

March 7, 2025

Dear Folsom Families,

Thank you for your support of the South Hero School Budget. Our spending plan for next year is lean and required hard choices. We appreciate your faith in our effort to give South Hero's children the best education we can afford. We love what we do here at Folsom, and we appreciate the security of an approved budget so we can continue to move forward.

Welcoming your children back to school brought the sunshine on Wednesday. They were so excited to share about vacation adventures. The staff enjoyed well deserved time off to rest and recharge, and now we're looking forward to the whirlwind of spring.

Table of Contents

[This Week at Folsom](#)

[Spring Clubs](#)

[Ski / Ride Trips](#)

[Daylight Savings Time](#)

[8th Grade Graduation](#)

[Parent-Teacher Conferences](#)

[State Testing](#)

[Attendance Counts: A Letter from Margaret Gilbert](#)

[Kestrels!](#)

[Middle School Calcutta](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

This Week at Folsom



This week was short and moved fast! It was so fast, we could barely capture the young gymnasts in PE class. Mr. Carrier shared that PE classes started a climbing/ gymnastics unit focusing on body control and moving safely while performing different coordinating skills.

Our 7th and 8th grade Community Group leaders worked on building trust while leading group members through an obstacle course. A key component is clear communication.



A lesson on time estimation made me reflect on how a student might initially think an activity will take "forever," but when we have them measure the time, it's less than they think. A simple strategy like this helps students learn to develop a concept of time and how to manage it. And couldn't we all use that skill this time of year?

Spring Clubs

Spring clubs start on Wednesday, March 12. Now is the time to sign up! The registration closes Sunday at noon. To sign up for spring clubs, use this [Google Form](#). You can find descriptions of the clubs in this document: [Folsom Spring Club Details](#)

Ski / Ride Trips

Our rescheduled Ski / Ride Trips are coming up on **Monday, March 10**, and **Wednesday, March 19**. A big thank you to Eric Hammond, the Rec Program coordinator for grades 1-4, and Samantha Cantell, the grades 5-8 program coordinator. They have put a lot of effort into keeping this opportunity available for students despite all the crazy weather in February. We hope students have a great time learning winter sports and develop a lifelong love of winter recreation.

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time is Sunday, March 9. Don't forget to spring forward and set your clocks ahead one hour.



Mrs. Couture visits 4th grade for their PBIS Classroom reward to run Morning Meeting.

8th Grade Graduation

The Superintendent has set Tuesday, June 10, as Folsom School's 8th Grade Graduation. Our graduation ceremony begins at 6 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Trimester 2 closes on March 14, 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 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 - 0MY112629
 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

The state standardized test of literacy, mathematics and science will take place soon at Folsom. This test is required of all students in grades 3-8. The Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program (VTCAP) is a computer-based, adaptive test from the Cognia company. Students in grades 3-9 take tests in English Languages Arts and Math. Students in grades 5 and 8 are tested in science as well. The tests are designed to measure students' proficiency toward Common Core standards. The test is one data point among many that we collect to help us understand how your student is learning. We understand that your children are unique individuals who learn in many different ways. We know that while this data gives us some feedback on what students are learning, it is not the only measure.

We will test on these dates:

Grades	Dates	Time	Subject Area
3rd-4th	April 1-2	8:30-10 a.m.	ELA
	April 3-4		ELA makeups
	April 8-9		Math
	April 10-11		Math makeups
5th-8th	April 1-2	9:30-11 a.m.	ELA
	April 3-4		ELA makeups
	April 8-9		Math
	April 10-11		Math makeups
5th & 8th	April 14-15	9:30-11 a.m.	Science

	April 16-17		Science makeups
--	-------------	--	-----------------

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.

Please let your children know there is no need to feel stressed or worried; this is just one part of the many activities we do at school. If you have any questions about testing, please call or email Julie Pidgeon (jpidgeon@gisu.org).

Attendance Counts: A Letter from Margaret Gilbert

Dear Families,

Welcome back! We hope you had a fun and relaxing Winter Break.

As we get back into school, we want to remind everyone how important it is for students to come to school EVERY DAY. Regular attendance helps students learn more and stay on track. Missing school means missing important lessons, and it can be tough to catch up. Every school day is a chance to learn and connect with teachers and classmates.

You can help!

Please help by making sure your child comes to school on time and as often as possible. If your student is healthy, we encourage daily attendance. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance due to health, please contact your school's health office or our district nurse, Kristie Barber (kbarber@gisu.org).

If you have any questions or are facing challenges with attendance, don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to help!

Thank you,
Margaret Gilbert
School Engagement Support
mgilbert@gisu.org
802-372-6921 x2020

Kestrels!

The South Hero Conservation Commission will be holding an American Kestrel nest box building community event on Saturday, March 8, 2025, in the Folsom gym from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This project is a partnership with Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences (VINS). According to VINS, "Kestrel populations are declining across North America and one hypothesis is that they lack adequate nesting sites as a result of habitat alteration." The plan is to put some of these nesting boxes near Folsom. If you are an eighth-grader, you can earn community service

hours for volunteering at this event. For more information, contact Mark Naud from the Conservation Commission (mnaudlaw@gmail.com).

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 8:** Kestrel Nest Box Building at Folsom, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- ☐ **March 10:** Ski/Ride Trip (*rescheduled*)
- ☐ **March 14:** Middle School Dance, 7-9 p.m. & end of Trimester 2.
- ☐ **March 19:** Ski/Ride Trip (*rescheduled*)
- ☐ **March 22:** Storytime with former Folsom teacher Helen Bishop, 10 a.m. at Worthen Library
- ☐ **March 28:** PTO-sponsored Family Community Movie Night. Save the date!
- ☐ **March 31:** No school for conferences
- ☐ **April 1-17:** State VTCAP testing. 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, and don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday.

Julie Pidgeon
Folsom Principal