



# Mettawee Messenger

September 9, 2021 Principal: Brooke DeBonis 645-9009

## Principal's Corner:

### Parent Night

We had such a successful Parent Night for 3rd through 6th grade last night. Thank you so much to everyone who came. Our teachers work so hard to create inspiring and engaging classrooms and it was wonderful to be able to share our beautiful building with you. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you couldn't make it and have any questions or concerns.



Tonight we will welcome parents of Kindergarten through 2nd grade.

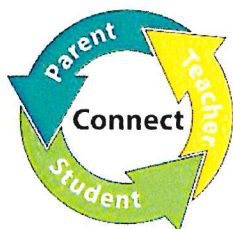
Kindergarten- @5:30 - Grade 1- @6:00  
Grade 2- @6:30

Meetings will be held in your child's classroom.

### Conferences

I wanted to let you all know that our first Parent Conference will be on Thursday, October 28th. This is a student led conference so you should plan to bring your child with you. There will be childcare in the library for school aged siblings. There will not be regular school on this day. Please mark your calendars and try to be present for this very important meeting.

Preschool will have conferences on Thursday, October 28th and Friday, October 29th. A letter will be sent home from your classroom teachers with more details and a scheduled meeting time.



PLEASE CHECK YOUR  
CHILD'S BACKPACK FOR A  
BIG BLUE FOLDER

Some of you have not yet  
completed all of the  
beginning of the school year  
forms that were sent home

last week. It is critical that we have completed  
paperwork for each and every student.  
For your convenience, we put new forms in  
your folder if you were missing anything.

Field trips are already on the calendar for  
some classrooms and students without a  
signed permission slip will not be able to  
attend.

FYI: Paperwork that will be going home one  
per family will go home in your oldest child's  
Big Blue folder.

PRESCHOOL: For K-6 the Big Blue folder goes  
home on a Thursday. Since not all preschoolers  
have the same schedule, your folder may not  
go home on a Thursday if your child does not  
come to school on Thursdays. It's good practice  
to check their backpacks every day for  
communication. We appreciate you getting  
your paperwork back to us as soon as possible.





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## SOCCER UPDATES

A soccer practice schedule for K-6 is following your Mettawee Messenger. Please look carefully and mark your calendars!

We are looking for support coaches for a few teams - no experience necessary - just someone who can support the coach and be an extra adult body. If you can donate some time please contact Janna Webb at [jwebb@brsu.org](mailto:jwebb@brsu.org).



## After School Program

We are excited to be able to offer an After School Program again this year for our Kindergarten through 6th grade students. You will sometimes hear or see the After School Program referred to as MAP (Mettawee After School Program).

The Mettawee After School Program will begin on September 20th. This allows our new instructor time to organize the paperwork and fully staff the program based on how many families are in need of after school care. A handbook and registration form went home last week but if you find that you need a registration form at any time throughout the year please reach out to us at 645-9009.



## Extra Clothing

Please be sure you are packing extra clothing in your child's backpack. We will be going outside as often as possible - sometimes rain or shine - for learning, brain breaks, and exercise. It is important that your child has an extra set of clothing in case they get wet and need to change.



Paraprofessionals - because even teachers need heroes. We have the BEST para team and thank them so much for all the work they do.



**October 15th** - No school - in service day

**October 18th** - School Picture Day

**October 12th** - 5th Grade to Starbase

**October 19th** - 5th Grade to Starbase

**October 26th** - 5th Grade to Starbase

**October 28th** - Parent Teacher Conferences



# Soccer Updates

*\*\*If you have not signed the concussion form for your child, please do so as soon as possible. E-mail Mrs. Webb if you'd like a copy sent home with your child.*

**Mrs. Webb**

*School: 802-645-9009 ext. 3232 - Cell: 802-558-6766 - E-mail: jwebb@brsu.org*

## **Kindergarten: Practices ?**

First practice: Information to come

Last practice: Information to come

## **First Grade: Practices Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30**

First practice: Wednesday, September 15th

Last practice: Wednesday, October 20th

## **Second Grade: Practices Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30**

First practice: Tuesday, September 14th

Last practice: Tuesday, October 19th

## **Third and Fourth Grade: Practices Tuesdays and Thursdays: 4:00-5:30**

*We currently have ONE coach for 20 players. If you are willing to be a helper, even to just help athletes be on task, please let Mrs. Webb know as soon as possible.*

First practice: Tuesday, September 14th

Last practice: Thursday, October 21st

## **Fifth and Sixth Grade: Practices Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 4:00-5:30**

*We currently have ONE coach for 17 players. If you are willing to be a helper, even to just help athletes be on task, please let Mrs. Webb know as soon as possible.*

*\*\*Our coach will not be able to start until Friday, September 17th. Your first game is on Wednesday, September 22nd. You will only have TWO practices before your first game. If any parents are willing to step up to cover only TWO practices on Monday, September 13th and Wednesday, September 15th, that would give our athletes 4 practices before our first game.*

First practice: Friday, Sept. 17th (unless someone is willing to cover the 13th and 15th)

Last practice: Friday, October 22nd



# Mettawee Community School

5788 VT Route 153, West Pawlet, Vermont

Principal: Brooke DeBonis 645-9009

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September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

After much discussion and thought, the BRSU decided as a leadership team that all cell phones and personal devices must be powered off and not on a student's person during the school day. Social media, gaming, and the availability of constant communication is posing a serious distraction from teaching and learning. The use of these devices disrupts the learning environment and we believe it is in the best interest of our learners to limit their access.

If students need to reach their parents, the phone in the main office is available for their use. If parents need to reach their children, they may contact the school's main office. We will relay any emergency messages to students throughout the day.

If the procedure is not followed by a student, the consequences are as follows:

- **First Offense:** Cell phone/personal device is confiscated and given to the principal for the day (Office Discipline Referral)
- **Second Offense:** Cell phone/personal device confiscated, given to the principal for the day followed by a phone call home (Office Discipline Referral)
- **Third Offense:** Cell phone/personal device confiscated, given to the principal for the day followed by a phone call home. Parents must pick up the cell phone from the Principal's Office, the phone will not be returned to the child (Office Discipline Referral).
- If a student fails to give their cell phone to a staff member when asked to do so, they will serve an immediate in-school suspension (Office Discipline Referral).

On occasion, cell phones and personal devices may be permissible if being used for an educational purpose under the direct supervision of a teacher.

We know that this decision will not be a popular one with students and some parents. However, we encourage you to support us in implementing this important policy, the decision was not made lightly.

Respectfully,

*Brooke DeBonis*

Principal

# WEEKEND BACKPACK

September 8, 2021

Greetings Mettawee Families,

Welcome back to school! It has been so great to see your children and settle into a new school year together!

Starting September 17th, we will be offering a **Weekend Backpack** program to help families in need have enough food on the weekends for their children. The "backpacks" will be filled with fresh fruit, cheese sticks, yogurt, snacks, cereal, soup and lunch items. We will rotate different menus each week which include peanut butter and jelly, grilled cheese, tuna, pasta, hot dogs and macaroni and cheese. We have a limited number of backpacks to offer. If you would like to sign up for a weekend backpack, please complete, sign and return the information below.

The backpacks will go home with students on Fridays for the entire school year.

This program is privately funded through the Kids Summer Lunch program / Interfaith Council. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Beth Eyre  
BRSU Family Support Liaison  
[beyre@brsu.org](mailto:beyre@brsu.org) (802) 645-9009

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, give permission for Mettawee Community School to send home a "weekend backpack" with my son/daughter(s) as part of the Weekend Backpack program.

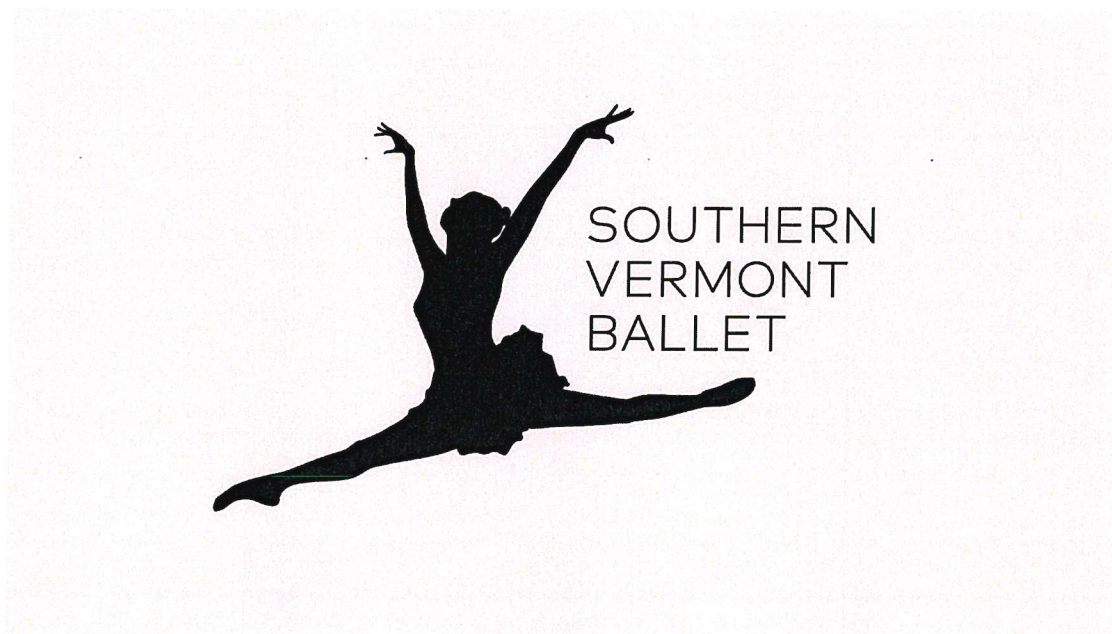
Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





Southern Vermont Ballet will be opening a brand new studio space at 74 Depot Street in Historic Manchester, Vermont. Hayley Appelman, a Southern Vermont local and graduate of Burr & Burton Academy, is the Studio Director and Owner. Appelman holds a BFA in Dance from SUNY Purchase and returns to Manchester, VT after dancing and teaching ballet at Cobble Hill Ballet in Brooklyn, NY for 8 years. "I can't wait to share this beautiful art form with so many young dancers in the place that gave me so much", said Appelman.

Southern Vermont Ballet will hold classes for all ages. Little Ballet for beginning 3 year olds, Contemporary Ballet for dancers wanting to move more freely, Advanced Ballet for experienced teens, and Adult Ballet for those returning to the barre and everything in between. "I love teaching a class where everyone feels welcomed and encouraged while also inspired and challenged," said Appelman of her teaching style.

Southern Vermont Ballet will be holding in-person classes starting September 13th, 2021 at 74 Depot St. in Manchester, VT. If you're interested in enrolling, please visit [www.SouthernVermontBallet.com](http://www.SouthernVermontBallet.com) or email [vtballetclasses@gmail.com](mailto:vtballetclasses@gmail.com) to learn more.