



Barre Town Middle and Elementary School

February 2021 Newsletter

70 Websterville Road

Barre, VT 05641

802-476-6617

FAX: (802)479-5723

Dear Barre Town Families,

It is extremely hard to believe, but we are officially half way through the school year. The days are getting longer as the sun sets later and, even though we have experienced some of the coldest temperatures of winter within this last week, we are all patiently awaiting Spring. We are looking forward to more moderate temperatures that will allow us to return outside for more of our learning. As we continue in this leg of winter, please remember to have your student bring appropriate outdoor gear needed to be outside (including for mask breaks).

As we get close to the year mark when COVID-19 altered much about the world, we wanted to acknowledge how very difficult this time has been for our communities. If you or your student are struggling, please reach out to us. You can contact your student's homeroom/TA teacher, our school counselors, our nurses, our home school coordinator, our student support staff or your administrators. We can help find support here at school or within our community depending on your needs. Here is their contact information:

School Counselors: Sarah Goodrich sgoodbte@buusd.org (grades 5-8)
 Rob Raynsford rraynbte@buusd.org (grades PK-4)

School Nurses: Nicole Ladd nladdbte@buusd.org
 Mary Newton mnewtbte@buusd.org

Home School Coordinator: Brandi Waller bwallbte@buusd.org

Student Support: Alice Harding ahardbte@buusd.org (PK-4)
 Bill Waller wwallbte@buusd.org

Administrators: Jennifer Nye jnyebte@buusd.org (PK-4)
 Erica Pearson epearbte@buusd.org (5-8)

Be well and stay healthy,

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

Reminder:

February Vacation—**February 22—March 2**

Remote Learning for all Students:
Wednesday, March 3—due to Town Meeting Day cleanup



| Inside this issue: | |
|---|---|
| Preschool Screening/ | 2 |
| Home/School Coordinator | 3 |
| Food and Nutrition/ Other Events and Happenings | 4 |
| Calendar | 5 |



To the Barre Community,

It's that time of year when we start planning for our annual Prekindergarten Screening and Open House. This event will be held later this year due to the need to plan around COVID health and safety guidelines. We anticipate Prekindergarten Screening and Open House will take place for both Barre City and Barre Town Prekindergarten programs in May. The date will be announced as it is finalized.

If you are interested in your child attending prekindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year, please contact your school registrar to be placed on the waitlist. Enrollment for 2021-2022 is on a first come, first served basis.

If you have concerns about your child's development, contact Lauren May, Director of Early Education, at Lmaybsu@buusd.org or at 476-5011.

Barre City Registrar
Andra Holbrook
476-6541
aholbbce@buusd.org

Barre Town Registrar
Betsy Pearce
476-6617
bpearbte@buusd.org

Crops by Kids



We have certainly had interesting winter weather so far.

I have enjoyed watching children sledding on a hill near my house.

As you likely know by now, we are not doing the seed fundraiser this winter. If you have been waiting for the order form to order your seeds, it will not be forthcoming. So sorry! Hopefully we can get back on track next winter. Thank you for all of you who have supported the seed fundraiser in the past.

~Do you know where the snowiest city on earth is? The city with the most snow is in Aomori City, Japan.

On average this city gets about 26 feet (or 312 inches) of snow annually.

~ Every winter, at least one septillion (that is a 1 followed by 26 zeros) snow crystals fall from the sky.

~ The largest snowman ever built was in Bethel, Maine in February 1999. It stood 113 feet, 7 inches tall.

(taken from factreviewer.com)

Happy Gardening (or at least planning)!

Deb Curtis, Garden Coordinator, dcurtbte@buusd.org

News from the Home/School Coordinator by Brandi Fuller

Vermont Everyone Eats

Vermont Everyone Eats provides nutritious meals to Vermonters in need of food assistance, as well as a stabilizing source of income for Vermont restaurants, farmers, and food producers. Funded by the Vermont Legislature to address COVID impacts.



<https://teveryoneeats.org/?fbclid=IwAR3KjanVIJo1W4BDjN9ts-McDiVXrtMUUHeFjush0Hh-ihMIZTFfrpSoVOg>

BackPack Program



Barre Town School and the Vermont Foodbank partner each year to bring the Backpack Program to our school community. The Backpack Program provides a bag of non-perishable food to each child enrolled in the program to take home once a week. The food will be placed in your child's backpack at the end of the day. The program will continue throughout the school year.

To enroll your child in the program, or if you have any question, email me at bwallbte@buusd.org. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions that you may have.



Helpful links for anyone struggling to get by financially or emotionally during the pandemic:

Supporting Children Through the Stress of COVID—

A great article for the current times....

https://vtdigger.org/sponsored_content/supporting-children-through-the-stress-of-covid/?fbclid=IwAR2n25-4f-EplyX201sps7GyGPdcp5imA2D2wCtMbIsVYldPB8gHtEXBOR8

Frequently Asked Questions and Support Services Available for Vermont State

<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/individuals/faqs#support-services>



Food and Nutrition Services During COVID-19



by the Office of Head Start, USDA (CACFP and WIC), and the National Center for Health, Behavioral Health And Safety.

[Listing of VT USDA COVID-19 Waivers & Flexibilities](#) (SNAP; Child Nutrition Programs; WIC)

[USDA Team Nutrition](#) resources about flexibilities and child nutrition program adjustments to ease meal service operations and protect the health of children and program operators during the pandemic. Includes:

[Best Practices for Parent Pick-Up of Meals and Snacks](#)
[Child and Adult Care Food Program: Providing Multiple Meals at a Time for Children During the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)

[Feeding Kids When Schools Are Closed Due to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Child Nutrition Sharing Site](#) - an online information center providing Child Nutrition Programs with a means for sharing effective resources related to program operation.

[Enhancing Participant-Centered Services Between the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\) and Head Start Programs](#) – although this is Head Start specific, there are a number of suggested strategies and resources for State and local program partnerships that could improve program coordination for low-income children and their families.

Other Events and Happenings

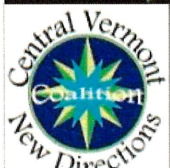
Want to have an *effective* conversation with your teen about tobacco, alcohol or other substances?

Join Central Vermont New Directions Coalition as they host a virtual conversation on Zoom about talking to teens about those tricky topics on *February 3rd at 6pm*.

This conversation will leave you feeling empowered, knowledgeable, and equipped with tips and tricks to have an effective conversation with your teen(s).

In this conversation, Zoey Pickel, a teenager herself, will offer key insight to the thoughts and views of a teen when talking about tobacco, alcohol or other substances.

To register or get more information, please email Zoey at zpickel.cvndc@gmail.com




February

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 School Board Meeting—5:30 p.m. | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| V a c a t i o n | | | | |



March

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 Town Meeting Day | 3 Remote Day for all students | 4 | 5 |
| V a c a t i o n | | | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 School Board Meeting—5:30 p.m. | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17  | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Staff Development Day—No School for Students |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | |