



# BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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May 2022

## 8th Grade Step Up Night Thursday, June 16th 6:00pm



Dance immediately following the ceremony  
7pm-9pm  
in the BTMES Crowley Gym

### BUUSD School Calendar Updates

#### Last day of school for PK students:

Wednesday, June 15th

#### Last day of school for Grade K-8 students:

Thursday, June 16th – 1/2 Day

#### 8th Grade Step Up Night:

Thursday, June 16th 6pm

More details to follow

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## 10 Ways to Stay Safe While Cycling

For nearly a decade, the number of bicycle accident deaths declined. However, recent studies show that bicycle accident deaths are increasing. In fact, fatal [bike accidents](#) are outpacing all other traffic-related deaths. In other words, it's a dangerous time to ride a bike in the United States.

Statistics reported by the Governor's Highway Safety Association demonstrate that the rise in fatal bike accidents began around 2011. Since that year, an [additional 55 riders](#) have been killed in accidents every year. In 2015, 818 cyclists were killed on our roads, an increase of more than 12 percent from the year before. More recent statistics indicate that roads are not getting any safer. By 2016, the CDC reports that more than 1,000 bicyclists were killed in traffic accidents.



Fortunately, you have the ability to limit the risk of a bicycle accident. Here are ten things you can do to keep yourself safe when you're sharing the road.

### 1. Wear a Helmet

Not all states require bicyclists to wear a helmet. However, research shows that wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of a serious injury by [70 percent](#). Head injuries are the leading cause of fatal bike accidents. Unfortunately, 97 percent of victims do not wear helmets. Simply wearing a helmet can prevent many unintentional bike deaths.

### 2. Check Your Equipment Before You Ride

Bike accidents aren't always caused by a distracted driver or an unexpected bump in the road. Bicycle equipment malfunctions contribute to a significant number of crashes. You can reduce the risk of an equipment-related accident by checking your bike, helmet, and gear before you hit the road.

Make sure your tires are properly inflated. Check your reflectors and lights to make sure that they're working. Inspect your chains and gears for any defects, fractures, or issues. These simple steps can prevent an accident that could change your life.

### 3. Wear Reflective Materials

A leading cause of bike accidents is limited visibility. If a driver cannot see you, an accident is more likely to occur. This is particularly true at intersections when your paths are likely to cross. While installing reflectors on your bike can help, it's also important to wear bright and/or reflective clothing. Increasing your visibility will reduce the risk of a bike accident.

### 4. Keep Your Hands on the Bike

You may have a great sense of balance. This may allow you to ride your bike without keeping any hands on the handlebars. Think twice before riding hands-free, particularly when you're sharing the road with other vehicles. If your hands aren't on the bike, it will take you much longer to react to unexpected circumstances, such as a pedestrian in your path or debris in the road. As a result, you're more likely to either fall off of your bike or cause an accident because you cannot brake in time.

### 5. Know Your Signals and Use Them

Many bike accidents occur at or near an intersection. It's important to make sure that you're fully familiar with bike hand signals. You need to be able to communicate with nearby drivers and other cyclists. A driver cannot anticipate what you're going to do unless you provide fair warning. Make sure that your hand signals are obvious and clear to others. Accidents are less likely to happen when everyone on the road is on the same page.

## 10 Ways to Stay Safe While Cycling (con't)

### 6. Limit Your Distractions

Distracted driving is a [leading cause](#) of fatal car accidents in the United States. Unsurprisingly, it can be just as dangerous to ride a bike while distracted. In fact, since you're already more vulnerable to serious injury and death, distracted cycling can be even riskier.

Riding a bike is a fantastic experience. You get to exercise and get fresh air. It's also an opportunity to disconnect and take a break from the frenzy of your day-to-day life. Take full advantage of your bike ride by stashing electronics in your bag or pocket. If you need to drink, opt for a water bottle that's easy to operate with one hand. Keeping your eyes on the road and tuning into your surroundings will help to keep you safe.

### 7. Ride As If You're In a Car

You may be able to reduce the likelihood of an accident if you act like you're driving a car. Why? Studies show that drivers become used to the patterns and behaviors of vehicles on the road. Cars don't weave in and out of traffic, ignore traffic signals, or cut across multiple lanes at once. When you ride a bike, it's easier to do these things. However, you're more likely to catch a driver by surprise or limit your visibility when you do. Keep yourself safe by riding predictably and mimicking the behaviors of larger vehicles whenever appropriate.

### 8. Ride With the Flow of Traffic

Always ride your bike with the flow of traffic. In other words, travel in the same direction as other vehicles on the road. Accidents are much more likely to happen when you go against the grain. If an accident does happen when you're riding against the flow of traffic, you're more likely to be at fault for the crash. This can prevent or reduce a financial recovery.

### 9. Stay Off of the Sidewalks

Sidewalks may seem like a safe alternative when you're riding alongside larger vehicles. However, sidewalk biking can be incredibly dangerous for a few reasons. First, sidewalks belong to pedestrians. You're more likely to crash into a pedestrian or lose control when the sidewalks are crowded. Second, sidewalk pavement is more likely to be uneven than asphalt on the road. You can hit a crack or bump in the sidewalk and go flying. Finally, cars don't expect to see a bicyclist enter the road from a sidewalk. You're more likely to take a driver by surprise and get hit when you use the sidewalk. Remember, drivers are used to behaviors of other cars.

### 10. Use Dedicated Bike Lanes

An increasing number of cities and municipalities across the country are embracing dedicated infrastructure, which is the goal of the [People Powered Movement](#). Bike lanes of all varieties are popping up across the country. However, [protected bike lanes](#) can only keep you safe if you ride in them. Whenever you see a bike lane, make sure to use it.

If bike lanes are used, towns are more likely to invest in more dedicated bicycle infrastructure. This can go a long way in keeping you and others safe when you're sharing the road.

People Powered Movement, Biking and Walking Alliance. <https://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/10-ways-to-stay-safe-while-cycling/>

## **Attention Grades 3-6 Running Club Participants:**



The students have been working so hard preparing for the upcoming 5K run on May 21. **Please go on-line to pre-register your student.** <https://runsignup.com/Race/VT/Barre/BarreTownSpringRun>. The race is FREE for the running club participants!

Volunteers needed, email Laura Thygesen at [lthygbte@buusd.org](mailto:lthygbte@buusd.org) if you can help on the race day. Tasks may include running a "water table", cutting up fruit, setting up/taking down, and taking pictures.

All students should arrive at the BT picnic shelter at 8:15 am on the 21st with their running club t-shirts on (tshirts getting ordered now!) Thanks to BT PTO and Central VT Runners for sponsoring the t-shirts! After the race, there is a short awards ceremony for the top runners in each age-division. Children are able to leave after the race and/or awards ceremony as they'd like. A reminder that the race is open to the public so come with your running shoes, if you'd like (please pre-register yourself too)! This also means parking will be a bit tricky, too. Parking in the school parking lot and walking up to the picnic shelter is advised.

See you Saturday, May 21 at 8:15 at the Barre Town picnic shelter up by the track at school.

Laura Thygesen, Cooper Bushey, [Lauralea Curavoo](#), [Kelsey LaPerle](#), [Veronica Eldred](#), Ben Thomas, and Stefanie Kingzett

## **PTO News**

The PTO met on Tuesday, April 26th in the library to discuss plans for Teacher Appreciation Week, learn more about the needs of the staff and begin to develop plans for the future. We are happy to announce that the PTO is a sponsor of this year's Running Club! Funds were approved to help with the purchase of t-shirts for students participating in the Running Club. Runners will finish off their season on May 21st at 9:00 a.m. in a 5k race held at BTEMS. Good luck to all!!

We are looking for MORE MEMBERS!! The current PTO consists of two...yes, you read that right, TWO volunteer parents. We are dedicated to building a vibrant and active PTO, however we are not able to do it alone. We understand Covid affected us all in many ways and severely limited our ability to come together as a community. Times are changing and we are ready to help build back our school community. We would love to hear from parents who want to integrate into daily school activities and from teachers who are in need of support! Activities such as the school bookstore, chaperoning, popcorn Thursdays, curriculum nights and more can ALL BE POSSIBLE if we have more members! Please join us at our next meeting, Tuesday, May 17 at 6 pm to learn more. Zoom link, ID and Passcode can be found below. If you have any questions please email us at [ptobte@buusd.org](mailto:ptobte@buusd.org).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99450693309?pwd=c1pmekZ3SGFzZy9JNnZlWTV0aUhRdz09>

Meeting ID: 994 5069 3309

Passcode: 1iXV6g



## Crops by Kids



Wow! We made over \$3400.00 this year from the seed fundraiser! This is the largest amount we have ever made. Thank you so much for your support. As you may know, this year the funds will go toward getting water closer to the garden and chicken coop.

Alice Harding and others met in late April to discuss the water situation and things are progressing.

Students will be planting this spring and early summer. Several of the spring school plantings will be ready for harvest during the summer months: garlic, lettuce, spinach, beans, and radishes, squash, kale, just to name a few. Be thinking about your summer. **Might you and your family be available to help water and weed for a week?** A note will be sent home in early June asking when you might be available over the summer. This effort has been really successful and we appreciate your help. The students love it and they might even eat something new that you never expected! How awesome would that be?!? Please contact me with questions at [dcurtbte@buusd.org](mailto:dcurtbte@buusd.org).

Many folks do not have garden space but incorporate containers to grow their crops. Many different containers can work for growing plants, just be sure they have holes to allow the water to drain out. The larger the plant, the bigger the container should be. For example one tomato plant is happy to be planted in a 5-gallon bucket or a similar sized container. Be sure to add fertilizer according to instructions (depending on what type of fertilizer is being used). Unlike planting in a garden where the soil has many nutrients, container gardening relies on keeping the crop fertilized during the growing season.

Happy Gardening.....

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

## Thank you!

A special **THANK YOU** to our 2022 community members and organizations that donated to the Barre Town Camp Opportunities Fund!

- **BEA Teachers Association**
- **Kiwanis Club of Barre**
- **North Country Federal Credit Union**
  - **Barre Lions Club**
  - **The Canadian Club**

These generous donations, we are able to assist our students in attending local camps and programs. We are so thankful!





## Other Events and Happenings

### From the Barre Partnership:

Is your child crafty? Into baking or making? The Barre Farmer's Market wants to foster your child's entrepreneurship! You can sign your child up to host a table this season at the Barre Farmer's Market the last Wednesday of each month. Please fill out the application on the next page and deliver to the Barre Partnership's office in downtown Barre or email directly to Tracie Lewis at [director@thebarrepartnership.com](mailto:director@thebarrepartnership.com). For more information, call Tracie at 802-477-2967 or check out




Play.  
Grow.  
Explore.  
Girl Scouts.



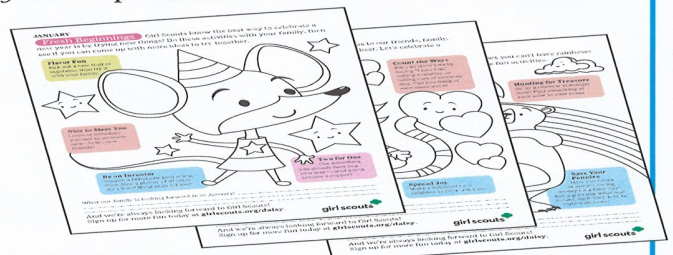
Being a Girl Scout will bring your girl joy—in kindergarten and beyond. We make it easy for your girl to connect with new friends, try new things, and go on new adventures—whether virtually or in person.



Scan this QR code to get your **FREE** printable calendar full of Girl Scout Daisy activities just right for you and your kindergarten girl.

**girl scouts** 

Ready to bring the fun home? Text DAISY to 59618 to learn more!





## Other Events and Happenings (con't)



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# YMCA CAMP KODA

Camp Koda is the Y's co-ed summer day camp that runs in Barre, Fairfax, Georgia, Underhill, + Waterbury. Each week follows a theme and includes activities such as physical skill building, STEM, the arts, outdoor play, water play, and more! At Camp Koda, you can always be sure that your child is learning, playing, and growing in a fun, safe environment.

**Dates:**

**BFA + Waterbury:** Eight (8) one-week sessions, June 27 – August 19

**Underhill:** Eight (8) one-week sessions, June 27 – August 18

**Barre + Georgia:** Seven (7) one-week sessions, June 27 – August 12

**Ages:** Kids who have completed kindergarten to age 12.

**Days:** Monday–Friday, 3 or 5 day options

**Times:** 8:00am–5:00pm

**Cost:** 5 days for \$240, 3 days for \$185

**Financial Assistance:** State subsidy is available for qualifying families. Additionally, the Y provides financial assistance to families for whom the full cost of camp is a hardship. Y scholarship recipients are asked to pay a portion of the program cost and to please recognize that financial assistance is limited.

Each week follows a special theme, full of the activities your child will enjoy. Campers bring lunch and two healthy snacks each day unless notified that their site participates in a free lunch program.

**Contact:** [schoolageprograms@gbymca.org](mailto:schoolageprograms@gbymca.org) or by phone at (802) 652-8170.

[gbymca.org/programs/camp-koda](http://gbymca.org/programs/camp-koda)



The Y's Community Partner  
**NORTH COUNTRY**  
Your community credit union



## THE SCHOOL ZERO WASTE CORNER: MAY

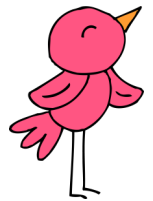
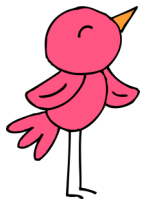
from the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

Read it at [cvswmd.org/school-zero-waste-newsletter](http://cvswmd.org/school-zero-waste-newsletter)



May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12 School Board Meeting—5:30 p.m.	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30 Memorial Day—No School for Staff and Students	31			



June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9 School Board Meeting—5:30 p.m.	10
13	14	15 Last day of school for PK students	16 Last day of school for K-8 students—1/2 day  Report cards issued for grades K-8  8th Grade Step Up 6:00 pm	17