

The Trailblazer Tribune

News and Announcements about Leicester Central School

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The Co-Principals' Corner

Greetings!

I hope this season of winter is a safe and enjoyable one for you and all the members of your family. Have you noticed the sunlight now appearing a bit earlier and earlier each afternoon? How nice to see spring inching its way closer and closer. Speaking of that upcoming season, Town Meeting Day is a ritual of the season of spring, and it will be held on Tuesday, March 6th. (We do have school that day.) If you would like to register to vote, you may do so at the Secretary of State's website, which is www.olvr.sec.state.vt.us or by visiting the Town Clerk's Office. Now that we have same-day voter registration in Vermont, you may also register to vote at the polling place on Town Meeting Day itself.

Our school concert will be on Wednesday, February 7th, and our winter vacation will be the week of February 19th through 23rd, with school resuming on February 26th.

Winter Concert

We will hold our annual Winter Concert on Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Leicester Meeting House (the old brick building near school). Under the direction of Ms. Mary Barron, our Music teacher, the concert will feature selections presented by each of our classes. Your child is expected to attend this event, as it is part of our fine arts curriculum. We hope you and other members of your family will, too.

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 8th at 5:30 p.m. at the school. Please join us! The group is planning a "Fun Friday" event for Friday, February 9th from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Please look for details in next week's newsletter.**

Please Help us with Dismissal Plan Changes

School is a hectic place at dismissal. We take great care making sure students are safe and headed for where they need to go. We need your help. Please contact Mrs. Randall at school before 2:00 p.m. if the dismissal plan for your child(ren) changes. (We know that last-minute emergencies sometimes make that impossible.) However, the more advance notice we receive about changes to the dismissal plan, the better able we are to make sure your children receive word about the change and are headed in the direction you need them to go. Thank you for your help with this.

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.**

Student Council

The Student Council is putting together a proposal to teachers to hold a “School Spirit Week” in February. Details will be coming your way soon. The council meets each Thursday during a “working lunch” and members have lots of ideas, enthusiasm, and energy!

Digital Citizenship/Internet Safety

Ms. Christine Tate, our school librarian, and Ms. Susan Briere, a Technology Specialist employed by the school district, will be teaming up to provide students with research-based instruction relating to digital citizenship/internet safety. They will use a curriculum called commonsensemedia.org. (Please check it out to learn more about it.) Our School Safety Team also identified two other sites: healthychildren.org and netsmartz as appropriate resources. Please contact me at the school if you’d like to know more about the work of Ms. Tate and Ms. Briere. ***As is the case with almost every other school, we have practices and protocols in place to address the topic of student use of cell phones and electronic devices, etc.*** (Please refer to page 17 of the family handbook for more information.) ***While students are not prohibited from bringing cell phones and electronic devices to school, we do not encourage them to do so, as they may be lost, damaged, or stolen. If we observe a student using such a device, or even having it on display, we will confiscate it and store it at the office for safekeeping until the end of that school day, when the student may reclaim it. If the incident happens again, we will confiscate the device and ask a parent/guardian to come to school to reclaim it on their child’s behalf.***

Thank You Notes

- . . . to all parents/guardians and community members who continue to bring in plastic milk jugs for a project for Ms. Noonan's class,
- . . . to all the students in grades 1 through 4 who have helped prepare and report our daily announcements,
- . . . and to grade 4 student Dakota Counter-Spinner for her willingness to serve as teller of our school bank.

School Calendar

Tuesday, January 30th (7:30-8:00 a.m.): Student Banking
 Wednesday, February 7th (6:30 p.m.): Winter Concert. Location: Meeting House
 Thursday, February 8th (5:30-6:30 p.m.): P.T.O. Meeting
 Friday, February 9th (2:30-4:30 p.m.): "Fun Friday" Event
 Monday, February 19 – Friday, February 23rd: Winter Recess
 Tuesday, March 6th: Town Meeting Day (School **will** be in session.)
 Friday, March 9th: End of 2nd Trimester
 Thursday, March 15th (3:00 – 7:00 p.m.): Student Conferences
 Friday, March 16th: School Day for Students to Make Up for Previous Closures
 Tuesday, March 20th (3:00 – 7:00 p.m.): Student Conferences
 Monday, April 16th – Friday, April 20th: Spring Recess
 Friday, April 27th: Progress Reports Sent Home with Students
 Monday, May 28th: Memorial Day Holiday
 Friday, June 1st (6:30-8:30 p.m.): Middle School Transition Night
 Tuesday, June 12th: Last School Day for the 2017-18 Academic Year