

Patriot Press Weekly

December 1, 2017

Folsom Education and Community Center

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Website: <http://www.gisu.org/folsom>

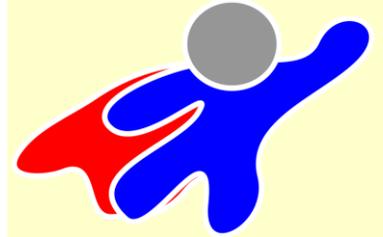
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Be a Folsom Hero!

From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to December! It's been a busy week back after our Thanksgiving break. Around the building and beyond you will find that practice for our 3rd and 4th grade musical theater production is well under way, our middle schoolers are preparing for their winter concert, the kindergartners have completed their annual holiday decorating of the South Hero fire station, and our school basketball season has just begun. After school clubs are continuing to provide additional enrichment to large numbers of our students several afternoons a week. On the academic side of things, first trimester report cards have been sent home and the second third of the school year is under way. As noted, Folsom school is a busy and productive place to be at the start of a new month.

One of the impressive events that occurred just prior to our Thanksgiving vacation was that our middle school students each individually presented progress on their Personal Learning Plans to an audience of their peers. Vermont education regulations require that students in grades 7-12 develop personalized plans (PLPs) to learn the skills of goal setting and implementation. Earlier in the fall, with the support of teachers, students in grades 5-8 created plans for themselves to achieve specific learning goals and skills. At these presentations, students shared a digital presentation that demonstrated their progress towards achieving their goals, and they received targeted feedback from their peers to help them improve both their efforts to meet their goals and their presentation effectiveness. Congratulations to the students for making significant progress in their personal goals and for their presentations which demonstrated their developing skills in public speaking. Well done.

As a general safety reminder, we ask parents and community members to avoid using the front driveway between 7:30-8 a.m. and 2:30-3:00 p.m. on school days. Please keep this area free of car traffic so that our school buses can safely maneuver and students are not in danger from moving vehicles during bus drop off or pick up time. In the morning, please drop off your child in the designated parking lot area. Thank you.

(continued)

Upcoming Events

December

- 1 Report cards sent home
- 7 School Board 6pm
- 11 PTO Meeting 6pm
- 14 5-8 Concert 6pm
- 21 School Board 6pm
- 22-1/1 NO SCHOOL Holiday recess

January

- 1 NO SCHOOL
- 15 NO SCHOOL
- 17 K-4 Play

February

- 7 Ski Day
- 14 Ski Day
- 26-3/2 NO SCHOOL Winter recess

March

- 3 Town Meeting

From the Principal's Desk (continued)

The winter season is upon us, and that means coughs, colds and fevers are here. Please keep your child home if they are ill. Germs spread like wildfire in the school environment. One sick child can quickly multiply into many sick children and adults. As a rule, your child should be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school. If your child vomits during the night, they should not be coming to school in the morning. Sore throats and ear aches prevent kids from being able to learn or focus at school. When kids are sick, they need to be home, resting, drinking fluids, and getting well. Let's work together to keep Folsom healthy for everyone this winter!

And along these lines, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for winter temperatures and weather. Are you ready for the first snowfall with boots, snowpants, hats and gloves? Now is the time to have those items on hand and ready when it happens. We know it's coming!

Enjoy a wonderful first week of December!

K-4 Play information from Ms. Kauffeld

Hello Folsom Families!

I am so excited that we were able to scoot the Kindergarten-Fourth grade play back to Wednesday January 17th at 6pm! "Wolfie's Quest" is the tale of our favorite marionette puppet who goes on an adventure to find his family and realizes that he's had family in his life all along. Wolfie learns that your family doesn't need to look like you, but can be made up of just about anyone. With this in mind all Kindergarten, First, and Second Graders will be "Creatures" of their own creation! This is a great chance to dig out an old Halloween costume and re-purpose it, or if you have been looking for a reason to search for "Homemade Tail" on Pinterest- here's your opportunity! Your child's costume can be as simple or extravagant as your and their heart desires! Of course, if you're like myself and don't really know where to begin piecing together a costume, there are many families that are willing to help out, please write to me at karkauf@gisu.org to let me know that you need costume help and I will find the appropriate costumer for your child!

A note about the K-4 play:

This is my fifth elementary school play at Folsom and I feel so lucky that I get to work with our students in this way. While performing on stage definitely stretches most of our students' comfort zones I think it is a healthy risk. You will be seeing our final product on the 17th, but really the learning happens through the process. There is an undeniable sense of community that is built when putting together a production. In this play our 3rd and 4th graders take on the character roles with speaking parts and our K-2 round out the story. This has been the tradition at Folsom for many years. This year the 4th grade class was my first Kindergarten class and was a joyful experience to show them the video of themselves in Kindergarten as alligators in "Down By the Bayou." Your Kindergarten students will mostly be watching the play from a mat right below the stage, and when it is their turn they'll climb the steps and rock out. I have found that for 5 years when students enter 3rd grade one of the first things they say to me is "This is the year we get to have parts in the play!" So it think it is worth their involvement from a young age.

Thank you for your support of this huge undertaking, there'll be more info to come!

Karlie Kauffeld

Buy Local Coupon Book or App – Still 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.

Winter Weather has Arrived

Please be sure that your student comes to school prepared for outside recess (or any outside classroom activities). The cold weather seems to have arrived rather quickly, but we do go outside most days. Be sure to label all outdoor gear (including gloves/mittens) with your child's name as these items are already appearing in the lost and found!