

Feb. 14, 2025

Dear Folsom Families,

Happy Valentine's Day! Something I love about this holiday (besides the chocolate, of course) is that it encourages sending cards to friends and family. Writing letters and cards was a big part of my childhood, but in the era of Facetime and high-speed Internet, handwritten notes are less common. But who doesn't love receiving a card or note from a friend? It's an act of kindness and care, and that's what we hope to inspire in our students.

Looking ahead, we have a blockbuster week ahead with the Pasta Dinner tomorrow, the 3rd and 4th grade Play on Tuesday night and the Middle School Science Fair on Wednesday night. We hope Folsom is in your plans for all of these awesome events.

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Seventh- and eighth-graders in music class, learning guitar and getting ready to be rock stars.

This Week at Folsom

We had another busy week at Folsom. Seventh- and eighth-graders learned from Chef Jackie Major how to serve food in a restaurant. They are trained and ready to take your orders at the Pasta Dinner on Saturday. These students are also preparing science boards for the Science Fair, including putting the polishing touches on background research they conducted in their Library Media class with Mr. Fouts. It truly takes a team to support student-scientists. And the 5-8 teaching team was in a full-court press to help students prepare to present on Wednesday.

The Elementary crew is always hopping. Cross Country skiing continues to be popular in PE class, and Mr. Currier reports that students are making great progress. I enjoyed a first-grade math lesson on the concept of 10 plus more, or the teen numbers. The Illustrative Math curriculum encourages students to explore their thinking and make sense of the answers.

Our Middle School basketball teams are entering their last week of the season. On Monday, coaches honored eighth-grade players before well-contested games vs. Fairfield. Our players have made such growth over the season. Thank you Coaches Dave, Ed, Brittany, and Dylan, plus all the assistant coaches and our AD Connor Walsh, for a positive season for our student-athletes.



Art students work on submissions for a Casella calendar art contest.



The 7-8 Boys and Girls played Fairfield on Monday. Both games were exciting, well-played contests. Our student-athletes made us proud!



The Folsom 5th and 6th grade basketball teams played Milton on Tuesday. There were lots of smiles as the ball went into the basket.

Pasta Dinner: Spreading the Love TOMORROW!



Our Pasta Dinner is **tomorrow, Saturday, Feb. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m.** You're ALL invited! Chef Jackie Major and her amazing crew will be serving marinara or pesto alfredo sauce with meatballs or roasted broccoli. The meal is by donation, and proceeds will help us start a seed fund to benefit playground renovation. Let's all get together Saturday as a community and enjoy a great meal!

Winter Ski & Snowboarding Trips

We have makeup dates for our Ski/Ride Trip: Monday, March 10, and Wednesday, March 19. Ms. Cantell and Mr. Hammond will be sending out details for our Middle School and grades 1-4 participants. Please thank them for all the extra work this year to make this experience happen.

3-4 Play: "A Mixed-Up Fairytale"

Our 3rd and 4th graders are excited to share their play, "A Mixed-Up Fairytale," on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. In the play, a windstorm blows the pages of the Grimm Brothers' famous stories everywhere, and suddenly the characters aren't in the usual castles and cottages. For many students, this is their first experience participating in live theater, and directors Shannon Lowe and Kristen Bartle are teaching them the process (and vocabulary) with hopes this will be the first of many curtain calls.

Important weather update: Parents, please keep an eye on your email. The forecasted storm on Sunday may impact the tech rehearsal that is planned. Your play directors will reach out to you if there are any changes in the schedule for rehearsal.



Middle School students are getting their boards ready for the Science Fair on Wednesday.

Science Fair

The Middle School Science Fair is Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 6 p.m. Our 5th through 8th graders will present their experiments to the community. The process of developing an experiment to test a question, of gathering and analyzing data, and of presenting results to a live audience provides lessons far behind the science curriculum.

Winter Spirit Week at Folsom

February 17th - 21st

Day	Spirit Week Theme
Monday 2/17	Winter Day Come to school dressed in your favorite winter outfit!
Tuesday 2/18	Winter Sports Day Come to school dressed in your favorite winter sports outfit!
Wednesday 2/19	Community Group Colors! Today our PBIS community groups gather so deck yourself out in your group's color! Watermelon- Blue Grape- Purple Pineapple- Yellow Kiwi- Light Green Orange- Orange Strawberry- Pink Coconut- White Apple- Black Avocado- Dark Green Cherry- Red
Thursday 2/20	Future Day Come to school dressed in the profession (job) you'd like to be in the future!
Friday 2/21	Winter Hibernation Come to school in your cozy winter outfit or PJs and get ready for our vacation hibernation!

Budget Vote

South Hero's Annual Meeting is **Saturday, March 1**, at 9 a.m. at Folsom School. **Town voting on the school budget is Tuesday, March 4**. Every vote, and every voice, is important in a democracy. Make sure your vote is counted by going in person to vote on March 4, or by requesting an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available by contacting the South Hero Town Clerk: 802-372-5552 or townclerk@southherovt.org or <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. Look for information from the School Board in the mail and on our website: [LINK](#)

Lost and Found

When you're at Folsom this week for the play or the Science Fair, stop by and browse the Lost and Found. We'd love to reunite you with your stuff. Eventually, we will take unclaimed items to Goodwill. But wouldn't it be great to find that lost glove, the sweatshirt you wore in the fall and forgot at school, or the rain jacket?

Spring Clubs

Do you have an idea for an after-school club? Would you be willing to share your talent and time to provide an extracurricular opportunity for students? Please contact Julie Pidgeon (jpidgeon@gisu.org) if you are interested in being a club leader this spring. You need to be an approved chaperone (fingerprinted) and a willingness to spend an hour a week after-school with a group of students. I guarantee they'll put a smile on your face! Here is a link to a Google Form you can use to sign up to be a Club Leader: [FORM](#)

Upcoming Events

- ☐ **Feb. 15:** Folsom Pasta Dinner: 5-7 p.m. by donation at Folsom School. All are invited!
- ☐ **Feb. 18:** 3-4 Play "A Mixed-Up Fairytale" at 6 p.m. at Folsom School
- ☐ **Feb. 19:** 5th-8th Science Fair at 6 p.m. at Folsom School
- ☐ **Feb. 24-March 4:** Winter Break
- ☐ **March 1:** South Hero School Budget Informational Meeting, 6 p.m. at Folsom School
- ☐ **March 4:** School Budget Voting at the Town Offices
- ☐ **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.

Enjoy your weekend!

Julie Pidgeon
Principal