

The Circle



Rutland Town's Link between School and Community

April 2018

TOWN NEWS

By Carol Bam

The Rutland Town Select Board sincerely thanks voters for approving all municipal budgets on Town Meeting, March 6. Chairman Josh Terenzini says the board is gratified to move forward having the confidence of town residents. "They can expect the same great service from town personnel to continue along with the positive agenda that we are committed to advancing." John Paul Faignant and Terenzini each ran unopposed for their 2 and 3 year seats. After the election, Terenzini was re-elected Board Chair. Mary Ashcroft will continue as Clerk, and committee assignments remain as they were.

The second annual Rutland Town Celebration Day has been scheduled for Saturday, June 30 at Northwood Park. The organizing committee, headed by Terenzini, says the objective is to offer a variety of activities that will attract residents of all ages to gather and celebrate the rewards that living in Rutland Town has to offer. Organizers are building on the successes of last year's very rainy event. A fleet of town police, highway and fire vehicles will be on display, along with safety info and kid oriented activities and demonstrations. There will be a barbeque, free swimming and a movie at the pool that night. Celebration Day may also include a scavenger hunt along the walking trails at Northwood, to showcase the ongoing work of

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FROM PRINCIAL AARON BOYNTON

School shootings as well as public shootings are unfortunately becoming too common this day in age . Here at Rutland Town School, we have taken great measures to improve safety and security for students. Our efforts are ever growing the more we discover what is needed for our school. At Rutland Town School we have a full-time School Resource Officer. As Principal, I couldn't imagine not having an SRO on site, full time, all day. This, in my opinion, is the most important thing we can do for a secure school. Yet, we have many other measures in place for safety and security. Faculty conduct trainings, and as a school, we practice drills throughout the year that include fire, evacuation, and securing the school.

In the event of an active shooter, our ALICE protocol allows teachers and students to make decisions based on the information they have and situations they are in. As a facility, we have made improvements to our windows and doors, front office procedures, drop off and pick up procedures, door locks, communication within the building, supplies and equipment, and more. Our Crisis Committee meets at least once a month to discuss issues, concerns, feedback, procedures, and upcoming drills.

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MY VIEW FROM HOUSE SEAT 101

By Thomas Terenzini, State Representative

After three weeks of intense debate, the issue of gun rights has been put to bed. This was a solution looking for a problem Vermont has never had. Gun violence in Vermont is very low. The Governor will probably sign into law this week several bills that will not stop a person from committing violent crimes. These new laws will not prevent an active shooter from stealing a weapon from a family member or a neighbor's home. I did vote for four million dollars worth of security upgrades for all schools in Vermont. This past week I did vote for H.422, a bill that allows law enforcement to remove a fire arm from a residence involving a domestic assault charge. This is done for the protection of people living in the home and for the safety of law enforcement. The bottom line is that an active shooter will not obey new gun laws. Many law-abiding gun owners in Vermont view these new gun laws as a quick, knee-jerk reaction that is more based on feeling than trying to address other issues such as mental health, drugs and the proper enforcement of the laws already on the books in Vermont. There are thousands of proud and educated firearm owners in this state who respect what a firearm is and what its proper

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RTS Kindergarten Registration For 2018 - 2019 School Year May 2 and May 3

Registration for Kindergarten children for the 2018-2019 school year will take place at the Rutland Town School on **Wednesday, May 2 and Thursday, May 3, 2018.**

The registration process will consist of a review of your child's health history, vision and hearing assessments, and a conference with the teachers. This will take approximately 50 minutes. **Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

As per our School Board Policy, all Kindergarteners must have reached their fifth (5th) birthday on or before August 31, 2018.

The adult accompanying the Kindergartener must bring proof of birth in the form of a Birth Certificate or Baptismal Certificate.

An Immunization Record consisting of Polio, Measles, Rubella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis must be brought with you.

Please contact Mrs. Pam Mock at 802-775-0566, ext. 4001, or pam.mock@rcsu.org to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.

THE CIRCLE is a publication of Rutland Town and Rutland Town School, informing the community about issues of local interest. **The Circle** is not meant to be a public forum. The school administration has the right to exercise editorial control over style and content in keeping with a proper educational environment.

The Circle staff includes Principal Aaron Boynton as Editor in Chief, Carol Bam, Theresa Kulig, and Marie Pennington. Five issues are published every other month from October through June.

For information, mailing list changes, to advertise or to contribute, email carolbam@aol.com, call the RTS office at 775-0566 or mail items to:

**The Circle, c/o Rutland Town School
1612 Post Road, Rutland, VT 05701**

Update From Your School Board

Thanks to our community for your strong support of our schools. We appreciate your overwhelming support of the school budget on Town Meeting Day. In addition, the request to sell the Cheney Hill property and invest the proceeds in the school through our capital expenditure fund was approved by the voters.

We would like to recognize the service of a departing board member, Stacey Fiske who recently completed her term. Thank you Stacey! At our reorganization meeting in March, the Board welcomed a new member, Korrine Rodrigue, who was elected by a write-in vote on Town Meeting Day. Welcome Korrine!

We are implementing a new administrative leadership structure next year, a co-principal model. After a thorough search process, the Board recently appointed Ms. Deborah Rodolffy as Co-Principal, replacing Aaron Boynton who will resign at the end of the school year. Thank you for your service, Aaron! Ms. Rodolffy brings over thirty years of experience to the co-principal role, having served as teacher at the elementary, middle and secondary levels as well as principal in a neighboring high school. She joins Sarah Tetzlaff, who was promoted to fill the companion Co-Principal position. Sarah has served as Assistant Principal in Rutland Town School for the past six years. We are excited about our new leadership team and look forward to an excellent year ahead.

We want to assure you that student safety is our first priority at Rutland Town School. Rutland Town School is fortunate to have a full time School Resource Officer (SRO) on staff. Officer Sly has led trainings in various safety techniques with our staff and is an excellent support for us.

The school office was recently relocated near the school entrance. During the school day, all exterior doors are locked. In addition, we have security cameras which allow our SRO and school staff to monitor the interior and exterior of the building at all times.

We regularly practice school safety drills with staff and students. A school crisis can take a number of forms including an environmental event, such as a flood; a weather emergency, such as a tornado warning; or an intruder in or near the school. The nature of

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Loyal RTS Library volunteers Marie Pennington, Lori Lyons, and Kathy Olsen will be honored at a **reception June 7** in the Library. Please come and thank them for their service. Details below.

Thank You to My Library Volunteers By Theresa Czachor, School Librarian

The School Library is a vibrant, welcoming environment where on any given day you might walk in and see one of my three dedicated volunteers busily scurrying about the room, changing displays, putting away books, mending books, or preparing the materials for the next book project. These are just a few of the many tasks that these three ladies have donated their time, talent, and energy to in the school library.

I have been extremely fortunate to have the best team of volunteers anyone could ever ask for, not for just one year or two years but for many years and they're still at it. If I add up all the years that Marie Pennington, Lori Lyons, and Kathy Olsen have volunteered in the library, I come up with a WHOPPING forty-six years!

Marie has been volunteering the longest, since her son Nick was in first grade and Brent was in eighth grade, a total of nineteen years! Lori's daughter, Olivia, is currently a Junior in college but was in first grade when Lori first started volunteering in the library. Kathy, who had four children graduate from Rutland Town School, started when her youngest, Sean, was in pre-school! Sean is now a Sophomore in High School! Lori and Kathy also ran the Scholastic Book Fair for eleven years to the delight of all the students and teachers at RTS.

These three ladies have shown invaluable commitment to the ultimate goal of my library program, which is to instill a love of reading at all ages in the hopes of encouraging students to become lifelong readers. Each year, they steadfastly signed up for their volunteer day and I soon came to learn that they could always be relied on to lend a helping hand. They worked side by side with me on "Red Clover Days," and "Author Visit Days," and had a big hand in helping to implement Summer Reading Challenge programs such as "Race to Read".

In order to express my sincere gratitude for their dedication and commitment, please join me in thanking them for their service at a reception on Thursday, June 7th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Rutland Town School Library. Please respond to theresa.czachor@rcsu.org or call 775-0566 Ext. 4056 by May 24 if you are able to be present. Thank you!

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Dr. Seuss

From Kirsten Hathaway Town Clerk and Treasurer Property Tax Due May 10

Happy Spring everyone! Just a quick reminder that the third and final installment for this tax year is due on Thursday, May 10, 2018.

We will accept payment as on time with a valid USPS postmark on or before May 10. Please do not delay in sending this in or you will receive an 8% delinquency penalty on top of the standard 1% interest.

If you have any questions, please give us a call or stop in. We are always here to help!

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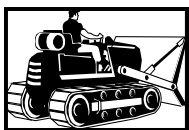
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Road Notes

from Byron Hathaway,
Road Commissioner

Thank you voters for your support of the highway budget on Town Meeting Day. I look forward to another fiscal year of improvements to our town's infrastructure.

As part of the new budget the current part time position will become full time as of July 1. Applications for the position of full time Highway Maintenance Worker will be taken during the month of April. The complete job description and application is on the town website rutlandtown.com. Applications will be reviewed in May with a decision made by the end of May. Part of the application process will include a background check and a drug and alcohol test. The new hire will be introduced in the June issue of *The Circle*.

Green Up Day this year is on Saturday, May 5. Bags will be available in late April at the Transfer Station, or at the Town Clerk's office. Filled bags may be brought to the Transfer Station on Saturday, May 5 only between 8 am and 12 pm.

If you are not able to bring your bags during that time, then you may leave them beside the road only if you contact the Highway Department at 773-8128 and leave a message where you left them. You may also email me at rthighway@rutlandtown.com. The Highway Department will pick up bags on Monday following Green Up Day. Thank you for all your help on Green Up Day.

Rep. Terenzini ~ Continued from Page 1)

uses are for.

We have probably three more weeks left of work to go before we adjourn the session. I am sure we will take up the minimum wage bill before we leave town.

On a lighter note, I have voted for a pollinator bill to protect bees and butterflies. Over the years I have noticed a decline in the number of bees and butterflies in the state. As a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife, we are entrusted with protecting the waters of Vermont. We are always looking for ways to keep our waters clean and drinkable.

As always, it is an honor to represent the people of Rutland Town in our beautiful state house.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. My email address is tterenzini@leg.state.vt.us and My phone number is 802-855-1945.

Rutland Town Senior Corner

By James B. Hall, VP and Treasurer

The Cheney Hill Seniors resumed the lunch routine at Seward's Family Restaurant in March. Tuesday April 24 will be the next get together at 11:30, again at Seward's. We are scheduling the election of officers, and will be discussing plans for the summer events.

The May lunch will be at Rutland Town School. Details were finalized just a few days ago. This will be on Tuesday, May 22 at 11:15 am. There are several reasons we wanted this to come to reality. At the December holiday meal, the musical program was cancelled due to a snow day at school. Also, it is a good thing for Town's folks to visit school. So after a discussion with Principal Boynton, we worked out an arrangement to make up for what we missed in December. Our visit to RTS in May will include musical accompaniment by the students, and lunch will be part of the program as well.

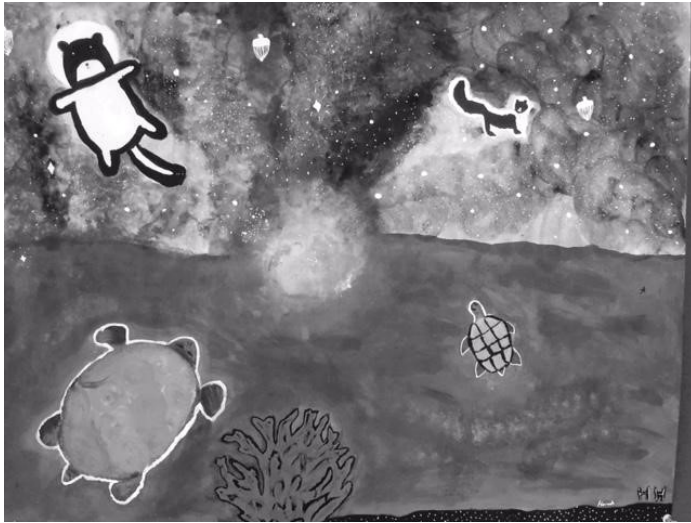
Rutland Town residents age 55 and over are eligible to join the group and be a part of the events and activities. Point of contact for the Seniors Group, at least for the present, is Jim Hall 773-5913.

There will be a bus trip to Woodstock, sponsored by the town Recreation Department. This is something that we have been doing for several years, usually in early summer and again in the fall. Trip details are not available yet.



By Teegan Duffy and Anna Gallipo, Grade 6

Middle School art students have been working on independent projects. Students chose an art medium, selected specific techniques, planned, set goals and designed a project of their choice.



**Project by Leah Zimmerman
and Hannah Hebert, Grade 8**

NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Mike Rowe

I hope you are ready for spring as baseball and swimming are just around the corner. Our baseball programs have or will start as follows: Minors teams (grade 3-4) will start the week of 4/9; coaches will be in contact with your player. Our Mighty Mites teams (grade 1-2) will start on Monday April 30 at 6:00 at Northwood for the first practice, and then teams will be made from there. T-Ball will start the week of May 7. We are still looking for people to help run this program; the day of the week and time are not yet decided.

The pool schedule is at Town Hall and on the town web page for the 2018 season, and will appear in the June **Circle** issue. Pool pass and swimming lesson sign-ups will take place on June 6 from 5-7:00 at the pool. The pool will open June 9-10 and 16-17 at noon for the weekend, weather permitting. We will open June 23 for the season

If you have any questions, please give me call at the school at 775-0566 x 4060 or at 779-2518.

Town Meeting Results

By Carol Bam

Election Day, March 6, saw a moderate voter turnout of around 900. All municipal budgets were approved with high margins. General Fund and Highway budgets passed with the strongest support. Recreation Fund approval was 664 to 224, and the Police Budget passed 607 to 279.

Voters (697-181) authorized the Fire Department to purchase 26 new air packs to replace aging apparatus. Of the \$200,000 cost, \$125,000 will come from new taxes with the remainder to come from the Fire Depreciation Fund. Residents also voted (565-306) to establish a depreciation fund for the Police Dept. for the repair and/or maintenance of equipment, "to be funded annually by taxes at the rate of \$.0025 per \$100 of assessed property valuation."

All other town funding articles passed. Town voters again said yes (659- 220) to spending up to \$10,000 on educational scholarships for town high school graduates. Voters supported familiar organizations such as Neighborworks, VT Center for Independent Living, RSVP, ARC, BROCC, Council on Aging, Rutland Economic Development Corp. Child Frist Advocacy, "The Bus", Rutland Mental Health, VNA/ Hospice, Regional Ambulance, and Rutland Free Library. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, a new Article, also received a thumbs up (580-297) on its \$4500 funding request.

There were two School District articles. The proposed \$7.7 million school budget passed easily, 576-308. And residents favored (660-211) selling Cheney Hill center and sending the proceeds to the Capital Reserve Fund for RTS.

There was one contested race, for Collector of Delinquent Taxes. Jim Scholtz defeated incumbent Chris Howland (505-345). On the School side, Korrine Rodrigue was elected School Director with 195 write in votes.

(School Board ~ Continued from Page 2)

a school crisis dictates whether school officials will put in place a lockdown, lockout, shelter-in-place, evacuation or any combination of these protocols, as a means to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff.

We want to assure Rutland Town School students, parents, faculty and staff that school safety is our top priority, and we will continue to collaborate with local emergency planners and our first response community to support our school emergency preparedness efforts.

If you have any questions concerning school safety, please feel free to contact your school administration, Aaron.Boynton@rcsu.org or Sarah.Tetzlaff@rcsu.org.

Your Board of Education:

Matthew Branchaud, Chair
Lynette Gallipo, Vice Chair/Clerk
Nicole Peck McPhee, Member
Korrine Rodrigue, Member
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The Lake Champlain ECHO Center Visits RTS Preschool

By Shawn DuBois

The Rutland Town Preschool is so thrilled to be a part of the ECHO Center early childhood grant and exploration project! Elizabeth Nuckols, from the ECHO Center in Burlington, visited our classroom in March. She brought us Lake Champlain in a suitcase. We had Lake Champlain on our classroom floor. We saw turtles, snakes, ducks, an eagle and many species of fish. We talked about how the water gets into the lake. We discussed pollution and how to keep our beautiful lakes clean.

We had so much fun while learning all about Lake Champlain and CHAMP! We look forward to our trip to the ECHO Center in May! Stay tuned for more Learning! We recommend reading *Champ and Me by the Maple Tree*.

(Town News ~ Continued from Page 1)

the Highway and Rec departments to augment the park trail system. Rain date for the event is Sunday, July 1. Holiday fireworks will be held on July 4 as usual.

The vacant, dilapidated buildings that constitute Flory Plaza in Center Rutland will finally be demolished within a few weeks after years of concern about the property as a safety hazard and an eyesore on a main thoroughfare. Six months ago the Select Board passed a nuisance ordinance giving the town more authority to address blighted lots and abandoned buildings. Flory Plaza, which once housed a motel, diner and most recently the Center Rutland Post Office, was cited for inspection under the ordinance along with a few other properties. Town Health Officer John Sly and Fire Chief Frank Cioffi evaluated the sites and documented safety and health hazards.


Terenzini said, "The Board thanks John Flory, a family member from Albany, NY, for spearheading the push to get the many partial owners to agree to clean up the once viable business plaza. Now that the nuisance ordinance mechanism is in place and has demonstrated its effectiveness, the Select Board can use it to address other such properties."

The Select Board has contracted with Image Setters out of Rutland for budgeted work overhauling the town website (rutlandtown.com). The board's Technology committee (Terenzini, Mary Ashcroft and town administrative assistant, Bill Sweet, will work with the firm to update the antiquated look of the website and improve its function. Bill Sweet outlines the upgrades: "We are going to move as many forms as we can to the site so residents can more easily complete registrations and such. We will be adding and updating some email addresses to town hall to make it easier to contact everyone. Also, coming soon will be an online payment service. This is going to be a great time saver for residents. People will have the capability to pay water and sewer bills (those who are billed

directly by us), and ultimately property tax bills as well without having to mail anything or come by the office (unless of course they still want to).

Thomas Dairy is working with the Select Board on a solar development plan on some of their land off Route 7 in northern Rutland Town. "The board is very sensitive to town residents' strong feelings on both sides of the solar issue. Since the fracas surrounding the Cold River Road solar farm of a few years ago, the Select Board adopted guidelines drafted by the Planning Commission for the siting of large solar installations." The siting guidelines provide for adequate screening from the view of public roads.

This project is proceeding with an attitude of cooperation between Thomas Dairy, the solar developer and the Select Board. The project will be sited to minimize its visual impact. As currently planned, the solar panels will be hidden from the road by barns, other buildings and dense patches of woods. Terenzini said, "We feel comfortable signing off on a letter allowing Thomas Dairy to take the next step in the Act 248 permitting process. Thomas Dairy has agreed to work with the town to address any dissatisfaction with the plan as it is better defined. While we do not specifically endorse the project, if it is planned in accordance with our guidelines, we will not oppose it."



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**From the Rutland Town
Fire Department
By BJ Hathaway**

Happy spring from the folks at the Rutland Town Fire Department.

Spring this year is coming at an extremely slow pace. However, we would like to remind you that as the snow continues to melt, and with the impending warm and sunny days ahead, the risk of grass and brush fires increases immensely. The Fire Department wants to remind everyone that **there is no open burning allowed in Rutland Town without obtaining a burning permit.** Permits may be obtained by calling one of the following people:

- Forest Fire Warden:** Joe Denardo
(802)-773-1542
- Assistant Fire Chief:** Chris Clark
(802)-773-5098
- Assistant Fire Chief:** Mike Carlson
(802)-775-2686

As always, to report a fire or any other emergency, Dial 911

The Fire Department sincerely thanks the community for its continued support by passing our budget as well as our special one-time expense for the purchase of new air packs (SCBA) to replace our aging ones currently in service. Since passing that item, we have had two different manufacturers present and demonstrate their products for us. Specifications and requests for bids will be going out shortly and will be awarded by early summer.

Currently out to bid are specifications and contract for a new well to be drilled at the McKinley Avenue station. The current well does not provide sufficient or potable water. The new well should provide sufficient and potable water for the foreseeable future and beyond. The bids are scheduled to be awarded at the Select Board meeting on April 17.

As always the department is continually seeking new members. Applications can be obtained by contacting any current member or stopping by either fire station on Wednesday evenings after 7pm.

We hope everyone has a safe, enjoyable spring!



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**CHANGING PERSPECTIVES
Disabilities Awareness at RTS**

By Aaron Boynton, Principal

We're excited to be partnering with Changing Perspectives to bring a Disability Awareness curriculum into Rutland Town School this year. Changing Perspectives is a Vermont based, educational nonprofit organization with a mission of engaging students in open dialogue and real world experiences to promote disability awareness and help kids develop their natural empathy for others.

Many of us are taught from a young age that asking questions about disabilities is rude or disrespectful. Yet, open discussions in which children can ask candid questions and get honest answers about differences break down misconceptions and stereotypes and help encourage inclusivity and empathy. Empathy is recognized as an essential social skill that not only helps to reduce bullying and social isolation, but that also supports development of self-awareness, social awareness, self-esteem, confidence, leadership skills, compassion, collaboration skills, and effective communication strategies.

These past few weeks, students have been engaging in safe, respectful conversations designed to help each child recognize his or her uniqueness and challenges and, in doing so, to promote a deeper understanding, respect, and acceptance of all people. The curriculum has three parts:

- **LEARN:** In this initial phase, educators use books, short videos, observations, and activities to initiate open discussions about different types of disabilities, what they mean for those who have them, and how we all have differences that shape our lives.
- **EXPERIENCE:** Awareness events with hands-on simulation activities and engaging speakers help students understand what living with a disability is like. This reinforces content learning and gives students the opportunity to connect knowledge to real-world experiences.
- **REFLECT:** In this culminating program phase, educators use writing prompts, role playing and other activities to encourage students to consider how their classroom and experiential learning apply to their lives now and in the future.

We have had positive feedback from teachers and students about this program. We plan to continue for the rest of the school year. We have seen a positive impact on students.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact the school at 775-0566 x4003. We also encourage you to learn more about Changing Perspectives. Visit www.cpne.org, sign up for their e-newsletter, or by follow Changing Perspectives on:

- Twitter (@changingperspe1),
- Facebook (@changingperspectivesinc), or
- Instagram (@changingperspectivesvt).

60 Plus One Way to Stretch Your Food Budget

By Courtney Anderson, Development & Communications, SVCOA



Vermonters are a hardworking people, but the high costs of food, fuel and other necessities make it tough to get by. Thanks to 3SquaresVT (formerly Food Stamps) more Vermonters are able to buy healthy food for themselves and for their children, the extra money allowing them to stretch their food budget even more. 3SquaresVT is much more than just food. If you have children, getting benefits means your children can get free school meals, too. It also qualifies you for phone assistance. These added benefits mean money freed up to pay other bills and less stress in your life.

Good nutrition is very important. It helps you stay active and helps prevent sickness, it helps children grow and learn. The high costs of food, fuel and health care are making it hard for many Vermonters to put good food on the table. 3SquaresVT can help.

A family of four earning up to \$3,793 a month may be able to get benefits. Getting the VT Earned Income Tax Credit also makes families income eligible. And resources such as savings accounts do not count to qualify.

Single older adults with gross incomes below \$1,860 do not have a resource limit, so savings don't count. If your income is over these numbers, you could still be eligible. If so, you do have a resource limit, but your house, car, and retirement savings do not count as resources. Your 3SquaresVT benefit will not count as income either, so your eligibility for other programs like Medicare will not be at risk.

Vermonters who take part are not taking money away from others in need. Everyone who qualifies can get benefits. Plus, applying for these benefits not only helps you buy healthy food for you, or you and your kids

it supports the economy by bringing over \$9 million federal dollars into the state each month. Everyone needs access to healthy food, from our youth to our seasoned residents and 3SquaresVT is here to help.

Whether you are older or younger, a family, single person, or couple, or any household dynamic, 3SquaresVT may be able to help you!

One in eight Vermonters gets 3SquaresVT. Have you applied yet? For more information, visit www.vermontfoodhelp.com or call 1-800-479-6151. For a language interpreter, call 1-855-247-3092. You can even apply online! **Older adults can call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-642-5119.**

Plastics and Your Health

By Lisa Lones RN BSN
School Nurse

Plastics were invented in 1907 and their discovery was considered a breakthrough. Plastic products soon became an important part of life and continue today to be as important. For so long we only recognized the benefits of plastic and never realized the damaging consequences for human health, natural ecosystems and the climate. Plastics are problematic because of their biodegradable nature, the materials used in their production and how to discard them properly. Synthetic plastics take several hundred years to degrade. **Did you know that 79% of plastic ends up in the landfills and our natural environment, only 9% are recycled?**

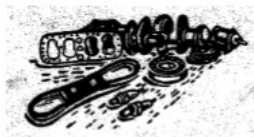
Plastics have health implications. They can leach, depending on the conditions (light, heat) and what additives are in the plastic. The oil-based chemicals used to produce plastics items are harmful to our health. Correlations have been shown between some of these chemicals and an increase risk of problems with chromosomal and reproductive abnormalities, impaired brain and neurological functions, early puberty and some cancers. It's important to avoid plastics when possible, particularly in toys and products for children, and products that come in contact with food or drink.

In celebration of Earth Day, April 22, let's take steps to end plastic pollution!

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RTS TAPESTRY PROGRAM UPDATE

By Lori McNeil, Director

It has been a very busy winter for the Tapestry Afterschool program. Students have worked on a variety of community activities including our Tapestry Community Fair hosted by Rutland Intermediate School. This year there was a circus theme with lots of fun games and activities. Everyone had a wonderful time meeting and talking to our community partners. It has also been a terrific winter for outdoor fun. Students went sledding and play often in the snow. We have also been very busy with our Crazy 8 math program, Tinkering Tuesdays, and team building activities. But now everyone is ready for spring and some warmer temperatures.

Recently I attended the NAA National Convention in Atlanta, GA. This conference was attended by thousands of professionals in afterschool. We attended workshops, listened to outstanding guest speakers, and collaborated with other program leaders. It was a great experience!

This spring students have started sewing pillows and soon they will begin planting. Everyone is anxiously waiting for the snow to melt so we can head out to the field and play kickball, baseball or tag.

This summer, our theme will be "Children Around the World." We will learn all about children in other countries, the foods they enjoy, the games they play, their crafts, sports and activities they enjoy. Our field trips will be geared toward learning about what children in the US enjoy doing. We hope to see how children in other countries are alike and how they are different from us.

Our summer schedule this year will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at school doing theme related activities, and the afternoon will be spent at Northwood Pool. Tuesdays we will go on all day field trips to



various parks and museums. Most Thursdays, we will spend the day at RTS playing games, doing art projects, cooking, hiking, gardening and just having fun.

If you have questions about the Tapestry Program either for After School or the Summer Program please call Lori McNeil (Site-Coordinator) at 802-779-7429. Financial assistance is available through subsidy and scholarship.



Lori Patterson of RTS to Coach MSJ Varsity Girls Soccer

By Paul Gallo, Town Resident

Lori Patterson, a Special Educator at RTS has accepted the position of Varsity Girls Soccer Head Coach at Mount Saint Joseph Academy. A talented athlete and committed educator, Coach Patterson will be a fantastic addition to the MSJ coaching community. A Division I scholarship athlete at Radford University, Patterson received All-Conference team honors as a freshman. She continued to be a starting defender for Radford for the next 3 years. Patterson has coached recreational teams of a variety of ages since her graduation in 1999. Her experience includes coaching Middle School Girls at Stonewall Jackson Middle School for four years, and she also coached the 7th and 8th grade girls one year at RTS.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to become a member of the MSJ community," says Patterson, "Soccer has been a very important part of my life and I look forward to using my knowledge and experience of the game to foster a love for soccer within the girls."

MSJ is fortunate to benefit from Lori's wealth of knowledge and experience on the soccer field. The interest in soccer in the region is swelling, and to have the resources and networking that Lori brings to the school, and her Division 1 college experience as a player, is really positive. Congratulations, Lori!

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RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY UPDATE

Nella Grimm Fox Room Reopens

From Randal Smathers, Director

We are glad to announce that the Nella Grimm Fox Room is again open at Rutland Free Library. As many of you know, in August, a portion of the Fox Room ceiling collapsed without warning. Investigation revealed that there was a small percentage of asbestos in the glue holding the acoustic tiles to the original 1858 plaster so the entire project had to be treated as a hazmat zone. We were warned that we would have to begin by removing and disposing of the entire ceiling.

Discussions with several architects and experts helped define possible solutions. Then Ralph Nimtz and Jay White of NBF Architects in Rutland came up with the final plan. They recommended patching the hole, then attaching furring strips by screwing through the original plaster and into the 3x5 wooden joists holding up the ceiling. This stabilized the old plaster to prevent further sagging / failure, with new acoustic tiles stapled on to refinish the ceiling, (and saved us about \$35,000 in demolition and disposal fees). It also allowed us to replace the old sprinkler heads, which required releveling the sprinkler lines in the attic.

When we turned off the power to the room, we discovered that the lights were costing us hundreds of dollars in electricity every month, so with the help of Efficiency Vermont we were able to replace the old lights with modern LEDs that will save electric costs and be much easier to maintain.

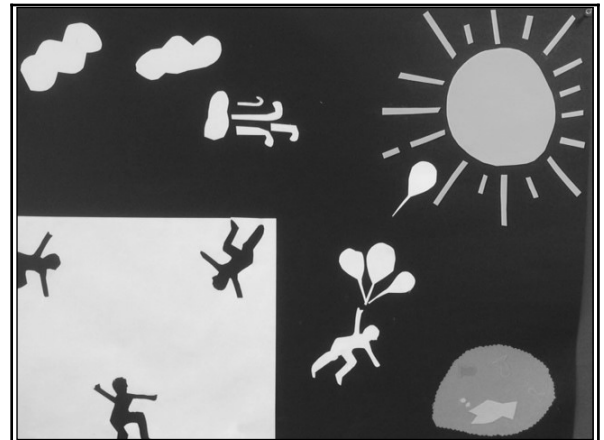
We also decided it was the right time to replace old, worn carpet tile. The tiles that were in low-traffic areas were pulled out to replace some of our most-worn carpet on the main floor. Then we laid new rubber flooring that is designed to withstand regular deep scrubbing, so we'll be able to keep the room much cleaner. One final touch was repainting the wainscoting which was pretty badly dinged up.

VMS Construction was the winning bidder for the project, which came in at \$66,425 total, including ceiling, floor, lights, paint and sprinkler work. Vermont Community Foundation provided a \$2,500 grant from their emergency fund to help us defray the costs, and the Friends of Rutland Free Library paid for the new floor out of money earned at their regular book sales.

We're really happy with the finished product and encourage the public to come see and use the space. We are once again booking the Fox Room for any public events, beginning with the week of April 23. To celebrate, we are hosting a full series of events the week of April 16 for adults and for children.

Thanks to the following for generously donating time, energy, expertise and/or materials:

John Allard, Giancola Construction; Elizabeth Kulas and Laz Scangas, Housing Trust of Rutland County; Maureen White, Mountain Resort Interiors; NBF Architects; Ludy Biddle and Melanie Paskevich of Neighbor-Works of Western Vermont; Cathy Reynolds, Efficiency Vermont; Paul Gallo, Magic Brush Painting; Friends of Rutland Free Library and Vermont Community Foundation; and to Doug Fontein for climbing that ladder.



**Independent Project by
Makenna Hubert, Grade 8**

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BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Questions and Answers

By Melissa Sicard

Frequently asked questions with answers:

- ◆ Do box tops REALLY expire? Yes.
- ◆ Do box tops REALLY need to be cut around the red lines? Yes, it saves on postage.
- ◆ Do box tops REALLY need to be submitted on time? Yes.
- ◆ Does RTS REALLY benefit from this fundraiser? Yes.

Thank you to everyone who supports RTS by clipping box tops. RTS earned \$72.30 with our latest submission on March 1. The next deadline is November 1. Keep those box tops coming!

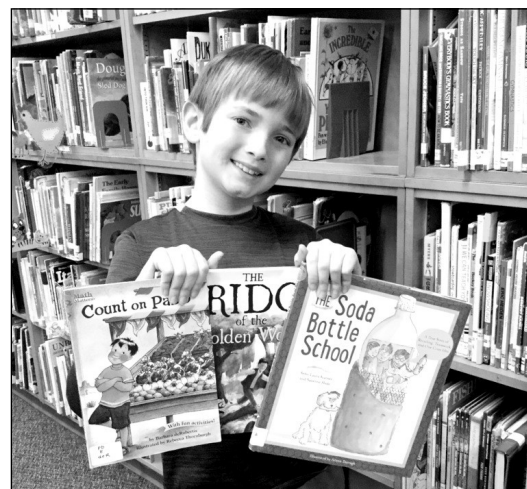
Exciting News from the School Library!

By Theresa, Czachor, Librarian

Mrs. Czachor is pleased to announce that Dean Carroll in Ms. Morrison's 3rd grade class has won a \$250 College Scholarship through the *Reading is an Investment* program! Each year schools in Vermont participate in this financial literacy program through their school libraries. The theme of the program was "Creative Ideas Pay Off." The following excerpt from the Vermont State Treasurer's website is a description of each of the three titles read in the library this year.

In *The Bridge of the Golden Wood*, by Karl Beckstrand, students will learn about how entrepreneurs channel their creativity into ideas and solutions. This short story provides an opportunity to brainstorm how students can turn their ideas into a profitable business venture. Barbara deRubertis's book, *Count on Pablo*, tells the story of a young person and his grandmother as they develop a strategy to market their products for sale. In *The Soda Bottle School*, by Laura Kutner and Suzanne Slade, students will learn about evaluating wants and needs. The book encourages creative thinking and provides a reminder that anyone can put their skills to work to achieve a goal.

Five thousand reading logs were sent to Montpelier and Dean was one of 20 students selected to receive a scholarship. Dean will visit the State House in Montpelier and be a guest at the award ceremony for Scholarship winners. Congratulations, Dean!



Scholarship Winner, Dean Carroll

4th Grade Science Fair Report

By Amy Torrey and Stephanie Petrarca
Grade 4 Teachers

Thank you to those who were able to visit the 4th grade Science Fair in March. Science Fair projects involve so much more than science. RTS 4th graders were able to experience and complete a self-directed project, which in itself is a huge accomplishment. Most projects involved a good deal of math, problem solving, and perseverance. In addition to these skills, all students got an opportunity to strengthen their presentation skills while preparing their display boards and discussing their projects with the judges.

They learned the importance of selecting topics and fine-tuning their presentations in ways that made them most likely to impress science fair judges. Students were required to learn and plan over three months. The long-term nature of this event required students to use and hone their time management skills. We again thank the judges (Sarah Tetzlaff, Aaron Boynton, Bayley Sanders, Lori Patterson, and Wendy Lozyniak) for their time, students and families for their hard work, and the Rutland Town community for being so supportive of our students.

Our medalists were: Audrey Caputo, Amelia Shelton, Taylor Sweatt, Alannah Rooney, Carson Meigs, Vincent Cavaliere, Anna Moser, Madeline Kleber-Rose.

Congratulations to all of our students on a job well done!

MUSIC UPDATE

By Aaron Audet, Director Instrumental Music

This year's Bistro was a success. The students and the Alumni Jazz were all outstanding. Thanks to the alumni who came to play, and the parents who brought in all the food and beverages.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ⊙ Loyalty Day Parade - Sunday May 6
- ⊙ K-4 concert - May 17, 6:30 pm
- ⊙ RTS Jazz bands play for brunch at The Foundry 11-1:00 in Killington - May 20 (reservations needed)
- ⊙ Performance at RTS for Rutland Town seniors at their May luncheon - May 22, 11:15 am
- ⊙ 5-8 Concert - May 23, 6:30 pm
- ⊙ School of Rock on Broadway NYC Field Trip - June 1
- ⊙ T Jazz on Church St in Burlington - June 6, 11:30-12:30

(Principal Boynton ~ Continued from Page 1)

Additionally, I believe we have a culture here at RTS of building positive relationships with students that support their needs. We offer many services for students and do our best to ensure that mental health and wellness is a priority. We promote, "If you hear something, say something."

If concerning information is heard in the community, please contact the school and local law enforcement. We appreciate the support of the community and will continue to make student safety the highest priority.

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RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY

- 1 FOM meets – 4:30 pm, RTS
PTO meets – 6 pm, RTS
- 2&3 Kindergarten Registration (see page 2)
- 1,15,29 Select Board meets – 6:30 pm
Town Hall
- 3&21 Planning Commission special
meetings - 7 pm, Town Hall
- 5 Green Up Day (see page 4)
- 6 Loyalty Day Parade - 2 pm,
Rutland City
- 9 All State Parade - 6 pm, Essex Jct.
- 10 3rd Property Tax Installment due**
- 14 School Board meets – 5:30 pm, RTS
- 17 K-4 Music Concert - 1:30 run through
6:30 pm concert, RTS
- 20 RTS Jazz performs at The Foundry - 11-1:00
brunch in Killington (reservations needed)
- 22 Senior Luncheon - Music performance
and lunch at RTS, 11:15 am (see page 4)
- 23 5-8 Chorus/Band concert – 1:30 run through
6:30 pm concert, RTS



- 25 Memorial Day Program – 9 am, RTS
Early release day – 11:55 am
- 28 Memorial Day – No school
Town Hall closed**

JUNE

- 5 PTO meets – 6 pm, RTS
- 6 FOM meets – 4:30 pm, RTS
- 6&7 Swim Lesson sign ups - 5 - 6:00 pm,
Northwood Pool
- 7 Library Reception (see page 3)
Article deadline for June Circle issue
- 9&16 Northwood Pool opens for weekend
- 11 School Board meets – 5:30 pm, RTS
- 12&26 Select Board meets – 6:30 pm Town Hall
- 15 Tentative last day of school
- 21 Planning commission meets - 7pm
Town Hall
- 23 Northwood Pool opens for the season
- 30 Rutland Town Celebration Day at North-
wood Park, (see page 1, details to follow)
July 1 rain date**

TOWN AND SCHOOL WEBSITES: rutlandtown.com and rutlandtownschool.org