



# Mettawee Messenger

January 13, 2021 Principal: Brooke DeBonis 645-9009

## Principal's Corner:

### Warm Clothing

Please send your child in with snow pants, boots, a hat, gloves, and a winter coat. We would like to send your child outside for recess to get fresh air and exercise. The students enjoy playing in the snow! If the weather is appropriate we will be sending all students outside. I do not want your child to be cold or have wet socks. For younger students, it may be helpful to have an extra set of clothes in their backpacks in case they get wet from playing on the ground. Please help remind your child that they need to be prepared for recess each day. If you need support in getting any of these winter items, please let me know.



### Bus Procedures for Cold Days



We have a procedure in place for cold days when the students are arriving in the morning. As the buses

are waiting to unload, the bus drivers will remain in the entrance of the parking lot so they can keep their buses running and warm. The buses will pull up to the school one at a time and drop off the students. They will go directly into the school and line up with their teachers inside the building. This procedure will help with making sure we keep the students safe and warm during these cold days. Please let me know if you have any questions.

### Parking Lot Safety

We are still concerned about parents passing the cars in the drop off lane. I want to remind everyone to please be patient when driving through the parking lot in the morning, in particular the drop off lane. Some children take longer than others to unload and walk to the building. Please do not pass cars that are parked in the drop off lane. We know that some of you

are in a hurry to get to work, but a couple minutes of patience could avoid a terrible accident.



**NO  
SCHOOL  
ON  
Monday,  
January  
17th in  
honor of  
Martin  
Luther King,  
Jr.**





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## Contact Information

Please be sure to reach out to the school if your contact information has changed. We need to be sure that current mailing and physical addresses are in our operating system as well as email addresses and phone numbers. In the event of an emergency, a weather related closure, or a COVID related announcement we want to be sure we are communicating effectively.

You can email Heidi Hammell at [hhammell@brsu.org](mailto:hhammell@brsu.org) or Cheryl Chalmers at [cchalmers@brsu.org](mailto:cchalmers@brsu.org) if you need your information updated. Thank you for your cooperation.



It's time to start dreaming about longer days, warm sunshine, and planting gardens!  
**We are selling High Mowing organic seeds to raise money to purchase a yearbook for each 6th grade student.**

Order forms are Due back at school by  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 28**  
(NO late orders accepted.)

Contact Brooke Hughes-Muse at  
[hughesmuse6@gmail.com](mailto:hughesmuse6@gmail.com)/802-884-5895 if there are any questions.

Checks payable to MCS PTO.  
Seeds should be delivered before Feb break.

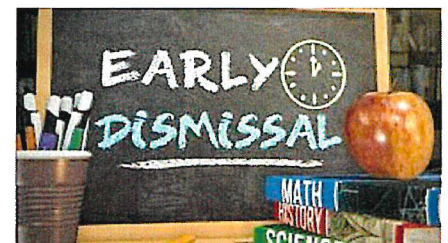
*~ Thank you so much for your support ~*

**We dismiss at 11:40 every Friday from January through March 11th.**



## JISP Dismissal Plan

Thank you for your patience and cooperation in regards to our JISP Dismissal plan. We were excited to see that, even with alternative staffing, a last minute bus situation, and a new dismissal plan, we dismissed ALL students in just over 10 minutes from beginning to end. It should only get smoother from this point forward. We have made some adjustments inside the building which will make things a little easier but the plan is to continue having the JISP pickups park and walk to the crosswalk. A staff member will stand at the crosswalk to call out your children. Regular pickups can be in the drive up lane and a staff member will be on the sidewalk calling out those students. If you have any questions about JISP dismissal please call the school at 645-9009.





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## PTO MEETING

**PTO Meeting on  
Monday, February  
14th at 2:45**

### Mettawee Community School / BRSU Family Handbook

An updated version of the handbook is now available on the Mettawee Community School website. You can also find the handbook by following this link:

[MCS/BRSU Family Handbook 2021-2022](#)



**January 7th - March 11th** - Early Release Fridays

**January 17th** - No School MLK Jr. Day

**February 18th** - No School / Parent Conferences

**February 21st - February 25th** - Winter Break

**February 28th - March 4th** - Book Fair

**March 11th** - Last early dismissal

### Basketball News and Updates:

#### A Quick look at the week



**Jan. 13th** - Practice - 3/4

Boys - 2:30-4:00

- Practice - 5/6 Boys -  
5:30-7:00

**Jan. 17th** - NO

**PRACTICE - MLK Jr. Day**

**Jan. 18th** - Practice - 3/4 Boys - 2:30-4:00

- Practice - 5/6 Girls - 4:00-5:30

- Practice - 5/6 Boys - 5:30-7:00

**Jan. 19th** - Practice - 3/4 Girls - 2:30-4:00

**HOME GAMES** vs. Fair Haven/Benson

- 5/6 Girls - 4:30 - 5/6 Boys - 5:30

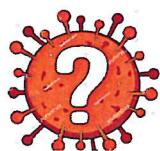
**Jan. 20th** - **AWAY GAMES**

- 3/4 Boys at Poultney at 4:30

- 3/4 Girls at Poultney at 5:30

- 5/6 Girls at Wells at 4:30

- 5/6 Boys at Middletown Springs  
at 4:30



### COVID-19 CORNER

#### TEST TO STAY

Please complete these two links:  
the [consent form](#) as well as  
[registering](#) in the SimpleReport system.

We are encouraging all families to sign your children up for the Test to Stay program.

#### FAMILY RESOURCE

If you or your child are having anxiety about getting the covid vaccine, the Vermont Family Network has some amazing resources to help support families with vaccine social stories, check lists, games, videos, and tips on how to talk to your children about the vaccine and ease their worries. Follow

this link to see more  
about Confident Care  
for Kids.

[Vermont Family  
Network - Confident  
Care for Kids](#)







## Basketball Expectations

Each player will be allowed THREE spectators. We are not tracking this, but please be mindful as our gymnasium is small. All spectators are REQUIRED to wear masks at all times in the building. All spectators are required to remain in their seats during the game. Children are not allowed to be unattended - please have an adult accompany them to the bathroom. If spectators are unable to follow these expectations or if COVID cases are high in the area, we might have to close the games to spectators and just have teams, coaches and refs in order to keep everyone safe.

When there are back to back games, players ONLY may enter the building 20 minutes before the game and spectators may not enter the building until 10 minutes before game time. We are hoping this will allow for people from the previous game to exit the building. When the game is finished, please promptly exit the building so people can enter for the next game.

NO food OR Drinks in the gymnasium - with the exception of a player's water bottle.

In order to minimize exposures, please try to sit near/with close family members/friends.

Thank you for helping to keep our communities safe.



# Merck Forest Winter Explorations

Winter is a great time to see who's been out and about in our fields and forests, with footprints left in the snow telling tales of creatures' comings and goings, or for heading out on a hike on a moon-lit night.

Join us as we explore our wintry landscape!

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY TRACKING WORKSHOP

❖ Saturday, January 15, from 10:00a – noon

❖ Mettawee Campus, 5788 VT-Rte. 153, West Pawlet, VT

Who left those tracks in the snow? What stories do animals leave for us to discover? Join us for a family-friendly tracking workshop, as we see who's been out and about at our first Mettawee campus public event. We'll meet at the Mettawee Community School's northern parking lot. Be sure to dress in layers, with warm footwear. Bring snacks and a warm drink, if you wish.

## Full Moon Hike

❖ Monday, January 17, from 5:30p – 7:00p

❖ Our Main Campus: 3270 VT-Rte 315, Rupert, VT

The full moon will be on the rise, and with luck we'll have clear skies to hike under. Please dress warmly, with proper footwear, including Microspikes or snowshoes, depending on ground conditions. Bring a snacks and a warm drink, if desired. Headlamps are strongly recommended. We'll meet up at the Visitor Center.

## WILDLIFE TRACKING FOR AMATEUR NATURALISTS

❖ Saturday, January 29, from 10:00a – noon

❖ Our Main Campus: 3270 VT-Rte. 315, Rupert, VT

An adult-focused tracking workshop will have us out exploring the trails at Merck Forest, discovering the signs left by wildlife and learning about winter ecology. We'll meet up at the Visitor Center. Dress warmly, with proper footwear. Microspikes and snowshoes are strongly recommended, depending on ground conditions.



- ❖ \$10 per person for all events, space is limited, and reservations are required.
- ❖ To reserve a spot:
  - ❖ Go to [www.merckforest.org](http://www.merckforest.org),
  - ❖ Call us at 802-394-7836, or
  - ❖ Email us at [learn@merckforest.org](mailto:learn@merckforest.org).
- ❖ Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the program.
- ❖ Covid protocols will be in place as needed.



# FREE MEALS

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For those negatively impacted by COVID-19 or  
experiencing food insecurity



Restaurant-prepared take out meals with  
local VT ingredients

## Schedule

**Wednesdays**

**1:30PM - 4:00PM**

at the Smokey House Center  
426 Danby Mountain Rd, Danby

Smokey House Center is a pre-order site only, you must pre-order meals by emailing [jamie@smokeyhouse.org](mailto:jamie@smokeyhouse.org) or calling 802-772-5919. Meals are provided by Mach's Market in Pawlet. Meal delivery can be arranged.

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Provided by



**ermont Farmers  
Food Center**

in partnership  
with



Rutland County hub of the Vermont Everyone Eats  
program

visit [vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org/everyoneeats](http://vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org/everyoneeats)



*Dear CAO families,*

*Happy new year from Come Alive Outside! We hope you have started using your 2022 Winter Passport and have been exploring your community with some of the fun activities. We would love to hear your stories and see photos of you and your family being active outside. You can tell us about a specific activity you have enjoyed doing or a place you visited where you had never been before. You can share ways the passport has got you outside more. Please send your stories and photos to me at [myra@comealiveoutside.com](mailto:myra@comealiveoutside.com). We will not post photos on social media without permission. If you would like to sign up for our monthly newsletter below go to – <https://comealiveoutside.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/school-age-passport-newsletter-sign-up>*

*Thank you for discovering the outdoors in your community!*

*Myra, program director CAO*