

April 4, 2025

Dear Folsom Families,

Your children and staff are rock stars! State standardized testing takes a lot of preparation and attention to detail on the part of staff, and it takes a lot of heart and effort on the part of students. Both were in evidence this week as we started our testing Odyssey. Even our youngest learners, who aren't required to take the state tests until 3rd grade, did their part to be quiet in the halls. Two more weeks - we've got this!

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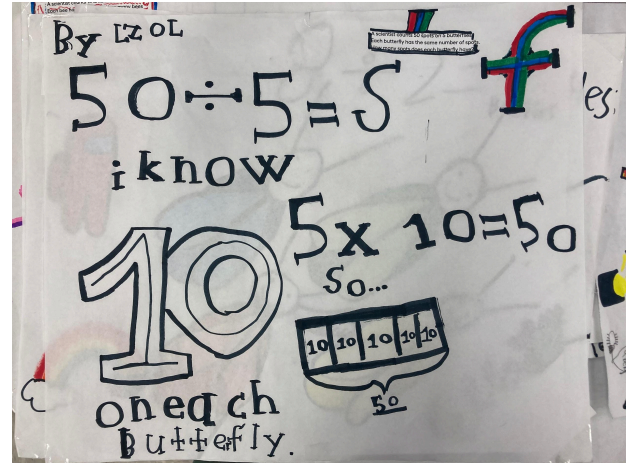
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This Week at Folsom

Seventh- and eighth-grade students in their leadership class were tasked with defining what makes a positive leader. They watched a video, then broke into groups to discuss and identify five key characteristics that a strong or effective leader should possess. Here are some of the key characteristics that came up in their presentations:





Math students in 3rd grade showed their understanding of division by working with partners to create posters. They explored problems that involve how many groups, or how many in each group? They are moving in the right direction for the algebraic linear equations I observed happening in middle school this week.

Our after-school clubs and middle school musical make the after-school time busy and fun for kids. In Kindergarten Kaleidoscope Club, led by Mrs. Holm, they have learned about glaciers, saved animals trapped in ice and built cozy homes for them to warm-up. She also shared that they have been making collages and ink and watercolor paintings.





Continuous Improvement Survey for You

Every spring, schools in Vermont review their school goals and update them for the coming year. Your feedback is an important part of the process. Would you please take a moment to answer a quick survey? [GOOGLE SURVEY](#)

Half-Day Inservice Coming Thursday

We have a half-day inservice coming up on **Thursday, April 10**. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. with a bag lunch if they choose. Please contact Mrs. McNayr if your student will have a change in pickup plan (smcnayr@gisu.org)

Staff v. 8th Grade Basketball Game

We are planning our Staff v. 8th Grade Basketball Game for Wednesday, April 16, from 2-2:45 p.m. Eighth-grade families are invited to attend the game. Students are not required to play, but we encourage fun and school spirit.

Fire Drill

We will be conducting an egress drill, or more commonly called fire drill, in April. We will work around the weather and testing schedules as best we can.

Legislative Forum

The Grand Isle Supervisory Union will hold a special forum on Vermont school reform on **Saturday, April 5**, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the North Hero Community Hall. Legislative leaders will be there to answer your questions and hear thoughts on current legislation about proposed education finance and school changes. There is a virtual attendance option via Google Meet: meet.google.com/asp-ocgz-jgj. Phone: +1 475-441-4662. PIN: 555191705

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:

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.

K-2 Storytime & PTO Meetup



Please join the Folsom PTO for a ...

K-2 Social Hour

Worthen Library

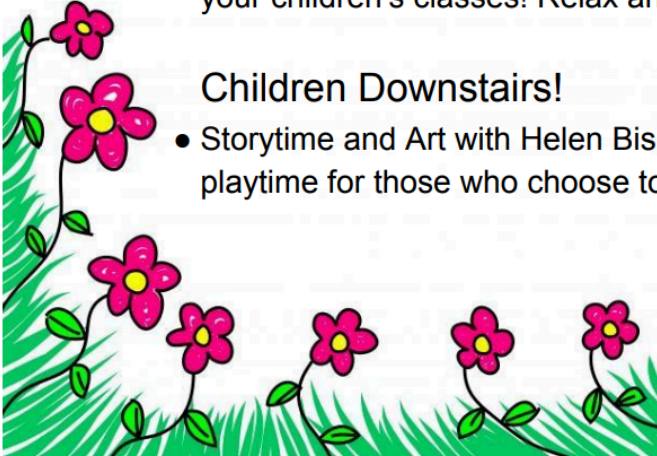
Saturday, April 12, 10-11am

Parents Upstairs!

- Have fun getting to know other parents in your children's classes! Relax and chat...

Children Downstairs!

- Storytime and Art with Helen Bishop with playtime for those who choose to play!



Upcoming Events

- ☐ **April 5:** Vermont School Reform Forum, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at North Hero Community Hall. Hosted by Grand Isle Supervisory Union. Virtual option: Google Meet: meet.google.com/asp-ocgz-jgj. Phone: +1 475-441-4662. PIN: 555191705
- ☐ **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.

- ☐ **April 12:** 10-11 a.m. Storytime with Helen Bishop and PTO Meetup for K-2 kids and parents at Worthen Library.
- ☐ **April 16:** 2-2:45 p.m. 8th Grade v. Staff Basketball Game
- ☐ **June 10:** Folsom 8th Grade Graduation, 6 p.m.

Enjoy the weekend!

Julie Pidgeon
Folsom Principal