



# NEWS FROM THE OAK GROVE OWLS

## WEEKLY UPDATE #13 December 22, 2020

### IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW FOR JANUARY!

**January 1, 2021** – No School, Happy New Year!

**January 4-8, 2021** – Remote learning for ALL students with current teacher

**January 11, 2021** – Return to hybrid learning for the remainder of the first semester. (This is the schedule from before break)

**January 15, 2021** – Class placements confirmed and mailed to families

**January 27, 2021** – Start of Second Semester, remote day for ALL

**January 28, 2021** – First day of second semester in person learning



### From the Nurse

The 2020 holiday/winter break will be different for most of us and we need to adjust. Family traditions that brought us together in the past may need to be adapted to keep people safe this year. We can still capture the spirit of the holidays if we get creative. There are so many ways to express love, gratitude and generosity that won't put your family or others at risk of getting sick. This may be disappointing, but you can work to manage expectations ahead of time. Talk with your family about your time together and find ways to safely celebrate. With an open mind and a flexible plan, we will get through to the other side of this pandemic.

The Health Department strongly advises against non-essential travel, even within Vermont. All travel to and from Vermont requires quarantine. Vermonters are not allowed to socially gather with people they don't live with. This includes gathering both inside and outside, and in public and private spaces. Visitors to Vermont can only socialize with the people they are traveling with. They cannot gather with Vermonters in their home or elsewhere.

It has been a long and difficult time for families this year, and the pandemic is going to continue to challenge us in 2021. While the COVID-19 vaccine should offer protection from the virus, it will take time to vaccinate enough people to make a significant impact. When enough people in a community are immune to a disease, they protect others who are not vaccinated because there are fewer chances for the disease to spread. For the latest information on the vaccine in Vermont, visit [healthvermont.gov/covid19-vaccines](https://healthvermont.gov/covid19-vaccines).

I'd like to take a moment to not only wish you a Happy Holiday and a safe and restful break but to thank you. I really appreciate how hard everyone has been working to keep our students safe and healthy. It hasn't been easy. We've all made sacrifices, which are paying off. I'm very grateful to work in this community and with all of you. Thank you all so much! Peace.

Nurse Rose (Kim)

**Our mission statement:** As a community of teachers, families, and students our purpose is to provide opportunities to maximize learning while being kind, safe, responsible, and respectful. Our goal is to foster a culturally rich and inclusive environment to promote a love of learning, a sense of belonging, and the skills necessary to become a thoughtful, creative and productive member of one's community.

## From the PTO

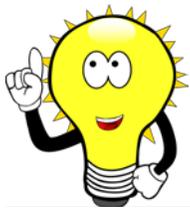
Another month, another PTO meeting, and another raffle winner! Please join me in celebrating one of our newest PTO members...



“Hi, I’m Abbie Morse, grandmother (aka Honey) to Madelyn Martinez, a 4th grader in Mrs. Whitcomb’s class. I’m a new PTO member thanks to my friend Karla Lumbra (aka Loew’s mom). She can talk me into just about anything:) I love PTO! Everyone is so supportive of one another during this pandemic. Skiing is my favorite part of being in this part of the country and I was looking forward to working on the Harris Hill Ski Jump PTO fundraiser, which of course is canceled for this year. I have a funny story about Harris Hill - my son brought his girlfriend from Texas for my birthday many years ago and woke her up early on a Saturday morning and made her climb the old stairs to the top! They got stung by a couple bees halfway up and she was crying, “Why are we doing this?” They finally made it to the top and he gave her the ring and said yes or no! She said yes and life is wonderful for them 3 girls now! I’m looking up at sky for the alignment of the planets and I’m praying good vibes over all of us. Hang in there!”

**~Please give an OGS hoot to Abbie! Thanks for “OWL-ways” being willing to help out!**

*PTO is busy brainstorming new possibilities for the New Year... If you have a virtual idea for an activity that would be Fun for the Family, please let us know so we can add it to our growing list!*



Email: [oakgrovepto@wsedvt.org](mailto:oakgrovepto@wsedvt.org)

Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/262245807140085/>

Website: <https://www.oakgroveschoolvt.com/pto>

## All School Sing



All School Sings Are Back!

The long-standing tradition of All School Sing is back! We will meet every Wednesday via zoom for a virtual All School Sing. We ask that families sign on from one computer to make sure there is room for everyone in the meeting, and that you come prepared to sing as you would in person! I am so excited to get to know you all so much better this way and warm up those voices for Wednesday morning.

## **Brattleboro Ski Hill Winter 20-21**

### **Brattleboro Ski Hill Needs Volunteers**

This winter, maybe more than ever, Brattleboro needs a fully functioning ski hill! It will look different than other years (for example, no concessions, no warming hut). But we are planning on being open! Opening the Ski Hill is dependent on the volunteer efforts of many people.

In order to be open we need:

- 1 or 2 Base station adults (18 years or older)
- A "Castle Operator" (18 years or older)
- Life loader (14 years or older)

In addition to needing volunteers to be open, we make snow – A LOT of snow. We can always use more help and we are happy to provide training!

Snowmaking requires:

- 4 to 8 people to set up (usually early evening)
- 4 to 8 people to take down (usually around sunrise)
- One person, in shifts, to monitor overnight

The board has completed a COVID-19 Safety Plan, which includes procedures and expectations to minimize risk of COVID transmission.

There will be training and information available to all volunteers and the Board is confident that we can open the hill with safety as a top priority.

For more information, please contact:

brattleboroskihill@gmail.com

Or you can contact me!

Tom Yahner (tyahner@wsesdvt.org)

## **Local Winter Activity Options, Winter 2020-2021**

### **Hiking, Cross-country Skiing, Snowshoeing**

Brattleboro Outing Club cross country ski and snowshoe trails will be open to members and non-members, snow conditions permitting, till early March at least. Membership information and trail conditions are on the website [www.brattleborooutingclub.org](http://www.brattleborooutingclub.org) (A Junior membership is \$75 for the season, Adult \$125, Family \$250) Day passes can be paid for at the trailhead honor box. The Ski Hut will NOT be open, and we will not have rental equipment available on site.

However, Brooks Memorial Library has 30 pairs of snowshoes, including child sizes that can be loaned out for 3 days at a time by Library Card holders/patrons. Check with the library for more information.

Brooks Memorial Library will also have 2 family passes to the BOC that can be checked out, also for 3 days at a time. Each pass is for a family of 2 adults and 2 children, for use of the BOC Cross Country skiing trails, or snowshoe trails. Instructions are with the passes, but sign in at the trail head is required.

Burrows Specialized Sports, on Main St, downtown, has some rental cross-country ski equipment, including 10 sets of children's/smaller skis (including boots and poles), that will be available to rent for a day, or multiple days. They are closed on Sundays. Call ahead to check on opening times and availability 802-254-9430

The Retreat Farm has various walking trails well marked around the Farm, the Meadows, and into the woods. They connect with the extensive system of trails commonly called the Retreat Trails. They are used by many local people for walking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, though there is no grooming.

List written by Linda Bailey, BOC XC Instructional Program Coordinator, December 2020

# Keep Vermont Safe Over the Holidays

While the Health Department does not recommend travel during the holidays, we understand that many of us are missing family at this time. **Ask yourself the following questions before your family travels to you:**



Have we checked the travel **MAP**? Is our family traveling from a green area or will they need to **quarantine** (either with us or at their home before traveling)?



Is the **risk** of getting COVID-19 during travel worth it to our visitors and our family?



Is everybody healthy at the time of travel? Do not welcome sick visitors!

Can we talk about **expectations** for the visit and agree to have masks on faces, 6-foot spaces, uncrowded places, **flu shots** for everyone.

We are counting on you to keep yourself, your family, and other Vermonters safe. For prevention tips, please go to our website

**[www.healthvermont.gov/covid19-prevention](http://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19-prevention).**

## **New and Temporary Guidance for Household Gatherings from December 23, 2020 to January 2, 2021**

PREVENTION: For the period from December 23 – January 2, one household may gather with one other trusted household. This means only one household for this time period, not different households throughout the week.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19>

The following is the VT Dept. of Health's recommendations for getting tested:

The Health Department recommends testing as soon as possible when:

- You have symptoms of COVID-19 (call your health care provider first)
- You are referred by your health care provider
- A person in your workplace or household, or a person you attended an event with, tests positive for COVID-19
- You plan on going to a social gathering with people you don't live with (other than recreating with one masked person outside). You should get tested before the gathering, right after, and again on day 7.

If you often gather socially with people you don't live with, you should get tested weekly.

College students returning to Vermont from out of state should quarantine and be tested on or after day 7 of quarantine after returning home.

Travelers to Vermont and Vermonters returning from out of state must follow quarantine requirements. You have the option to get a test on or after day 7 of quarantine and end your quarantine early with a negative test result.

The testing sites and times can be found here:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested>

## **Windham County Winter Activities Resource Guide from Rise Vermont**

RiseVT and VDH have collaborated to create a Winter Activity Resource Guide for Windham: [Windham County Winter Activities Resource Guide from Rise Vermont](#).

It is full of information on physical activity opportunities, mindfulness, recreating safely tips, and more! Hoping that this will help community members stay healthy and connected to the resources in our area.

## Vermont Foodbank Provides More Than Food!

3SquaresVT (3SVT, also known as SNAP or EBT) is a monthly benefit provided to eligible households that can be utilized to purchase food. 3SVT can be used at grocery stores, convenience stores, and farmer's markets. Many Vermonters are eligible and don't even know it!

Vermont Foodbank is here to help! We provide application assistance to get you the benefits you deserve. **To find out if you might be eligible, please call 1-855-855-6181, text VFBSNAP to 85511, or email 3SVT@vtfoodbank.org.**

Together we will get through this.

## WSESU 2020-2021 VeggieVanGo Schedule

VeggieVanGo is a program through the Vermont Foodbank that gives out free produce for people to take home and occurs at Brattleboro Union High School on:



January 5 (This is a Tuesday)

January 22 (This is a Friday)

February 1

February 15

March 1

March 15

April 5

April 19

May 3

May 17

June 7

June 21

### Important information:

- Updated hours: 10:00-11:30
- Drive through model- please stay in your vehicles
- If you are walking there: see a food bank associate but please make sure to stay 6 feet back.
- There are no income requirements, registration or paperwork to participate
- You do not need to be present to get food: you may ask someone to pick up on your family's behalf.

**Location:** In the parking lot across from the main entrance to Brattleboro Union High School located at 131 Fairground Road in Brattleboro.

### WSESU VVG Program Coordinator:

Kira Sawyer-Hartigan

WSESU

53 Green Street

Brattleboro, VT

[ksawyer-hartigan@wsesdvt.org](mailto:ksawyer-hartigan@wsesdvt.org)

(802)254-3730

## Solstice Birdseed Feeders

It's Winter Solstice and to celebrate the shortest day of the year, the Oak Grove PreK made birdseed feeders to hang in the school gardens and at home.

We used pitch pine and white pine cones and coated them with sun butter, nyjer seed, black oil sunflower seed, cracked corn and millet.

What kinds of birds may we see feeding on these?

Goldfinches, Purple Finches, Black Capped Chickadees, Northern Flicker, Blue Jays, Cardinals, Dark Eyed Juncos, Tufted Titmouse, Evening Grosbeak, Downy Woodpecker, Mourning Doves, Nuthatches, Wrens, Eastern Bluebirds, Pine Warble, Pine Siskins and Pine Grosbeak.

