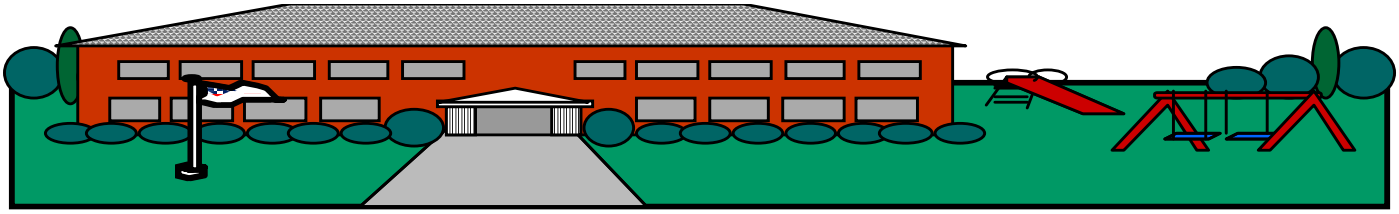

Barre Town Middle and Elementary School
September 2009
Web Address: www.btmes.org

Dear Parents,

First, please know that the office staff, the Barre Town Police Department, and the school administration certainly appreciate the many parents who have notified the front office staff each day that your children will be absent. Your call is an important safety device.

The good news is that when you call to tell us your child will be absent, we're confident that he/she is in good hands. The bad news is that when parents don't call to inform us, our front office staff has to interrupt parents at work to let them know that their child is not at school. As you can imagine, this can be a huge, time-consuming task.

Our goal is that every Barre Town parent will notify the office every day their child is going to be absent. Please note that your message needs to be left with the office and not only with the classroom teacher. This small effort will make a very big difference.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Crowley
Principal

ABSENT STUDENT?

- ⇒ **Call 476-6617**
- ⇒ **Press "5"**
- ⇒ **Leave a message regarding an absent student.**

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ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (40CFR 763.93 <G>(4)(R)) requires that written notice be given that Barre Town Middle and Elementary School has a Management Plan for the safe control and maintenance of asbestos-containing materials found in its building. Copies of the Management Plan is available and accessible to the public at the Superintendent's Office, 120 Ayers Street, Barre, Vermont 05641.

70 Websterville Road
Barre, Vermont 05641

Phone: 476-6617
Fax: 479-5723

We're on the Web!

btmes.org

We have reserved spaces in the front row of our parking lot for parents dropping off and picking up our preschoolers. Thank you for not parking in the "Preschool Parents Only" parking spaces.

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

Do you have what it takes to be America's Top Young Scientist? Kieran Verret, 5th grade student at Barre Town, does! Kieran was selected to represent the State of Vermont as a semifinalist in the Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge. The semifinalists were selected based on their science communication skills exhibited in a two-minute video about a specific scientific concept that relates to innovative solutions for everyday life. For his video, Kieran explained how closing window curtains in the winter can conserve heat and lower your heating bill. All video entries were evaluated by a panel of judges, and assessed on creativity, persuasiveness, classroom suitability, and overall presentation. Although not a finalist, Kieran is the youngest semifinalist selected in the past two years. He received a cash award as well as a certificate for his accomplishment. Kieran loved the learning experience and is very proud of his work. Congratulations, Kieran!

The Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge is the nation's premier science competition for middle school students. Any student in grades 5-8 can enter the challenge. For more information, go to http://www.youngscientistchallenge.com/ or contact Shannon Lessley, Science Curriculum Specialist at slessbsu@u61.net.

SUMMERTIME AT BARRE TOWN SCHOOL LIBRARY

Barre Town School hosted a terrific summer library program this year. Our theme was gardens and gardening. Besides offering stories, movies, and outrageously fun crafts, we coordinated with our Butterfly Garden and Crops by Kids Garden.

Crops by Kids began in 2005 with the intention of bringing high-quality food to Barre Town School, as well as actively involving our students in the growing of food. Families came to the library on Wednesday mornings (a full house, every time), and had the opportunity to "putter" in the garden and harvest vegetables. We made vegetable flags and garden stepping stones, painted flower pots, transplanted chives, created giant vegetables, and made food harvested from the garden. We made fresh pizza, cucumber sandwiches, smoothies, pickled beets, and salads. All additional food was brought to the Vermont Food Bank in Barre. We had a wonderful time and ate very well. Check out the photos on our school library website.

Thank you to all the "garden" teachers and volunteers!

Your librarian,
Heather Kralik

PTO

The PTO Welcomes Everyone Back To School!

The first PTO meeting of the new school year will be held on Tuesday, September 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the School Library. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there!

Fall Fundraiser: The PTO fall fundraiser is under way. Thank you for collecting orders and supporting our school. Please turn in all orders and money to your child's teacher by Friday, September 18.

Coming soon: PTO monthly bookstores and weekly popcorn sales!

Please return any library book checked out this summer.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome back to school! I hope your summer was relaxing and filled with fun!

It's great to be back to the predictable routine that is school. This year, we have even more to look forward to!

Student Council has been enlarged, and 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades have been combined and will be working together and separately to help make Barre Town School a great place to be. We will have many of the same events that we've had in past as well as some new activities. Highlights include the annual talent show, staff vs. student basketball game including Bobcat Pride Day and Pep Rally, school dances for 7th and 8th grade students, spirit days, the annual food drive and many other fun and important activities.

This year, we will be putting extra effort into presenting these activities to the community by having kids create fun and exciting displays of their work and the events that they are working on and enjoying so much. Keep your eyes on the display cases and bulletin boards throughout the school to see what our kids have been up to. Barre Town students do great things and we can't wait to share these experiences with you!

I am now in the process of putting together a group of dedicated students who are interested in being a part of this year's Student Council team. I am interested in finding young people who want to help think of fun ideas AND are willing to work hard to make these ideas happen. I will need artists, photographers, videographers, dancers, decorators and much, MUCH more. I need kids with great ideas and lots and lots of school spirit. More information about signing up and about the Student Council election for 8th graders will be sent home with upper grade students very shortly.

Student Council also needs parents who are willing to step up to support these great kids and worthwhile activities. Last year, several events were almost canceled, last minute, because we didn't have adequate adult supervision or support. I would like to have a large group of parents that could help out ONE TIME, rather than a small group that I have to ask repeatedly for help. If I should call or your child asks you, I hope we can count on you to help us. Most times we are looking for a three-hour commitment. Without you, we can't have these special things that so many kids look forward to. Thanks in advance for your wonderful help!

The first Student Council dance will be in October. I am still setting up the calendar of events for the year and will have more information within the next few days. Permission slips with rules and expectations for behavior will be sent home very shortly. No student will be admitted into a dance without this signed permission slip.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions concerning the Student Council or if you would like to help us, please feel free to contact me online at Loconbte@u61.net or at 476-6617, ext. 264.

Mrs. O'Connor
Student Council Advisor

NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

Happy new school year from the Art Department! This year we welcome Ms. Jennifer Skinder as interim art teacher for grades five through eight while Ms. Timmerman is on maternity leave. Ms. Anne Leeds continues to teach grades kindergarten through four.

We're delighted to provide quality arts education to your child(ren), and we invite you to call us with your ideas, insights, and input! Call Jennifer between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. at extension 212, and Anne between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. at extension 210. You may leave a voicemail at your convenience, or also email us at jskinbte@u61.net or aleedbte@u61.net, respectively.

Last year, the entire 2nd grade participated in the Vermont Arts Council's statewide community arts project titled, "Art Fits Vermont." The project was designed to offer artists of all ages and abilities the opportunity to create, show, and celebrate art. Our students created their Arts Fits puzzle-shaped pieces in the vibrant style of the famous wood carvers of Oaxaca, Mexico. These

works of art were premiered at the Second Grade Gym Show last June and will be on display for the remainder of this year in the Barre Town dining room. Please stop by school and enjoy this and other lively displays of children's art work throughout the year.

FROM THE FAMILY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Family Center of Washington County Presents:

"Active Parenting" - October 7-November 11. This is a six-week course for parents of 2 -12 year olds and will focus on:

* The purpose of parenting
* Instilling courage and self-esteem
* Understanding your child
* Developing responsibility
* Winning cooperation
* Family meetings and more!

FREE on-site childcare is available with advance reservation. Class size is limited. All fees include materials. A sliding fee scale and scholarships are available. For more information call 262-3292, ext. 115. Class location is 383 Sherwood Drive in Montpelier.

North Branch Nature Center Presents:

'Monarch Butterfly Tagging" - Wednesdays, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. FREE. Drop by anytime between 3:30 and 5:00 to catch, tag and release some migrating Monarchs! In 2007, a Monarch tagged at the Center on a Wednesday afternoon was recovered in Mexico! Bring a net if you have one!

"Preschool Discovery Program" - Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Fee: $5 per child, ages 3-5. Family members may remain on-site as much as they like. Some scholarships available.

Sept. 15 & 16 - Fall Colors
Sept. 29 & 30 - Apples for Animals
Oct. 6 & 7 - Seeds and Weeds
Oct. 20 & 21 - Are you Nocturnal?
Nov. 3 & - Crawling in from the Cold
Nov. 17 & 18 - A Long Way to Fly

"Fall Migration Bird Walks" - Fridays, Sept 4, 11, 18, 25, and Oct. 2, 7-8:30 a.m. FREE to members, $5 to nonmembers. September is the peak of fall songbird migration, and the woods and fields along the North Branch are excellent places to witness it. Come for a morning walk to search for migrating warblers, vireos, tanagers, thrushes and more. Binoculars are available for loan.

For more information call 229-6206. Class location is 713 Elm Street in Montpelier

Family Fun at the Museum!

Back by popular demand, the Family Fun workshops offer families with children a behind-the-scenes, hands-on experience with the past. Young people, ages 6-13, and their parents can explore a different aspect in Vermont history with a demonstration or story, an activity and snacks that fit the theme! This month's workshop is "Stories and Symbols" on Saturday, October 10, from 10 a.m. until noon at the Vermont Historical Society Museum, 109 State St., Montpelier. There is an $8 fee per child, which includes admission to the museum. Parents are FREE. To register, please call 828-2180.

OTHER

Fire Safety Week

Join us for Fire Safety Day on October 3 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. to kick off National Fire Prevention Week. The event is open to the public, and is free to attend. Adult demos on hand to promote fire prevention and kids can visit 12 fire safety booths to earn a fire safety hat and badge! Visit the South Barre Station to "Dunk a Firefighter" and to learn more about fire safety.

Barre Figure Skating Club:

The 2009-2010 season starts Sunday, October 18, at the B.O.R ice rink. Two learn-to-skate programs are being offered, as well as basic skills lessons and USFSA Freeskate.

For more information or registration forms, please email barrefigureskatingclub@gmail.com or visit our website at webpages.charter.net/barrefigureskatingclub/Home.htm, or call Cindy Wedding at 479-3597.

September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8	**9**	**9**	**10**	**11**
14	**15** 6:303 p.m. - **PTO Meeting,** Library	**16** 4:30 p.m. - **Facility & Transportation** 5:30 p.m. – **School Board Meeting,** Library	**17**	**18**
21	**22**	**23** 6-7:30 p.m. - **PS-Grade 3 Open House**	**24**	**25**
28	**29**	**30**		

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	**2**
5 3:40 p.m. - **School Health Advisory Committee,** 2nd Floor Conference Room	**6**	**7** 6 p.m. – **School Board Meeting,** Library	**8**	**9**
12 **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	**13**	**14** 8 a.m.—**Curriculum and Instruction Meeting**, 2nd Floor Conference Room	**15**	**16**
19	**20** **Picture Day** 6:30 p.m. - **PTO Meeting,** Library	**21** 6 p.m. – **School Board Meeting,** Library	**22** **VACATION—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**	**23** **VACATION—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**