

# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY LYMAN C. HUNT MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Contents

- Principal’s Message..... 2
- LITERACY CORNER..... 3
- Burlington School Food Project ..... 3
- GUIDANCE OFFICE..... 4
- HUNT MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE..... 4
- Hunt VKAT News ..... 5
- PTO News-..... 5
- PARENT/PRINCIPAL CHAT ..... 5
- HMS Afterschool: Fun ..... 6
- After School Events and New Activities ..... 6
- Bike Recycle Vermont ..... 6
- MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH ..... 7
- THE DECEMBER CALENDAR is Packed with Activities ..... 8
- THE SPORTS SCHEDULES ..... 8
- SCHOOL DANCE..... 8
- DECEMBER LUNCH MENU..... 9
- FRENCH WITH KIM CHASE..... 10
- TEAM GALAXY ..... 11
- TEAM SYNERGY ..... 12
- TEAM INDIGO ..... 14
- TEAM OASIS ..... 15
- TEAM PHOENIX ..... 16
- TEAM SOLSTICE ..... 17
- NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT ..... 18
- Concert Dates* ..... 19
- Winter & Holiday Resource Guide ..... 19

# Principal's Message



## Principal's Message

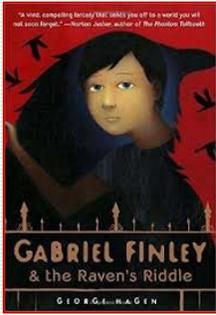
The Lyman C. Hunt Middle School is gearing up for our winter concert season and we have three concerts that are open to the public with free admission. Our middle school chorus opens up the fun with the HMS Chorus Concert happening on Wednesday, December 2. The following Wednesday, December 9 is the date of our HMS Orchestra Concert during which you may hear our strings ensembles, and on Wednesday, December 16th we will hold our HMS Band concert. All shows begin at 7:00 P.M. and will be approximately one hour long. Please consider attending one or more of these concerts where you may have an enjoyable evening out and will hear the great results of our students' hard work.

Hunt Middle School is holding a December Food Drive to provide good food to members of our school community in need. Please take advantage of this opportunity to help those who are food insecure during the holiday season by sending in donations of non-perishable food items or supermarket gift cards with your Hunt Middle School student. Donations will be collected in the HMS Lobby and Main Office and distributed to local recipients prior to our winter vacation. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Hunt Middle School has recently begun our 1 to 1 technology program and has furnished iPads to our students through our designation as a Digital Promise/Verizon Innovative Learning School. This program has many educational benefits and students are using this 1 to 1 technology throughout the school day and beyond as they are able to bring the devices home with them as well. Additionally, each of these devices have come with a data plan allowing all of our students to connect to the internet both in and out of school. This is especially important to Hunt Middle School students as a survey administered at the beginning of the school year showed that at least 75 HMS families did not have any internet access at all, and many more who do can only access the web via smart phone. Our 1 to 1 program has done much to provide equitable access for all of our students and families. Importantly, with this privilege comes responsibility and we are working with students to teach them about the tenets of good digital citizenship including online safety, respect for self and others, and balancing screen time and off-line time. We have also put together a website that provides resources for students and families that may be found on the Hunt Middle School website at <http://hunt.bsdyt.org/>. Families who are experiencing challenges with this program are encouraged to contact me via email at [lphehan@bsdyt.org](mailto:lphehan@bsdyt.org) or by phone at (802) 864-8469. Hunt Middle School Heroes for the month of December are HMS Technology Coach Mrs. Valerie Lodish and Digital Storyteller Sean Hirten who have worked tirelessly to make our 1 to 1 iPad initiative a real digital learning success story!

We are also very proud to be one of eight middle schools statewide to participate in Idle free VT's efforts to reduce motor vehicle emissions. Our HMS Environmental Club under the guidance of Rebecca Reese and Michael Fasy has been working hard taking baseline data on motorists who idle their car engines outside of school during afternoon student pick up time. We will be sharing information with our school community soon on simple steps we all can take to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality. More information about our participation in this important project may be found at <http://idlefreevt.org/measuring>

Thanks very much for reading and I look forward to seeing you around school soon!



## LITERACY CORNER

The Mark of the Dragonfly  
by Jaleigh Johnson  
Genre: Fantasy

Piper, a thirteen-year-old girl, is a gifted machinist who lives by herself in a scrap town in the Marrow Kingdom. One day she finds a girl, Anna, unconscious in the meteor fields; she bears the Mark of the Dragonfly which puts her under the protection of the king. When Anna awakes, she has no memory of her past until a strange man comes looking for her claiming to be her father. Anna's great fear of the man forces Piper to flee with the girl. Piper believes that if she returns the girl to the king, she will receive a reward. They stow away on the 401. There they meet Gee, a green-eyed teenager in charge of security with a mysterious secret. On the train, these three orphans soon join forces and devise a plan to expose a traitor, stop a war and hopefully save Anna's life.

### Book Trailers:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKhG\\_96z2M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKhG_96z2M)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhH0erjphyk>

Contributed by  
Cera Putney-Crane

## Burlington School Food Project Receives \$100,000 USDA Grant to Increase Local Foods in School Cafeterias



**Burlington, Vermont – The Burlington School Food Project** (BSFP) is pleased to announce that they are one of 74 projects spanning 39 states receiving support this year through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm to School Program, an effort to better connect school cafeterias and students with local farmers.

The Burlington School Food Project will use the \$100,000 USDA grant funds to implement a center of the plate project that focuses on making local beef accessible to all of Burlington's District Schools. "Knowing where your food comes from is one of the most important aspects of creating a sustainable food system. Burlington has been working in Farm to School for well over 10 years, and this grant will help us to move our program forward and allow us to create a model that can be replicated around our state," says Doug Davis, Director of Food Service for the Burlington School Food Project. "Farm to School Programs work—for schools, for producers, and for communities," said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

The implementation of these grant funds will be aided by BSFP community partners: The Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont, Intervale Community Farm and the Vermont Community Garden Network. Each organization is working to expand the District's local food consumption through educational outreach, sustainable purchasing systems and product development.

*The Burlington School Food Project is the largest Farm to School Program in Vermont. Widely recognized as a model program for the rest of the state and country, BSFP offers wholesome and nutritious meals daily to 4,000 students in the Burlington School District including breakfast, lunch and afterschool supper. More than one-third of foods purchased are sourced locally, and the Farm to School team runs a network of educational programming including a greenhouse, farm and orchard on three different school properties.*

## GUIDANCE OFFICE

The First Quarter has ended and the Guidance Office is in full swing! Our support services team would like to introduce ourselves:



- Kathy Stergas is the full time guidance counselor for all students at Hunt. She sees students individually and in small groups. All students are given the opportunity to sign up for a group if it interests them. The groups happen during our school day and topics range from friendship groups to stress and relaxation groups. She is also here to support parents so if you have a concern about your child you can reach her at 864-8470 or [kstergas@bsdvt.org](mailto:kstergas@bsdvt.org).
- Peggy Weaver ([pweaver@bsdvt.org](mailto:pweaver@bsdvt.org)) is our full time Student Assistance Program Counselor (SAP), and she is available to work with all students. Her area of expertise is drug and alcohol prevention, intervention and referral. Peggy also sees students individually and in small groups, and provides education information to students, staff and parents. She is the advisor to 2 leadership student groups, VKAT and QSA.
- Liz Trackim is our School Social Worker from the Howard Center. She has a caseload of students that she supports.
- Lindsey Dunn is our school psychologist. She is full time here and does all special education evaluations and provides ongoing support to our students and staff.
- Therese Barcomb is our Guidance Office Administrative Assistant. She is responsible for scheduling appointments, conferences, attendance and early dismissals and a variety of other guidance office tasks.

As a team we work together to provide a safe and positive learning environment for your children!

## HUNT MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE December 2nd- 18th



Please send in with your student or drop off in the box in the main lobby any non-perishable items to make Holiday Baskets for our community and to help stock the Hunt Food Closet during this vacation time. If you would like to make a cash donation, please make a check out to Hunt Middle School.

If you would like to receive a Food Basket for the December vacation, please contact Liz Trackim at 355-7121 or Peggy Weaver at 865-5378. All contacts will remain confidential. Thank you.

## Hunt VKAT News

Hunt VKAT (Vermont Kids Against Tobacco), have had a busy fall with many activities. VKAT sponsored several activities including:

- Red Ribbon Week (a week focused on drug prevention),
- World Bullying Prevention Day, and the
- Great American Smokeout.

VKAT students also attended a variety of trainings including

- “Getting to the Y”, a looking a local Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, the
- Above the Influence weekend retreat and the statewide VKAT conference in Montpelier.

Thinking of quitting smoking? VKAT students want to let you know there is help!

**1-800-QUIT-NOW or 1-800-784-8669 or 802Quits.org**

## PTO News-

**Ipads at Hunt!** The PTO is gathering information **from families about how the iPad** rollout is going with your child at your home. Smooth like butter? A little rocky? Looking for some more guidance or help monitoring? Feel free to send your comments/thoughts our way and we will make sure they get to the right ears.

Word on the street is that there have been some crackdowns on students choosing to iMessage during class time. Remind your child that their device privileges will get revoked if they cannot follow school iPad rules...

Also, the following link **of FAQ** might help with home iPad **use**:

<https://sites.google.com/a/bsdvt.org/hms-ipad-faq/>

*An invite from the Hunt Principals to YOU...*

## PARENT/PRINCIPAL CHAT

**YOU ARE INVITED! Principal/Parent Chat**

**Friday, October 2nd, 8:15am to 9:00am**

**Bring your coffee and chat with our Principals. Tell us what's on your mind. Let us know what's working or what's not working. Ask questions or just chat and relax with us in our library.**

## HMS Afterschool: Fun

### After School Events and New Activities

Hunt Afterschool has been having a blast this fall!! Our attendance continues to grow and we couldn't be happier serving so many students. Session 1 and 2 have featured new and returning activities focusing on everything from homework help and STEM to art and music. Recently, we have been very proud of our Ultimate Frisbee team for participating in a regional tournament and our new afterschool program, Engineering at Work.



a lasting tradition.

Hunt Afterschool students fielded an Ultimate Frisbee team, practicing with Coach Jake Raisanen every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon during Session 1. Readied with their skills and teamwork, the Hunt Afterschool Team traveled to Hinesburg to participate in their first Fall Round Robin Tournament on October 3, 2015. They played teams from Hinesburg, Montpelier, and Ripton. Although they didn't win any matches in the traditional sense, the first time competitors brought home the awards for Lowest Points Scored, Best Cheers, and placed second in the Spirit Award. The kids loved the event and we hope to make this

Afterschool students are also enjoying the new program, Engineering at Work. By establishing a new partner with the UVM Engineering Department, we are offering our students a great look into the engineering field. Each week a different group of UVM engineering students teaches the class about a specific discipline in the field and leads the group in a fun project. So far, they have learned about structural engineering through Jenga, building towers with spaghetti and marshmallows, and a timed and budgeted egg drop project. The students' love the class and we are thrilled to be bringing more STEM related activities into their out-of-school time.



As always, we are always happy to meet and talk with parents. Please feel free to contact us - Rebecca Reese, 802.316.1454, [rreese@bsdvt.org](mailto:rreese@bsdvt.org).

### Bike Recycle Vermont



"Local non-profit, Bike Recycle Vermont, wants to improve upon the Burlington community by creating more empowered and connected residents. They offers discounted bikes to more easily and inexpensively get around Burlington as a vehicle for this change. Visit them at 664 Riverside Ave. or just give them a call

at [\(802\) 264-9687](tel:8022649687) to see how it works."

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

This letter was sent home in your child's backpack Nov 16:

### LYMAN C. HUNT MIDDLE SCHOOL

1364 North Avenue • Burlington • Vermont 05408  
Phone (802) 864-8469 • Fax (802) 864-8467

Leonard H. Phelan  
Principal

Richard S. Amato  
Assistant Principal

November 16, 2015

Dear Middle School Families,

It has come to our attention that there are questions and concerns from families about math in the middle schools given the introduction and adoption of our Eureka Common Core K-8th grade math program this year. In an effort to increase communication and understanding we are providing families an opportunity to learn more about the district plans.

Families who wish to share comments and questions about the new program may attend a meeting to be held this Wednesday, November 18 from 6:00-7:00 P.M. in the Edmunds Middle School Library. This session will be used to gather information that district administrators and teachers will use as part of ongoing discussions and planning. We will have district representation at this meeting. This will not be a venue for providing answers to anything beyond simple clarifying questions.

We have also scheduled a meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 15 from 6:00-7:00 P.M. at Hunt Middle School in the Library. This will include district and middle school leadership, a math consultant, Elaine Watson, who works in schools coaching K – 12 teachers and principals on best practice in mathematics education, and likely some Hunt and Edmunds Middle School math teachers.

If you cannot attend the meeting at EMS, you can email your questions to Victor Prussack, Assistant to the Director of Curriculum at [vprussac@bsdvt.org](mailto:vprussac@bsdvt.org). These will be incorporated into the December 15 meeting. Thank you.

Very truly yours,  
Leonard H. Phelan, Principal

THE **DECEMBER CALENDAR** is Packed with Activities

Day	Week	< December 2015 >					Month	Year
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
		1	2 ▶ FOOD DRIVE ▶ Chorus Concert	3 ▶ FOOD DRIVE	4 ▶ FOOD DRIVE ▶ Coffee and chat with Principals	5		
6	7 ▶ FOOD DRIVE	8 ▶ FOOD DRIVE	9 ▶ FOOD DRIVE ▶ Orchestra Concert	10 ▶ FOOD DRIVE ▶ Girls Basketball w/ Williston ▶ Boys Basketball @ Williston	11 ▶ FOOD DRIVE ▶ Hunt Dance	12		
13	14 ▶ FOOD DRIVE ▶ Boys Basketball W/ Shelburne ▶ Girls Basketball @ Shelburne	15 ▶ FOOD DRIVE ▶ Middle School Math Forum, Hunt Middle Library	16 ▶ FOOD DRIVE ▶ Band Concert	17 ▶ FOOD DRIVE ▶ Boys Basketball @ Christ the King ▶ Girls Basketball @ Christ the King	18 ▶ FOOD DRIVE	19		
20	21	22	23 ▶ NO SCHOOL	24 ▶ NO SCHOOL	25 ▶ NO SCHOOL	26		
27	28 ▶ NO SCHOOL	29 ▶ NO SCHOOL	30 ▶ NO SCHOOL	31 ▶ NO SCHOOL				

Dates and Times can change, please check our website often for updates.

**THE SPORTS SCHEDULES ON THE SCHOOL CALENDAR ARE VERY FLUID AT THIS POINT. THERE ARE ALREADY REQUESTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS FOR DATE CHANGES. WE WILL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO UPDATE THE CALENDAR IN A TIMELY MANNER.**



## SCHOOL DANCE

SPONSORED BY STUDENT COUNCIL  
 DECEMBER 11TH  
 7-9PM \$3.00

# DECEMBER LUNCH MENU



## Burlington School District Pre-K - 8 Lunch Menu December 2015



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Pizza Cheese, Veggie or Turkey Pepperoni	2 Chicken Nachos Refried Beans Sour Cream Salsa	3 Spaghetti & Meatballs Roasted Broccoli	4 Chicken & Biscuits with Sweet Corn, Carrots and Peas
7 Chicken Nuggets Sweet Potato Tots	8 Pizza Cheese, Veggie or Turkey Pepperoni	9 Sloppy Joes Green Beans	10 Chicken & Noodles Roasted Carrots	11 Cheesy Breadsticks Roasted Cauliflower
14 Chicken Patty Sandwich Baked Potato Sour Cream	15 Pizza Cheese, Veggie or Turkey Pepperoni	16 Turkey & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Carrots, Peas, Roll Ice Cream	17 Goulash (Pasta with Beef) Roasted Broccoli	18 All-Beef Hot Dog Vegetarian Baked Beans
21 Chicken Nuggets Sweet Potato Tots	22 Pizza Cheese, Veggie or Turkey Pepperoni	<b>WINTER BREAK</b>		

**Available with  
Every Lunch**

*Local Vermont Milk*  
1% White Milk  
Fat Free White Milk  
Fat Free Chocolate Milk

Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar

Soup-of-the-Day

Vegetarian options are  
available every day.



Our Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar features an ever-changing assortment of fruit, vegetables, whole grains, beans, homemade salads, meat, cheese and dairy selections!

Menu items are subject to change without notice. We offer a variety of choices every day.  
For more information, please contact us at 864-8416 or [schoolfood@bsdvt.org](mailto:schoolfood@bsdvt.org).  
USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



THE BURLINGTON SCHOOL FOOD PROJECT offers wholesome, fresh and nutritious meals daily to 4,000 students in the Burlington School District.

- Offering local food is a central priority and we have made great strides over the last ten years. Depending on the season, our suppliers, and our budget, we purchase and serve from 10-40% local items. Apples, root crops, milk, and winter squash are consistently available. We provide:
  - \*Daily lunches that include soup, full salad bar, and milk
- \*FREE breakfast and FREE after school supper for ALL students in the district
- \*FREE lunch to students at C.P. Smith, Hunt, Integrated Arts Academy, JJ Flynn, and the Sustainability Academy
  - \*FREE extra servings of fruits and vegetables for all K-5 students during class

**INCLUDED WITH EVERY LUNCH**  
Milk, Fresh Fruit and Salad Bar, Homemade Soup

There is an ever-changing assortment of fruit, vegetables, whole grains, beans, homemade salads, meat, cheese and dairy selections. Vegetarian options are available every day.

## FRENCH WITH KIM CHASE

Bonjour! In seventh grade classes, students have completed a unit on classroom objects and have recorded their first conversation with a partner. They are now learning about weather expressions, how to tell time in French and how to expression how they are feeling using the verb “avoir” (to have). They are also learning the “Careful Rule,” a mnemonic device to help them remember which final consonants are silent and which are pronounced (c, r, f and l). Most students are now able to read familiar French words successfully with fluency and confidence. Students are reminded to always use headphones when they are working on Duolingo so that s they see the words on the screen, they hear the correct pronunciation.

In 8th grade classes, students completed multimedia projects in which they reviewed grammar concepts or aspects of French phonology (sound system) and created tutorials for the seventh graders. In the process of completing their projects, many students discovered that their were gaps or errors in their understanding, so the project was a good opportunity to both assess and master their understanding of their topic of choice. They then shared and assessed their projects with each other, according to ten criteria: “Is it clear? Is it engaging? Is there an audio component? Is it engaging? Is it complete? Is it accurate? Is it concise? Is it instructive? Is it well-paced? Is it polished?”

Eighth grade classes are now reviewing the three regular verb conjugations and the four most commonly used irregular verbs (être, avoir, aller and faire - to be, to have, to go and to do or to make.) Although students are proficient at using these verbs speaking, it is important to know how they conjugate because they often look different than they sound. Conjugating, or changing verbs to agree with the subject, is challenging for speakers of English because in English, most verbs only change in the third person singular: “I speak” and “you speak” but “he or she speaks.” After reviewing the present tense, they will explore the passé composé.

In the French Extension class, students are putting together scenes for the eighth grade French Video. Students chose from a playlist of French songs from around the world, all of which have social justice as a theme. For the past several years, it has become a student-initiated tradition to produce an eighth grade French music video and to play the video for the rest of the school during the talent show. All of the eighth grade students will be in the music video, as well as some 7th grade students who are from French-speaking families. We are seeking native speakers of French to visit this class and speak to students (en français!) about their country or community of origin and how they use French in their lives. If you or someone you know is interested in speaking in this class, please contact me: [kchase@bsdvt.org](mailto:kchase@bsdvt.org).



## TEAM GALAXY

November greetings! We can't believe that December is just around the corner!! Galaxy Team students continue to be very busy and productive! Here's an update!

### **Language Arts:**

Students are wrapping up projects and writing assignments based on the book, The Revealers. Sixth graders were able to meet the author, Doug Wilhelm, who came to speak and answer questions about the book. There was definite excitement about conversing with a real author! Many students are anxious to read the sequel, True Shoes. We will be offering a once a week *lunch bunch book group* for any interested students.

Students will be focusing on constructed writing responses to fiction and non-fiction texts in the next few weeks, as well as practicing editing skills.

**Math:** Students continue to keep skills sharp through daily IXL practice and through a consumer unit during Math Enrichment. The unit focus this month has been on percent work and will soon be transitioning to fractions.

**Science:** Students are now fully involved in research for their biome project, *Welcome to Planet Earth*. They are "traveling scientists" who are finding specific information on the natural habitat and climate of a specific biome, the role of the producers, consumers, and decomposers, and how the the natural balance is achieved. Students will demonstrate their learning through the creation of a "Book Creator" display that will use pictures, video, audio and text. The five themes of geography are well integrated as students learn how humans have impacted and adapted to the ecosystem they are studying. Students have been using a variety of resources on their iPad as well as using books. Please check out your student's progress!

**Social Studies:** Students were very successful and creative during their study of land and water features. Examples from the western hemisphere, with a focus on Canada, were presented using a variety of tools such as Google Slides, Kid Collage, Keynote, and Book Creator. Currently, students are creating their own unique island somewhere in the world, and are applying their knowledge of land and water features in their design. This assignment will merge into a Language Arts creative writing piece. Canada continues to be our main focus as students explore the five themes of geography; region, interaction, movement, place, and location. Students will also have an opportunity to research an important social or environmental challenge facing people in each region.

Team News: We are still trying to come up with a team logo before the end of this year!! Students on our social committee have been meeting during lunch time to plan and discuss fun, team building events. Additionally we have been relying on our *team techies* to review Apps that will enhance our curriculum and as tech support. We are lucky that so many students are quick to problem solve and help out!

Congratulations to our students of the month for November:  
Edib O and Mae J

Galaxy Teachers  
Mr. Pease and Ms.Picher

## TEAM SYNERGY

*Hello from Team Synergy!*

We have completed Quarter 1 and now it's on to the second quarter of the year! Congratulations to Synergy students who achieved Honor Roll for this first marking period of sixth grade.

Synergies were involved in two special community outreach projects this month. For Veterans Day, students created special thank you cards which were delivered to local senior veterans. Special thanks to Mrs. Jan Hevey who brought supplies and helped us make the cards.



Later in the month, students made fun turkey centerpieces. Each turkey was stuffed with a bag of rice to be used in a turkey casserole recipe hung around the turkey's neck. On November 24th, a representative group of Synergy students delivered the centerpieces to residents at the Heineberg Senior Housing complex. Seniors and sixth graders enjoyed conversation



and refreshments; the seniors asked lots of questions about new technology students are using in schools, so different from their own school days.

**ELA:** We are wrapping up a three week informational text unit that targets Common Core State Standards including:

- *“Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text”*
- *“Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments”*
- *“Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.”*



Students read a number of different articles, took notes using the Cornell method, identified main ideas and wrote summaries. They learned to recognize the different ways informational text may be organized, such as cause and effect, sequence and order, and description. Synergies did an awesome job using the iPad app Shadow Puppet to create narrated slideshows about a topic from their self-selected informational text reading.



HMS sixth graders enjoyed a special author visit by Doug Wilhelm on November 19th. Doug is the author of *The Revealers* which is read by all sixth graders. Synergy students got to spend an entire mod asking questions and hearing entertaining stories about Doug's life and work as a writer.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** We are wrapping up our unit “The World in Spatial Terms” which focuses on maps and the physical features of the Earth. Synergy geographers examined a number of different map projections - Mercator, Robinson, polar, to name a few - as they investigated the cartographer's challenge: *How do we represent the round Earth on a flat surface?* We learned that every projection has some level of distortion, and used the tops of 2-liter bottles to model the stretching that happens along the edges of a polar projection map.



We also had a great lesson led by our HMS librarian and former social studies teacher Charles Dabritz! Geographers ask themselves three key questions: *What is where? Why is it there? Why care?* Mr. D showed us how to use our iPads and National Geographic's Mapmaker Interactive to create maps with different layers of information such as location of volcanoes and major tectonic plates. We started to see all sorts of connections and patterns!



Synergies investigated the distribution of water on our planet. Using 2 liters of water to represent all the water on the Earth, students divided up the water into cups, attempting to predict what percent of the water is found in different places such as the atmosphere, groundwater, glaciers, oceans, etc. Once the actual percentages were revealed, everyone was surprised to learn how *little* of the Earth's freshwater is actually available for humans to use! (Answer: only about 1%)

Math Class: We have been working on ratios and just completed creating tutorials using Explain Everything App for solving problems. We will finish this unit with a lesson on percents. Students are also working on finding factor pairs and multiples. Please encourage your student to continue doing X-tra Math an online resource for math fact fluency. Students are continuing to use their math skills to solve complex word problems. Ask them about the lemonade problem or the mouths to feed problem.

Science: We are using current events in science as a springboard for discussions and writing about the world around us. We explored the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and students wrote about their thoughts regarding the difficult task for this clean-up project. In December we are moving forward with a unit on cells.



## TEAM INDIGO

Things continue to be busy and engaging on the Indigo Team. Here's what we've been up to!

**\*Social Studies:** Our team recently began "traveling" through Canada! Working solo, in pairs, or in groups of three, kids are learning about Canada by pretending to take a trip to each of Canada's six regions. They are reading to find out background information, then using map and online resources to explore the different parts of Canada through a tourist's lens. iPads have added a fun dimension to this project, allowing kids to use apps like Pic Collage and Book Creator, as well as photo editing apps, to create wonderful, fun, "meaty," and very individual projects about their their trips. Our Canada unit continues with a living history piece after the December break.

**\*Language Arts:** LA regulars such as reading logs, reading skills, grammar instruction, and vocabulary work continue. We will finish up The Revealers before vacation, including lots of literary analysis, writing, and discussions. We anticipate that these conversations will continue well beyond the conclusion of The Revealers and will help inform the way we talk with each other all year. Of course, our writing work is not limited to The Revealers. You may have seen our paragraphs and flow charts at the Harvest Dinner, for example. Soon, classes will begin the challenging Lucy Calkins writing program, a Common Core-based writing curriculum. Meanwhile, students are building their writing skills through research and work in Science class.

**\*Science:** Ecology work continues! Students have been working to apply vocabulary and concepts that they have learned through hands-on work in our own deciduous biome, to biomes throughout the western hemisphere. Students are researching and writing postcards about different biomes in locations of their choice. iPads are once again allowing us to mix things up a bit, with several tech-based mini-projects available to take the place of traditional postcards in more than one biome. Additionally, Ms Chayer attended an exciting Science workshop recently. As a result, our team is expecting to introduce some new processes and approaches not just into science problem-solving activities, but into math activities as well.

**\*Math:** Our team has concluded our first Common Core unit on ratios and rate. We are pleased with the progress kids made with this challenging topic. Simultaneously, we have been plugging away at mastering the traditional division algorithm; at this point most kids are pretty confident with this skill and how to apply it in context. Now, following a short review of factors and multiples, we will work on fraction and decimal operations in Math classes, while using Math Enrichment time to get kids solid on fraction and decimal concepts. Speaking of Math Enrichment, kids have been having fun in that class with a consumer simulation that will continue throughout the year. This engaging project introduces kids to real-life math, allowing them to encounter tricky problems and decisions and then work with the financial consequences. Finally, we are

excited about a challenge project that several Indigos have chosen to take on. For this project, students are working with a tutor each week to create a business plan around an original product. In the end, they will present their business plans to a (retired) banker for feedback. Everyone is pretty excited about their foray into real-world mathematics!



## TEAM OASIS

We have been so very lucky to have a warm November! I know what's ahead and it feels foreboding since we've been spoiled with a mild fall.

### **Social Studies-**

Speaking of warm weather, we have been deep in the study of the cultures and geographic features of Africa! We have been to North Africa and East Africa and plan to head to the south after our vacation. Students have connected the Rwanda and Burundi tribal genocide with the current issues surrounding Syria and Israel. It is amazing to hear your children's thoughts and points of view surrounding these events. I am so proud of their mature responses that emulate kindness, caring and understanding. I feel confident we have a future in this world. What fine young adults you are raising! Upon returning from vacation, Oasis Team will be going on our first field trip to the International Festival. This will be on Friday, December 4th. We will leave at 9:30am by bus and car and return to school by about 1ish. Paperwork went home to ask for \$5 to partially cover the cost of the tickets and the bus. The team funds will pay for the rest. I appreciate all your hard work that you do to make your child's educational process a successful one. Thanks to all.

In language arts we have joined forces across teams to create and implement a Common Core unit in which students choose books that are rich in theme, character, vocabulary and/or language; that they really enjoy; that they know well; and that they are willing to spend lots of time with. These will be their Anchor Books. Students will then learn to read deeply and write with intention and care to create Companion Books, original works that connect the students' passions with issues, topics and themes that arise in their Anchor Books. This is a rigorous exercise that should challenge even the best prepared among our students.

Seventh grade math students have begun the second unit in the seventh grade Eureka math curriculum. This unit's focus is on rational numbers. Students will begin by learning how to add and subtract with negative numbers and then progress to multiplying and dividing. Eighth grade math students will also be beginning the second unit in the eighth grade Eureka math curriculum. This unit focuses on congruency. It begins with translations, reflections, rotations and maintaining congruency through these moves. Algebra students will continue learning about linear equations. We have been working on slope-intercept form and will soon talk about standard form and point-slope form of linear equations. Soon they will be using what they know to learn about linear inequalities.



## TEAM PHOENIX

### Social Studies:

- Students are learning about the origins of humans during prehistoric times.
- Students are learning about the beginnings of human society.
- Students are learning about the differences between prehistory and history.
- Students are learning about the important connection between geography and human history.
- Students are learning how the earliest humans were nomadic hunters and gathers.
- Students are learning how the beginnings of farming would lead to the rise of river civilizations.
- Students will be writing a five paragraph essay that will be comparing and contrasting early and modern Homo-sapien humans.

### Language Arts:

- During December students will interview older people about a time they left home. This will build understanding about why people leave places and what they learn through change. They will then write an essay to describe the person and what they learned.
- Parents and guardians should be signing off on reading records five times a week.
- There will be reading homework over vacation.

### Science:

- Phoenix scientists finished up learning some key vocabulary for a weather unit in January.
- They are now learning how to find the relative ages of rocks and answering the question: How can we determine how Earth's crust has changed over time?
- If you have any questions about science, please feel free to email me at [mcullen@bsdvt.org](mailto:mcullen@bsdvt.org)

### Math:

- 7th graders continue to learn about integers.
- 8th graders are learning about transformations.
- Algebra students are working on writing linear equations and reviewing for the Algebra midterm exam.



## TEAM SOLSTICE

### Language Arts:

- We continue to read John Steinbeck's novel *The Pearl*, analyzing the plot as well as the oppression and diversity found within the novel.
- We are studying the figurative language in the novel.
- We are planning for a debate.
- Students continue to complete reading logs every two weeks.

### Math:

- Our 8th grade class is working on a unit involving transformations and using them to prove geometric concepts
- Some our 8th graders are taking an Algebra class; they are working on using knowledge of linear relationships to write equations for these relationships
- Our 7th graders continued a very in-depth look at proportional relationships; right now we are using our knowledge of proportions to investigate similar figures.

### Science:

- We continue our work with plate tectonics, modeling, and understanding the scale of geologic time.
- Students are working hard to make models that show how continents moves over time and how oceans form.
- Next, we will investigate the speed plates move at and the fossil evidence for plate motion.



## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Class

The sixth grade general music classes are working with notes E, F and G on the first string of the guitar. In composition we are working on our first opus. We are composing our pieces in AA form using E, F and G. After the composing, the students play their own creations on the guitar.

### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Class

In music history, the students are currently in our first musical era - the Medieval. Next up - the Renaissance Era, music of imitation.

On the guitar, students are learning to play chords C and G7. They will be using these chords to play “Rock-A-My Soul” and “Whole World”.

BandGreetings from the Hunt Bandroom! Our rotating small group lessons, for all band students, are going VERY well. Please join us for our annual Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 16, at 7pm. The students are looking forward to sharing their hard work.

### Chorus

The choruses have made great gains in their preparation for the Dec 2nd concert. The sixth grade chorus will be singing two-part and three-part harmony. The seventh/eighth grade chorus will be singing music in three-part harmony. “Languages” is the theme of our concert. All are welcome at the concert!

### Orchestra

Students are very excited about their upcoming concert, on Wednesday, December 9, at 7pm in the Hunt auditorium. Both the 6th grade and 7th/8th grade orchestras will perform. *Please note that day is an A day*, so please help students remember they have a concert on a day they normally do not have orchestra! Please arrive at 6:15 for tuning and warm-up. All are welcome!

### District III Music Festival

Congratulations to the following students who will be representing Hunt at this year’s District Music Festival.

**Orchestra**

**Band**

**Chorus**

<b>Helen Argraves</b>	Will Belluche	Mari Davis
<b>Abigail Grimm</b>	Sabin Hart	
<b>Logan Steele</b>	Felix Nadworny	
<b>Zane Telesford</b>	Jenna Peterson	

*Concert Dates*

All concerts begin at 7:00 P.M in the Hunt Auditorium (*except District Music Festival*)

- Winter Choral Concert - December 2, 2015
- Winter Orchestra Concert – December 9, 2015
- Winter Band Concert - December 16, 2015
- District Music Festival – January 29 and 30, 2016
- Snow Dates - February 12-13, 2016

## Winter & Holiday Resource Guide

(updated November, 2015)

Location/Agency:	Resources Offered:
<p><b>Chances for Christmas</b>            Kathy Ely            20 Winooski Falls Way,            Suite 310            Winooski            802-777-5130</p>	<p>Please only leave ONE voicemail. Our mailbox only holds 20 messages, so please only leave one allowing others to do the same. We are returning calls in the order in which they were received and in the evenings only. Our number is (802) 777-5130. We will only receive applications stemming from a phone call.            We accept applications and will post once our appointments are filled. Once they are, we will still take families on a walk-in basis.</p> <p>In order to receive our gifts:            **You MUST NOT be signed up elsewhere!            **You must provide us with an original social security card for yourself and each of your children.            **You must provide us with a photo ID.            ** You must provide a current piece of mail with address.</p>
<p><b>Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf:</b>            228 North Winooski Ave            Burlington, VT            (802) 658-7939</p>	<p><b>Thanksgiving Meal:</b> Free and open to the public.            Wednesday, November 25 at 1:00pm.</p> <p><b>The CEFS food shelf:</b> open from 9:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. Bring ID and social security number. Offers a five-day supply of food once per month, but you can go every day for bread and vegetables. Those who are homeless can go once per week for a 5 day supply of food.</p> <p><b>Soup Kitchen:</b>            Monday through Friday from 6:30am to 9:45am            Sunday morning from 10:00am to Noon.</p>

	<p>Sunday evening from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Also offers sandwiches to go.</p> <p><b>Turkeys for Thanksgiving</b></p>
<p><b>Champlain Valley Agency on Aging:</b> 76 Pearl Street, Suite 201 Essex Junction, VT (802) 865-0360</p>	<p><b>Project Snow Shovel</b> connects seniors (ages 60+) with volunteers to assist with snow shoveling when there is accumulation of 3 or more inches of snow. There are no income eligibility requirements. This service is based on the availability of volunteers. Call CVAA to inquire. Can also call Senior helpline(1-800-642-5119).</p>
<p><b>Department of Children &amp; Families:</b> 119 Pearl Street Burlington, VT 1-800-479-6151</p>	<p><b>Seasonal Fuel Assistance</b> (also known as Home Heating Assistance) can help pay part of your home heating bills. This program is based on income eligibility. Apply in person at the District Office, or online at <a href="https://mybenefits.ahs.state.vt.us">https://mybenefits.ahs.state.vt.us</a>.</p>
<p><b>Crisis Fuel Assistance</b> Chittenden Community Action 655 South Champlain St, Burlington 802-863-6248</p>	<p>Can help avoid running out of fuel. Some home owners may qualify for furnace replacement. Based on income eligibility. Can apply the last Monday in November to the last Friday in April. During business hours (Monday – Friday 8:30-4:00), apply in person at Community Action. After hours, call Benefits Center at 1-800-479-6151</p>
<p><b>Community Bible Church</b> 2025 Williston Road South Burlington 324-1964 or 324-8162</p>	<p>Christmas gifts to families with children ages birth to 18. Must not be signed up for other holiday programs. Requires photo identification for the parent, and social security cards or birth certificates for each child. Sign-ups for 2015 November 10, 11, and 12.</p>
<p><b>Heavenly Food Pantry:</b> 37 Main St. Essex Junction, VT (802) 878-5745</p>	<p><b>Thanksgiving Food Baskets:</b> Baskets are distributed by the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction and are available to residents of Essex Town and Essex Village usually on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. Call to ask about the dates. Nita Gould is the contact.</p>
<p><b>Hilltop Light Ministries:</b> 421 Shelburne Rd. Burlington, VT (802) 863-0524</p>	<p>Provides <b>Christmas gifts</b> and <b>food baskets</b> for children through the Adopt-a-Family Program. Eligibility: Families with children ages birth-17 years. Application: Telephone; Appointment required. Bishop Davis is the contact.</p> <p><b>Food shelf program</b> provides take-home groceries.</p> <p><b>Thanksgiving Food Baskets</b> include a turkey, trimmings, and dessert. Service hours: Monday-Friday: Contact information: Patricia Davis, Director. Documents required: Proof of Identification. Application: Telephone to apply; Appointment required.</p>

<p><b>Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP):</b>  First Congregational Church  38 S. Winooski Ave  Burlington, VT  (802) 862-4501</p>	<p>JUMP offers drop-in emergency assistance, open weekday mornings. Direct assistance includes necessities like: food, medication, bus passes, toiletries, diapers, cleaning supplies, assistance to obtain birth certificates and IDs, and <b>utility assistance</b> (as available). Drop-ins Tuesday – Friday morning; doors open at 9:00am.</p>
<p><b>Joseph’s House:</b>  113 Elmwood Ave  Burlington, VT  (802) 951-4290</p>	<p>Starting the second week of the month, clients can call on a Monday to make an appointment for that week. Joseph’s House assists individuals and families with a variety of needs in emergency situations, including <b>utility disconnects</b>, eviction notices, security deposits, and laundry and food vouchers. Call to schedule an appointment.</p> <p>Also, in October family names are taken and entered into a drawing for Thanksgiving and Christmas.</p>
<p><b>Junior’s Pizza:</b>  176 Main St  Burlington, VT  (802) 862-1234</p>	<p>Junior’s offers a <b>free Christmas meal</b> on Christmas day (Dec. 25) from 12:00pm – 3:00pm at their downtown (176 Main St.) location. This event is free and open to the public.</p>
<p><b>Lund Family Center:</b>  76 Glen Rd.  Burlington, VT  (802) 448-3617</p>	<p>Kids-A-Part provides information and referral services to caregivers of children of incarcerated parents and support services to children of incarcerated parents. The <b>Holiday program</b> is available to children of incarcerated parents. There is a holiday party for those without other resources. Eligibility: Children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers. Contact information: Amy Cronin. Application: Telephone.</p>
<p><b>Milton Family Community Center:</b>  23 Villemaire Ln.  Milton, VT  (802) 893-1457</p>	<p>This program includes <b>holiday food basket</b> with ingredients for complete holiday meals and <b>holiday gifts</b> for children and teens, including winter clothing or boots and toys for the children. Eligibility: Low-income families with children and/or teens; adults age 60 and older; and adults with disabilities who are Milton residents. The holiday food basket is for both Thanksgiving and Christmas - the two programs are combined and will be distributed on the same day. Service hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm for application sign up. Contact information: Charlotte Parot, Family Support. Documents required: Proof of income. Forms for holiday programs go out in August; October 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for Thanksgiving and November 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for Christmas.</p>
<p><b>Salvation Army:</b></p>	

<p>64 Main St, Burlington, VT (802) 864-6991</p> <p><b>Salvation Army:</b> 64 Main St, Burlington, VT (802) 864-6991</p>	<p><b>Friendly Kitchen:</b> Free Dinner, meals are free and open to all. Offered Monday - Saturday at 5:00-6:00pm.</p> <p><b>Food Pantry:</b> The Food Pantry is open by appointment Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 2:00. Call 864-6991 to schedule an appointment. You can go to the food pantry once a month. There is free bread in the afternoons, Monday - Friday at 1:00pm.</p> <p><b>Angel Tag Program:</b> Provides toys and clothes for families at Christmas. Apply via phone November 2-November 24. Requires proof of income (EBT card is sufficient), proof of expenses, proof of residence, and SS of each family member. Phone number: 864-6991</p> <p><b>Thrift Store</b> 336 N. Winooski Ave, Burlington (802) 864-9552 Monday- Saturday 9am-5pm</p>
<p><b>Sarah Holbrook Center:</b> 66 North Ave Burlington, VT (802) 862-6342</p>	<p><b>Food Shelf:</b> Call (802) 862-6342 to schedule an appointment; you can use the food shelf once a month.</p>
<p><b>Shelburne Ecumenical Food Shelf:</b> 5420 Shelburne Rd. Ground Floor, Town Offices Building Shelburne, VT (802) 985-8436</p>	<p>The <b>emergency food shelf</b> located at the Town Center. <b>The Thanksgiving and Christmas program</b> provides fixings for a turkey dinner. The Christmas program also provides gifts for the family. Eligibility: Residents of Shelburne with a food emergency. Christmas distribution occurs during regular food shelf hours on third Wednesday of December. Service hours: Third Wednesday of the month: 9:00am-10:00am. Application: Walk in for food shelf; for Christmas Program, referrals are made by school guidance counselors, but they will accept self-referrals. Stop by for application during regular food shelf hours before December.</p>
<p><b>Toy Joy:</b> 115 Main St. Bethany Church Montpelier, VT (802) 497-1890</p>	<p>A one day event where new and "lightly loved" used <b>toys are distributed to help families celebrate Christmas.</b> Eligibility: Anyone with children ages birth-15 years Location is at the Bethany Church in Montpelier. No application process, individuals and families just need to be at distribution location on date and time given. Donations of new and used toys welcome. Contact information: Rose Wheeler Stillson.</p> <p>2015 Toy Distribution will be December 19, 2015 9:00-2:00</p>

<p><b>Winooski Family Center:</b>  32 Mallets Bay Ave  O'Brien Community Center  Winooski, VT  (802) 655-1422</p>	<p>Provides <b>gifts for children</b> and <b>gift certificates for groceries</b>. Eligibility: Winooski families only. Service hours: Monday- Friday: 8:00am-4:00pm. Documents required: Proof of Residence. Application: Telephone or walk in.</p>
<p><b>Winooski United Methodist Church</b>  24 West Allen Street  Winooski  655-7371</p>	<p><b>Food Shelf</b>  Pantry staples distributed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 2-4  Perishable items distributed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays from 9-12</p> <p><b>Thanksgiving Baskets</b>  Must sign up before mid-November</p>