

Jan. 2, 2025

Dear Folsom Families,

Welcome back and welcome 2025! Students and staff were happy to reconnect on Thursday for this short week. January is a great time for teaching and learning.

Table of Contents

[This Week at Folsom](#)

[Winter Clubs](#)

[GISU Process for Fingerprinting & Background Checks](#)

[Calendar Notes](#)

[January Menu](#)

[Parent Teacher Organization \(PTO\) Updates](#)

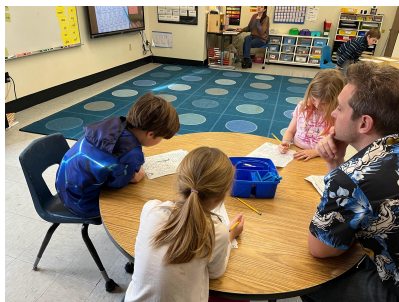
[Radon Testing](#)

[High School Information](#)

[Budget Season](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

This Week at Folsom



Math! Learning analog time in 2nd, figuring out area in 3rd, and warming up for slope in 8th.

We are resetting routines and returning to learning. Even Mrs. McNayr and I were learning on the first day back as we had training in the supervisory union's new accounting software. In Art, middle school students were starting the process to plan a new project. It reminded me of an article I read in the [New York Times](#) about the importance of giving children some autonomy so they can learn how to solve problems and build resiliency. The op-ed piece was by Jenny Anderson and Rebecca Winthrop, authors of *The Disengaged Teen: Helping Kids Learn Better, Feel Better and Live Better*.

Winter Clubs

Clubs in January and February start Monday, Jan. 6. If your student is registered for a club, you will receive an email from the club leader. Please note that the late bus is shifting to run on

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays to accommodate the 3-4 play and respond to the many Thursday afternoon activities that make it impossible to hold a club meeting.



Cold, fresh-air fun at the first recess of 2025.

GISU Process for Fingerprinting & Background Checks

The GISU just released updated rules for background checks for chaperones, coaches and substitutes. An important point: Fingerprints and background checks are valid for **3 years**. This clarification is a change in our practice. I encourage all parents and community members who want to volunteer as a chaperone, coach, mentor or substitute to make sure you are up-to-date on your GISU background check. The process starts by making an appointment to meet with the appropriate certifier at GISU:

- ★ If you are a mentor, volunteer, or coach, contact Andrea Santiago to start the process:
asantiago@gisu.org
- ★ If you are a substitute or contracted staff member, contact Autumn Rhodes:
arhodes@gisu.org

There are ways for you to participate once you have completed the process; however, we cannot make exceptions if your background check is outdated and/or you have not started the process.

Calendar Notes

Please note that the calendar published on the GISU website has some inaccuracies for January. We ARE in school on Jan. 21. We have a half-day on Jan. 9.

January Menu

You'll find our January lunch menu on the Folsom website. Here's a [link](#).

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Updates

The next meeting of our PTO is 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at the Folsom School Library. You can also join virtually at this link: <https://meet.google.com/xvr-brzj-xss>

Radon Testing

During the week of Jan. 6, the State of Vermont will be conducting required radon testing at Folsom School. Please see this detailed letter from Facilities Director Matt Brouillette about the testing. [LINK](#)

High School Information

There is an excellent resource on our website for families of eighth-graders who are interested in exploring area high schools. Check out the [School Choice](#) document. It's under the Enrollment tab.

Budget Season

The South Hero School Board welcomes the community's feedback throughout the budget process. You can attend a Board meeting or reach out to an individual Board member.

Information on the meetings is at this link on the Folsom website:

<https://www.gofolsom.org/o/feccl/page/school-board>

Budget Meetings: Upcoming South Hero School Board meetings will focus on the budget. All community members are encouraged to attend in person or virtually the meetings in the Folsom library at 6 p.m.

- Thursday, January 9 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
- Thursday, January 16 Special Budget Meeting

Upcoming Events

Jan. 9: Half-Day Inservice. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. with a grab-and-go lunch if they request it. Future half-days: Feb. 6; April 10; May 8.

Jan. 9: South Hero School Board meeting, 6 p.m. in the Folsom library.

Jan. 14: Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting, 7 p.m., Folsom library.

Jan. 16: South Hero School Board special budget meeting, 6 p.m. in the Folsom library.

Jan. 20: No school in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Jan. 21: We have school! There was a typo in the published GISU Calendar.

Jan. 22: K-4 Concert at 6 p.m. (Snow date is Jan. 24)

Jan. 29: 5-8 Band and Chorus Concert at 6 p.m. (Snow date is Jan. 31)

Warmly,

Julie Pidgeon
Principal