

Barre City Elementary & Middle School Newsletter

April 1, 2024

Message from Mrs. Waterhouse

Important Dates:

- **April 8** - All BUUSD Schools will be Closed
- **April 10** - Progress Reports sent home
- **April 11** - Early Release Day (dismissal at 12:15); Parent Teacher Conferences 1 PM to 7 PM
- **April 18 & 19** - PreK and Kindergarten Screening & Open House (No School for PreK & K)
- **April 22 - 26** - Break: All BUUSD Schools will be Closed

Parent/Guardian & Teacher Conferences are on April 11. Middle school teams will have a “drop in” format for families to conference, so no appointment is necessary. Elementary staff will be scheduling conference times. Please feel free to reach out to your child’s teacher to schedule a time. April 11 doesn’t work for you? Please reach out to your child’s teacher(s) to find an alternative time to connect about student progress.

We are approaching the last quarter of the school year. Planning for field trips, enrichment activities and field days are transpiring and wonderful opportunities for parents to support our students in these activities. We also would love some Garden Volunteers! If interested in these and other **volunteer opportunities**, please see our district volunteer information site and fill out the background information. This process takes a couple of weeks, so it isn’t too early to be prepared!

Are you interested in **employment opportunities**? At BCEMS, our most urgent need is substitutes and special education support staff. If interested in applying for these or other district positions, please see our district website or contact Laura Potter at lpottbsu@buusd.org.

Vermont weather continues to keep us on our toes! Building temperatures and outdoor conditions vary by the hour. We highly recommend **dressing students in layers** so that they can add and subtract the layers as the temperatures dictate. Also, the outside areas can be muddy and wet, so it is recommended to have **rubber boots**. **Extra clothes in case of getting wet** are also highly recommended.

We will be conducting an egress drill this month. A Remind message will be sent to families to verify it is only a drill and no real emergency exists. Please contact me with questions at any time. My email address is bwatebce@buusd.org. For immediate needs, please contact our main office at (802)476-6541.

-Brenda Waterhouse



Highlighting Learning about the Eclipse

Last week, several staff and students were interviewed by a freelance reporter about their learning with the upcoming eclipse. There are many taking this current event as a wonderful learning opportunity - from art to science to literature, there are lots of connections.

Roberta Melnick’s third-grade class (pictured at the right) highlighted their approach to inquiry science by formulating many questions about the eclipse and discussing these questions. They will further explore and research answering many of the questions that they developed. Students developing their questions in advance of studying the topic help engage them in learning and make the learning more meaningful. Here are some examples of the questions the students generated:



- *What happens if you don’t wear glasses and watch the eclipse?* - Max Vest
- *How does the moon go in front of the sun?* - Oliver Ruiz & Islynn Deyo
- *Is there really going to be 80,000 people in VT for the eclipse?* - Garrett Ross
- *What is the difference between the solar eclipse and the lunar eclipse?* - Juno Carr
- *When was the last full solar eclipse?* - Omiyana Jones

A great thank you to all those who shared their work about the eclipse and a special thank you to Ms. Roberta’s class. Their pride and confidence in speaking with the reporter and me about their inquiry was fantastic. This is but one example of the great work our BCEMS students are participating in.

Students & Staff of the Week

Please help us congratulate our Student and Staff of the Week - recognizing those that help make our school community a wonderful place by their efforts, making progress for themselves or simply being Kind, Safe and Responsible! This week's Students & Staff of the Week are:

- Kindergarten: **Bentley Brisco & Myles Fleury**
- 1st Grade: **Millie Planck**
- 2nd Grade: **Paisley Latour & Norah Starr**
- 3rd Grade: **Briella Sherman**
- 4th Grade: **Vincent Smith**
- 5th Grade: **Lilly Coles & Payton Hill**
- 7th Grade: **Audrey Jones**

Staff: **Laurie Byrd** (Maintenance/Custodian), **Heather Byrd** (Maintenance/Custodian), **Teagan Collier** (Paraeducator), **Billie Corrette** (Paraeducator), **Allison Courtamanche** (Special Educator), **Michael Deering** (Permanent Substitute), **Nicole Gallup** (Transportation/Admin Assistant/Office Manager), **Roberta Melnick** (Grade 3 Teacher), **Marge Sichel** (Paraeducator) & **Tyler Watkins** (Parent Volunteer)

We appreciate contributions big and small that make our school community great!

PTO

For a brisk Saturday, our **Bake Sale** was still met with warm hearts! We appreciate all those who turned out and those that donated to the cause. Seeing all of the students and families at the **Barre Recreational Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday was truly wonderful. **Thank you** to everyone in our community!

BCEMS PTO Amazon Wishlist. Many have asked how they can help, so our PTO has created a Wishlist to make it easy! We will be updating as we need to. Thank you for all the continued support! We couldn't support our students and staff without our community!

All our fundraisers directly impact our students and help to expand their educational opportunities. Please consider signing up to volunteer for PTO events, activities or chaperone school events. If you haven't completed the [volunteer form](#) (which requires a background clearance).

PTO MONTHLY MEETING: Our next PTO meeting is on **April 2**. This will be our annual meeting to determine officers. If interested in joining PTO or helping with one or more events, please contact ptobce@buusd.org.

Don't forget to check out our PTO [Newsletter](#).

Message from Brandon Walker, AD

Baseball and Softball practices begin this week! Game schedules will be finalized this week and shared soon.

April 1 - April 5:

- Baseball will practice from 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM each day this week in the BCEMS gym
- Softball will practice from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM each day this week in the BCEMS gym

April 8 - April 12:

April 8 - No School / No Practice

April 11 - Early Release / Parent-Teacher Conferences / No Practice

April 9, 10, and 12,

- softball will practice from 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM in the BCEMS gym
- baseball will practice from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM in the BCEMS gym
- A message will be shared if we are able to utilize the BOR this week for both teams.

To join the Spring Athletics Remind thread, text 81010 with the message @bcespring to receive all pertinent practice, game, and dismissal updates for the spring season.