



September 29, 2023

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff:

We are well into the fall season and I have noticed that although our days are still warm, the mornings are cool, and the drive to work is laced with a low fog over the changing colors of the leaves. This is by far my favorite Vermont season, perhaps because growing up in California, I did not see nature's evidence of changing seasons and perhaps it is because this time of year signals so much beauty in nature and the rich bounty of the season. I always consider myself so fortunate to live in such a beautiful place!



Please see important dates set forth below:

- October 3, 2023, Cambridge Elementary School, Picture Day
- October 4, 2023, Waterville Elementary School, Open House, 5:00-6:30 pm followed by Title I Program presentation from 6:30-7:00 pm
- October 4, 2023, Lamoille Union Middle School, Open House, 5:30-7:00 pm
- October 5, 2023, Johnson Elementary School, Open House, 6:00-7:30 pm
- October 9, 2023, LNSU, No School
- October 23, 2023, LNSU, Harvest Community Dinner & Gathering, Jenna's House, Johnson, VT, 6:30-8:00 pm
- October 27, 2023, LNSU, Early Release Day
- October 31, 2023, Hyde Park Elementary School, Ghost Walk, 2:00 pm



FIRST COMMUNITY EVENT

We cordially invite you to be a part of our upcoming [Harvest Community Dinner & Gathering](#) on Monday, October 23rd, 2023, from 6:30-8:00 pm at Jenna's House (117 St. Johns Road in Johnson, Vermont). Your participation would greatly enhance the event and provide valuable insights to other community members and school families.

The purpose of this event is to celebrate the spirit of the harvest season, and acknowledge the support and all of the resources in our communities, while also highlighting the collaborative efforts and partnerships that contribute to the success of the Lamoille North school community. We believe that you play a crucial role in supporting our district's mission and enhancing the learning experience of our students.

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 well-being of our communities. Join us as we come together in a spirit of unity, warmth, and gratitude.

We will have student performances and a presentation of school projects from each of our schools about what it means to be part of a community.

We have also invited some of our local community partners to distribute information about their work in support of our schools, our goal being to help you gain insight into the valuable role they play in enriching our educational landscape. Our district partners play a pivotal role in supporting our school communities, and you will have the chance to hear about their impactful contributions.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to the Lamoille North School District. We look forward to hearing from you and having you join us at this festive and community-oriented gathering.

Date: Monday, October 23rd, 2023

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

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

Mark your calendars and please register at 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. We already have 65 people registered to join us and have the capacity for 125. Please register soon if you would like to attend!

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

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



CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION and ASSESSMENT

Starting next week and continuing into October, students, grades K-10, will be taking a nationally standardized, computer-adaptive test called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth. As a district, we will be utilizing NWEA MAP in both math and reading. This test is designed to give teachers data about students they can use to guide instruction and give our students the exact supports they need. It also measures student progress over the school year and across school years. Students will complete the assessment on Chromebooks or iPads.

Teachers will use MAP Growth data to determine what each student needs to be successful in their learning. MAP Growth scores will help teaching teams determine which students would benefit from additional supports both in and out of the classroom and provide detailed data to help identify skills to help every student reach their potential. MAP Growth scores also serve as a measure of student progress not only across the school year, but also from year to year. As students continue to assess using MAP Growth, they will be able to see their improvement over time.

The data that is collected from these assessments will be used to make shifts in instruction, provide information to inform interventions, and plan for enrichment opportunities.

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

Please join me in welcoming Philip Kiely to the LNMUUSD/LNSU Board as a Hyde Park representative, AND Amy Listenik to the Board as a Cambridge representative. They are replacing Chasity Fagnant and Tommy O'Connor, respectively. We thank them for their commitment to serve our communities and schools via membership on our Board.



CLOSING 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, 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.

As a final thought, I can't think of a better way to end this newsletter than to show you a piece of artwork and a poem about the importance of belonging and community, both created during our welcome in-service by our very own Danielle Peveril, social studies teacher in our middle school. I think she captures the sentiments beautifully.



My best to you,

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