

# The Circle



Rutland Town's Link between School and Community

October 2019

## TOWN NEWS

By Carol Bam

Thanks to voters last March, the Rutland Town Police Department was able to hire a new full time officer and equip him with a cruiser. Brendan Riley has been on duty since the new fiscal year began on July 1. The Select Board under Josh Terenzini waged a persuasive campaign last spring to expand the police force to 3 full time officers and to add a new cruiser to allow for 7 day policing, patrolling and traffic enforcement in the town. (Officers are on duty some of every day and some evenings. When they are not on duty, the State Police is dispatched for urgent calls.)

Terenzini observed that the state in recent years has shifted many policing services from the State Police to municipalities. In 2018, town officers handled more than 1000 calls for service. "Thankfully town voters approved adding another officer, but the increasing call demand has kept the force busier than we expected."

In other police news, a founding member of the Police Dept., Major John Sly is retiring. For many years he has been the town School Resource Officer during the school year and patrolling in the summer. From Chief Ed Dumas's entry in the 2018 Town Report. "In addition to this he teaches ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, counter, Evacuate) training and is a certified instructor. Not only does Major Sly work for us, he has also been utilized to assist local businesses and organizations in the Rut-

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## RTS UPDATE From Co-Principals Deborah Rodolffy and Sarah Tetzlaff

### Welcome Back!

We are happy to welcome 363 students to the 2019-2020 school year at Rutland Town School! Along with our students, we are excited to welcome eight new teachers, a new school resource officer, bookkeeper/administrative assistant, and three new paraeducators.

### Teachers:

Amanda Carmichael - Gr. 7 & 8 English and Language Arts  
Kathryn Scandozza- Gr. 7 & 8 Math  
Karen Rhoades - Middle School Math Interventionist  
Shawn Lenihan - Gr. 7 & 8 Science  
Tegan Waite - Gr. 3 Classroom Teacher  
Aurelie Swasey - Guidance Counselor  
Kathryn Beach - Special Educator  
Corey Pollock - Special Educator

School Resource Officer: Officer Amber Houle

Paraeducators: Elizabeth Yadow, Karen Kelson and Jackie Garcia-Rodriguez

*(Continued on Page 3)*



The Anthony Flory Transfer Station has a new roof overhang making rain and snow inconsequential in depositing your trash bags. Work was completed in about two weeks by contractor Bernie Valente in the beginning of September.

**The fall Hazardous Waste drop off is Saturday, October 12 from 8:30-12:30.**

### Stormwater Ordinance meeting – 6:30, October 24

More than 400 property owners in Rutland Town are affected by the town's new stormwater ordinance and were sent letters from the town Planning/Stormwater Commission a few weeks ago. If you're one of them, please come to a public meeting on **Thurs., October 24 at 6:30 pm** at the Town Office so that we can answer your questions. See you the 24<sup>th</sup>.

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## RTS Welcomes New Staff

### **Mrs. Aurelie Swasey, Guidance Counselor**

I graduated in May from NYU with my Master's degree in School Counseling. I recently moved to the Rutland area from coastal Maine, where I love going to the beach. I absolutely love being outdoors with my husband, two teenage daughters and our handsome yellow lab, Thor. My favorite things include sitting by a campfire, painting, reading, visiting historical sites and going to Broadway musicals. I love anything that has to do with the arts (performing, expressive and visual). I am very proud to be joining the Rutland Town School community! "I think I'm gonna like it here"!

### **Karen Rhoades, Middle School Math Interventionist**

I am excited to be joining the Rutland Town School community! I have been teaching in Alaska for the last 8 years and will now be working with grades 5-8 as a Math Interventionist. I love helping students grow in their math confidence and am especially excited to help our 8th grade get ready for a strong start to high school. I look forward to playing in the great Vermont outdoors, running and biking in the warm weather and cross-country skiing in the snow.

### **Katie Scandozza, Grade 7 & 8 Math**

I'm excited to join the community at Rutland Town School. I moved here this summer from Colorado Springs, Colorado, where I taught 4th grade for two years, 6th grade science and reading for three years, and 7th and 8th grade math for a year each. I was born in New York and part of my dad's family is from Brandon, Vermont. I've always wanted to come back east, and after getting my master's degree in education, I decided it was time to try something different. RTS was my first choice and I'm so honored by the opportunity to work here! In my free time, I play video games, craft, watch sports, and am exploring my new home little by little.

### **Amanda Carmichael, Gr. 7 & 8 English/ Language Arts**

This is my first year teaching at Rutland Town School. I grew up in New Jersey and just moved to Vermont. Before moving to VT, I was a high school teacher in NJ. I graduated from William Paterson University with a Secondary Education degree and an English Literature degree. I also have an endorsement in Teaching Students with Disabilities. I was a member of the Women's Soccer Team at William

Standing: Officer Amber Houle, Corey Pollock  
Aurelie Swasey, Katie Scandozza

Seated: Karen Rhoades, Tegan Waite, Kathryn Beach  
and Amanda Carmichael

Missing: Sheri Bathalon and Shawn Lenihan

Paterson University and I enjoy teaching, skiing, hiking, reading, running and being the coach of the middle school Cross Country team at RTS!

### **Kathryn Beach, Special Educator**

I am delighted to be working at Rutland Town School again! Three years ago, I worked at RTS as a Paraeducator until I went back to school to become a licensed Special Educator. Outside of school, I enjoy traveling, camping, kayaking, swimming, going to the beach, and spending time with my family and friends. I live in Rutland with my husband, Liam, our children Connor and Hannah, and our two dogs, Callie and Louie.

### **Tegan Waite, Grade 3 Classroom Teacher**

Being born and raised in West Rutland, VT and spending time on my grandparent's farm in Pawlet gave me a deep connection to our beautiful state and the rural country life. In addition to my love of nature, animals, and the great outdoors, I have always been very passionate about artistic endeavors, specifically in the areas of music, theatre, and my first love, dance. Over the last 5 years, I have immersed myself in the community through programming through the Rutland Recreations and Parks Department, teaching dance at Vermont Center For Dance Education and working with children through different programs and in many different capacities. It is through my love of movement and my personal dance journey that I was able to pull my own teaching philosophies. I am passionate about building relationships and ensuring that ALL students feel safe and loved. Allowing learners to scaffold knowledge through engagement, differentia-

**THE CIRCLE** is a publication of Rutland Town and Rutland Town School. The newsletter informs the community about issues of local interest. Each year five issues are published every other month from October through June.

**The Circle** is not meant to be a public forum. The school principal and town Select Board have the authority to exercise editorial control over style and content of the newsletter.

Newsletter staff include Carol Bam, Theresa Kulig, and Marie Pennington. For more information, mailing list changes, to advertise or to contribute, email [carolbam@aol.com](mailto: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**

*(Co-Principals' Report ~ Continued from Page 1)*

Sheri Bathalon - Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant

The school year is off to a great start. Teachers and students are getting to know each other and establishing routines that will be used throughout the year.

Special thanks to Mr. Rowe and members of the town highway crew for helping to move the softball field back off of the soccer field!

We welcome any community member to please come visit our school. We are happy to give you a tour so you can see the wonderful teaching and learning that is happening. Please call 775-0566 to make an appointment.

We want to thank community members for their continued support of our school. We continue to have strong enrollment numbers year after year. Unlike other schools in Vermont, we are not seeing a decrease in student enrollment.



**Students honing their soccer skills**

*(New Staff ~ Continued from Page 2)*

tion and exploration ensures that all learners are getting what they need to be successful. My hope for my students is that they are able to make mistakes, take chances, and get messy along the way.

#### **Shawn Lenihan, Grade 7 & 8 Science**

I come to RTS with 11 years of secondary science teaching experience. Prior to teaching, I worked for 8 years for the US Forest Service in Alaska, Northern California, and Rochester, VT where I currently live. I received a Masters in Education from Castleton University and a Bachelor of Science from Rutgers University. I try hard to bring my experiences in the field into the classroom to make learning as relevant and engaging as possible. When not at school, I coach my daughter's sports' teams, manage my family's organic farm, and enjoy snowboarding and fly fishing.

#### **Sheri Bathalon, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant**

Originally from St. Petersburg, Florida, Sheri and her family moved to West Rutland, VT in 2014. In 2002 she graduated from St. Petersburg College with a degree in accounting. While in Florida she worked for a wholesaler Insurance company for 18 years, finishing her final years there as the Financial Administrator. After moving to Vermont, she stayed at home raising her year and a half old daughter before she was asked to substitute in her neighborhood school during 2018-2019. Sheri found she had a passion for working with children in the various schools, so applied for the position at RTS. It not only gave her the opportunity to use her degree as the school's Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant she still could be with children. On the weekends she loves spending time with her husband Jason, son Devon, daughter Leann and her many family members and friends.

#### **Corey Pollock, Special Educator for Grade 3 & 4**

I was born and raised in Rutland, VT and attended Rutland City Public Schools, graduating in 2008. I attended Springfield College and received my bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation and Disability Studies with concentrations in: Mental Health/Addictions and Child Development Services in the Spring of 2012. I began my work at RTS in

the Fall of 2012 and have been a 1:1 paraeducator for 7 years in both our elementary level classrooms and middle school classrooms. I have also been taking additional special education classes working towards licensure and a masters degree.

Outside of RTS I am highly involved in youth athletics in our community. In the fall I coach our middle school boys soccer team. I have also been a coach for a travel soccer club in Rutland, Summit FC, for the last 6 years. And I am the director of our youth development programs for children ages 4-9. In winter I have coached U10/12 alpine ski racing for the Pico Ski Club since I was in high school. In spring I coach RTS middle school boys lacrosse. I have learned a lot in my amazing experience here at RTS and am excited to be stepping into this new position.

#### **Ambrosia Houle, School Resource Officer**

I'm excited to be joining Rutland Town School community as the new School Resource Officer. I graduated from Castleton University in December of 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. I was hired by Rutland City Police Department in March of 2018 and worked there until September 2019. I am extremely excited to work closely with children keeping them safe and making a positive impact on their lives as a police officer. In my spare time I enjoy fishing, kayaking, hiking, and anything to do outside.

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## A Recent Forest Friday Class



## From Kirsten Hathaway Town Clerk/Treasurer

Happy Fall Everyone!

This upcoming 2020 year will be a presidential election year. As such, we will need additional election officials to help throughout the year. If you are interested in possibly working the polls or would like to know more about what this important job entails, please let me know.

Also, if you or someone you know will be sixteen or seventeen this next year and are interested in learning about the election process firsthand, I would be excited to hear from you! In the State of Vermont, anyone who will be sixteen or seventeen at the time of an election has the possibility of being appointed as an assistant election official and may work under the direct supervision of an adult election official.

Just a reminder to everyone that the Clerk's office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00A to 4:30P, Tuesday 8:00A to 6:00P, and Friday 8:00A to 2:00P. These times are also listed on the top of your tax bills if you happen to forget, as well as on our newly revamped town website [www.rutlandtown.com](http://www.rutlandtown.com). As always, please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance to you.

## FOREST FRIDAY in Kindergarten

By Meghan Martelle, Megan Mero, and  
Linda Mullin, Kindergarten Teachers

This year all of the kindergarten classes are participating in Forest Friday. What is Forest Friday? Forest Friday offers children opportunities to develop self-esteem, confidence, and independence in a relaxed, outside environment.

At Rutland Town School we are committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum and we see Forest Friday as an exciting part of this. Children will be encouraged and supported to:

- Explore the natural environment, using all of their senses
- Take risks in a hazard free environment
- Partake in individualized learning including using their own styles and schemas
- Develop positive attitudes surrounding nature
- Become more independent and confident

Activities include a range of looking, exploring, collecting, building, using tools and making things. We will work together as a group and individually. We will have fun!!

## Rutland Town Senior Corner

By James B. Hall, VP and Treasurer

The Seniors had a busy summer. Starting with a lunch at Sugar and Spice in June, and the annual BBQ at Northwood in July. In August we had a bus trip over to Woodstock for lunch at The Thompson Center, which is the Senior Center for that area, and September saw us back at Sugar and Spice. On October 1, we have a ride up the mountain on the Gondola at Killington with lunch at the summit. Our numbers remain about the same, even though we have many new faces in our group.

We are still short a President and Secretary. Yours truly has been keeping things afloat for longer than I remember; but it can't and should not go on like this. I am Vice President and Treasurer, and that combination is designed to work with a President and Secretary doing their respective jobs. Election of officers will be next April.

As we move along through Fall, please keep in mind that the Holiday Meal that has been at The Center Rutland Fire Station will be on Dec 10 this year, same location. This is a Rec Department event, but is organized and planned by both the Rec and the Seniors Group. It has a history of being very well received by the townspeople who have attended. We strive to keep it in that form for sure.

Any questions or comments email works well for me: [jimhall1940@gmail.com](mailto:jimhall1940@gmail.com); telephone 773-5913.



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## Summer at The Gables

From Randi Cohn, Associate Director

From a competitive game of cornhole on the grounds to shucking corn for dinner on the front patio, residents of The Gables at East Mountain had plenty of fun opportunities to enjoy the summer season. Entertainment offerings included theater trips to Weston Playhouse to see *Oklahoma* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. musical guests at The Gables spanned big band, folk/pop, and country genres. Luncheon outings took place at Café Provence in Brandon, Tozier's Restaurant in Bethel, and Mountain Top Inn in Chittenden. Beautiful foliage is already appearing in the mountains behind The Gables as the transition to autumn begins.



**A group of The Gables residents on a luncheon outing at Mountain Top Inn**



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

Hello again from the Rutland Town Fire Department. Hopefully every

one had a safe and fun filled summer and are enjoying the warm fall days.

The department is excited to announce the arrival of its new pickup that will replace the old Ford Ranger pickup in McKinley Station. The new truck is currently getting outfitted with its complement of equipment and will be put into service soon. It should serve us well into the future, and we thank the voters for their support of this item at the past Town Meeting Day. It is greatly appreciated! Check a photo of the new

truck on our Facebook page.

October is Fire Prevention month and as always, the Department is looking forward to our annual fire prevention presentation to the students at the town school. It's always a positive experience for both the students and firefighters.

As you make your winter preparations this fall, the Fire Department would like to pass along the following list of items to check to ensure that you will be ready once winter finally arrives.

- Check all batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. These should be installed where ever someone sleeps as well as near any potential source of fire or carbon monoxide.
- Have heating equipment serviced by a qualified technician.
- Make sure oil, gas, wood pellet stoves and other gas fired appliances are properly vented with no restrictions.
- Ensure that all chimneys servicing a wood burning stove have been swept and inspected by a properly trained individual. Also be sure to have the stove or furnace itself inspected for cracks or other defects that may result in improper venting or poor fire containment.

Please ensure that your street number is clearly visible on both your mailbox and your house. The numbers should be a minimum of 4 inches high and of contrasting color to the background on which they are placed. This helps to ensure all emergency responders, ambulance, police and fire, are able to quickly locate you in your time of need.



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## NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Mike Rowe

Welcome back to fall, we had a great summer at the pool with over 9,000 people coming out to enjoy a swim at Northwood Pool. I would like to thank all the lifeguards for a great season with general swim and swim lessons this past summer.

We have been working in the parks this summer DelBianco Park, which includes Dewey Field, got a much needed makeover with new tennis/basketball courts and the parking lot paved.

Northwood had its share of improvements as well as the tennis and basketball courts were resurfaced this summer. Alex Stute and his Boy Scout Troop created new signs for our new trails in the park, a huge thank you to them. We are still working on cleaning up after the timber sale. Then we will be installing a new disc golf course up at the park this fall or early next spring. I would like to thank Byron, Walt and Jason from the Highway Dept. for their help with the many projects that I listed in our parks.

The soccer season is off and running and that means the winter season will be upon us. If you have any programming ideas or would like to help with our basketball program please just let me know.

**The annual Rec Halloween Party will be on Friday, November 1 from 5-7 in the school gym.** Bring the little ones, ages babies through grade 6, for fun, food, games and prizes.

Call Mike Rowe at 779-2518 with any questions you might have. I hope you enjoy a great fall, get out and have fun.



### 7th Graders Study Stream Ecology

By Shawn Lenihan

Grades 7&8 Science Teacher



How many kids get the opportunity to wear a wetsuit, grab a snorkel, and float down a pristine river, all during the school day? Luckily our 7th graders here at RTS got that opportunity. Last week, the US Forest Service offered a day long hands-on stream ecology workshop in the Green Mountain National Forest where students learned about the fascinating underwater world.

Professional biologists led workshops on macroinvertebrate (water bugs) collection and identification, followed by a guided snorkel float down the pristine White River. The workshop also focused on the importance of aquatic ecosystems and how humans can positively and negatively impact ecosystems.

Students also learned how to assess stream health using biological indicators (insect populations) and to reinforce the lesson, we visited East Creek here in town and conducted our own stream health analysis. We all had a great time learning, playing, and appreciating our local rivers.

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## Rutland Free Library Update

From Randal Smathers, Director

### New Teen Programs at the Library

Rutland Free Library is excited to announce its first teen programming, following the hiring of Jessica Shurlow as teen services librarian. The 15-hour per week position is possible thanks to voters' approval of the RFL budget last March.

**TeenTober** is a new, nationwide celebration hosted by libraries in October that aims to celebrate teens, promote year-round teen services and the innovative ways libraries help teens learn new skills and fuel their passions inside and outside the library. In keeping with **TeenTober**, Rutland Free Library will host three "Movie & Craft" programs in October specifically for teens in grades 7 - 12. All programs are free and will take place at RFL in the Fox Room. All supplies will be provided and there is no preregistration.

- **Thursday, October 10**, 3pm - 4:30pm Movie: *Nightmare Before Christmas* Craft: Ping Pong Jack-o-Lanterns
- **Tuesday, October 15**, 3pm - 4:30pm Movie: *Ghostbusters* Craft: Glow-in-the-Dark Slime
- **Wednesday, October 30**, 3pm - 4:30pm Movie: *Beetlejuice* Craft: FrankenToys

**RFL Teen Services will also hold its monthly game program, Game On!, October 22** from 5pm - 6:30pm. This month we'll take a look at the board game Concept. The love child of Charades and Pictionary, the goal of Concept is to guess people, places or things using only simple icons! This program is FREE and open to all kids in Grades 7- 12. Supplies to be provided and no preregistration.

**Follow "rutlandfreeteens" on Instagram for updates on new books and program announcements!**

### First Wednesdays are back!

First Wednesdays are also back in full swing at the library. Presented by Vermont Humanities Council, this series features expert speakers on a wide range of topics. Join us November 6 at 7 PM to hear from photographer Dona Ann McAdams, who will be showing a collection of her work in conjunction with an exhibition at Castleton University. The program is titled "Photography as Social Justice," and is free and open to all. For a full schedule of talks, please see the website at [www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org).



## Road Notes

from Byron Hathaway,  
Road Commissioner

Paving this summer was completed in June and cleanup was completed soon after that. A shoulder machine was built last winter and was instrumental getting much of the cleanup done in a timely manner. The improvements to the parking lot in front of the school had to be put on hold because the cost of paving was higher this year than anticipated. I plan for those improvements to happen next summer.

A \$12,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Conservation was awarded to the town for road erosion improvements. Stone lined ditches and culvert level spreaders are some of the improvements being paid for with this money. A 20% match, either money or in kind service, is required. This work will be completed by the end of October.

A culvert replacement project on Town Line Road is currently being engineered and a cost estimate will be developed for this work. A VTrans structures grant is providing 90% of the funding for the engineering. I will apply next spring for another structures grant to help pay for the actual construction next summer. I will provide more information about this project next spring.

I would remind everyone to be sure you are ready for colder weather. Make sure your vehicle's battery holds a good charge and the terminals are clean. Check your tires and replace worn tires. Good quality all season tires are a minimum requirement. Winter tires are better as they will give you extra traction and steering control. Check the radiator fluid cold temperature level and adjust if needed. Make sure you have plenty of windshield washer fluid on hand.



## Kids Together Yoga Visits First Grade By Cristy Murphy

Kids Together Yoga shared the practice of yoga in Mrs. Alderman's First Grade classroom last Friday afternoon. Once a month since last year, Cristy Murphy has been joining Mrs. Alderman's first grade students for an hour of yoga and mindfulness. Each session is theme-based following a topic of study that fits the First Grade curriculum.

This month we focused on the metamorphosis of a caterpillar. Butterfly Breathing, yoga postures showing the life cycle of a butterfly, mindful moments and a final relaxation were some of the wonderful moments recently.

## Preschool News From Mrs. DuBois and Mrs. Garrow

We are having such a great start to our preschool year! We have been learning how to be friends and building our preschool community. We have been exploring who makes holes in the leaves and recently, we started exploring bridges. Here is what we think we know about bridges:

1. We can walk over them.
2. Rainbows are bridges.
3. Cars drive over them.
4. You need to walk slowly without falling.
5. You can drop things off of a bridge.
6. They go over big oceans.
7. Bridges are made of wood, rectangles, pavement, circles and bricks
8. The 3 Billy Goats Gruff have a bridge
9. London Bridges is a song



**Constructing Bridges in the Classroom**

*(Town News ~ Continued from Page 1)*

land area. Major Sly has an extensive knowledge of our computer systems and is often used in this capacity." Major Sly also generated and handled many calls for service.

A special Fire Building Replacement Committee has begun to brainstorm ideas for the obsolete McKinley Ave. Fire Station which reached age 50 last year. Said Terenzini, "Built in the late 60's the station has served the town well, but due to deterioration and age, it no longer adequately supports our 21<sup>st</sup> century fire fighters." The committee which includes the entire Select Board, Bill Sweet, Fire Chief Chris Clark and Assistant Chief Larry Dellveneri are discussing the basic needs of a functional, properly outfitted station. Currently, the new, bigger, taller trucks don't fit the building, and there is not enough room to properly maintain and store expensive fire equipment that is standard for departments. The replacement building will have a kitchen and meeting room but will meet more basic needs than the Route 4 Station which can also serve as an emergency shelter for the town. Once building requirements are outlined, an engineer will be hired to draw plans. At the earliest, voter approval will be sought in the November 2020 election.

Anticipated improvements at DelBianco Park in Center Rutland took place this summer with resurfacing of the tennis

and basketball courts and an expansion of the parking area. There is further development in the planning stages in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, located off Post Road. Connections were made through town Lister, Howard Burgess. The Corps leveled the area that became the soccer fields at Northwood and they also did some of the original work at Dewey Field. The new project will involve clearing some woods and building a stage with adequate parking.

Renovations to the Town Clerk and Treasurer's office will begin this fall a bit behind schedule. The first work proposal yielded only one bid, so the Select Board decided to re-solicit the request for proposal hoping for three competitive bids. The renovations will include general refurbishment of the space, improving access to internet workstations and the installation of security features.

In early October, the Select Board committees will begin sketching out next year's budgets with department heads. Department heads will put forth what funding they need for routine operations and discuss any special projects. After committee input, the budgets advance for scrutiny by the full Select Board. Said Terenzini, "We spend a quarter of the year on budget development before the final proposal is presented to the public at the Pre-Town Meeting at the end of January. Then we spend the next 6 weeks educating voters as to the reasons behind what we have proposed. Then voters have the final word at Town Meeting in March."

The Diamond Run Mall will close October 31, putting an end to the years long decline in the number of retail stores. The nature of retail sales has changed drastically across the country in the last decade, with many 'brick and mortar' stores losing customers to online shoppers. The owners, including Zamias Corporation will not abandon the space, said Terenzini. The plan is to deconstruct a portion of the mall and ready it for future development. "The Board is encouraged that the owners envision new development and a bright future for the next use of the space."



**Blane J. Nasveschuk, D.M.D.**

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## Concern Grows Over Vaping-Related Illness

By Lisa Lones, RTS School Nurse, RN, BSN

The number of cases of lung injury or illness related to vaping continues to rise, with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) confirming that there are now 530 known cases with seven confirmed deaths. The cases have been spread across 38 states, including Maine and Vermont.

Symptoms of these illnesses have included:

Cough, shortness of breath or chest pain  
Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea  
Fatigue, fever or stomach pain

It is still unknown what exactly is causing these illnesses. However, the CDC reports that most patients have a history of using e-cigarette products, especially those containing THC, the main chemical in marijuana. The CDC recommends that until we know more, people should consider avoiding e-cigarette use, especially any products purchased off the street.

The CDC has further recommendations for the public at: [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease/need-to-know/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease/need-to-know/index.html)

Aside from this current outbreak of illness, the Northern New England Poison Control Center (NNEPC) regularly manages cases involving e-cigarettes, including cases of children getting into the products and misuse or overuse by teens and adults. Most of these products include nicotine and can lead to signs of acute nicotine poisoning.

**The Northern New England Poison control Center can be reached at 1-800-222-1222**

## PEER LEADERS—What's it all about? By Aurelie Swasey, Guidance Counselor

Peer Leaders are a group lead by School Counselor Mrs. Swasey. The mission of this leadership group is to brainstorm ideas and implement programs that would improve school climate. The group will help build community and inclusiveness within the school. Peer leaders will assist the School Counselor with events and activities.

To be recommended for this awesome group means people think you are responsible, trustworthy, helpful, respectful, a leader and, overall, a great person. It's an honor to hold this position. Peer leaders will be school role models.

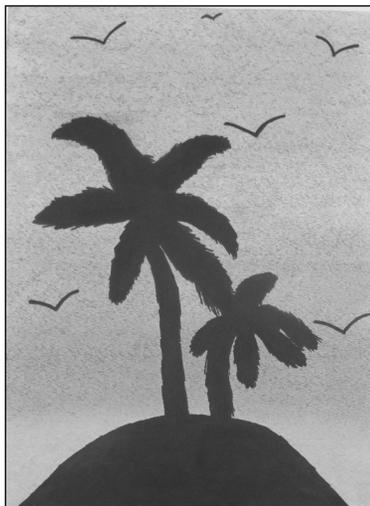
- It is a full-year commitment. We'll meet during Flex Time block once a week and other activity times.
- The group will be comprised of roughly 14 seventh and eighth graders.
- We'll talk about issues that are important to teenagers, like bullying, anxiety, coping skills and community outreach.
- We'll plan school events to promote awareness about topics such as Red Ribbon/ Substance Abuse Prevention Week and UNITE Against Bullying.
- We will present short lessons to 5th through 8th grade TA's.
- We'll read, make projects, present workshops and do other things to make a difference to the school and to the world.
- We'll have FUN making our school a better place!

Mrs. Swasey will be handing applications out to TA teachers. They will recommend students to fill out applications by the deadline of October 25. Mrs. Swasey will then be checking references and making selections based on the best candidates. Peer leaders will be announced at a Middle School gathering on November 15 during TA.

## ART CLASS

With Beth McReynolds

Our 7th and 8th grade students are working on refreshing their drawing skills. They have chosen different materials and techniques that they want to focus on as they work towards improving their drawing skills. These students have chosen blending colors using chalk pastels.



Megan Marsan, Grade 8



Lauren Choiniere, Grade 7

## News from RTS Library

By Kelly McGee, Librarian

The last couple of weeks the students have been working on making their own **iSpy** pages inspired by the **iSpy** series of books. We'll take their projects and make a book for students to checkout from the library. Here are some pictures of the student working hard on their projects.



## Box Tops for Education

By Cristy Murphy, Coordinator



Please keep clipping away to help earn money for Rutland Town School. Bring your clipped Box Tops to the front office. You can also scan your receipt from your shopping trip using your device. If you wish to use your device for scanning Box Tops, please follow these steps:

- Download the Box Tops App and follow instructions to create an account.
- Scan your receipt once you have the App and your earnings for our school will show up.
- If I can do it, so can you. It's user friendly and instant!

I will be submitting the first round of Box Tops in November, so if you have been busy clipping, please send them in. Thank you so much!

## A New Circle Newsletter is Coming

Can YOU Help? By Carol Bam

The Select Board is looking for new people to help produce *The Circle* newsletter in 2020. I will retire after 20 years and 101 issues after the February Town Meeting issue. If you have an interest in seeing *The Circle* continue and have talent in organizing, news gathering or layout experience, please contact Josh Terenzini, Select Board Chair ([terenzini@yahoo.com](mailto:terenzini@yahoo.com)), Bill Sweet in the Town Office ([rutlandtown@rutlandtown.com](mailto:rutlandtown@rutlandtown.com)) or Carol Bam ([carolbam@aol.com](mailto:carolbam@aol.com), 775-3803) to discuss.

RUTLAND TOWN SCHOOL

# WINTER ICE RINK



## Skating Here! At RTS! With Your Help

With a tentative opening of early December (weather permitting), Rutland Town School will debut a pond style ice rink for students, the public and anyone else wishing to skate for free. There will be a warming shed, lights and most importantly, fun for all! We are planning to hold events and maybe even clinics.

### BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need donations to support this awesome, fun, wholesome community plan. We are looking for used (or new) skates, pucks, helmets, nets and sticks. Monetary donations are needed too in the form of cash or check made out to Friends of Rutland Town Ice Rink.

Our goal is to create a family friendly environment where students and the community can enjoy the winter season.

Please contact:

Ryan DeCicco, RTS Maintenance Director,

[ryan.decicco@grcsu.org](mailto:ryan.decicco@grcsu.org)

Korrine Rodrigue, School Board member,

[KRodrigue@med.miami.edu](mailto:KRodrigue@med.miami.edu)

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## **The Four Winds Program at RTS**

### **First Unit: Signs of Leaf Eaters**

Four Winds volunteers teach lessons about the natural world in K-5 classrooms 8 times during the school year. Community volunteers, as well as parents are welcome to attend the training workshops and team teach. Currently help is needed in preschool and fifth grade classrooms. Here is an example of the September lesson focus, class activities and teaching materials used.

If you want to attend a workshop to learn more, contact RTS program Coordinator Susan Cooley, at [smikovich@yahoo.com](mailto:smikovich@yahoo.com), or call her at 802-683-9489.

**UNIT FOCUS:** By summer's end, nearly every leaf bears some signs of feeding by plant-eaters small or large. Some make holes, some scallop the edges, some roll the leaves into tubes. Plants capture energy from the sun and, in turn, produce food for a variety of leaf-eaters. When we watch a leaf-eater feeding on a leaf, or being eaten by a predator, we are seeing the flow of energy from sun to plant to herbivore to carnivore. These interactions are evidence of food chains and webs, important components of every ecosystem.

#### Materials provided for the following activities

- 1) Introduction: ALL PROVIDED but you can bring in your own leaves too.
- 2) Sorting Leaf-Eater Patterns: ALL PROVIDED
- 3) Puppet show: ALL PROVIDED
- 4) Food Chains and Webs: ALL PROVIDED

#### You need to provide some or all of these materials

- 1) Look and Listen: No materials needed for younger grades. Older grades can use science journals or clipboards and paper, pencils
- 2) Leaf-eater Search: Paper, clip boards, pens/pencils
- 3) Journal activity
- 4) Upper grade challenge: write a Haiku

## **A New Year in RTS Music**

### **By Aaron Audet** **Director of Instrumental Music**

It's great to be back for another school year. We have a lot of students in the RTS music program. It's exciting to see we have 32 students from the 4th grade signed up for band this year, and a total of 104 students 4th through the 8th grade. M and T Jazz Bands are showing some good numbers as well. We are looking for more 5th graders to sign up for M Jazz. If a student is interested, we meet every Monday and Wednesday morning at 7am.

- ◆ This year our Halloween Parade theme is the movie "Top Gun." We will be performing the Kenny Loggins song "Danger Zone" which is featured in the movie. The Halloween Parade is on Saturday evening October 26.
- ◆ The K-4 Concert is Dec 12th, and the
- ◆ 5-8 concert is on December 19. Both concerts start at 6:30pm.

Friends of Music is meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 3:30 in the band room. We are looking for people to join and help out through the school year.

## **WONDERFEET MUSEUM**

### **By Danielle Monroe, Executive Director**

Wonderfeet Kids' Museum had a very busy summer. We were out and about in the community and enjoyed seeing all of you! Wonderfeet saw over 700 people during our free open hours for Friday Night Live in Downtown Rutland during July. We welcomed over 200 people for free during our "Thank You Thursdays" in July and August. Wonderfeet and the Children's Literacy Foundation hosted a storyteller and handed out free books to over 100 visitors during our Summer Storytelling Event. We took the Big Blue Blocks with us to join you at National Night Out, the Downtown Rutland Street Party, and the Green Street Challenge. And of course, we saw many of you at Art in the Park.

Now that fall is here, we're enjoying getting back into our school year routine, which means seeing many of you during our regular hours Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am – 4 pm and Sundays from 1-4 pm. It also means returning to local schools to offer educational STEM based programs and welcoming school groups here at the museum for field trips. Follow us on Facebook to find out about special hands-on science activities that we will be offering on select weekends throughout the fall and also get details on our fun community events. Thank you for continuing to make us part of your amazing community.



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## Rutland Town School . . . Where Futures Begin!

### RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### OCTOBER

- 12 Household Hazardous Waste Collection  
Transfer Station – 8-11:30 am
- 14 **Town Hall Closed**  
**Columbus Day Observance**  
School Board meets - RTS, 6 pm
- 15 PTO meets – RTS Library, 6:30 pm
- 15&29 Select Board meets - Town Hall, 6 pm
- 18 No School / Inservice
- 24 **Stormwater Ordinance meeting**  
Town Hall, 6:30 pm (see page 1)  
Planning Comm. meeting follows
- 26 Halloween Parade - Rutland City  
6:30 pm
- 28-11/1 Scholastic Book Fair - RTS stage
- 31 Halloween Parade rain date.

#### NOVEMBER

- 1 Rec Dept. Halloween Party - RTS Gym, 5-7  
Book Fair for parents - RTS stage
- 5 Friends of Music meets - Band room, 3:30
- 7&8 Early release – 11:55 am  
Parent/Teacher conference

#### 11 **No School – Veteran’s Day Observance** **Town Hall Closed**

- School Board meets - RTS Library, 6 pm
- 12&26\* Select Board meets -Town Hall, 6 pm
- 14 Planning Commission meets - Town Hall, 7 pm
- 26 **Article deadline for December Circle**
- 27-29 **No School – Thanksgiving Observance**
- 28&29 **Town Hall Closed**

#### DECEMBER

- 3 Friends of Music meets - Band room 3:30
- 5&26 Planning Commission meets  
Town Hall, 7 pm
- 9 School Board meets - RTS, 6 pm
- 10&24\* Select Board meets - Town Hall, 6 pm
- 12 K-4 Concert - RTS  
1:30 Run through; 6:30 Concert
- 19 Grades 5-8 Band/Vocal Concert - RTS  
1:30 Run through; 6:30 Concert
- 20 Early release – 11:55 am
- 23-1/1 **No School – Holiday Break**
- 24&25 **Town Hall Closed**
- 31 **Town Hall closes at noon.**

\* These Meetings may be rescheduled

