



FAIRFIELD 3RD GRADE DAIRY IN THE CLASSROOM W/ GOVERNOR SCOTT AT SWEET'S DAIRY FARM

# Maple Run

The Maple Run Unified School District is where inquiring minds, compassionate hearts, creative expression, healthy lives and service to the community develop so all can learn, achieve and succeed.

- Bellows Free Academy
- Collins Perley Sports Center
- Fairfield Center School
- Northwest Technical Center
- St. Albans City School
- St. Albans Town Educational Center

February 2018

## Central Office

The Superintendent and some Central Office administrators have been meeting with the Union leadership on a regular basis. These meetings have been wonderful in sharing information and insights. One result of these meetings is that we have redesigned the Superintendent's newsletter to be a district-wide newsletter, more widely distributed to better share the happenings in each building. Thanks to Shawn Lefebvre for her great idea!

This is your newsletter and will be written to show how work at each of the schools in the district stands up to our mission statement. Each month, the last school to host the MRUSD Board meeting will be the cover school. We hope that you enjoy the new format, and feel free to send suggestions and items to be included to [bcomstock@maplerun.org](mailto:bcomstock@maplerun.org).

As Equity Coordinator for the District, Joanne Wells has been working with Heather Lynn to create a single reporting and investigation document for us to use across the district.

On November 14, the voters approved allowing the district to purchase the building currently housing Central Office and Early Childhood Programs. The Board has closed, and we own the building as of February 1, 2018.

Michelle Spence has created a monthly Early Childhood Memo with a plethora of resources. Check it out here: <https://www.smores.com/tc8h3>

The BFA Mercury has a nice article entitled *The Importance of SLPs* by Taylor Lavigne that is a nice read. It begins "What are SLPs, you may ask? SLP is the abbreviated form for Speech-Language Pathologist. Speech-Language Pathologists are professionals who are trained to help treat children and adults who have speaking disorders and language difficulty."

The article explains how SLPs are used in our district. Here's the link: <https://bfamercury.org/2337/showcase/the-importance-of-slps/> Enjoy!

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Another great article is *St. Michael's Students Turn Kids Cars Into Mobility Devices*. Here is an excerpt from that VPR article by Mitch Wertlieb & Melody Bodette that shows just how successful we can be when we use creativity in problem solving.

"A 5-year-old girl from St. Albans has limited mobility due to muscular dystrophy, and during her school day that poses a big challenge. But now thanks to some professors and students at Saint Michael's College, she'll have a new way to get around: a battery-operated ride-on car."

The full article is well worth the read at <http://digital.vpr.net/post/st-michaels-students-turn-kids-cars-mobility-devices#stream/o>

# Across Our District

## Cover School of the Month:

### Fairfield Center School

**MISSION - The Maple Run Unified School District is where: inquiring minds,**

From preK students exploring science through a scavenger hunt around the school property, to second grade learning about significant people in American History such as Ruby Bridges, Wilma Rudolph and others, to third graders learning and implementing the Habits of Mind and Habits of Interaction to help them be more thoughtful problem solvers, and students reading self-selected books, Fairfield students are actively involved with their education!

**compassionate hearts,**

We held a dedication of Grady's Garden, including a sprinkling of pollinator seeds.

An overly punitive disciplinary system in middle grades was ended and replaced with good classroom management and positive supports.

On Fridays, Middle School students are engaged in research. They are working on an empathy project that involves researching someone who has faced adversity or a major life challenge. Their project will involve informative writing and creating a product that shows what life is like for this person.

**creative expression,**

Students participated in a Cider Pressing.

The Outdoor Classroom Blog is up and running, along with the creation of Outdoor Classroom E-Block student group.

Third Grade ELA/Social Studies: Students had a great time with "Dairy in the Classroom." They learned about the various types of farms in our community, they visited a farm with Governor Scott, and they adopted a calf. This was the cover photo this month.

Fifth grade holds a Restorative Circle every Friday morning to work on class community.

The Music Department has fifteen general music classes, incorporating a 6th & 7th grade chorus, plus a class of 3 and 4-year-olds, a 33-member (and growing) Concert Band, and a 17-piece jazz ensemble. Upcoming performances include the Maple Festival Youth Talent Show and Maple Festival Parade during vacation in April, the annual Northwest Vermont District Middle School Music Festival the following week in

early May, the Fairfield's Got Talent Show in mid-May, our 10th anniversary performance with the jazz ensemble at Burlington's Discover Jazz Festival in early June, the Pre-K through 8th grade Spring Concert, also in early June, and the Greater Saint Albans Middle School Band Smithsonian Museum Concert & cultural tour of Washington, DC in late June after school ends for the year!

**healthy lives**

Every morning at 7:45 Fuel Up to Play 60 conducts a 15 minute "get up and move" activity session for early arriving students.

We are now participating in the Jay Peak Foundations ski/snowboard program!



**and service to the community develop so all can learn, achieve and succeed.**

The Hay Days project created many crafts to decorate the cafeteria for Harvest Dinner, which served over 170 community members.



Emma Archambault, along with students from City, Town, BFA, and Georgia, read her speech at the St. Albans Veterans' Day Ceremony that was held at BFA.

## BFA St. Albans

### **MISSION - The Maple Run Unified School District is where: inquiring minds,**

The BFA Experience hosts elementary students from our district as well as surrounding districts on their visit to the BFA Campus to get a feel for the school and its programs before entering high school. Here is a link to the [BFA Math Department's BFA Experience Video Presentation](#).

Senior Jared Sparr who represented BFA and the State of Vermont at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston. Jared received an award of excellence certifying his successful completion of the program.



### **compassionate hearts,**

BFA's Homecoming week in September began with the Homecoming Dance and concluding with the PowerPuff football game on September 23rd. At our Pep Rally Friday afternoon, school spirit was at an all-time high. During the pep rally BFA was acclaimed for being one of the very first nationally recognized Unified Champion Schools in the country!



### **creative expression,**

Our students performed brilliantly in the instrumental concert on October 25th and the fall choral concert on Nov. 2nd. We were also pleased to host the K-12 regional art show on October 24th.

The new Drama Instructor, Susan Palmer, began here in October and worked diligently to prepare students for the Fall Musical Godspell on November 16th. It was a great success.

### **healthy lives**

BFA provides year-round athletics. For details visit <https://sites.google.com/a/maplerun.org/athletics/>.

### **and service to the community**

The BFA Business Department hosted the second annual Financial Literacy Fair on October 11th. Sixty BFA students met with over forty-five community members from a variety of professions to offer the "Reality Store" as part of the school's financial literacy curriculum.

Students participated in community service activities in honor of Hiram Bellows, September 21.



The Powder Puff football game raised \$27,038.00 dollars to help benefit both Camp Ta-Kum-Ta and the Jim Bashaw Catastrophic Relief Fund.

The PowderPuff girls used part of their last day of summer to work for Camp Ta Kum Ta where they got a tour of the camp and did various clean up jobs around the camp's 100 acres!

## Collins Perley

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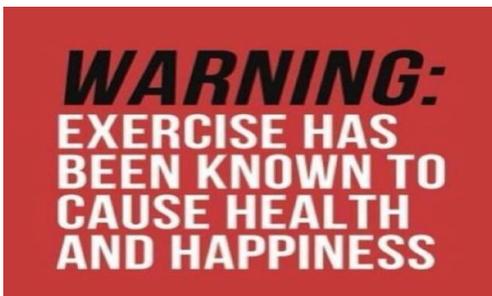
At Collins Perley most everything done touches each aspect of the mission statement. Many excellent wellness programs are offered throughout the year and have great participation.

The Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center is truly one of Vermont's recreation gems. With over 500,000 user visits a year, it is a testament to the region's commitment to recreation – traditional and non-traditional.

Collins Perley sits on 53 acres of land just off Exit 19 of Interstate 89 in St. Albans. While its primary user is its owner, Bellows Free Academy, the high school has had the vision to understand its best use is as a facility for the entire region to use.

Our 11 outdoor sports and fitness venues and five indoor venues make this facility one that is unparalleled in Vermont and probably the nicest facility of its type in any community in the country of a comparable size. We offer all of the major field sports. Our facilities include an ice rink, tennis courts, racquetball courts, a walking and jogging park, track and field, soccer pitch, football field, baseball/football fields, and a lacrosse field.

Our wellness facilities include tennis, fitness gym, racquetball, wallyball, martial arts, skating and more. We offer a wide range of the more popular fitness classes such as aerobics, Zumba, Tai Chi, belly dancing, and more.



Collins Perley serves as a Community Center. Art Shows, Conventions, Business Meetings, Job Fairs, Expositions, Concerts, even Funerals all find their way here. We host Vermont's Semi-pro Soccer team; The Vermont Voltage.

The sports fields have been upgraded to meet the growing needs of the community and our school sports. Greater Burlington



*Kids learning Zumba at Family Wellness Night at the Complex*

Summer Camp, special Olympics bocce tournament, and many more community activities are hosted here.

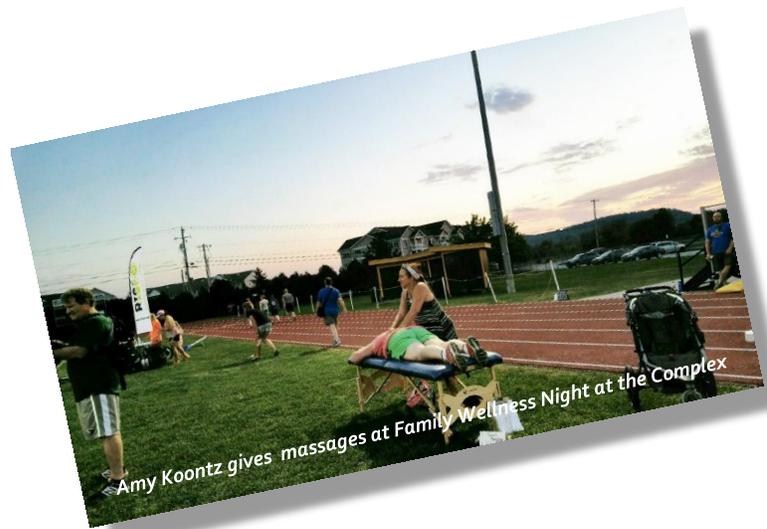
The Collins Perley Board is actively working with the Northwestern Medical Center hospital to develop a coordinated effort to improve wellness in our community.

Manager David Kimel has been recognized by the Functional Aging Institute (FAI), which is at the forefront of developing innovative, effective and science-based training programs for older adults.

Collins Perley ranked the "Number One" Sports Center in the State of Vermont. On the website "Best Things Vermont (powered by Americantowns Media)" writer Jeremy Perkins ranked the 10 Best Indoor

and Outdoor Sports Facilities in the State of Vermont.

Collins Perley's monthly newsletters list classes, events, and healthy cooking techniques and wellness articles. They can be found at <http://www.maplerun.org/o/cpsc/news>



*Amy Koontz gives massages at Family Wellness Night at the Complex*



*A Zumba Class*

## Northwest Technical Center

**MISSION - The Maple Run Unified School District is where: inquiring minds,**

Northwest Technical Center is proud to offer a new one period, elective Specialty Module: Sports Medicine! This class is open to all interested BFA students and will be taught by our new Medical Professions teacher, Mr. Hurteau.

**compassionate hearts,**

Students from the Medical Professions program learned how to navigate stairs, steps and obstacles with health conditions, such as being blind, deaf, on crutches, in a wheelchair, and carrying an oxygen tank. This exercise is a viewpoint from the perspective of a patient and a healthcare provider.

**creative expression,**

The Hideaway, our student run restaurant, represented the Northwest Technical Center at the Fine Wine, Food & Beer festival recently held in Taylor Park. The students in the second-year Culinary program volunteered their time to serve the most creative and delicious food. This year they prepared and served country pâté, baguette tuile, roasted beets glazed in chicken jus served with beet chip and homemade goat cheese topped with horseradish cream.

**healthy lives and**

Jim Naylor, the Cooperative Education Coordinator at the Northwest Technical Center in St. Albans was named VEHI's "Rock Star" VEHI'S Path (Planned Action Toward Health) Wellness program gather's nominations for super achievers they deem "Rockstars"; an elusive list of some deserving superhero's.



**service to the community develop so all can**

Students from Building Trades volunteered to make glass enclosures for the pets at the Franklin County Humane Society. Students and staff worked alongside staff at St. Albans Glass to learn how to cut, build and install aluminum storefront glass.

As part of his Co-operative Education placement, Public Safety & Fire Services student Samuel Hayford participated in "Coffee with a Cop" at Walmart last Friday. What a wonderful way to spread good will!

Students at the Northwest Technical Center are involved in a number of community service initiatives. From individual program initiatives such as doing manicures at local assisted living facilities, volunteering for rescue squads, and partnering with local schools and businesses on building projects, to school wide initiatives such as our Field Day, NWTC students are always ready and willing to lend a hand.

NWTC's Educator Effectiveness Team meets throughout the year to plan meaningful professional development. The structure is typically based on self-selected learning strands. This year's team elected to offer two strands: (1) understanding traumatic stress in students and (2) connecting proficiency-based learning with assessments. The staff self-selects a strand to attend during in-service days for the school year.

**achieve and succeed**

NWTC held its first advisory committee meeting of the year on November 14<sup>th</sup>. These meetings consist of stakeholders and program instructors who collaborate to build and improve programming based on the needs of the workforce. NWTC is required by VT state regulation to hold bi-annual advisory meetings to receive industry feedback on the relevance of program content, levels of student performance, work-based learning opportunities and strategies for program improvements.

The Adult Career Development office kicked off their Fall welding courses. The students consist of those wanting to start a new career, advance an existing one or simply explore the welding field. The welding courses focus on AC/DC stick, Metal Inert Gas (MIG), Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG), and Oxygen-Acetylene. Additionally, students learn to demonstrate proficiency in horizontal and vertical applications. A full Adult Career Development course listing can be viewed by visiting: <http://www.maplerun.org/o/cardev>.

Congratulations to Joseph Willis, an Engineering Technologies student at Northwest Technical Center. Joseph is a 2018 U.S. Presidential Scholarship nominee representing Vermont! The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program recognizes some of our most distinguished high school seniors. The program honors students who show exceptional academic achievement, talent in the visual, creative and performing arts, and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.



## St. Albans City School

**MISSION - The Maple Run Unified School District is where: inquiring minds,**

This year our Thematic Units aligned prek-8th grade resulting in a school-wide culminating event we called The Economy Unit - School Mall on December 14th. In this unit every team at our school was a business, with a product with packaging and a story, understanding the environmental, safety and business impacts. Once approved, mass production of their product began to be ready for the culminating event. Every member of our staff was included in pulling this together.

**compassionate hearts,**

Conscious discipline is a school-wide focus for us this year. The majority of our in-service at the start of the year, and our planned faculty meetings, are dedicated to expanding the knowledge and skill in our staff and ourselves.

**creative expression,**

Page 12 of the Vermont Digital Learning Plan features the St. Albans City School Maker Space. Use of our Maker Space continues to grow, and products we have created can be seen throughout our building. Administrators learned to use the laser cutter so that they can model the expectation. We expect that through the economics theme, more and more of our teachers will gain the skills to operate the equipment and link 'making' to their curriculum.

Fifth Graders are all getting exposure to music by playing the trumpet. Here is one group's performance for peers, parents and some teachers.



**healthy lives and**

Each of SACS menus begins with a bit of nutrition information like this example:

PLUMS: 1. Great for Relieving constipation and digestive problems. Filled with dietary fiber, sorbitol and isatin. 2. Protects your heart. A medium fresh plum contains 113 mg of potassium that helps manage high blood pressure and reduce your risk of stroke.

SACS is once again doing Walking Wednesdays. Every walking school bus has adult leaders, many with more than one. This year we also competed



in Way-to-Go on October 4th (one of our traditional Walking Wednesdays) as the day to get to school in fewer family and teacher vehicles.

All students in grade 1-8 start their day at the same time this year, making it so we cannot use the cafeteria for breakfast. "Breakfast after the bell" is our new breakfast plan, with hot breakfast for each cluster one day a week. Students are really enjoying having their breakfast in their rooms, and more of the food is getting eaten.

**service to the community develop so all can**

Students from Team Renaissance gathered donations of 1375 food items to give to Operation Happiness, pictured left.

Farm to School - our school garden has been supplying food to the Abbey for our lunches. This food was also featured at our Open House on September 28th. We received a \$1,500.00 grant from RISE Vermont to help with the garden infrastructure.

The Compost Shed is actively composting classroom waste. Classrooms bring fruit and vegetable waste along with used paper towels to be composted by students for future use in our gardens.

Our Butterfly Garden is working - we saw more butterflies this year (at various stages) than we have in the last few years. We are also a registered Monarch Butterfly Waystation.

**learn,**

Math Counts - a program for 6th, 7th and 8th grade - was dormant for a few years at our school. This year we brought it back using our expanded Morning WIN (What I Need) time and led by the new Math Interventionist.

Spelling Bee 5-8 kicked off - this program has run every year, this year we are the host site for MRUSD. The three schools share this responsibility.

**achieve and succeed.**

Math Course - 25 teachers prek-8th grade took a course at our school with Sandi Stanhope and John Tapper. We had two days

together at the start of the year and meet monthly throughout the year. Our course is focused on successful interventions. Our September Night course was one where we looked at student work from the first few weeks - this will continue throughout.

The Cottage houses our 3 and 4-year-old part-day students Monday through Thursday. On Friday we have a program to support our youngest students who have experienced significant trauma. This is a net zero building with solar on the roof of the maintenance facility supporting both buildings.



Teachers & Students enjoy some winter fun

## St. Albans Town Educational Center

**MISSION - The Maple Run Unified School District is where: Inquiring Minds**

Les mois de l'année. In the video linked here the St. Albans Town Educational Center third graders sharing vocabulary about the months of the year - in French!

Our solar project was completed in November with a press conference on November 28th. We were excited to have the story picked up by the Messenger, WPTZ and even Rep. Peter Welch re-tweeted Stewart Ledbetter's story.



8th Grade Students Present at the Solar Kick Off

Congratulations to our 5/6 Spelling team for being a regional finalist at the VPA Spelling Bee Championship in Northfield.



### Compassionate Hearts & Service to the Community

The middle school held the annual food drive to support Operation Happiness. Grades 5-8 were able to collect 950 items this year and are already planning to make this a school wide event for 2018!

Hannaford Give a Meal Program - Amy Ward, School Counselor, led the loose change collection again this year and SATEC was able to collect enough change to purchase 46 meal boxes.

SATEC held its PBis Kindness Booster Kickoff, which was a spectacular success. You can enjoy the video here:

<https://youtu.be/WmPtWs2lhDI>

### Creative Expression

A World of Difference/Student Leadership - Members of SATEC's "Youth Leaders" group had the great opportunity to spend some time with students from BFA's Leadership classes. Both groups got to work on getting out of their comfort zones while focusing on leadership, acceptance, and how they can be a good role model at their school. Our students also got a chance to learn more about the BFA experience.



SATEC Youth Leadership

SATEC students began composting this fall. We worked with NWSWD to educate students and staff on how to effectively compost and reduce the amount that SATEC sends to the landfill. Students and Staff have been doing a fantastic job and have composted over 8,000 pounds since we began at the start of this school year!

### Healthy Lives

SATEC began participating in the *Breakfast After the Bell* initiative in November. Breakfast

After the Bell has students sign up the day before and then breakfast is brought to the classroom. By eliminating lines and making breakfast more accessible we have seen the number of students eating breakfast each day increase by almost 100. Staff, students and the Abbey Group have been extremely flexible and worked together to help make this possible.

Day one at Jay Peak on 12/12/17. What fun!

