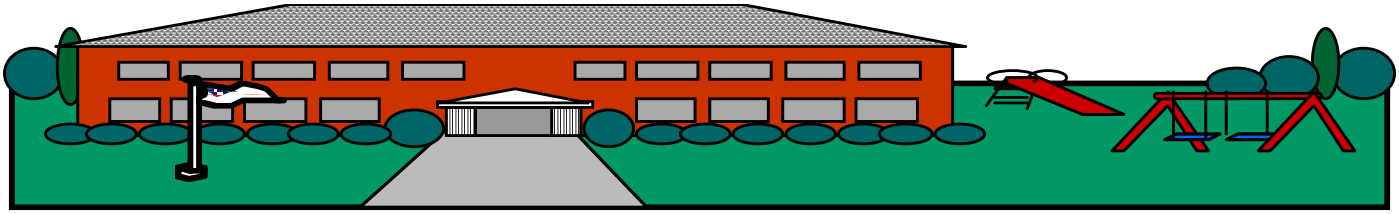

BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

June 2008

Barre Town Middle and Elementary School
70 Websterville Road
Barre, VT 05641-9029
Telephone: 476-6617
FAX: 479-5723
Website: btmes.org

June 19

Last Day of School (Full Day)
Graduation: 6:30 p.m.

FAMILY FUN DAY

Mrs. Revell Allen and PSTL 7 students wish to thank all who helped to make Family Fun Day a huge success. As a result of generous donations and parent and teacher assistance, the 7th grade PSTL class raised $2,100.00 for the Vermont Foodbank, which will purchase almost three tons of food!

Found at Family Fun Day: A Red Sox pull-over wind breaker, size XXL. Please contact Mrs. Revell Allen 476-6617, ext. 278, if it is yours.

BARRE TOWN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Barre Town Middle and Elementary School and the Greater Burlington YMCA are pleased to announce that beginning in the Fall of 2008, we will offer an after-school program if community interest supports this. A minimum of 12 children per day enrollment is required for us to begin this exciting program for grades K-6.

Application forms have been attached to this newsletter for PS-5 (K-6 in September). The Vermont Child Care Subsidy Program may be able to assist eligible families to participate in this program. Application forms are available on the BTMES lobby counter. Applications and more information may also be obtained by calling 1-800-649-2642, or online at www.brightfuturesinfo.org.

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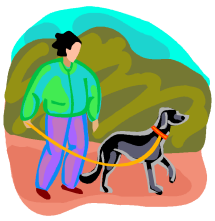
WALK-A-THON



The Animal Walk-a-Thon, planned for Friday, June 6 (rain date June 7), will begin at the Barre Town Recreation Area shelter at 5:00 p.m. This event is a 6th-grade community service learning project to benefit the Central Vermont Humane Society. Please bring your pledge sheets and money to the event. There will also be water and handmade pet gifts for sale.

All dogs need to be on sturdy leashes, and children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Thank you very much. We hope to see you there!

Amanda Ford, Kevin Fritz, Jack Paterson, Bailey Starr, Katie Thygesen, and Mrs. Jennifer McKelvey (parent advisor)

NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

We invite everyone to see sixteen new works of art that were added to our "Permanent Collection of Children's Artwork." These pieces were chosen from literally thousands of works produced through the course of the year. These wonderfully inspiring works were unveiled on May 22. They will remain in the lobby through the end of the year, and then will be hung in the school's hallways.

The Permanent Collection of Children's Artwork was established in 1988 by Barre Town art teacher Anne Aversa, who retired in 1999. The collection's purpose is to celebrate the effort and achievement of Barre Town's student-artists, and to lift our spirits in awareness of the creative potential of our youth. Our Permanent Collection now houses over 100 pieces of art.

For outstanding creative achievement, we heartily congratulate the following student-artists as we induct their work into the permanent collection: Myles Aja, kindergarten; Molly Cleveland, grade 1; Zachary Bullock, grade 2; Caleb Fischer, Denver Heath, Marisela Isak, and Joshua Sanborn, grade 3; Heidi Breault and Cody Lanpher, grade 4; Caton Deuso and Logan Safford, grade 5; Alayna Badeau and Samantha Keene, grade 6; Silas Meriam, grade 7; and Maisie Lajeunesse and Colby LaPerle, grade 8.

Anne Leeds, Art K-4
Malia Timmerman, Art 5-8

LIBRARY NEWS

Look behind the couch and under the bed. It's that time of the year, again, to find those lost or misplaced books.

The library will be sending out numerous overdue slips in the next few weeks to keep on top of our book hunt. All library books need to be returned by June 12. If you have questions or concerns about payment, please give me a call at 476-6617, ext. 401. **Upper grade students will not receive their yearbooks until their library accounts are clear.**

Students may come to the library this summer to get books for fun or information or even consider audio books for road trips. The library will offer the Required Reading books as well as the new DCF books, but note these books do not have to be read this summer. Younger students may enjoy a story with a matching craft or art activity on Wednesdays beginning at 10:00 a.m. The SUMMER LIBRARY (June 24-August 6) hours are:

Mondays:	9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tuesdays	3:30-7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays:	9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Story/crafts @10)

Summer is a great time to be inspired by books. We hope you will stop by for a visit.

Heather Herzig, Librarian

FROM THE SCHOOL HEALTH OFFICE

Summertime Protection: Bugs

Summer weather is here! Now that the sun is shining brightly and we are all spending more time outside, here are some tips to stay safe from those biting or stinging bugs.

Insects

Bee, wasp, hornet, and yellow jacket stings occur frequently during the warmer months. Anyone who spends even a brief amount of time outdoors is exposed to the potential of being stung. In order to reduce the likelihood of being stung by bees, wasps, or hornets:

* Avoid wearing bright or flowered clothes.
* Don't wear heavy perfumes or scented lotions.
* Control odors at picnics, garbage areas, etc.
* Check before drinking from cups, bottles, and cans. Yellow jackets and other stinging insects are attracted to sweet drinks.

If you're stung:

* Stay calm!
* If the stinger is still present, either brush it off with a flat stick, or pull it out with tweezers, grasping the part nearest the skin.
* Apply ice to the area.
* Itching can be controlled with over-the-counter antihistamines. Itching and swelling around the sting site that develop over a few hours is not unusual and should subside in a few days.
* Symptoms, such as a rash, that occur on parts of the body other than around the bite or sting, indicate a generalized allergic reaction. Severe reactions typically occur within 15-20 minutes after the bite or sting.
* If you develop symptoms such as difficulty breathing, swelling in the throat, mouth, or tongue, or generalized itching or hives, call 911 immediately or go to an emergency room. It's not safe to drive yourself to the emergency room! If you call 911, treatment, if necessary, can be started more quickly.

Although the vast majority of bee and yellow jacket stings can be treated without seeing a physician, it's good to err on the side of caution. When in doubt, get checked out!

Ticks

Ticks have always been prevalent in Vermont. Although still quite uncommon, every year the incidence of Lyme Disease from bites in Vermont increases. Families can implement prevention strategies, and recognize the signs of Lyme Disease.

When working or hiking in the woods or fields, put on insect repellent and wear protective clothing. Carefully inspect for - and promptly and safely remove - any

FROM THE SCHOOL HEALTH OFFICE (CONTINUED)

attached ticks.

Other tips to prevent tick and mosquito bites:

* Wear light-colored clothing so that it is easier to see ticks.
* Use insect repellent containing DEET or permethrin that are labeled for ticks, but do not apply them to infants. Follow the directions on the label. Products with a pediatric concentration of DEET are available. These products should be applied to clothing and rims of hats especially in children, to avoid skin absorption of the chemical.
* Check yourself, your children, and your pets for ticks daily and remove ticks promptly.

How to Remove a Tick

The proper way to remove a tick is using a set of fine tweezers and gripping the tick as close to the skin as is possible. The use of a smoldering match or cigarette, nail polish, Vaseline, or kerosene should be avoided, since they may irritate the tick and cause it to behave like a syringe, injecting organism-bearing bodily fluids into the wound.

The proper technique for tick removal includes the following steps:

* Use a fine tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible.
* Pull backwards gently but firmly, using an even, steady pressure. Do not jerk or twist.
* Do not squeeze, crush, or puncture the body of the tick, since its fluids may contain infectious agents.
* After removing the tick, disinfect the skin and hands thoroughly with soap and water.
* If sections of the mouth parts of the tick remain in the skin, these should be left alone; they will be expelled on their own. Attempts to remove these parts may result in significant skin trauma.

After a Tick Bite

A tick that was not attached, is still flat and tiny and is not full of blood, and was easy to remove or just walking on the skin, could not have transmitted Lyme Disease or any other infection. At least 36 to 48 hours of feeding is required for a tick to have fed and then transmitted the bacterium that causes Lyme Disease. After this amount of time, the tick will be engorged (full of blood).

The rate of transmission of Lyme Disease is low even if the tick has been in place for many hours. However, it is useful to know the signs of Lyme Disease and seek treatment if observed.

Signs of Lyme Disease

The first stage of Lyme Disease is called early Lyme Disease. Early Lyme Disease usually causes one or more of the following symptoms that occur days to weeks after infection: fatigue, chills and fever, muscle and joint pain, headache, swollen lymph nodes, and Erythema migrans (the classic "bull eye" rash that can occur at the bite site or any where else on the body).

If you have questions about a tick bite, contact your primary care provider.

Information adapted from the NetWellness website University of Ohio, and the Vermont Department of Health

Taste Testing Update!

We have wrapped up another successful year of Taste Testing! We had a marvelous turnout for our April Maple Celebration featuring maple granola and yogurt parfaits! We had two special visitors that day: Barbara Bragg, from Bragg Farms, and Barre City Mayor Tom Lauzon. Mrs. Bragg provided in-class presentations on maple sugaring, and Mayor Lauzon helped serve our samples.

A huge display tree was created in the front lobby for this event. K-4 art teacher, Ms. Leeds, designed and built the tree along with Katherine Gagne, Mariah Harding, Kiana Lafleche, and Lindsay Lesure. Additional assistance was obtained from Ms. Timmerman and Paul Belisle. Alice Harding brought in donations of sugaring buckets and taps. Thanks to everyone for this amazing display! We look forward to watching the tree "change" with the seasons!

For our May taste test, a big batch of cold blueberry soup was served. Try this refreshing recipe at home on a warm summer day!

Thanks to all of our parent volunteers: Susan Wells (a.k.a. "The Cart Lady"), Tina Glosser, Ann Gurin, Bryn Mayr, and Karen Ford. Also, thanks to our CSL Students who helped us serve: Cameo Lamb, Taylor Molander, Hannah Moraski, Chelsea Ciampi, and Tayvia Booska. We would like to offer a HUGE thanks to Chef Kevin who lent his creative inspiration, valuable time, and energy to make our fabulous creations each month. And also to the Abbey staff who graciously allowed us to invade their work area during the busy lunchtime rush.

Have a tasty and nutritious summer! See you in the fall.

The Taste Test Team

Blueberry Soup

2 c. water
2 lbs. blueberries
1 1/2 c. sugar
2 T. vanilla
1 c. heavy cream
1/2 c. honey

Place blueberries, water, and sugar in a medium saucepan on medium heat and simmer for 45 minutes. Chill overnight. Blend mixture. Once blended, add vanilla, heavy cream and honey. Taste and serve. Great on a hot day or with breakfast. You can use any fruit or a blend —- your choice.

Chef Kevin

Granola

1 c. maple syrup
1 c. oil
8 c. old-fashioned oatmeal
Sunflower seeds (nuts, not shells)

Mix all of the above in a broiler pan and bake at 350° for 30-50 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes until browned. Take out and put on wax paper to cool. Can now add dried fruits.

Maple Walnut Granola

4 c. rolled oats
1 c. sesame seeds
1 c. chopped walnuts
1/2 c. maple syrup
1 c. wheat germ
1 c. coconut
1/3 c. oil
3/4 c. honey

Preheat over to 250°. Combine oats, wheat germ, sesame seeds, coconut, and nuts. Add oil and stir until evenly distributed. Pour in maple syrup, stirring well. Add honey and mix until well moistened and mixture is crumbly and sticky. Spread in a large, shallow pan. Bake 1 1/2 hours, stirring occasionally for even browning until the mixture is golden brown and dry. Cool and store in airtight container.

THE READING RECOVERY PROGRAM AT BTMES

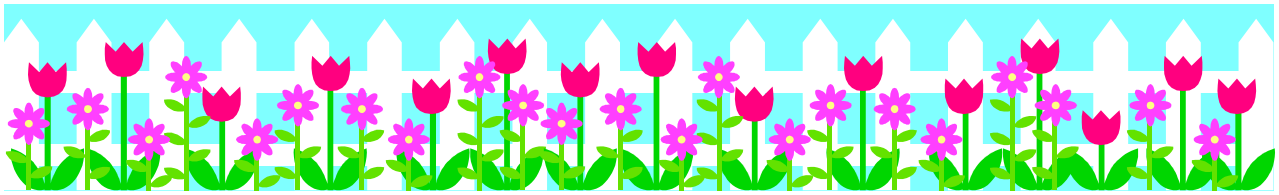
Reading Recovery has been in place at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School for 15 years, has served approximately 400 children, and currently has three half-time teachers. In fact, three of our current kindergarten teachers were former Reading Recovery teachers at Barre Town. The three current teachers also serve children outside of Reading Recovery because they work with other children in classrooms, special education, and small groups. Nationally, Reading Recovery has been in place for more than 20 years, is in 7,500 elementary schools (15% of the nation's elementary schools), and has served 1.6 million children.

Reading Recovery is a highly successful short-term tutoring intervention program intended to serve the lowest achieving (bottom 20%) first-grade students in literacy. The goals of Reading Recovery are to promote literacy skills and reduce the number of first-grade students who are struggling to read and write. The program supplements classroom teaching with one-to-one tutoring sessions. Tutoring, which is conducted by highly trained Reading Recovery teachers, takes place daily for 30 minutes over 12-20 weeks.

The United States Department of Education (USDE) has just completed an independent review of early reading programs and interventions. The USDE revealed that just *one* program; Reading Recovery has positive or potentially positive effects across all four areas studied:

- alphabetics (phonemic awareness, print awareness, letter knowledge, and phonics)
- fluency
- comprehension
- general reading achievement

Annual data, collected nationally on over 100,00 students, indicates that after just 12-20 weeks, more than 75% of the lowest-performing students reach grade-level standards. This proven effectiveness, along with the USDE's newest confirmation, and our own stories of success here at Barre Town make us proud that we continue to offer this very important safety net intervention for children. If you have questions about Reading Recovery, please contact Phyllis Wiggins, Andrea McLaughlin, or Jesse Shapiro. To learn more about Reading Recovery and its research base, visit www.readingrecovery.org.



NEWS FROM THE CROPS BY KIDS GARDEN

Radishes, spinach, lettuce, peas, beets, and carrots, which were directly sown in the garden, are up. They have been thinned and watered, and are being watched by the hungry second graders (Wiggins/Battistoni) who planted them.

Lettuce and spinach plants, grown and transplanted into the garden by second graders (McLaughlin/LeCours), will hopefully be ready to harvest by the time you are reading this. Paste tomato and basil plants, sown and cared for by second graders (Wiggins/Battistoni, Pratt, and McLaughlin/LeCours), are waiting in the cold frames until they are ready to be planted when the weather is settled.

We will need volunteers in July and August for pesto and tomato sauce-making parties in the kitchen. Butternut squash was planted indoors by third graders (Collins) and is growing under grow lights. Red, green, and Savoy cabbage, purple, orange, and white cauliflower, red Russian and dinosaur kale, and three colors of cherry tomatoes were started indoors under grow lights by second graders and kindergarteners (Wiggins/Battistoni and Sulek). Take notice of our new grape arbor surrounding the garden bench. Kindergarten, first, and second graders have weeded and spread two cubic yards each of compost and bark mulch. Planting will continue until the end of the school year.

Kindergarten will be planting three-color pole beans and harvesting them for the Vermont Foodbank. Volunteers for harvest days are needed. This year will be the first year for our Spiral Sunflower Playhouse.

Wish for hot days and rainy nights!

Volunteers for watering are needed as well.

Interested in participating? Contact Ellen Sulek, Susan Barnard, Susan Koch, Phyllis Wiggins, or Jesse Shapiro at school.

WALK/RUN CLUB

The Physical Education staff from Barre Town School would like to invite students and their families during the summer to work on running and walking one mile. The goal is to improve our fitness and our own individual score. It is fun to work with families on this goal. After each summer practice, we have a "watermelon party".

During the last fourteen years over 1,000 adults and children have participated in this activity. After practicing twice together in the summer, the ending activity is to travel to Northfield for the one-mile children's race during the Labor Day weekend. The date of the race is **Saturday, August 30.** Many parents decide to walk/run the 5K (3.1 miles) race that follows the children's race. We hope you will consider joining our group this summer. We will meet at the Barre Town track near the picnic shelter and practice one mile on the following dates: **Tuesday, July 29, and August 19.** Meet at the track at 6:30 ready to go! If it is raining at 6:00 at Barre Town School we will meet on Wednesday, July 30, and Wednesday, August 20. If you need more information, please contact Mrs. Thygesen at her home at 433-1556.

BARRE TOWN PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Barnard K-2, Mrs. Thygesen 3-5, Mr. Joyal 6-8

PTO NEWS

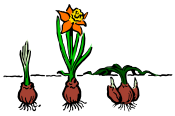
The PTO had a very successful year thanks to all who volunteered their time. The following is a summary of what the PTO was able to help fund this year:

- new playground equipment
- numerous educational field trips
- new equipment for various age groups and classrooms, including a new projector
- funds to support the very successful Family Fun Day
- updated books on CD's for the library
- t-shirts for the spelling team
- 8th grade graduation t-shirts

Thank you to everyone who volunteered throughout the year. Thank you to all the family and friends who supported the fundraisers.

Stay tuned for more information on exciting events coming next year including:

- New Fall Fundraiser
- School Logo Wear
- Pennies for Technology
- School Bookstore
- Much, Much More!!



Thank you to all who supported our spring fundraiser and purchased bulbs. The fundraiser was a huge success! Should anyone have any problems with his/her bulbs please note that there is a 100% satisfaction guarantee. Please contact Flower Power Fundraising directly at 1-866-223-8831 and let them know you purchased bulbs through the Barre Town School PTO fundraiser. Their top priority is customer satisfaction and they will either offer a refund or a replacement.

Have a wonderful summer and thank you for your support!!

OTHER OFFERINGS

The Barre Figure Ice Skating Club, Inc. is now in the process of completing sign-ups for the 2008-2009 season, which runs from October to March. Sign-ups are for Learn-to-Skate, Basic Skills, USFSA levels, and adult lessons. We have skating competitions and an end-of-the-year show. For more details or a registration form, contact Dorinda Wilder at 802-793-5605 or email her at Bunny859@aol.com with BFSC in the subject line. The Barre Figure Ice Skating Club, Inc. is sanctioned by the United States Figure Skating Association.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	**3**	**4** 6 p.m. – **School Board Meeting,** Library	**5**	**6**
9	**10** 6 p.m. – **Grades 3-4 Band/Recorder Program,** Gym	**11** 8 a.m. – **Student Success Meeting and Curriculum & Teacher Support,** 2nd Floor Conference Room	**12** 8 a.m. – **Finance Committee**, 2nd Floor Conference Room	**13**
16 6:30 p.m.—**Drama Production,** Gym 11:50 a.m.—**Grade 8 Awards Assembly,** Gym	**17** 8:45 a.m.—**Grade 7 Awards Assembly,** Gym	**18** 6 p.m. – **School Board Meeting,** Library 8:45 a.m.—**Grade 6 Awards Assembly,** Gym	**19** **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL—FULL DAY** 6:30 p.m.— **Graduation,** Courtyard	**20** **Staff Development Day**
23 **Staff Development Day**	**24**	**25**	**24**	**25**

August

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
25 **Staff Development Day**	**26** **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**	**27**	**28**	**29**

Grades 4-8 Parents: Please check btmes.org or the newspapers for August student orientation night dates.