

Barre Town Middle and Elementary School February 2010

Dear Parents,

Clearly, this year has been one where all of us have found ourselves thinking outside ourselves and having a high level of empathy towards other people. Whether this sentiment has been the result of deployment of moms and dads overseas to fight wars, the jolting loss of two students, the hunger and cold that many Vermonters feel at this time of year, or the unimaginable devastation and loss of human life in Haiti, people of all ages are giving in record amounts of time and money to try to stem the pain and suffering of others.

We learned the other day from Carolyn Appleton, Barre Town's Family/School Coordinator (she works half-time in that capacity), that giving from the community to the school in support of our children is alive and well in ways you may never have known! So, I thought I'd tell you about some of the gestures people make simply for the sake of taking care of kids.

For starters, the school received 140 pairs of top quality merino wool socks from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and the Cabot Hosiery Mill as part of a program they started called "Blue Socks for Kids". The Salvation Army donated new children's winter wear left over from their Holiday Gift Drive. United Way delivered several boxes of well-supplied backpacks for the start of the school year. The Vermont Food Bank donates a weekend supply of food for kids on an ongoing basis. For families in-need, Kim Portalupi and the Quilter's Guild assemble and sew beautiful children's quilts and pillowcases.

For years now, staff and community members have stepped forward with donations of clothing, house wares, and furniture. When families need help, the school and community step up to ease the burden. Many parent volunteers donate their mornings to make the Snack Fairy Breakfast Program work each day. Without them, the program would not exist. The PTO raises money by popping popcorn, selling books, etc., so classrooms can enjoy special outings or classroom materials. Finding time to reach out is difficult, but people seem to find ways to make it work. It is appreciated so much.

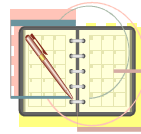
By the way, the "Welcome Wagon" of long ago has been up and running at BTMES for many years now, greeting new babies and out-of-state families with a gift bag. Businesses and talented folks make donations to the bags generously. Hannaford's donated foldaway shopping bags and baby spoons. These bags also contain aloe and citrus soaps from Vermont Soap Company of Middlebury, moisturizing lotion and baby wipes from Canus Goat Milk Company of Waitsfield, wrist rattles from Rich Frog of Burlington, diapers from Seventh Generation of Burlington, baby clothing from Zutano of Montpelier, seed packets from Vermont Wildflower of Shelburne, books for babies from the Children's Literacy Foundation, and coffee packets for parents from Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. On a more local level, for many years, Thelma Wark has helped keep babies warm with beautiful handmade knitted hats, booties and mittens for infants and warm sweaters for toddlers. Mother shawls and baby blankets are lovingly crocheted and knitted by Helen Schwarzer and Gail Carminati. All this is accompanied by a packet of valuable information to welcome new members to our community.

To all those businesses, citizens, staff, and other givers, we thank you. All of this very quiet giving is just another characteristic that makes Barre Town a special place.

Timothy P. Crowley
Principal

Alice Thomason Worth
Principal

Middle School Guidance Counselor



8th Grade Parents/Guardians

I know it seems early, as there is still snow on the ground and we have just passed the halfway point of the school year, but it's time to start discussing your 8th grader's next year. In coordination with Spaulding High School, we have come up with some important dates that should be added to your family calendar.

Barre Town Parent Night

March 11 – 6 p.m. at SHS Auditorium

This is an informational night where leaders of SHS deliver a presentation to 8th grade students and parents. At this time, parents and students will receive course registration materials as well as sign up for a date and time to complete course registration for freshman year.

Barre Town Course Registration

March 29 & 30 – Time TBD at Barre Town Library

The times and dates for each student's registration will be dependent on the appointments made at the Barre Town Parent Night.

Step-Up Night

June 2 – 6 p.m. at Spaulding High School

This is a night for students and parents to have an opportunity to go through your student's proposed schedule and meet their teachers who will provide a brief overview of course expectations. This can help reduce your student's anxiety about high school.

If you have any questions about this process or about high school, in general, please feel free to call me at 476-6617, ext. 240.

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<i>Barre Town Middle and Elementary School February 2010</i>
70 Websterville Road Barre, VT 05641
Phone: 476-6617 Fax: 479-5723 Website: btmes.org

News From the Art Department



The **Barre Supervisory Union Art Show**, now in its third year, celebrates the talent of area students in grades kindergarten through twelve. It brings children's art to the community, making it accessible to people who might not otherwise have a chance to share and enjoy the artistic accomplishments of our students.

The show runs from February 16 through March 31. Work will be displayed in the

Aldrich Public Library's Milne Room as well as on Main Street at Barre Books, Bob's Camera and Video, Chittenden Bank, El Sol, Local Agricultural Community Exchange, Nelson's Ace Hardware, No. 9 Boutique, and Studio Place Arts.

Join us for an opening reception at the Aldrich

Public Library, Tuesday, February 16, from 6-7:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, call the Aldrich Public Library at 476-7550. A snow date is scheduled for Thursday, February 18.

Please contact Anne Leeds or Jennifer Skinder should you need additional information.

SAP News

I'm sure most of you are wondering what's a SAP? A SAP is a Student Assistance Professional .

I am a SAP and my name is P. J. LaPerle, and this is my second year at Barre Town. I split my time between Barre Town and Spaulding High School. My role is to support students and help them make healthy decisions around issues of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. I also work with students with issues that might

limit their success academically and socially. I'm in a really neat position of being one of the only staff that works within the middle school and high school. It's a great opportunity to help with the transition and support kids as they move towards new adventures.

There are many topics for me to write about, but I want to be a resource to parents as well as students. I'd like to know what your concerns and questions are about youth and

the risks they take and maybe offer some information or resources that may benefit both you and your child. I'm looking for some suggestions of topics that you'd like to hear more about.

Please e-mail me suggestions at plapebte@u61.net or call me at 476-6617, ext. 233. I look forward hearing from you.



Barre Supervisory Union Highly Qualified Teachers

Barre Town School is required by the No Child Left Behind Act to inform their students' parents of the following data indicating the percentage of our teachers who meet the highly qualified teacher requirements of the Act. There are a number of reasons why a class might be taught by an educator who is not HQT for his/her assignment. For example, a teacher may have moved in from another state and be in the process of transferring his/her license from the other state to Vermont; or a teacher may be in the process of completing the required course work for his/her endorsement area to meet HQT status. In any event, a plan must be in place for any teacher who is not HQT for his/her core area assignment to become so as soon as possible.

The following data represents the number and percentage of teachers within the Barre Town School who were not HQT for their core assignments and who taught under emergency licenses for the 2008-2009 school year:

Total number of core classes at Barre Town: 125
Number of core classes taught by non-HQT teachers: 3
Percentage of non-HQT teachers teaching core classes: 2.4%
Total number of teachers: 73
Number of teachers teaching under emergency licenses: 0
Percentage of teachers teaching under emergency licenses: 0%

We are also required to provide the following data to represent the number and percentage of teachers (2008-2009) within the BSU who hold Bachelor and Masters degrees.

School	Number of Teachers	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree
Spaulding/Technical Center	96	49(51%)	47(49%)
Barre City Elementary and Middle	85	46 (54%)	39(46%)
Barre Town Middle and Elementary	84	41 (48%)	43 (52%)
Barre Supervisory Union	265	136 (51%)	129 (49%)

Calling All Gardeners: Avid, Experienced and Beginners!

By now you should have received your Crops by Kids seed order form. This is a great fundraiser.

We hope you are planning to garden this summer and will buy a few flower or vegetable seed packets from FEDCO from us to benefit the Crops by Kids Garden. So, go find that form that you stuck in a really good spot and

fill it out. If you can't remember exactly where that really good spot is, email us at esulebte@u61.net with your child's name and classroom teacher, and we'll make sure to get you another one. There are also order forms outside the main office that you can pick up. They need to be returned to school by February 10.

Anyone who would like to help collate the orders, we will be meeting in the Library on Monday, February 15, at 3:40 to do so. It shouldn't take more than an hour of your time.



Here's to longer daylight hours and the promise of spring.

PTO

The next PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. Volunteers are needed for a variety of upcoming events. Please come and share your ideas and help support our school.



PTO Book Store: Tuesday, February 16, in the school lobby. This a perfect time to stock up on some new books for Winter break!

Popcorn: Thursdays in the school lobby. Popcorn sells for 50 cents per bag.



Don't forget to keep clipping and sending in your box tops and Campbell Soup labels. There are containers for each in the school lobby. Each label and box top helps support our school!

Family School Coordinator



Live Y'ers February Vacation Camp!!

The Greater Burlington YMCA is coming to Barre Town School once again for February Vacation Camp, February 22-26. This year's theme is "Reach for the Stars!" Activities include drama games, sledding, ice skating, bowling, talent show, and create your own planet, aliens, and spaceships! Fees for the vacation camp are \$33 daily. This fee includes all field trips! Camp hours are 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Come join in the fun and games! Sign up today by calling the YMCA at 802-862-9622.

Skiers & Riders Save Bolton Valley & VYCC Partner

Bolton Valley Resort is partnering with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) to celebrate the Corps' 25th anniversary by launching a food drive for the Vermont Food Bank and Richmond local food shelf. Participating skiers and riders can purchase lift tickets for \$25 on each of three food drive days at Bolton Valley. The food drive and reduced ticket sale prices began Monday, January 25, and will take place again on February 25 and March 25.

Family Center of Washington County

How to Talk so Kids Will Listen and Listen so Kids Will Talk: This is a six-week course in concrete parenting skills such as communication with kids; engaging kids' willing cooperation; disciplining without hurting; and fostering love and respect in families. Tuesday evenings, March 9-April 13, 6-8 p.m., Family Center of Washington County, 383 Sherwood Drive, Montpelier. Participants receive the best-selling book, "How to Talk So Kids Will Listen" by Adele Davis and Elaine Mazlish, plus the DVD workbook. Class is FREE and made possible by grants from Building Bright Futures, Children's Trust Fund, United Way, and PIRIC of VT. Call Chris at the Family Center: 262-3292, ext. 115.

Studio Place Arts 201 North Main Street, Barre

To register for workshops contact SPA at 479-7069

Making Faces in Clay - Georgia Landau, Saturday, February 20, Noon-2:00 p.m. Family fun (ages 7 yrs.-adult). It's fun for all ages to discover how much can be expressed with the human face. Using a simple step-by-step construction method, learn to add, subtract and manipulate clay to create a new face each time. Firing and materials fee payable to the instructor at the first class: \$6 (See below, on March 6, for another session on Making Faces in Clay.). Members \$20/ Non-members \$30

Torn Paper Art - Janice Walrafen - Monday, February 22, 1:30-4:30 p.m. (During School Break). Family Fun - All Ages. Do you love mosaics, puzzles, arranging, assembling, patterns, colors, images? If so, you'll love torn paper art. It's fun, simple and inspiring. Janice was so inspired the first time she did it. She stayed in from 6th grade recess to finish her project and decided then and there to be an artist. This workshop is for all ages: Families, adults and children welcome. Materials provided - you are welcome to bring interesting paper to add to your artwork. Materials fee to the artist: \$3. Ages 7-11 yrs. may attend for \$5 with a parent/adult companion who is participating. Ages 12-18 yrs: \$10 Members/\$15 Non-members

10 Tips for Keeping Your Kids Active During the Winter From the American Heart Association

1. Discover indoor facilities - Visit an indoor pool, ice skating rink or basketball court at a local gym or school.
2. Dance your heart out - Encourage your child to pick the music, crank it up, and then dance away!
3. Take it outside - Get the children outside to do some sledding, build snow forts, throw snowballs, or build a snow sculpture!
4. Walk the mall.
5. Keep it clean - Recruit your kids to help with the housekeeping.
6. Visit the library.
7. Hit the trails.
8. Visit a farm.
9. Sign 'em up - Enroll your child in an instructional group class; dancing,

gymnastics, martial arts.

10. Find middle ground - If it's impossible to pry kids away from the TV, encourage them to do jumping jacks, sit-ups, and push-ups during commercial breaks by making it into a game. Get off the couch with them and see how many you can do during each commercial!

Vermont Historical Society Museum

Family Fun at the Museum! Our 2009-2010 Series: How Do We Tell Our Stories? is a behind-the-scenes, hands-on experience with the past. There is an \$8 fee per child (\$5 for members), which includes admission to the museum. Parents are FREE! To register, please contact us at 828-2180. Sponsored by Bob's Camera and Video.

North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier

Preschool Discovery Program - Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Fee: \$5 per child ages 3-5. Family members may remain on site as much as they would like. Each Tuesday program will be repeated the next day. Some scholarships available. You may download a flier for print with descriptions of each session. February 16 & 17 - "Follow that Track."

Lake Champlain: A Natural History - Friday, February 12, 7 p.m. (at the Unitarian Church in Montpelier). Fee: donations welcome, food and beverages available. Lake Champlain has been described as the jewel of New England. Mike Winslow, staff scientist for the Lake Champlain Committee, will provide an overview of the history of the lake, forces that act on it, and historic and on-going management efforts drawing from the organization's award-winning book, "Lake Champlain: A Natural History."

Great Backyard Bird Count (Youth Birding Program) - Saturday, February 13, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This nationwide citizen science project is another way for us to get out and bird, and at the same time, gather valuable information for scientists. Unlike the CBC, however, we don't take a true census, we can spend as little or as much time as we want, wherever we want! We will keep our



destination flexible (based on rarities that may be around) but save the date for another fun day of birding.

Valentine's Day Celebration - Sunday, February 14, 1-4 p.m. Fee: free. Come join us at the Nature Center to celebrate this romantic holiday with an afternoon of fresh air and snow-capped nature. Whether you are single, and looking for someone to celebrate this day with, or a couple, treat yourselves to a jaunt in the romantic winter woods on snowshoes. At the trail's end we'll savor chocolate and hot beverages.

Winter Wonders: February Vacation Nature Camp - Monday-Friday, February 22-26, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., children grades 3-5. Fee: \$35 member, \$38 nonmember per day or \$165 members, \$180 nonmembers for the entire week. A break from school? Great! Come join us for a fun week of wintry nature adventures and explorations. Attend all five days or pick your favorites.

- Monday: "Winter on the Wing"
- Tuesday: "Sensational Snow"
- Wednesday: "Winter Adaptations"
- Thursday: "Nature Inspired Creations"
- Friday: "An Ever-green Winter"

Free Throw Competition

Open to boys and girls ages 10 - 14 as of 1/1/2010. Sunday, February 14, Noon. Central Vermont Catholic School, Barre. Proof of age required. Winners will be awarded medals and will advance to district competition starting at 2 p.m. the same day. For more information, call Nick Conti at 479-2544.

The Barre Figure Skating Club Annual Year-End Show

Sunday, February 14, at 6 p.m., B.O.R. ice rink. \$5 admission, children 10 and under are free. Please bring a care package item to donate to our Vermont soldiers.



Physical Education Department News

The physical education department is sharing a Norwich University student teacher this semester. Erica Rate is a senior receiving a K-8 experience here at Barre Town. Early in the semester, Miss Rate will work with the PE classes of Mrs. Susan Barnard (K-2) and Mrs. Laura Thygesen (3-5) and later will transition to the middle school students with Mr. Phil Joyal. She is a member of the Norwich women's basketball team. Perhaps you'll see her in action at the staff/student basketball game in March!

Has your child outgrown his/her sneakers? Do you like recycling? Barre Town physical education needs good condition sneakers (any size) donated to the "shoe store." The shoe store is used by all of our students who have forgotten sneakers or shoes other than boots for the day. Any sneaker donations will be put to good use!



Other Offerings

New Directions for Barre Parent Corner

What is Stress? Stress is the body's way of rising to a challenge and preparing to meet a tough situation, i.e. taking an exam or taking the game-winning foul shot. This is a short-term stress. Long-term events such as being bullied, having trouble in a specific class, or crammed schedules can produce a lasting, low-level stress. Pressures that are too intense and last too long, and troubles that are shouldered alone can cause stress overload. Some signs of stress overload are stomachaches, headaches, problems sleeping, and overwhelming sadness or anger.

What to do? If you need help ask, laugh, watch something funny, dance or get active, get a good night's sleep, eat healthy meals and snacks, talk to someone, draw or journal, scream into a pillow, take some time to relax and do something you enjoy. Before you can help someone else, it is important to take care of yourself.

Kids feel stress too; help them to learn how to deal with stress in healthy ways.

www.newdirectionsforbarre.org

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1 HOSTED BY THE VERMONT CENTER FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING (VCDHH)

WHO: Anyone interested in learning beginning American Sign Language
 WHERE: Community National Bank, Main Street, Barre
 WHEN: Monday evenings starting March 29 (12 weeks)
 TIME: 5-7 p.m.
 TEACHER: Diane Parker
 COST: \$175 for the class plus the cost of the book.
 Contact Dawn Sign Press for VISTA signing naturally level 1 workbook & DVD-\$59.95 at 1-800-549-5330 or <http://www.dawnsign.com/shopping/Detail.cfm?ProductID=122>. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 24.** Call to register: 661-4240.



Calendar of Events

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8	9 7:30 a.m. - Policy Committee Meeting , Tim Crowley's Office	10	11	12
15	16 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - PTO Bookstore , Lobby 6:30 p.m. - PTO Meeting , Library	17 4:30 p.m. - Facility & Transportation Meeting , 2nd Floor Conference Room 6 p.m. - School Board Meeting , Library	18 3 p.m. - Finance Committee - 2nd Floor Conference Room	19
22	23	24	25	26
VACATION				

March

1 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	2 TOWN MEETING DAY No School Voting: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.	3 8:00 a.m.— Curriculum and Teacher Support Meeting , 2nd Floor Conference Room 6 p.m. - School Board Meeting , Library	4	5
8 3:40 p.m.— SHAC Meeting , 2nd Floor Conference Room	9	10	11	12 6:30-9p.m. - Staff/Student Basketball Game , SHS Gym
15	16 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - PTO Bookstore , Lobby 6:30 p.m.— PTO Meeting , Library	17 4:30 p.m. - Facility & Transportation Meeting , 2nd Floor Conference Room 6 p.m. - School Board Meeting , Library	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		