

Patriot Press Weekly

December 8, 2017

Folsom Education and Community Center

75 South Street, South Hero, VT 05486 802-372-6600

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

Facebook Page: <http://www.Facebook.com/FolsomECC>

Susan McKelvie, Principal

susmcke@gisu.org

Sue McNayr, Admin Assistant

susmcna@gisu.org



Be a Folsom Hero!

From the Principal's Desk

Research has shown that December is the most stressful month of the year, for adults and for children. Ironic, isn't it? Despite the twinkling lights and festive music, many families are struggling to make ends meet just to put food on the table and heat in their homes. The reality of life can make it hard to feel celebratory. At school, we see kids with a mixture of excitement and stress. Teachers will tell you that next to the month of June, December is the most difficult time period to teach. Given all of that, we hope that this month allows you opportunities to create some happy memories with your beautiful children, whether that is the fun of cutting down your own tree, watching holiday movies together snuggled on the couch, or baking cookies. In truth, all your kids or grandkids really want is to spend time with you!

Despite the seasons distractions, learning is ongoing at Folsom. Teachers have an amazing knack for embedding whatever season or holiday is happening into their classroom activities and instruction. In the midst of all of this, it is the time of year that teachers are also doing some district math and reading assessments to monitor the progress of students. Two weeks into the second trimester of the year, the building is alive with learning, singing, laughing, and creating.

We have learned that flu season has begun across the country. While we haven't seen any cases in our building yet, it's reminded us that it's a good time to remind kids about personal hygiene and how to prevent the spread of germs. We'd love your support on this at home. Please emphasize the basics: hand washing after using the bathroom, using a tissue or your elbow to cough or sneeze, and then even more hand washing. And, when your child is sick, keep them home until they are well. Together, let's try to avoid the nastiness of a school-wide flu or sickness epidemic this winter!

We continue to have some challenges with parents driving into the bus lane between 7:30 and 8 to drop off students. Please use the parking lot drop off area for the safety of all kids.

Finally, to our wider community, please remember that the town library opens at 3 p.m. Because of safety regulations, we cannot allow entry into the school prior to that time. Also, please use the library entrance and not the main school entrance. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

December

- 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

PTO Holiday Gifting Information

The PTO is meeting on Monday, December 11 to wrap gifts and to plan for the rest of December and January. All are welcome! We are sponsoring 12 families, and again this year, the community of South Hero is extremely generous! We are so appreciative and wish you all wonderful holidays!

If you are looking for a gift for the staff at Folsom, there are requests for the classroom available on this Google document: <https://tinyurl.com/y7c6smm6>. Amazon and "TeacherPayTeachers" gift cards are always great ideas, as well as well as Lysol Wipes, and indoor or outdoor recess games and activities!

Madame Bishop launched a Donors Choose Project to buy 20 rocking Virca Zuma chairs for her classroom. So far 11 donors have given, and she will be asking for RiseVT to grant the remaining money needed by the January 27, 2018 deadline. If you know anyone who likes to donate to these types of projects, please share the link: <https://tinyurl.com/y7nbbsz5>

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.

Lost and Found is OVERFLOWING!

A table will be set up in the lobby on December 14th (concert night!) with all of the current "found" items. Please stop by and check what we have and re-claim those stray mittens (or shirts, pants, sweatshirts, jackets, etc.). Unclaimed items will be bagged up and donated to Goodwill before Holiday Recess. Thank you!

Odds and Ends from the Office

If your student is going to be absent, tardy, or will be dismissed early, please contact Sue McNayr (372-6600 ext. 2) by 8:30 a.m. For students who attend the Champlain Islands Parent Child Center afterschool program here at Folsom, please make sure to contact the Parent Child Center in the event that your child will not be attending the program that day. Any questions regarding after school activities in the library should be directed to Kegan Calkins, town librarian. If you have questions related to the mentoring program, please contact Sue Mitchell at 372-3445 or (918) 766-3206.

Athletics Schedule

The schedules for the 5/6 and 7/8 boys and girls basketball programs are posted on the Folsom website under the Athletics tab. They are all made using Google Calendar and you should be able to sync these calendars to your personal devices!