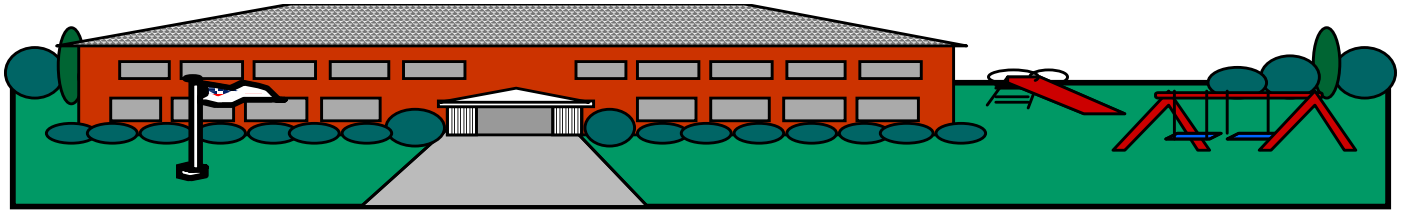


Barre Town Middle and Elementary School
December 2009

Barre Town Middle and Elementary School
December 2009

70 Websterville Road
Barre, VT 05641

Phone: 476-6617
Fax: 479-5723
Website: btmes.org

2009 David Stefaniak Memorial Holiday Food and Gift Drive

The 2009 David Stefaniak Memorial Holiday Food and Gift Drive is now under way. Our goal is to provide food, winter clothing, and gifts for some Barre Town families who need a bit of help in this holiday season.

If you are a family in need, please contact the nurse's office at school (476-1431) prior to December 14. Our goal is to provide a winter clothing item and a toy for each child. The donations will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

With the help of our generous Barre Town community, we would like to have all of our participating families adopted this year. A family, a business, a class or individuals may adopt families or individuals. Please contact holiday drive coordinator, Kerri Lamb at 479-6953 if you would like to donate food, money, or gifts or to adopt a family.

Thanks,
Kerri Lamb

Inside this issue:

Family School Coordinator	2
Crops by Kids Garden	3
Host Family Needed	3
PTO	3
Drama Club	4
Library	4
Other Offerings	5
Calendar of Events	6

COLD WEATHER ALERT

Please be sure that your child dresses appropriately for the weather. If winter clothing is not worn to school, recess may be limited. The Health Office has a few loaner items: jackets, snow pants, hats, mittens, and boots.

We can always use more winter items, and welcome donations.

Family School Coordinator

The Family Center
383 Sherwood Drive, Montpelier

"1-2-3 Magic," Wednesdays, December 2 and 9, 6-8 p.m. This two-part workshop addresses the difficult task of child discipline with humor, keen insight, and proven experience. This time-tested program provides easy-to-follow steps for disciplining children ages 2–12, without yelling, arguing, or spanking. You'll also learn when and how your silence can speak louder than you think! To enroll, please call Chris Robertson at 262-3292, ext. 115.

The Vermont Historical Society
109 State St., Montpelier

"How Does a Camera Work?" on Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m.-noon. There is an $8 fee per child ($5 for members), which includes admission to the museum. Parents are FREE! To register, please call 828-2180.

North Branch Nature Center
713 Elm Street, Montpelier

Please call 229-6206 for more information and to register for NBNC events!

"**Holiday Open House,"** Sunday, December 6, 1-4 p.m. Come one, come all! Visit the Nature Center for this holiday season open house and enjoy free refreshments and seasonal activities. There will be tours of the Critter Room, activities for kids – like making a holiday gift out of natural materials, building a bird feeder or adding a Monarch to our symbolic "Mexican" fir tree. If there's snow on the ground, we have snowshoes to lend for a romp around the preserve.

"Plainfield Christmas Bird Count," Saturday, December 19, 7:15 a.m.-5 p.m. Fee: $5 (adults, to National Audubon, kids free). For over 100 years, birders have taken part in this national citizen science project. We will scour the Montpelier area for every bird we can find, leaving no Chickadee uncounted in our attempt to "census" birds across North America. Bring warm clothes (layers), lunch, snacks, water, and thermos. Optional potluck dinner after the count.

"Winter Solstice Celebration," Sunday, December 20, 4-6 p.m. Donations accepted. Come relax and enjoy the winter's offerings around a campfire as we celebrate the Solstice at the Nature Center with hiking, readings, and music. Snowshoes available.

Ski Vermont 5th Grade Passport

Applications are in the front lobby!

Operation: Military Kids

The guidance staff is available to meet with Barre Town's military kids! If you feel your child would benefit from meeting with a counselor in a small group and/or individually here at school to address their concerns, please contact Rob Raynsford (K-4) or Ry Hoffman (5-8) at 476-6617.

Barre City Recreation Department

"Winter Vacation Camp," December 28-31. The camp is for kids in kindergarten through grade 6, and will run daily from 8 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Application forms are available in the front lobby.

"B.O.R Public Skating"

Barre Recreation Department hosts public skating throughout the winter season:

Tuesdays	6-7:15 p.m.
Fridays	7:15-8:45 p.m.
Saturdays	1:30-3 p.m.
Sundays	1:30-3 p.m.

NEW THIS SEASON! Purchase a season pass for public skating, either for a child, adult or family, and take advantage of great skating all season long! Application forms are available in the BTMES front lobby. Complete the form and either mail it back or drop it off at the Recreation Department

Hannaford Helps Fight Hunger

Once again, Hannaford Supermarkets will be helping to fight hunger in our communities by giving you easy ways to give food and direct donations.

Fund a Feast: November 1 through December 12. Purchase a fund-a-feast box that's filled with the essentials food banks told us they need the most. They'll deliver them straight to your local food pantry and give you a coupon book with over $50 in savings in return.

Donate at the Register: Starting November 29. Donate $5 at the register to your regional food bank, and get a coupon book with over $50 in savings in return.

Buy 1, Give 1: Starting November 29. Look for "Buy 1, Give 1" tags on select Hannaford brand items. For every one you purchase, we'll donate one to your regional food bank.

Crops by Kids Garden

We are sure many of you are not thinking about the planting season as we near the Winter Solstice. However, by January the days are getting longer, and the Crops by Kids Garden will once again be doing the FEDCO seed fundraiser. Be looking for the order forms by mid-January. If you don't see anything coming home by then, please contact Ellen Sulek at esulebte@u61.net or call 476-6617, ext 115.

Are you an avid gardener who can't think of much else during those summer months? PLEASE come share your passion with our BTMES dedicated gardening group. Are you someone who would love to learn more about how things grow? PLEASE come help and find out. We had the best season ever last year, thanks to the coordination with the library's summer literacy program. Could we expand our participation to include even more school families in 2010? We believe so. We will be posting our scheduled meetings in subsequent newsletters. PLEASE join us.

Host Family Needed for Next Korean Intern

We are looking for a host family from March until August. During the summer months, the intern travels a lot.

As most of you know, we have had two very successful Korean interns. Both Hae Min Jeong and In Kyung Choi have been in our school helping in all sorts of ways. Perhaps you have seen them in the second grade gym show or heard about a Korean presentation they have made for your child's classroom. The intern needs her own room in your home. She'll want to experience the "joys" of just normal family living, going to see a soccer game, baking an apple pie, picking strawberries, or hiking in our mountains. The intern will pay $200 per month for living expenses. We know our next intern will be a woman who is a college student. She speaks English very well.

If you are interested in hosting our next intern, please contact Susan Barnard at 476-6617, ext 101, or by email: sbarnbte@u61.net as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Susan Barnard

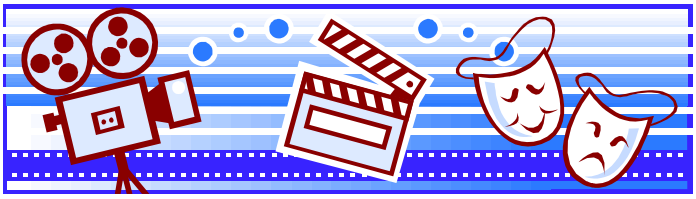
PTO

The next PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Popcorn: Popcorn is on sale in the school lobby on Thursday mornings for 50 cents per bag.

PTO Book Store will be open on Tuesday, December 15! Come check out our great selection of books. We will have lots of holiday books available for all ages.

We are looking for a chairperson for our fundraising committee. If you are interested in chairing the fundraising committee, please contact Jen Bombard at villageveiw@aol.com or Rebecca Kerin at K5ConsultingVT@gmail.com.



Drama Club

We have 40 students who have been coming regularly to Drama Club for the last three weeks. So far, we are working on becoming a group; we have been playing lots of theater games to get to know each other and to have fun. We will continue to be outside for the first hour as long as the weather holds up.

Keith Swan will be returning after Thanksgiving to help us with our show and with our upcoming trip to the Spaulding High School TV station. Early in December, Gail Mears will be coming with a group of Norwich Cadets to work with us on our student-written plays and teach us some Gorilla Theater techniques.

Happy fall,
Ms. Jamele

From the Library

The Library goes to the Circus!

Hurry! Hurry! Step right up! Author Tanya Stone visited our school on November 13. Tanya met with students in grades 1 through 6 and highlighted what inspires her to write as well as the process of writing nonfiction. Of special interest to our art teacher, Ann Leeds, was the Tanya Stone book entitled, Sandy's Circus. The picture book format introduces Alexander Calder (the famed inventor of the mobile) and how he began by creating a miniature circus.

Ann Leeds taught her fourth grade students how to make mobiles and ta da … circus animals and characters! Librarian Heather Kralik created a circus arena and worked, again, with the fourth grade students to create a backdrop of the circus audience. The result…? Pure magic. Come and see our circus in the display case across from Principal Tim Crowley's office.

Other Library News

The library is working with students in third and fifth grades to encourage good researching skills, studying polar bears with kindergarten, and showing students in grades one and two a link to interactive online books called "Tumblebooks." What fun it is to read aloud as a class a "Scardy Squirrel" book.

Your Librarian,
Heather Kralik

Other Offerings

Ski and Snowboard Program

For

Families of Students

in Grades 3-8

Season passes available to all families at this season's lowest prices:

Mt. Ellen
$219 (ages 7-18)
$599 (Adult)

Mt. Ellen Plus
$259 (ages 7-18)
$769 (Adult)

All-Mountain
$319 (ages 7-18)
$1,099 (Adult)

This year, college student rates are available for some passes.

Season-pass forms will be available in the BTMES front office. If you have any questions, call Mary Rubalcaba at 479-1828.

New Directions for Barre
Parent Corner

Change is a natural part of life.
Just because change is natural doesn't mean it is not stressful.
Did you know adolescents who have not tried alcohol or drugs are more likely to start during times of change/transition in order to cope?

Top 5 reasons adolescents use alcohol/drugs during change/transition

To combat loneliness, low self-esteem, anxiety
To mentally check out of family issues/school trouble
To fit in with a desired group of friends
To look "cool "or change their image
To ease discomfort in a new situation

What can you do?
Recognize change/transition; for example, adolescents going through puberty or moving up a grade in school. Encourage open dialogue, set aside one-on-one time.

BARRE TOWN GREEN-UP

Barre Town Green-Up would like to remind all the students that the annual Green-Up Poster Contest is coming up right around the corner. Submissions need to be turned in by January 31, 2010. This is the 40th anniversary of Green-Up. The poster contest is open to all students in grades K – 12. We would like to have as many students participate as possible. There will be an informational sheet sent into school the first week of December for all students.

For more information, please contact Jeff or Danette Gagne, 476-3955 or btvtgreenup@yahoo.com.

Calendar of Events

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	**2 Picture Retake Day** 8:00 a.m.—**Curriculum and Teacher Support Meeting**, 2nd Floor Conference Room 6 p.m. – **School Board Meeting,** Library	**3**	**4**
7 8 a.m. - **Policy Committee Meeting,** 2nd Floor Conference Room 3:40 p.m. - **School Health Advisory Committee,** 2nd Floor Conference Room	**8**	**9**	**10** 2 p.m. - **Finance & Budget Meeting,** 2nd Floor Conference Room	**11** 2:45 p.m. - **Grade 4 Band Concert,** Large Multipurpose Room 6:30-9 p.m. - **Grades 7 & 8 Student Council Dance,** Gym
14	**15** 1:30 & 6:30 p.m. - **Grades 5 & 6 Concert,** Gym 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - **PTO Bookstore,** Lobby 6:30 p.m. - **PTO Meeting,** Library	**16** 1:30 & 6:30 p.m. - **Grades 7& 8 Concert**, Gym 4:30 p.m. - **Facility & Transportation Meeting,** 2nd Floor Conference Room 6 p.m. – **School Board Meeting,** Library	**17** **Snow Date for Concerts**	**18**
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
28	**29**	**30**	**31**	**JAN. 1**

VACATION

VACATION

January

4 3:40 p.m.—**SHAC Meeting,** 2nd Floor Conference Room	**5**	**6** 8:00 a.m.—**Curriculum and Teacher Support Meeting**, 2nd Floor Conference Room 6 p.m. – **School Board Meeting,** Library	**7**	**8**
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
18 **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	**19** 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - **PTO Bookstore,** Lobby 6:30 p.m.—**PTO Meeting,** Library	**20** 4:30 p.m. - **Facility & Transportation Meeting,** 2nd Floor Conference Room 6 p.m. – **School Board Meeting,** Library	**21**	**22**
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**