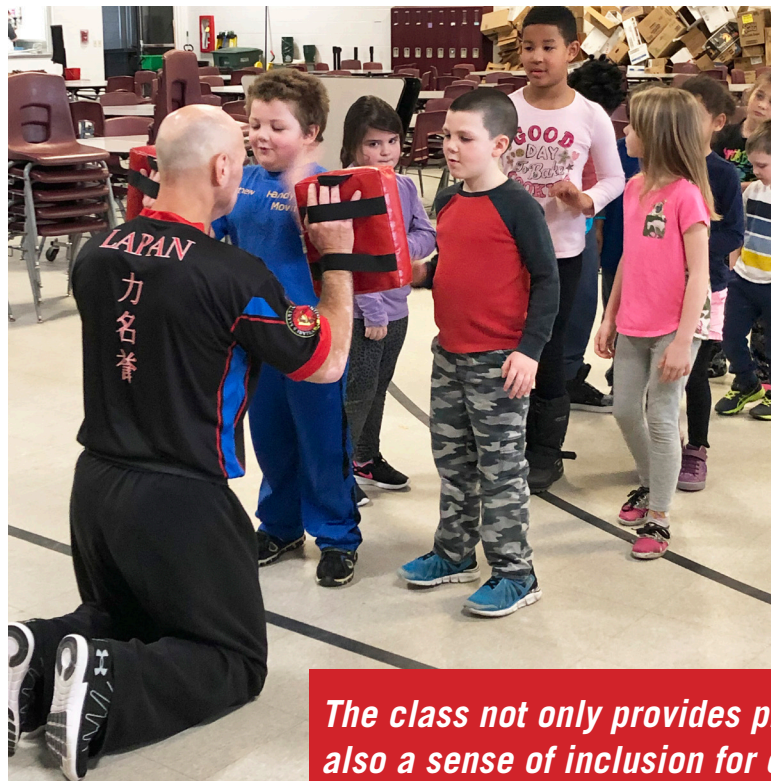
### To qualify for the Lifetime Achievement Award a counselor must:

- hold a Master's Degree or its equivalent;
- have worked as a school counselor for 20 years or more;
- maintain high moral standards in their personal and professional conduct;
- have been responsible for innovations in professional school counseling, for providing leadership in the development of school counseling programs, or for outstanding service to the school or community;
- demonstrate leadership, advocacy and collaboration; and
- demonstrate exemplary support and promotion of professional school counseling services.

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the tools they need to be successful, each and every day. When we approached local Martial Arts teacher Freddie Lapan, he was more than willing to bring his Karate program to the Barre City School. The collaboration was a natural fit given how closely Lapan's principles parallel Barre City's efforts to encourage children to take ownership of their behaviors and bodies. Every Monday morning, students spend 45 minutes with Master Freddie learning about **Respect, Self-Discipline, and Self-Control**. While there are numerous aspects of karate instruction included, the majority of the class time focuses on these three principles. As Master Freddie likes to say, "Karate is just what gets them in the door."

The class not only provides physical activity but also a sense of inclusion for children who may not feel comfortable with team sports. Every Monday morning is a positive interaction with Master Lapan, who cheers them on and reminds them that whatever it is they are asked to do...they can do it.

## Respect, Self-Discipline, & Self-Control

In an effort to meet the needs of our growing student population, BCEMS often turns to people and organizations right here in our own community - partners who are willing to share their time, resources and experiences to give our students



## What Lifts You Up?

What lifts you? Barre City Middle school students were asked to think about this question as they created a colorful, bigger than life, interactive mural based on the artwork of muralist Kelsey Montague. The giant wings are a collection of unique, one of a kind, individual feathers made by students in **Adrienne Feeser's** art classes. They've been creating a very positive impact on the school community, and you never know who's going to show up for a soar through the air!



## Bull Cats After School Club

Our new after school program for 3rd and 4th graders has been a tremendous success! Students from both Barre City and Barre Town have come together and are having a great time playing and learning many new skills that aren't part of the traditional curriculum. The kids are active and engaged, and it's been a wonderful experience for all of them (and us!).



## upcoming events

<b>TUE</b> <b>4</b> JUNE	<b>THU</b> <b>6</b> JUNE	<b>THU</b> <b>13</b> JUNE	<b>WED</b> <b>19</b> JUNE	<b>THU</b> <b>20</b> JUNE	<b>FRI</b> <b>21</b> JUNE
PTO Meeting James Taffel Library	Annual Festival of the Arts 5:30 - 8pm	Kindergarten Graduation at 10:30am	8th Grade Send Off Celebration 3:30 - 9:30	8th Grade Graduation	Last Day of School