



**BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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**December 2020**



To All Barre Town Families:

As we head into the heart of the holiday season, we want to take a moment to thank you for your help and understanding during these unprecedented times. We recognize all the effort that families, teachers, staff, and students have put forth to make our student learning a top priority. Our hope as we look to the new year, will be a sense of calm and normalcy for everyone.

A few reminders -

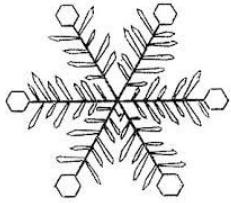
- NO SCHOOL - Wednesday, December 23 - Friday, January 1, 2021 due to the Holiday Vacation. Remote learning will not take place during this time. The current expectation is for all hybrid students to return to in-person learning on Monday, January 4, 2021.
- Tech issues? Please email the help desk at [helpdesk@buusd.org](mailto:helpdesk@buusd.org) with any questions or concerns.
- If you have any questions related to academics, it is always best to email your student's teacher directly. Never hesitate to reach out, every question is an important question!

Stay safe and healthy,  
Jennifer W. Nye and Erica Pearson, BTMES Co-Principals



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## Crops by Kids



A big thank you to everyone who helped put the garden to bed this fall.

I looked back to earlier newsletters to discover that in December, 2015 there was no snow on the ground in early December. Ah, snow will be here before we know it!

Remember after December 22, the days begin to get a little bit longer!

We are still discussing the seed sale and how that might work with students and teachers working remotely or in pods. Please stay tuned.

Happy gardening....or thinking about it.

Deb Curtis, Garden Coordinator, [dcurtbte@buusd.org](mailto:dcurtbte@buusd.org)

## Master Gardener Tribute

Exciting news!

Our very own Crops by Kids Garden was recently featured in a Master Gardener Tribute Video. Special thanks to Beret Halvorson, the Education Coordinator for the UVM Extension Master Gardener Program who compiled all of the videos and created a pretty neat video...that's a little over 45 minutes in length.

A HUGE thanks to our garden coordinator, master gardener extraordinaire, Deb Curtis!

BTMES starts around 34:47! <https://www.tribute.co/uvm-extension-master-gardener-project-leaders/>



## WINTER HOLIDAY VACATION

No School for students - Wednesday, December 23, 2020 — Friday, January 1, 2021

## Remote Learning Expectations



A reminder for all students and families around the expectations and attendance during remote learning.

These are the highlights from our assemblies earlier this fall so you are able to re-view them with your student:

- *On remote days, all students should be answering the question of the day in their TA/Homeroom Google Classroom by 2:00pm or they respond to an email sent by their TA teacher. This only accounts for attendance, this is not academic work.*
- *All students are expected to do their best on their academic work - this means to take your time and to be thorough. Students are not expected to always have everything correct. Students should email their teacher if they get stuck and students should attend Google Meets for academic help as well.*
- *Students should always try to access the Google Meets set up by their teachers to the best of their ability. Even if your student feels that they do not have questions or need help, if another student asks a clarifying question your student will be exposed to that direct instruction virtually as the teacher explains or expands on lessons taught in the classroom. Teachers offer office hours specifically for students who need extra academic support. Students should be accessing them regularly.*

## Best Wishes for Retirement

At the end of December, our long time Spanish teacher, Barbara Shipman, will be retiring. Mrs. Shipman has taught for 23 years at Barre Town! Please see her message below:

*After 23 years teaching at Barre Town I will be retiring at the end of December. This was a hard decision. I have loved my time here, sharing my passion for the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. I have taught many students, children of students and even teach with former students! I have always been proud of the education we provide. Our teachers and staff are caring, dedicated and innovative. My own children got an excellent education here and I leave with nothing but love in my heart for all of you. Keep listening to Spanish music, playing with Sr. Wooly and doing DuoLingo. I will miss each and every one of you.*



*Sincerely,  
Mrs. Shipman*

While we will surely miss Mrs. Shipman, we wish her all the best in her new adventures. We hope that her retirement will allow her time with her family and time to travel as she loves to do! We cannot thank Mrs. Shipman enough for her dedication to the teaching of World Languages and Cultures.

¡Le deseamos un largo y feliz retiro!

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3 School Board Meeting—5:30 p.m.	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
		Holiday Vacation		
28	29	30	31	January 1
	Holiday Vacation			



January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Back to School for staff & students	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14 School Board Meeting—5:30 p.m.	15
18 Staff Development Day—No school for students	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29