

# Patriot Press Weekly

November 10, 2017

## Folsom Education and Community Center

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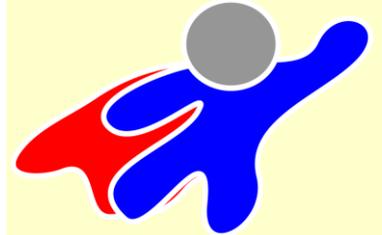
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Be a Folsom Hero!

## From the Principal's Desk

As you may have heard in the news lately, it is the time of year when school boards begin to engage in the process of drafting out a budget for the following school year. This year, like every other year, there are ongoing concerns across the state about school costs, declining enrollment, and property taxes. Our local school board deals with the reality of these concerns balanced with the need to provide a quality education for each child. Your input is valued in this process. The first and best way for you to engage in a meaningful budget conversation is to learn about the education funding process in Vermont. Many people have a misconception that their local property tax dollars go to their local school. Not the case. Our tax dollars help pay for every student in every school across the state, not just in our town. Do your homework and talk to your local school board members. They are interested in your thoughts and would be happy to provide you with information about your local school needs and budget.

A second misconception about the local school budget is that it is for K-8 students because our high school students leave the island. Not the case. Our local school budget includes tuition costs for this town's preschool students (a completely separate state mandated program), as well as high school or tech school students, wherever they go. When you drive by Folsom school and you wonder why the budget seems excessive, keep in mind that a significant number of the students in town are attending schools elsewhere but their tuition costs are included in your local school budget! To give you an idea of this expense in South Hero, the combined cost of PreK, high school and tech school tuition amounts to approx. \$1,156,000, or almost 1/3 of our entire budget of \$3,710,800. Note that I have not included the additional cost of special education services for a percentage of those students. So, the next time you drive by the elementary school and wonder where all that money is going, remember that what you see is not what you get!

The first trimester is drawing to a close and will officially end on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Parents are encouraged to take a look at our online Jupiter Grades program to support staff in helping students to complete any outstanding assignments in the next week. Also, if you were unable to meet with your child's teacher for parent conferences, it is not too late. Just give us a call and we will help you to set that up.

## Upcoming Events

### November

- 11 Night out at Snow Farm
- 13 High School Fair 6-7 pm
- 16 School Board 6pm
- 17 End of Trimester 1
- 20-24 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving recess

### December

- 1 Report cards sent home
- 7 K-4 Play
- 14 5-8 Concert
- 22-1/1 NO SCHOOL Holiday recess

### January

- 1 NO SCHOOL
- 15 NO SCHOOL

### **Buy Local Coupon Book or App – Now Available!**

We are again selling the Buy Local Coupon books to raise money for the 5-8 grade ski trip. This year we also have an App for your smart phone. This only costs you \$18 and we will receive \$10 for each app sold. The App is Local First Vermont Mobile App and use the code FOLSOM17. Please spread the word to friends and family! Books are available through any 5-8 student and from the Folsom Office for \$20 each. If you have any questions, please contact Alison Perry aliperr@gisu.org.

### **Night out at Snow Farm Vineyard – Tomorrow Night!**

Please join us for our First Annual Parents/Friends Night Out at Snow Farm Vineyard tomorrow, Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 - 10:00 PM. Tell your friends, co-workers..... ALL ARE WELCOME! (Adults only for this one.) Enjoy the musical stylings of Chad Pidgeon, Rich Wickens & John Gardner (Band name for the evening -"Daddy Mac") Featuring macaroni and cheese homemade by our awesome 7th & 8th grade Dads. (Plus some other comfort foods.) Cash bar by Snow Farm. \$10 per person minimum donation at the door, or buy tickets in advance at school. This is going to be a fun night out with our community, and is a fundraiser for the 7th & 8th grade spring trip. See you there!

### **GET READY!!! GET SET... SELL FOLSOM WEAR!!!**

The PTO is launching an online store for Folsom Wear through Fan Cloth! Paper copies will come home ASAP, and the online sale will be open past November 17 (printed on the form) so that you can sell items over the Thanksgiving Break! Both paper and online orders will be accepted. There are incentives for students as well!! Contact your PTO with any questions!

### **RiseVT & Folsom News**

Helen Bishop presented at a meeting of the Clinical Community Advisory Group at Blue Cross Blue Shield of VT this past week. She shared the successes of the RiseVT & Folsom partnership, including the new Drum Fit equipment in PE. Since RiseVT is currently in only Franklin and Grand Isle counties, the committee members were interested to learn about this positive program in our community.

### **Folsom Art News from Ms. Bedard**

Happy Veteran's Day to all whom have served in the past, present and in the future. Our third grade class has been studying Jasper Johns, an American pop artist who often displays American symbols in his art like the American Flag. We decided to paint and collage a flag as a group and dedicated to our veterans to show our gratitude for their service. Check out our Flag outside of the school and remember to thank a veteran whenever you can.

Hay Day: Best described by a few 4th graders... "Hay day is like if Art and PE were to have a baby, but in the Fall!" Great Explanation! Wow another huge success! This would not have been possible without all the support I received from everyone in the building, workshop leaders that showed off their talents, all the families who went on scavenger hunts to find strange objects and mostly our students their enthusiasm was tangible and their appreciation was voiced. I am very grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with so many extraordinary people and to watch our students show their strengths and love for art. In all workshops I visited and ran you could hear laughter, see smiles on faces, bodies and hand busy. The concentration and excitement of the day was seen by the amazing pieces of art that I watched go out the door at the end of the day.

5-8 student's Wood Projects hanging at Wally's Place for the month of November. Pop in and grab a bagel while you check out all of our middle school student's pieces of art. I was super happy with all of our students creative wood disks, it was really fun to see them when they made it back into me. Seeing them all together makes me really proud of our school and our artists who took the challenge to express themselves.

### **Lunch May be Free!**

You may apply for free lunches for your child at any time during the school year. If you aren't sure, it doesn't hurt to fill out the form. All information is kept strictly confidential. Give us a call if you'd like a form sent home.