



September 15, 2023

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff:

We have had three wonderful weeks of school and we are all settling into a solid routine: students are learning, making friendships and exploring extracurricular opportunities. Similarly, each staff member I have spoken to is thrilled to have our students back in the buildings and feel pleasantly reminded of why we do this work. Please see some pictures below of the beginning of the year!



Upcoming Important Dates to Remember:

September 21, 2023 – Cambridge Elementary Schools’ Winter Wellness Fest Benefit Concert, 6:00-7:00 pm

September 18-22, 2023 – Hyde Park Elementary Schools’ Fall Book Fair Week

September 21, 2023 – Johnson Elementary Schools’ Back to School Bingo and Book Swap, 5:00-7:30 pm



First Community Event/Gathering

Lamoille North Supervisory Union is excited to invite you to join us on Monday, October 23, 2023, from 6:30-8:00 pm at Jenna’s House in Johnson for an evening of food, celebration and togetherness. This special event is not just about harvest season—it’s about coming together as a community to express gratitude for the abundance of support and goodwill that surrounds us.

What to Expect:

Farm-to-School Feast: A light harvest, farm-to-school meal, thoughtfully prepared by our Lamoille North School Nutrition experts to showcase the flavors of our local harvest.

Student Performances: Be entertained by the talents of our young performers as they take time to showcase their artistry, creativity, and the spirit of our community.

Presentations by School District Partners: Gain insights into the valuable partnerships that enrich our educational landscape. Our district partners play a pivotal role in enriching our school communities, and you will have the chance to hear about their impactful contributions.

An Evening of Gratitude: This gathering is more than just an event; it's an opportunity to express thanks. We appreciate our family and friends and the organizations that tirelessly work to enhance the wellbeing of our communities. Join us as we come together in a spirit of unity,

warmth, and gratitude. Let's celebrate the tapestry of our community and the strides we continue to make together.

Date: Monday, October 23rd, 2023

Time: 6:30-8:00 pm, immediately following a special meeting of the LNMUUSD/LNSU School Board from 5:30-6:30 pm (also happening at Jenna's House)

Location: Jenna's House, 117 St. Johns Road, Johnson, VT

Mark your calendars and please register using the link below to secure your seat for a wonderful evening. This event is totally free, but we need an accurate head count for food.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

We look forward to celebrating this special evening with you, as we honor our communities together.

Community Partner News:

Please see important information from the Vermont Department of Health's first newsletter, "Health Sense". We have summarized the most important points below:

8 Ways to Avoid Secondhand Smoke

Cigarette smoke doesn't just **smell**, it's toxic to breathe. Here are 8 ways to limit or prevent secondhand smoke and vape exposure:

1. Only smoke or vape outside.
2. Take the [Smoke Free Home Pledge](#).
3. Educate people on the harms of secondhand smoke.
4. Change your clothes after smoking so people aren't exposed to secondhand chemicals.
5. Kindly ask people to move if they are smoking in a smoke-free area.
6. Report businesses or workplaces that potentially violate Vermont's [clean indoor act](#) to the Tobacco Control Program at tobaccovt@vermont.gov.
7. Put up smoke-free signage for your business or properties. Get signage for free by emailing tobaccovt@vermont.gov.
8. Get help quitting with tailored services, tips, and tools from [802Quits](#)

Funding for Natural Disasters

We are in the process of applying for funds to help our flood relief efforts. One mechanism for this funding could come from Project Serv through the U.S. Department of Education's Disaster Recovery Unit.

Project School Emergency Response to Violence (Project SERV) provides funding for local educational agencies (LEAs) in which the learning environment has been disrupted due to a violent or traumatic crisis, such as a natural disaster in our case. The purpose of Project SERV

is to provide resources in response to such an event and restore a safe environment conducive to learning.

To qualify for this funding, we need to be able to demonstrate that the learning environment has been disrupted as the result of a significant, natural disaster. We have to show the following:

1. Demonstrate how the natural disaster had a traumatic effect on the learning environment, including how the event has disrupted teaching and learning;
2. Explain how the proposed services will help restore the learning environment; and
3. Demonstrate that the needed services cannot be adequately provided with existing resources

The following are examples of services allowable under Project SERV:

- Targeted mental health assessments, referrals, and services related to the traumatic event with the goal of restoring victims/survivors to their pre-incident levels of functioning;
- Emergency transportation

We will keep you apprised of any funding we receive. We recognize that many of our families and staff members had both a direct and indirect impact from the flooding this summer and want to be able to provide more mental health supports for those who need and want them.

Final Thoughts

In the spirit of our close-knit community, I look forward to connecting with all of you throughout the year. We have much to celebrate given the unique and many strengths of our communities. I invite you to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, and help us continue to create a learning environment that nurtures the hearts and minds of our students and all members of our school community. We will plan throughout the year more and more community events where we can hear directly from you about how you are doing and how we can support each other. It is most certainly a collective effort and we embrace these opportunities wholeheartedly.



In closing, I continue to be so grateful for our Lamoille North community members and the strong relationships we have built together. We appreciate your support for our work with your children and youth. Thank you again for your collaboration, compassion and dedication to the wellbeing of our students, staff and families.

My best to you,

Catherine Gallagher, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
Lamoille North Supervisory Union