



# Mettawee Messenger

November 3, 2022 Principal: Brooke DeBonis 645-9009

## Principal's Corner:

### Veterans Day Breakfast

Please take a moment and ask a local veteran to join your child so we can honor them with our special ceremony on Thursday, November 10th at 8:30. This is a great way for us to teach our students about Veterans Day. In addition, the veterans feel respected and honored to stand to be recognized in front of the whole



school. Please return the sheet that was sent home last week so we can have the guest sit at your child's table. I am grateful for all the veterans who have made sacrifices by serving our country.

### Why administer the Belonging Survey(PSSM)?

BRSU believes that a strong sense of belonging is essential to student achievement. Cobb and Krownapple (2019) define belonging as the extent to which people feel appreciated, validated, accepted, and treated fairly within an environment. Students with a sense of belonging in school feel socially connected, supported, and respected. When they're confident they belong and are valued by their teachers and peers, students are able to engage more fully in their learning. In the next two weeks your child(ren) will be participating in an anonymous survey that asks them questions about how they feel they belong at school. (Only 3rd-6th graders will be partaking.) As a school we will look for trends in that



data that can show us how we can do a better job to create space for kids to bring their whole selves to our community. The survey is brief and will not interrupt core instruction. If you're curious about the types of questions the survey asks, please reach out to our guidance counselor for more information, Colleen Jennings at [cjennings@brsu.org](mailto:cjennings@brsu.org).

### Merck Forest Field & Forest Friday

An email went out on Monday with information about a Field and Forest program for K-4th grade students being offered here at the Mettawee Community School on the Merck Land next door to the school and taught by the amazing Merck Forest education outreach staff. As the email stated, there are a limited number of spots available and currently we have only 5 spots left.

We will communicate with families to let you know whether your child got in or not. More information and a registration sheet are in your Big Blue Folder. If you have already emailed or called about registering your child you do not need to fill it out again.



### Kindergarten Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

If you are a Kindergarten family and have not signed up for your Parent/Student/Teacher Conference yet please do so as soon as possible.

[Kindergarten Conference Link](#)





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**There will be NO SCHOOL on  
Friday, November 11th.  
Honoring our Veterans on Veterans Day!**



## Holiday Greenery Orders

Greenery orders are due  
Wednesday, November 9th.  
Greenery should be ready for  
pick up at the school  
Wednesday, November 30th  
from 2:30-4:00.



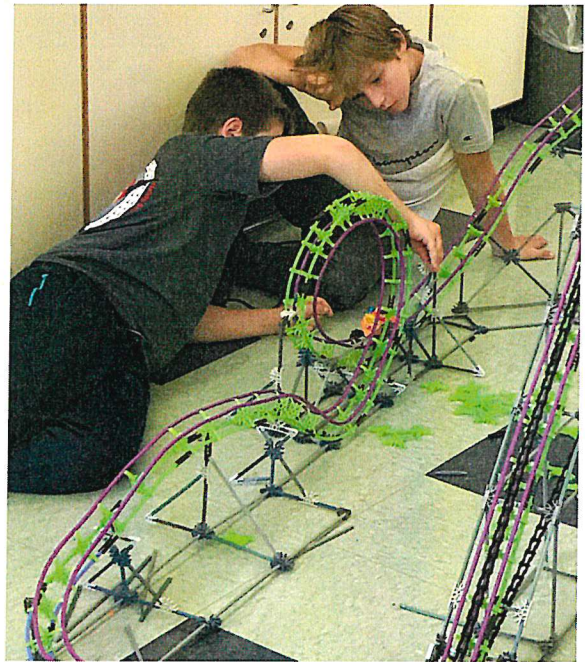
## Giving Tree



Please find in your Big Blue folder a Giving Tree request form. If you need assistance in providing your family gifts for the Holiday our community would like to help. Wish

forms should be returned to school by  
November 14th.

If you would like to help purchase gifts for Giving Tree families a tree will be set up in the school lobby with ornaments assigned a number. Gifts should be returned to school, UNWRAPPED and with their ornament tag, by December 9th.



**Sixth Grade roller coaster engineers!**





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## Share the Warmth Clothing Drive & Give Away

The Mettawee Community School is excited to be hosting the Share the Warmth Clothing Drive this year on Saturday, November 19th and Sunday, November 20th from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. Please bring your own bags.

All sizes of clothing, especially winter, will be accepted along with outerwear, accessories, bedding, and shoes. ALL clothing must be clean and smoke free. Donations can be dropped off Friday, November 18th from 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

If you would like to volunteer, donate or have any questions, please reach out to Brooke Burnham at 802-342-6377 or

email [lbbw1999ollieowen@yahoo.com](mailto:lbbw1999ollieowen@yahoo.com).



## Basketball Sign Ups



Please find in your Big Blue folder a registration form for Basketball for Kindergarten through 6th grade.

Please have your completed form back to school by Friday, November 18th.

We are looking for coaches for all grades.

3rd-6th graders will begin practice the week after Thanksgiving. All other players will begin in January.

## The Thanksgiving Feast is Back!

The Thanksgiving Feast

will look a little different this year but we are thrilled to announce that we will once again be inviting Senior Citizens to join

us at Mettawee to share a special meal with our students and staff. Each of our students will have the opportunity to invite a grandparent or community senior to share a feast with us here at school, all together in the multipurpose room.

If you do not have a senior to invite, the school has a list of seniors who will be joining us so that every student has a friend to join them. We will also be looking for a few volunteers to help us. Paperwork about the Feast will be going home in your Big Blue folder this week.

We have included an invitation for you to give to your guest. Please return the form in Big Blue so we know who your guest will be or if you need us to find you one.

The Feast is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22nd at 12:00. There will be No School on Wednesday, November 23rd-Friday, November 25th.



Sunday, November 6th

Don't forget to change your clocks!







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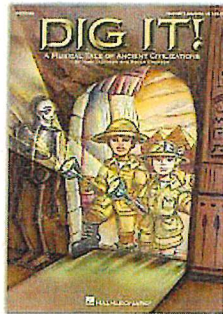
## All School Play Returns

Our students will once again grace the stage as we perform our All-School Play.

"Dig It! A Musical Tale of Ancient Civilizations"  
on December 15th, 2022.

All classes/grades will perform at least one group song and a grand finale. Depending on class size, we may combine some groups for strength in numbers.

Students in grade 4,5,6 may try out for a speaking part. Auditions will take place on Friday afternoon, November 4th. Try-out info is available for kids to take home to begin preparing. If you have time in your schedule to help with the play, please reach out to Lisa Hoyt at [lhoyt@brsu.org](mailto:lhoyt@brsu.org).



**November 10th** - Veterans Breakfast Social at 8:30

**November 11th** - No School - Veterans Day

**November 19th-20th** - Clothing Drive

**November 22nd** - Thanksgiving Feast at 12:00

**November 23rd-25th** - Thanksgiving Break

**November 28th** - Picture Retake Day

**December 21st** - Early Dismissal 11:40

**December 22nd-January 2nd** - Holiday Break

**January 3rd** - No School - Professional Dev. Day

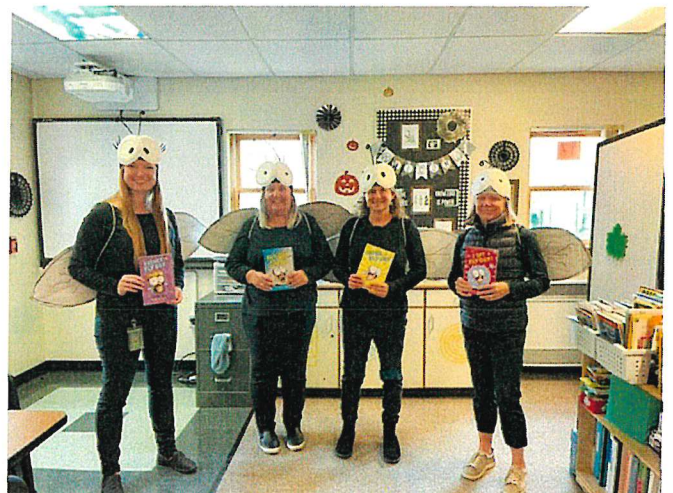
**January 4th** - Return to school

**January 13th** - JISP begins - dismissal at 11:40



The next PTO meeting will be  
**November 7th at 6:00pm virtually.**

Thank you to everyone who came to watch our Halloween Parade on Tuesday!





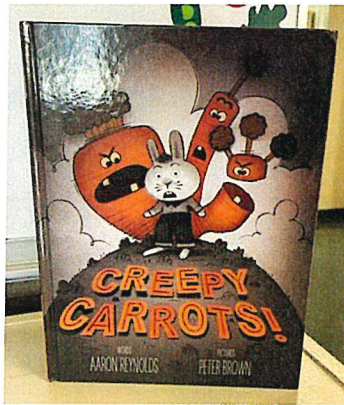


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**November's  
Theme of the  
Month...  
GRATITUDE**



**GRATITUDE:** one of many positive emotions. It's about focusing on what is good in our lives and being THANKFUL for the things we have. Gratitude is pausing to notice and appreciate the things that we often take for granted, like having a place to live, food, clean water, friends, family, even computer access.





# Thanksgiving Feast 2022



My child, \_\_\_\_\_ will  
be inviting \_\_\_\_\_ as a  
Grandparent or Senior Citizen guest to the Thanksgiving Feast on  
Tuesday, November 22, 2022.

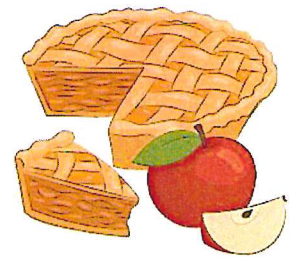
My child has permission to leave with their guest

☐

My child, \_\_\_\_\_ does NOT  
have a Senior Citizen guest to invite to the Thanksgiving Feast. I understand the  
school will invite a senior guest on my child's behalf.

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\_\_\_\_\_ I will donate a *ready-to-serve* apple or pumpkin  
pie and bring it to school by **Monday, November 21st**. We need  
to know by Monday afternoon that we have enough pies so we  
thank you for getting them to us by the end of the day on  
Monday, November 21st. Please bake them at home, our oven  
will be very busy!



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A separate sheet will be going home asking for a few volunteers to help us  
prepare and clean up from our feast. We will not be eating family style this year  
and therefore will not be needing as many helpers.

We will be looking for pie cutters, floaters, helpers, and a clean up crew.



## The Thanksgiving Feast is back!

(but it will look a little different this year)

We are looking for volunteers for:

Pie Cutters (4) - 9:00-11:00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Floaters/Helpers (4) - 11:30-1:00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Clean Up Crew (6) - 12:30-dismissal \_\_\_\_\_

We will not need servers this year.

If you can offer up some time on Tuesday, November 22nd, please fill out this form and return it to school by Thursday, November 10th.

Volunteer name: \_\_\_\_\_

What are you volunteering to help with? \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_



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Student name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Mettawee Community School Basketball

Dear Parents,

Basketball sign up for grades K-6 begins on Thursday, November 3rd. If your child is interested in playing this winter, please fill out the registration form below and return it to the school office by **Friday, November 18th**.

**We are looking to begin practices for grades 3-6 the week after Thanksgiving. Practices for K-2 will begin in January after vacation.**

I am also looking for anyone interested and willing to coach any of our basketball teams this season. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible at 645-9009 ext. 232, or write it on the registration form below.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at school 645-9009 (extension 3232) or by email: [jwebb@brsu.org](mailto:jwebb@brsu.org). Thank you for your time and support of this program. I am looking forward to a great season!

Sincerely,  
Janna Webb

**Please fill out and return to school by Friday, November 18th.**

Child's Name:	Teacher:
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Parent/Guardian Name & Number:
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Emergency Contact Name & Number (if different than above):
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<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I would like to help coach this year! Please sign me up for (grade level) _____
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Please note any medical concerns we should know about: (allergies, asthma, etc.)
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_____ has my permission to participate in the Mettawee Community School Youth Basketball program.
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____





11/03/22

Dear Mettawee Families,

In the spirit of the season, the Mettawee Community School faculty, staff, interested families and community members would like to help families in our school who need support in brightening their holiday.

Does your son or daughter need any particular clothing that would help keep him or her warm during the winter months? Is there a special toy, book, piece of sports equipment, stuffed animal or art supplies that you need help providing for your child this holiday? (Other ideas: puzzles, dolls, legos, trucks, play-doh, slippers, mittens, hats, pajamas, boots, dress, socks, pants or shirt, soccer ball, coloring books and crayons, fuzzy blanket, books for his/her age, etc.)

Please let us know if we can help by completing the form below and returning it addressed to Heather Lund, Special Educator. **Please return your wish form by November 14th.** For clothing and shoes please specify boy/girl/gender neutral, age and size. *Please do not ask for electronic games or devices.*

All requests will be kept anonymous. Your request will receive a number which will be written on an ornament and placed on our "Giving Tree" in our school lobby with the item you are requesting. Teachers, staff and anyone interested in helping will take an ornament from the tree so that a gift can be purchased and returned to school in time for the holidays.

Presents must be picked up by parent or guardian by **Dec. 15-16.**

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this program.

Sincerely,

***Mettawee Giving Tree Friends***

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We would like to request that the following item be placed on the Giving Tree at school for our child.

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of item (if clothing or footwear, please specify size): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please return this form to school in a **sealed envelope** addressed to Mrs. Lund **on or before** Monday, November 14th. Thank you!)





3270 Route 315 Rupert, VT. 05768  
802-394-7836 [www.merckforest.org](http://www.merckforest.org)

**October 26, 2022**  
**Merck Forest Field and Forest Fridays**

Dear Parents,

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is once again offering 'Field and Forest Fridays' for students at the Mettawee Community School in Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Offered at no cost, all students will need is their warm outdoor winter recess clothes and a desire to have fun outside (as well as an afternoon snack and water bottle). Our goal is to offer an outdoor experience that is as fun, safe, and comfortable as possible and empower students with a skillset they can take home.

The Merck Field and Forest Friday program will include:

- Woodcraft: Staying safe in the woods, shelter building, survival skills for the out-of-doors
- Games and Activities
- Snowshoeing and Sledding
- Nature Ecology and Exploration: Winter Bird ID, winter tree ID, animal tracking

Merck Forest staff members will lead the fun and exploration as we get out and play in the fields and forest surrounding the school. The program will begin January 6<sup>th</sup> and take place Friday afternoons from January 13 until March 10, following the JISP schedule. Each Field and Forest Friday will begin at the 11:40 a.m. dismissal on Fridays and end at 3:00 p.m. with parent pick-up at the Mettawee Community School lobby. Dates for Field and Forest Fridays are as following: Jan. 13, 20, & 27; Feb. 3 & 10; and Mar. 3 & 10.

Field and Forest Friday enrollment will be limited to a maximum of 16 students, with a minimum number being required for the program to run.

Please return your sign-up sheet to your child's teacher **no later than November 18<sup>th</sup>**. Enrollment will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. We look forward to having your child join us for Field and Forest Friday!

Christine Hubbard, Education Director  
Merck Forest and Farmland Center



**SIGN-UP**  
**Merck Forest and Farmland Center's Field and Forest Friday**  
**for**  
**Mettawee Community School Students**  
**Please return to school NO LATER THAN Friday, November 18th**

Sign up is on a first-come, first serve basis. Space is limited, and we are requiring a minimum number of students to run the program.

**If you are interested in having your child(ren) participate, please fill out the following:**

Name of child. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information:

Name of parent \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) authorized to pick up your child(ren) at 3:00 \_\_\_\_\_

Does/Do your child(ren) have any medical conditions we should be aware of? If so, please describe:

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Continued on back...



### Merck Forest and Farmland Center Field and Forest Friday Afternoon Program

- I affirm that my child/ward's participation in Field and Forest Friday is voluntary and understand that participation in activities include hiking as well as activities around the field and forest that involve inherent risks, known and unknown, which could result in injury, illness, and death. I acknowledge that the activities and their associated risks are inherent to the Field and Forest experience and without them the program would lose its essential character and value.  
I also understand that, despite safety precautions MFFC cannot guarantee that my child/ward will not be injured. I am willing to assume these risks.
- I, for myself and for my heirs, personal representatives, and assigns, and each of them, do hereby forever release and fully discharge Merck Forest and Farmland Center, and its officers, agents, volunteers, and employees, affiliates (including all 2023 MFFC partners), representatives, successors, and assigns, from any and all actions, causes of actions, claims, costs, damages, demands, fees, and/or liability of any kind, nature, or description whatsoever, whether known or unknown, arising out of or in any way related, whether directly or indirectly, to participation in any MFFC program, including, but not limited to any physical injury, psychological injury, or loss of life or personal property that may occur as a result of participation in this program.

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

I grant MFFC permission to use photographs of my child participating in Field and Forest Friday activities for publication in promotional materials, including but not limited to brochures, flyers, newspaper advertisements, social media, and the MFFC website. \_\_\_\_\_

(Initial to accept)