

Barre City Elementary & Middle School Newsletter

August 26, 2024

Message from Mrs. Waterhouse

We are so excited that our students will be returning this week! We want to encourage our K-8th Grade families to attend our **Meet and Greet on Monday, August 26 from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM**. Families should have received an email with their child's teacher's name. Teachers in K-2 will have bus tags to distribute to families. **PreK Meet and Greet will be held on Thursday, August 29** - AM session students and families will be from 10 AM to 11 AM and PM session students and families will be from 12 PM to 1 PM.

The **first day of school** for students in Grades 1 - 8 will be **Wednesday, August 28**. Arrival time is 8:45 AM with the start of school at 9 AM. A reminder that all parent drop offs and pick-ups will be in the loop through the North Parking Lot. We recognize that families like to drive students to school the first few days, so please be patient with the new arrival process and extra vehicles. We will expedite families through the line as quickly as possible, but our focus will be on safety first! For those using our buses, please see the attached bus routes and schedule to determine the best time to be at the bus stops. We share our buses with Barre Town Middle and Elementary School, so the combination could impact some while we learn of new students and complications with routes. Please be patient - we will rely upon Remind to message when buses are running significantly late.

The weather is highly unpredictable and the building can be uncomfortably warm, even if the outside air temperature is comfortable. We encourage students to dress in **layers** and have **water bottles** (please put your child's name on their water bottle). Hydration is incredibly important for learning and managing the effects of heat.

Mark your calendar:

- Wednesday, **September 18** is **Picture Day!** More information will be sent out soon.
- Thursday, **September 19** is **Open House** from 4:30 - 6 PM.

With the start of the school year, questions may arise as you navigate new staff and grade levels. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher(s), school counselor and/or administrator. Our school counselors are: Martha Blaisdell (K-2), Emily Zorichak (3-4), Hannah Keenan (5-6) and Hannah Bedell (7-8). The Assistant Principals are Melissa Greenwood (PreK-4) and Jen Bisson (5-8). We are all here to support students and families, so do not hesitate to reach out. Please also feel free to contact me with questions at any time at bwatebce@buusd.org.



Brenda Waterhouse

Budget Information

BCEMS and the Barre Union Unified School District is trying to provide our community with the updated budget information in preparation for the **budget vote on September 17**.

Our superintendent, JoAn Canning, will be present at events such as our Meet and Greet to answer questions about the budget. Information is also available on the [district website](#). We want our community members to have the information available to them that will answer their questions. Please reach out to the superintendent, board members or myself, if you need any assistance finding the information you are seeking.

An Old Friend Returns!

BCEMS is home to the Barre City Bulldogs. Our Mascot has been missing for a couple of years, but has since been found!! We welcome our old friend back and look forward to multiple appearances at events and during school days.

One thing you may notice is that the mascot sports a little pink flower in its left ear. This flower was placed there a number of years ago in loving memory of Kim Douse, a long-standing BCEMS community member and teacher before her passing in 2016. Kim wore a flower in her hair and our mascot will continue to do so in her memory.

Coming soon will be a contest for students, staff, and families to contribute to naming our mascot. Watch for future messages about that, and we hope you get an opportunity to see our old friend!

PTO

We are in the process of planning *Walk, Run, Fun* - an activity that has been on hiatus for the last couple of years. This amazing activity was a great community builder and support for our students. We are needing volunteers for this and future events, and would love to increase our parent engagement and voice to the planning of events. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, September 3 at 6 PM** in the cafeteria. If interested in joining PTO or helping with one or more events, please contact ptobce@buusd.org or come to a meeting to learn more!

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!

Building Update

We are excited to report that the final phase of our roof replacement and repair is almost complete! This has been a multi-year project and much needed as we frequently had leaks during rain storms and melting snow days.

Our custodians and maintenance staff were very busy with annual cleaning and some projects, such as the work to visitor parking, which expanded parking and made traffic flow safer, and bathroom updates. Many thanks to their hard work in readying our building for students!

BACK TO SCHOOL