

# Our Town



## Summer 2013

Meetings, Activities &  
Dates to Remember

**Select Board:** 2nd & 4th  
Mondays @ town offices  
7:30pm

**Grant Writer Committee:**  
1st Monday of each month  
@ town offices 6pm

**Zoning & Planning  
Committee:** 1st Monday of  
each month 8pm

**School Board:** 2nd  
Monday @ FCS school  
library 6pm

**BNML Trustee meeting:**  
3rd Tuesday @ BNML

**PJ Storytime:** 3rd Tuesday  
of the month, 6p @ BNML

## *A Word from Your House Representative Daniel Francis Connor*

### **The Way it Works:**

The first half of the 2013-14 biennium came to a close late in the evening of May 14th, just over a month ago. Of the 713 bills that were introduced by House and Senate members, only 98 were passed into law. Unless noted, the bills take effect on July 1, 2013.

Some of the remaining 615 bills will not see the light of day in the second half of the biennium while “bills left hanging on the wall” in either chamber could be passed in the 2014 session. Bills left “hanging on the walls” of either chamber are bills that the committee of jurisdiction did not have time to take testimony on, need review by legal counsel and/or are on the wall because the chair does not want to proceed for whatever reason. Bills that do not see the light of day in the 2013-2014 bienniums can be reintroduced in subsequent bienniums.

If you would like information about a certain bill or to review weekly schedules for either House or Senate committees, journals, calendars or committee and public hearings go to <http://www.leg.state.vt.us>.

### **Legislative Page from Fairfield?**

It would be great to have Legislative Pages from Fairfield serving on the second half of the biennium. The student applying must be in the 8th grade. For more information about the application process go to <http://www.leg.state.vt.us> and scroll down the left-hand side of the page. The legislative page application is under Civic Education. This is a very competitive process and only 30 students are chosen for each legislative session. Francis Brooks, Sergeant at Arms for the Statehouse had told me that he receives between 125 and 150 applications

*Thanks to the Masse Family for repairs to the Fairfield Center School Sign!*

*Thanks to Dan Connor, once again, for the pictures!*



for each session. The deadline for the application is by 4 pm on Thursday, October, 3 2013. I would suggest that you get your application in early.

**Thanks:**

Thanks again for the opportunity to be your voice in the Peoples House. If you would like to speak to me about the first half of the biennium or have thoughts about possible bills to be introduced in January, please contact me at [housedanc@gmail.com](mailto:housedanc@gmail.com) or call 802.827.4436 (cell). Have a pleasant summer. Be well.

***Fairfield Center School News  
Principal Jennifer Wood***

The spring trimester at Fairfield Center School was filled with fun learning activities and celebrations.

Our students led a Memorial Day assembly on May 30 including a duet by Leah Branon and Alyssa Lambert, a brief speech on the history of the day by Mr. Stebbins, and a rendition of "Taps" by Sofia Spano and Madison Wells.

We are proud of our 3rd-6th grade students who piloted e-portfolios this past school year. Students shared their individual

goals and personal evidence of learning at a well-attended "e-portfolio tea" on May 31st.

The middle school chorus and band participated in the District Music Festival at the end of May. The Fairfield Jazz Ensemble performed at the annual Burlington Jazz Festival on the Lake Champlain Chocolates stage at the Burlington Town Center.

The school-wide BBQ and annual Spring Concert took place on June 6th. The concert was dedicated to Shannon Kane and Wendy Scott for their years of service. A special recognition was also given to "Grandma Freda," who has served as a Foster Grandparent in the Fairfield pre-school for more than 20 years. We will miss all of these wonderful women next year at Fairfield Center School and are thankful for all of their work and dedication to the students and families at FCS.

Drew Branon and Hannah Earl were recognized as Scholar Leaders at the Vermont Association of Middle Level Association's (VAMLE) annual Middle Level Scholar Leader Award Dinner at Norwich University on June 3rd.

We celebrated the accomplishments of our 8th grade class on June 17th. Hannah Earl, Class Valedictorian, and Wilson Capone, Class

Salutatorian, delivered wonderful speeches (see Hannah's below), as did Guest Speaker Shannon Kane and Parent Speaker Mark Labelle. We wish our outgoing students much luck as they move on to high school.

We wish all of our students and families a wonderful summer, and look forward to seeing everyone on our first day back to school on August 28th!

### **2013 8th Grade Valedictorian Speech**

#### **Hannah Earl**

*Hi! I'm Hannah Earl. On behalf of the class of 2013, I would like to welcome our families, friends and teachers for joining us on this very special night. You all have impacted one or many of us that sit on this stage today. I know that I wouldn't be up on this stage, right now, giving this speech without the support and guidance from many of you. You have taught us to dream big, work hard, pursue our goals, and to respect ourselves and others. So thank you!*

*Today, June 17 of 2013, is the day we as a class, graduate 8th grade from Fairfield Center School. I know many of us, including myself; have been counting down the days to graduation for quite some time. I also know that there is a mixture of emotions in our class right now. We're excited, scared, nervous, sad and anxious all at the same time.*

*To graduate means to move up a level, to complete a course or class and continue on to the next. That is exactly what we're doing, except this year it's a bigger jump than usual. We won't be just getting a different homeroom teacher this fall, like we have in the past. We are going to a new school, meeting new people*

*and getting new teachers. Our middle school days are over, but I know I will never forget the memories we made here in Fairfield.*

*When I first learned that I was valedictorian and that I would have to prepare a speech for graduation, I was excited. This is a great honor. So there I was sitting at my computer thinking of things to say and I realized that I was stumped. I had no idea what to write about. But, then I began to reflect on my time at Fairfield and the experiences that I've had. Although I am excited to go to high school and happy my days in middle school are over, I thought about how grateful and thankful I was to be part of such a great school. I started to look at Fairfield in a different way realizing how unique and special our school is.*

*First, I'd like to talk about our teachers. The teachers here at Fairfield challenge us every day and I don't think that until we get into high school, most of us will realize how fortunate we were to have them there for us. They don't just let us fail. They help us with what I call "tough love". This past year our teachers gave us more homework than they had in previous years, in hopes that the transition to high school would be easier. I know that when I talk to my friends in other schools they brag about the lack of homework they get, but high school teachers most often state that Fairfield kids come in most prepared.*

*Multiple times this year, teachers took their free time to help me understand a certain concept. They would help me with presentations, homework and even answer some questions about high school. Every time I*

*go to one of them and ask for help, they not only answer me, but they do it with a smile on their face. They love their job and they love to help. They have cared for me throughout all my school years and this year they helped prepare me for high school. I'm grateful for all that they do for us.*

*Next, I'd like to talk about all the unique and wonderful opportunities we have at Fairfield. When I talk with friends from other schools, they often make fun of how small our school and classes are. But when I tell them about all the activities we are able to do, they become envious and wish their school was able to do similar things. I don't think many of us truly appreciate the opportunities we've had during our time at Fairfield.*

*All nine years as a student at Fairfield, I have created memories. We have done fun and interesting activities, while learning many things. Tonight, I would like to share with you some of my memories from middle school.*

*In 5th grade, our whole class got the opportunity to visit the state house. We went on a tour and met the governor. We helped plant a tree on the front of the state house lawn that is still there today.*

*In 6th grade, we had project sweet talk with Mrs. Tully. We learned all about sugaring and at the end of the unit we invited the community to join us for an afternoon. We displayed our projects, made presentations, offered maple syrup samples and shared with them what we had learned.*

*In 7th grade, we got to plant vegetables and take care of the greenhouse and high tunnel with Mr. Pigeon. Some of the food we grew was*

*used for school lunches. Another thing we did that year was with Mr. Evans. He took us canoeing and made an educational trip fun. We learned about our environment and how to keep our local streams clean. A lasting memory from this trip that I know many of us share is when Blaze and Wilson tipped their canoe over, fell into the cold water and started flailing. Although they didn't find it funny at first, they are able to laugh about it now. For the end of the year class trip for 7th grade we went to the Jay Peak Pump House for a day. One of my favorite memories from that trip was watching Mr. Stebbins surf. Let's just say Mr. Stebbins should stick to teaching, surfing isn't exactly a skill of his.*

*In 8th grade, we began the year with a trip to the UVM ropes course and participated in team trust activities all day. Some of us conquered our fears, and others... well they tried. Another team activity we did this school year was our maple sugaring unit. We had the chance to sugar with Mr. Baxter. We had learned about the sugaring process in 6th grade, but now we could produce the syrup ourselves. We did the whole process from beginning to end, from tapping the trees, to boiling the sap. Our small class of 29 kids was able to make 60 gallons of syrup this year. That is the most a class in Fairfield has ever made. For our 8th grade class trip we got to choose together as a class where we wanted to go and what we wanted to do. We traveled to Massachusetts for white water rafting and a day at Six Flags.*

*The programs here are great as well. Three years ago we started Fuel Up to Play 60. This*

program was developed to get kids more active and healthy. I joined the first year it was offered at our school and that same year we won a trip to Gillette Stadium, home of the New England Patriots. We received a tour of the stadium and we got to try on actual Patriots gear. I wore Tom Brady's old jersey, shoes, pants and his helmet. We also got to go onto the field there. When we first started at Fairfield, we were the only school in this area with this program. Other local schools are now joining this program, because they have seen all we have accomplished. I have been able to encourage so many kids through this program and achieve so many things with my team. It has been great.

We have the Young Writers Project with Mr. Evans as well. This is a writing program, where we submit almost all of our pieces and prompts throughout the school year. You have the chance to be published in the local newspaper and almost every week one of the students from Fairfield has their piece published.

One thing that Fairfield is known for is their great reputation. All of the things I have mentioned, the teachers, the opportunities and the programs all contribute to that. We may have the smallest gym in the area, but we make the most of it. Last year, the 7/8 girls' basketball team not only won the league

championship, but they also were presented the league sportsmanship trophy. This is an award that is voted on by the other schools within the league and it was a great honor. It was also the first time in the school's history that the Fairfield girls had received this award. And this year, we won the sportsmanship trophy again.

So, my message to you, the class of 2013, is that yes, we aren't perfect. We are graduating from an old school and small school. But what many people don't realize is that none of that stops us from being great. We make the best of what we have and we represent ourselves well. Yes we will be the freshmen class next year, or what you would call "fresh meat". But, as we move on to our different high schools, we should go in confident and proud of where we came from. As Margaret Meade once said; "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world... it is the only thing that ever has." In closing, as we end this chapter in our lives and venture on to the next, I would like to share a quote with the class of 2013; "I hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known." I wish you all the best in high school. Thank you!

Sorry Mr Stebbins - no dunking this year! Join Summer Readers on August 23rd @ 3pm for the Biggest Slip and Slide Ever! One run for each book you read! Keep track of your books at [www.bentnorthrop.org](http://www.bentnorthrop.org)!



**Bent Northrop Memorial Library**  
presents

# Summer 2013

SUMMER HRS: T & TH: 2:30-8, W&F: 9-5, SA 9-1  
WWW.BENTNORTHROP.ORG

Enjoy summer reading when you...

## FILL THE FLOOR @ BNML!

Beat the heat and bring the whole family to cover *every square foot* of the library floor as you read to yourself, a friend, or your stuffed gecko!?! Bring a pillow or pick out a few summer reading books to enjoy and help make history by filling the floor at BNML! Thurs, July 11 5-8pm (pictures at 7pm!)

**BNML ANNUAL TIE DYE DAY!**  
Bring your shirt, socks, towels, pillowcase and whatever 100% cotton items you want to dye! We'll provide elastic bands, dye, and the clothesline...you make the masterpiece!  
Saturday, August 3rd @ 10am

## Summer Reading Finale!!!

How many books will you read this summer? Collect a ticket for each book you read from June 19th-Aug 23rd (you can use your school reading log!). For each ticket, you earn one slide!

## **BIGGEST SLIP AND SLIDE EVER!**

**BNML, Friday, Aug 23rd @ 3pm**

## **PJ Storytime!**

Wear your PJs and listen to Ms. Beth read great stories followed by warm milk - just in time for bed!

Tuesday: June 18th, July 16th,  
and August 20th @ 6pm.

Mr K is back!

The fun begins at 2pm when  
**MR K DIGS IN AT BNML!**

School age kids, join us!

Tues, July 16th:

Mysteries of the Soil

Thurs, July 18th:

Tunnel, Dig and Hole

## **Playgroup & Storytime!**

Stories, games, friends & activities begin @ 10am.

July 10: Dig In!

July 17th: Frogs and Toads

July 24th: Fishing Fun

July 31st: Dinosaurs

Aug 1: Teddy Bear Picnic

The PuppeTree presents...

## **14 Carrots**

Friday, July 26th from 3 to 3:30ish

Inspired by the art of pop-up books, 14 CARROTS is the story of Aunt Swelly, a mature rabbit trying to enter the job market after years of babysitting. The show is filled with visual surprises, puppets and audience participation for the youngest of children while older kids learn to look critically at the balance between home and work.

Join Master Gardener Bob Engstrom and bring the family to build a **WORM BIN** with us! Then, put your skills to work at home and build your own with step by step directions and a materials list!  
Saturday, July 13th @ 10am

Fairfield Teens -  
Join us for an

## **outdoor movie**

on Friday, July 19th at 9pm. We pop the popcorn and set up the show...your bring a chair or blanket and your friends... weather permitting so call ahead!

Do you drive MOM crazy when you **take things apart!** Come make a mess, take things apart, and build something new! Bring tools and something to disassemble!

Take away a good time!  
Thurs, Aug 1st from 3 to 5 pm

Fairfield's Fuel Up to Play 60 presents  
**A FAIRFIELD FUN RUN!**  
Meet your friends and neighbors for the first Fairfield Fun Run! Active activities will follow! The routes and distances will be available soon!  
Friday, Aug 9th @ 10-12

UVM Extension is offering a mini camp at BNML  
July 22nd-26th Details coming soon!