



October 20, 2023

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff,

As October comes to a close, I reflect on the fall season, the sense of renewal and the way our students, families and staff have come together with a strong sense of community. We have hosted open houses for families, participated in fall athletic events, hosted fall festivities, recitals and other student presentations; and seen first hand the warmth and unity that clearly exists in our community. We are well poised for events to come as the fall season paves the way for winter!



**Please see important dates set forth below:**

October 20-21, 2023, Lamoille Union High School, Haunted High, 6:30-9:30 pm

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 27, 2023, Lamoille Union Middle School, School Dance, 7:00-9:00 pm

October 27, 2023, Waterville Elementary School, WESPO Halloween Party, 6:00-7:30 pm

October 28, 2023, Cambridge Elementary School, Afterschool Program Haunted House, 5:30-7:30 pm

October 31, 2023, Hyde Park Elementary School, Ghost Walk, 2:00 pm

November 8, 2023, GMTCC, Community Open House, 5:30-7:00 pm



**SCHOOL NEWS**

In school news, families will receive information, if they have not already, about the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment (VTCAP). This past spring, Vermont students participated in this assessment for the first time. As you know, the State is obligated to administer to all students attending a public school in Vermont in grades 3-9 a statewide standardized test. In the past, that test was the Smarter Balanced Assessment Program (SBAC), but this year the Agency of Education (AOE) moved to a new testing system, the Vermont Common Assessment Program (VTCAP) pursuant to a contract with Cognia.

It should be noted that VTCAP results are **not** comparable to Smarter Balanced results. The State is working on a method to compare this year's results with prior years. This will be available later this year. Additionally, state and district-level results currently do not include results from the VTCAP Alternate Assessment. Those results will be included in the official results released later this year.

We are aware that the contracting process for the VTCAP was inordinately challenging and that led to delays in the AOE's rollout. Administrators and teachers were asked to proctor and administer the new test, but did not receive adequate information, instruction, or technical support from the state through no fault of their own; that lack of time for preparation may have caused numerous difficulties for students and teachers alike. When a student is assessed on topics for which they have received no instruction, the result can be wasted time, wasted resources and the potential that the students' enthusiasm for learning will be diminished.

As an example, the 9<sup>th</sup> grade math test asks students to answer questions that some students have not ever seen in a class because the VTCAP assessment is **not** aligned with Vermont standards. While testing students on what they have been taught has value, testing students about matters they've never been taught serves no purpose other than to potentially diminish their desire to learn a critical subject. Lamoille North, along with many other districts in the state, will be considering this test to be a pilot for this year alone even though the State cannot do so because of federal requirements.

State-level assessments are one of many tools that our schools use to look at student progress. It allows us to look at the overall achievement of our students in comparison to grade-level standards and the results help us determine where we need to adjust our curriculum and instructional practices both as a school and a district. Please contact your school(s) to receive information about other ways our teachers assess student learning.



I am happy to report some great news for both Hyde Park Elementary School and Eden Central School. They have both exited from identification as schools in need of school improvement. We commend the hard work of the staff and students in both schools and their achievements!



Green Mountain Technology & Career Center (GMTCC) is hosting its Community Open House! See the following information from our team at GMTCC as follows:

### **GMTCC Students Put Skills on Display at 2023 Community Open House**

Mark your calendars and join GMTCC on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for their Community Open House.

This is a great chance for community members and prospective students to get a behind-the-scenes look at the cutting-edge educational opportunities offered by GMTCC - the Lamoille Valley's only career and technical education center.

The open house, running from 5:30-7:00 pm, is an opportunity to meet educators, see classrooms and labs, and gain insights into becoming a tech center student.

Attendees will also have the chance to see current students demonstrating skills through live demos in their program areas.



### **ATHLETICS**

In other news, our fall athletic season is close to wrapping up! Please see this message from our Athletic Director, Tim Messier, as follows:

*"Greetings from the LU Athletic Department. The 2023 Fall Sports season is winding down quickly. The Golf and Bass Fishing seasons have wrapped up. The Cross Country teams will be competing in the NVACs tomorrow, 10/21/23, at Stowe High School and States next Saturday in Thetford. The JV and Varsity soccer regular seasons wrap up today and tomorrow as does the BFA/LU Football regular season. VPA playoff pairing information will be announced Monday, 10/23/23, for the Varsity Soccer and Football teams.*

*Congratulations to all the LU student athletes, coaches and families for their effort, dedication, commitment and support this season. Best of luck to our Varsity student athletes and coaches in the upcoming postseason.*

*For your planning purposes, the 2023-2024 Winter Sports season officially begins on Monday, 11/27/23. The Winter Sports student athlete/parent/caregiver informational meeting will be held on Thursday, 11/16/23, from 5:30-7:00 pm in the LU Theatre.*

*Thank for your continued support for our student athletes, Lamoille Athletics and our school community.*

*Go Lancers!"*



## COMMUNITY NEWS

In community news, we are so excited to host our upcoming Lamoille North Harvest Gathering. This evening is about celebration and togetherness, and we are so appreciative of the community members, district partners, students, and staff who will be joining us this coming Monday night. We will have a full house on Monday and thank everyone for registering for this event.

This special event is not just about harvest season—it is about coming together as a community to express gratitude for the abundance of support and goodwill that surrounds us.

The evening will include Lamoille North student performances, a harvest-inspired farm-to-table meal, school presentations, and dedicated time for guests to mingle and meet with our district partners. Presentations will encompass what it means to belong to a community and why that is so important to wellbeing. Every school has created something to share that represents their thoughts about the spirit of community.

Community partners planning to attend include:

- The Vermont Department of Health
- Healthy Lamoille Valley
- Lanpher Memorial Library
- Children's Advisory Council
- Jenna's Promise

We extend our thanks to all of our partners and a special thank you to the Tatro family for allowing us to host this event at Jenna's House.



## STORYTIME

I am planning to start an evening "storytime" to begin the second week in November. Each Wednesday evening, I will read a children's book to anyone who might be interested in listening to a story before bedtime. The recording of this will air at 7:00 pm and a link to the recording will be posted. Stories will be geared toward our youngest children, but are available for anyone who would like to listen to the reading of the stories. The first airing will be on **Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**. Stay tuned for information on how to listen!



Lastly, I am grateful every day for our community. We have so 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. 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.

My very best to you,

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