

March 14, 2025

Dear Folsom Families,

Today is the end of Trimester 2, and we're two-thirds of the way through the school year. Isn't it hard to believe? Our Middle School knows how to celebrate: They are holding a dance from 7-9 tonight. It's a rite of passage I'm sure many of you remember.

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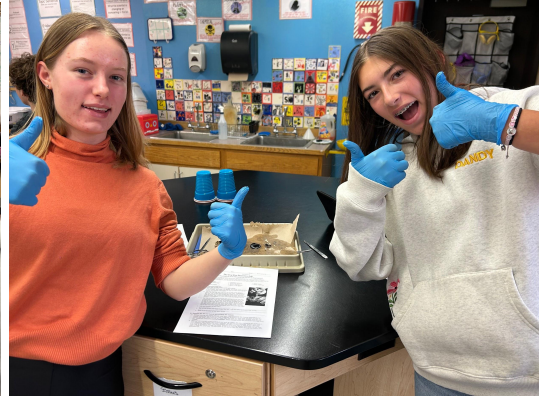
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This Week at Folsom



3rd and 4th graders learn to skate at Essex High School's rink.

This week was physically fun for students as we held our much delayed Ski & Ride Trip to Smugglers Notch on Monday, and the 3rd and 4th graders went skating on the Essex High rink as a team-building activity. Many students said it was their first time ice skating.



The 7th and 8th grade students wrapped up their study of the nervous system by exploring the human eye. They learned how the eye captures images and how the brain processes them. They discussed how rods allow us to see in black and white, while cones enable color vision. Through experiments with lenses and light sources, students also discovered why some eyes require corrective lenses. To conclude the study, Ms. Cantell and students dissected a cow eye. Students were excited to observe how the iris functions, the apparent "absence" of a pupil, and the tangible structure of the lens.



Skiing ... not skiing: We all enjoyed the day.



7-8 Leaders visited their younger buddies for a game break mid-week.



These 4th graders donated \$62 to our Playground Fund by making and selling crafts in their neighborhood. That's the spirit! Clubs started up, and Dear Edwina Jr. practices have begun.

A highlight of my week was attending a Foundations lesson in first grade, where students were learning about digraph blends. Challenged to spell a tough, new word, a student spontaneously said, "We can handle anything!" And classmates chimed in: "That's the spirit!"

With all the challenges in the world, it's wonderful to be reminded by children that, yes, "we can handle anything."

Measles

GISU Nurse Kristie Barber shares this information about measles: As of March 11, 2025, there has been one case of measles in Vermont in 2025. Stay up to date at [HealthVermont.gov/measles](https://www.healthvermont.gov/measles). According to 2023-2024 school immunization survey data, 93% of children in Vermont public and independent schools are fully vaccinated against measles before entering kindergarten. This data does not include children who are home schooled or not yet enrolled in school. Because measles is so contagious, 95% of a population needs to be immune to limit the spread of the virus effectively.

More information is available at these links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mv9LILA8s5M>

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/measles>

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/resources/protect-your-child-infographic.html>

Movie Night

Folsom PTO will be hosting a Family/Community Movie Night on Friday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m. There is no entry fee, and PTO will have treats and refreshments for sale. The movie will be announced next week.

PTO Meeting

The next Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Folsom Library. Here is the link in case you would rather join virtually <https://meet.google.com/mzg-deqc-ven>. All Folsom parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

Ski / Ride Trip

Don't forget our final Ski / Ride Trip is **Wednesday, March 19**. The 5-8 Team leaves shortly after the start of the day, and the South Hero Rec Program picks up at 11:15 a.m. When the day is done, please make sure you return passes and orange bandanas to your Ski Coordinators, Samantha Cantell and Eric Hammond.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Trimester 2 closes today, and that means it is time to sign up for a conference with your student's teachers. I encourage all families to sign up.

Conferences at a Glance	
Monday, March 24	Mrs. Mobley/2nd Grade: 3:15-4:45 p.m. Mrs. Branon & Mrs. Holm / 3rd & 4th grades: 2-3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 25	Mrs. Couture/Kindergarten: 3:15-7 p.m. Mrs. Mobley/2nd Grade: 3:15-4:45 p.m. Mrs. Branon & Mrs. Holm / 3rd & 4th grades: 2-3:00 p.m. UA Teachers - drop-in 3-5 p.m. Principal - drop-in 3-5 p.m.
Wednesday, March 26	Mrs. Mobley/2nd Grade: 3:15-4:45 p.m. UA Teachers - drop-in 3-5 p.m.
Thursday, March 27	Mrs. Couture/Kindergarten: 3:15-7 p.m. Mrs. Branon & Mrs. Holm / 3rd & 4th grades: 2-3:30 p.m.
Friday, March 28	Mrs. Branon & Mrs. Holm / 3rd & 4th grades: 2-3:00 p.m.
Monday, March 31	(NO SCHOOL - Inservice & Conferences) Ms. Kendrach/1st Grade: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mrs. Branon & Mrs. Holm / 3rd & 4th grades: 7:30-Noon Mrs. Harte /5th-8th ELA: Noon-7:30 p.m. Mrs. Perry /5th-8th Math: Noon-7:30 p.m. Ms. Cantell / 5th-8th Science: Noon-7:30 p.m. Mr. Nolan / 5th-8th Social Studies: Noon-7:30 p.m. Principal - drop-in 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Here is how to sign up for conferences

Conferences can be in person or virtual. Teachers will connect with you about their meeting format. To schedule Parent/Teacher Conferences with homeroom and core academic teachers, please sign up online. Each teacher/team has set up schedules that offer various dates and times. To sign up online, please follow these instructions: Pick a time slot by entering this link in your internet browser: www.ptcfast.com/reg1

Select a code:

Parent /Teacher Conference Codes:

Kindergarten - Couture - CVZ112383

1st Grade - Kendrach - 8NM112386

2nd Grade - Mobley - ZVJ180139

3rd/4th Grade - Branon & Holm - OMY112629

Middle School Language Arts - Harte - 3WB1248408

Middle School Math - Perry - E001248401

Middle School Science - Cantell - XEQ112388

Middle School Social Studies - Nolan - PVS1248398

If you are not able to sign up online, please call Sue at 372-6600 x.1

Unified Arts Teachers - Bedard, Currier, Jedziniak, Fouts, Lyon-Horne: The UA Team is offering drop-in time for any/all parents. Teachers will be available in their classrooms on Tuesday, March 25, and Wednesday, March 26, from 3-5 p.m.

Principal: You can have a conference with your principal, too. Please drop-in if you'd like on Monday, March 31, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. or Tuesday, March 25, from 3-5 p.m. You may also call the office to arrange a conference at a different time.

State Testing

Each year, students across Vermont take state tests in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science. At Grand Isle Supervisory Union, students in grades 3-8 participate. These assessments are called the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program (VTCAP). This is the third year we have been using this test in the state. The tests are taken on computers and have many options to support student needs. The tests will be given between March 10 and May 2, 2025. Tests will be given at any time during the testing window and will be held at school during the regular school day. Our school's schedule is below:

We will test on these dates:

Grades	Dates	Time	Subject Area
3rd-4th	April 1-4	8:30-10 a.m.	ELA
	April 8-11		Math
5th-8th	April 1-4	9:30-11 a.m.	ELA

	April 8-11		Math
5th & 8th	April 14-17	9:30-11 a.m.	Science

Please make sure your student has a good night's sleep and eats a nutritious breakfast before testing. We also encourage students to bring wired headphones from home if they have a pair that is most comfortable for them.

We will send home your child's student report once we receive it. State assessments are just one way that we measure student learning. It is important to remember that the VTCAP measures broad areas of understanding while our local assessments are more specific to what students are learning in the moment. If you have questions, please reach out to the school.

Middle School Calcutta

The Folsom Middle School is holding a Calcutta fundraiser to help pay for the costs of busing for middle school field trips and graduation. This fundraiser is a chance to win \$1,000 by buying a Calcutta ball. If your numbered ball is the last one drawn, you're the grand prize winner. There will be additional prizes from local businesses, ski resorts and more.

- When: 4-7 p.m. Sunday, April 6
- Where: McKee's of South Hero
- Cost: \$50 for 1 ticket/1 dinner; \$75 for 1 ticket/2 dinners. You can buy as many tickets as you'd like.

How to participate: Fill out the [FORM](#). Or, email or call Alison Perry: 802-238-6950 aperry@gisu.org. Thanks for your support!

Upcoming Events

- ☐ **March 19:** Ski/Ride Trip (*rescheduled*)
- ☐ **March 22:** Storytime with former teacher Helen Bishop, 10 a.m. at Worthen Library
- ☐ **March 28:** 6:30 p.m. PTO-sponsored Family Community Movie Night.
- ☐ **March 31:** No school for conferences
- ☐ **April 1-17:** State VTCAP testing at Folsom. Required for all students in grades 3-8.
- ☐ **April 10:** Half-Day Inservice. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. with a grab-and-go lunch if they request it. The next half-day is May 8.
- ☐ **June 10:** Folsom 8th Grade Graduation, 6 p.m.

Enjoy your weekend!

Julie Pidgeon
Folsom Principal