

Barre City Elementary & Middle School Newsletter

April 9, 2024

Message from Mrs. Waterhouse

Important Dates:

- **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



April is Autism Awareness Month

There are several symbols that are currently being used when speaking to Autism Awareness/Acceptance. Each symbol represents a different facet of autism and resonates differently for each individual/family touched by autism.

- **The Puzzle Piece** - This is the most recognized symbol; reflecting the complexity and diversity of the spectrum. Each piece is meant to represent an individual, fitting together to make a whole. It represents the idea that everyone has something to contribute.
- **The Rainbow** - Symbolizes the diversity of individuals on the spectrum. Each person with autism brings unique qualities and strengths to their community. It helps to represent and promote the idea that autism is not a disorder to be cured, but a unique neurological variation that is yet to be fully understood.
- **The Infinity Symbol** - This symbol represents endless possibilities and limitless potential of the individual with autism.

Autism symbols and colors are meant to be an expression of unity and understanding. The symbols and colors that are associated with autism are a way to help bring attention to the full spectrum in an effort to promote understanding, acceptance, and support.

Please join us in celebrating awareness and acceptance. If you would like more information or ideas of what you can do with your child around awareness, please reach out to Stephanie Collins at scollbce@buusd.org.

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: **Lydia Squiers**
- 1st Grade: **Catori (CJ) Rose**
- 2nd Grade: **Brooklyn Carrien & Cora Guazzoni**
- 3rd Grade: **Azila McNary**
- 4th Grade: **Ira Blodgett, Paislee McGee, Solomon Peabody & Mika Smith**
- 5th Grade: **Aubrey Ellis, Sophina Gero & Fate McNeil**
- 6th Grade: **Kaydence Boardman, Asher Churchill, Calvin Falcaro & James Laughlin**
- 7th Grade: **Elijah Collins-Madora, Ari Morris & Ozzy Peabody**
- 8th Grade: **Alek Abdella, Hayden Rock & Blayne Smedy**

Staff: **Lisa Blais** (Paraeducator), **Matt Burton** (Behavior Interventionist), **Brandy Haymaker** (Behavior Specialist), **Nicole Gallup** (Transportation/Admin Assistant/Office Manager), **Matthew Guerry** (Grade 7/8 Social Studies Teacher), **Mark Kalat** (Grade 6 Social Studies Teacher), **Courtnie Lange** (Grade 2 Teacher), **Tim Mallard** (Grade 7/8 Science Teacher), **Kathy Murphy** (Paraeducator), **Tab Normandy** (Behavior Interventionist), **Jen Quintaine** (Permanent Substitute), **Harley Reyome** (Special Educator), & **Garrett White** (Permanent Substitute)

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

PTO

PTO just did their annual meeting, and the current officers are Amanda Rancourt, President; Nicole Richling, Vice-President; Kelly Ross, Secretary; and April Pope, Treasurer. Congratulations to PTO and the new and returning officers. If interested in joining PTO or helping with one or more events, please contact ptobce@buusd.org.

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).

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

Message from Brandon Walker, AD

Game schedules are still being finalized as schools realize they aren't able to field teams and previously scheduled games are lost. However, the current schedules for both [baseball](#) and [softball](#) are linked.

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.

Monday, April 8: No School / No Practice

Thursday, April 11: Early Release / Parent-Teacher Conferences / No Practice

Tuesday, April 9; Wednesday, April 10; and Friday, April 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.