

# The Trailblazer Tribune

News and Announcements about Leicester Central School

Friday, January 12, 2018

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## A Message from the Superintendent

**Greetings and Happy 2018!**

As we are now deep into the winter season, a few reminders might be helpful. We do use a robo call system to notify families when school is delayed or cancelled. However, it is not the only way we communicate. We also notify T.V. and radio stations, tweet it out, and use Facebook when schools have that tool available. Decisions to delay or close are made by 6:00 a.m., which is when our buses head out for first pick-ups; rarely do we have to decide after 6:00 a.m., so if you think there should be a delay or cancellation and you have not yet gotten a call, please check the T.V. and radio stations, as well, and let your school know if you did not get a call that you know went out.

On days when the temperatures are below 0 degrees, we work hard to keep our buses from freezing up and not starting. At times, we are unsuccessful. If that happens, we will make a general call to let people know bus routes may be delayed. However, we are unable to call each family. On these freezing days, be sure to stay inside and dress your kids for the weather!

Budget decisions should be coming to an end this month as the Barstow board meets to decide their budget on January 8<sup>th</sup> and Otter Valley Unified on January 10<sup>th</sup>. The Barstow board meets in the Barstow School library and the Otter Valley board meets at the high school for their budget meetings. Information on past discussions can be found on the R.N.E.S.U. website ([www.rnesu.org](http://www.rnesu.org)) under District Information, Boards, and then Agendas and Minutes. Suggestions and comments can be shared using the "Let's Talk" button on every school website and will be forwarded to all board members.

Stay warm and have a great start to the new year!

**Jeanne Collins**

**Superintendent of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union**

## The Co-Principals' Corner

**Greetings!**

I hope this finds you and all the members of your family enjoying a happy and safe new year. May 2018 be your best year yet! Students are working hard in their classrooms and in preparation for our upcoming Winter Concert, which will be held on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the town hall. We will provide you with more information about the concert as the date approaches.

*This is a reminder that there is no school on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.*

### Regular School Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential for children's academic success. Our school district has a policy related to school attendance and has asked schools to implement practices which support that policy by encouraging regular attendance for all students. The practice we will implement here at L.C.S. will be to send parents/guardians letters when their children have been absent or tardy for 5, and then 10, 15, and 20 days and to set up meetings with them when a child has been absent and/or tardy a total of 15 or more times during a school year. Our hope is that these meetings will be helpful in encouraging regular school attendance by identifying and resolving situations which may be challenges to that. In rare situations, the school may seek the support of the Office of the State's Attorney to assist in ensuring regular school attendance as required by law.

The policy is as follows: *"The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union and the State of Vermont are continuing their efforts to ensure that students attend school for a full school day. Students are required by state law to attend school unless excused for illness or a family emergency. If a student is going to be absent or tardy, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian(s) to notify the school, in writing, whenever possible. An absence or tardiness is considered unexcused until the school hears from the parent/guardian(s) with a valid excuse such as illness, family emergency, or pre-approved educational activity. When students are absent or tardy, the school documents the cumulative incidences of tardiness and/or absence of each student, which may be used for truancy proceedings. Support services are offered as needed."*

### P.T.O. Update

The P.T.O. is a good forum in which to ask questions and voice concerns. Your input is valued and appreciated as we work together to educate the children of Leicester. The next meeting of the P.T.O. takes place on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the school. Please join us! *The group is planning a "Fun Friday" event for Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Please look for details in next week's newsletter.*

### Interim Student Reports

Report cards for students are prepared three times a year: in November, March, and June. Half-way between these trimesters, interim reports are prepared and distributed and sent home with students to inform parents/guardians of their children's progress in academic and behavioral areas. We had planned to distribute interim reports on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> but realized that if we pushed the date back one week (to January 19<sup>th</sup>) instead, we would be able to include updated assessment data in those reports. Therefore, please expect your child to bring home her/his interim report on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, instead of January 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Student Banking**

We are excited about offering the opportunity for students to learn about the value of saving money and the banking process (the fancy name for that now is economic literacy) and are thankful to the National Bank of Middlebury for their support of these efforts. The school bank (run by members of the Student Council) is open each Tuesday from 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria. We invite you to request the paperwork needed to set up a bank account for your children and help them establish good financial habits.

### **Thank You Notes**

- ... to Ms. Diane Benware and Ms. Beth Cole and other community members who donated items for our recent Holiday Sale;
- ... to Mrs. Joann Trudeau for donating a book to each Pre-K/Kindergarten student in memory of her daughter;
- ... to Middlebury Farm and Garden for giving us a great discount on bird seed for the bird feeders at Porter Nursing Home, which was a community service project for us. We appreciate the efforts of Mrs. Megan Dupoise-Chandler for arranging that discount;
- ... to Ms. Crystal Sears and other members of the American Legion chapter in Brandon for donating items for families in need during the holiday season; and
- ... to Brody Coffman, Ethan Dukette, Killyin Hellmuth-Norton, Nicholas Morse, Winnie Moyer, Thomic Moyer, and Fiona Taylor for presenting at a recent Community Circle.

### **School Calendar**

Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (No school)  
Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> (7:30-8:00 a.m.): Student Banking.  
Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>: Progress Reports Sent Home with Students  
Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> (6:30 p.m.): Winter Concert  
Monday, February 19 – Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>: Winter Recess  
Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>: End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester  
Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> (3:00 – 7:00 p.m.): Student Conferences  
Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>: Teacher Inservice (no school)  
Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> (3:00 – 7:00 p.m.): Student Conferences  
Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>: Spring Recess  
Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>: Progress Reports Sent Home with Students  
Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>: Memorial Day Holiday  
Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>: Last School Day for the 2017-18 Academic Year