

Peacham Elementary School  
PO Box 271  
340 Bayley Hazen Rd.  
Peacham, VT 05862  
802-592-3513 Fax:802-592-3517  
Sam McLeod, Principal: [sam.mcleod@ccsuvt.net](mailto:sam.mcleod@ccsuvt.net)

***Principal's Report  
To The School Board  
February 01, 2024***

**Progress made over the last month on action plan steps reflective of our CCSU goals, curriculum work, MTSS/MTSSB-instructional framework**

**Peer Observation Workshops and UDL implementation-**

This Past Friday, February 2nd, our staff continued their peer observation professional development work with Margaret Maclean. During the session we focused on peer feedback protocol for giving and receiving peer collaborative feedback.

As the next stage in our peer observation work our staff will be focusing on elements of observable UDL best practices by having our teachers observe similar grade level classrooms at other schools in the CCSU. The purpose of these observations is to expand our teaching craft in support of inclusive classrooms and UDL best practices. It is our goal to be leaders of expanding this open door attitude and teacher peer observation collaboration throughout the CCSU so that we as professionals may have opportunities to share our rich and diverse experiences and best practices with all district students.

**Highlights of Recent Events**

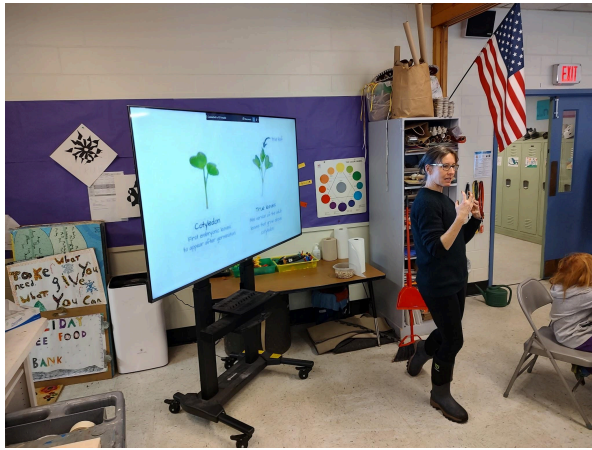
**Downhill, Cross Country Skiing, and Winter Wellness**

We had our first ski trip to Burke on Tuesday, January 30th, and it was a tremendous success! I am very grateful for our contingency of experienced volunteers and our hard working ski program coordinators Gina Kurlle and Aimee Locke. We had 100% participation on ski day with many students experiencing downhill skiing or snowboarding for the first time. I would also like to extend my extreme gratitude to our Peacham PTF for providing this unique and valuable experience free of charge to our families. It is an incredible gift and we are extremely thankful.



## **Peacham Garden to Table Indoor Growing Presentation**

On Friday, February 2nd our entire student population PK-6 was treated to an indoor microgreens growing workshop presented by Molly Willard. Molly educated the students about the practical aspects of planting and also informed our students on the health benefits of microgreens as well as the advantages and value of local food production. The presentation concluded with all students planting their own trays of microgreens which are currently growing in our classrooms and common areas. These microgreens will provide our students with not only nutritional value, but with pride of ownership as they contribute to our own healthy, local food supply in our kitchen. This week we are expanding our indoor growing to herbs and we are also beginning our seed starters for garden bed and main garden planting in the spring. We have a Garden to Table team of local experts and local farmers who will be consulting and providing student workshops as we proceed with our Peacham Garden to Table project. I would also like to provide special thanks to Eric and Michelle Pomeroy for providing all the seeds and soil for our indoor planting and for assisting with the presentation.



## **Upcoming Events**

### **Winter Music Concert**

We are scheduled to have our whole school winter music concert on Tuesday, February 6th at 5:30 pm at the Peacham Congregational Church Meetinghouse.

## **PTF Community Lunch**

On Wednesday, February 14th, we will be hosting a luncheon in honor of our PTF group. Any active members of the Peacham PTF are invited to join us for a luncheon hosted by our wonderful students and prepared by our incredible chef Mrs Jessie. All members of the board are welcome to join us as well as we say thanks to our generous and supportive PTF members.

### **Open positions:**

**None**

### **Bus Transportation Update**

I am currently providing morning and afternoon bus transportation as well as providing transportation for field trips, ski trips, and learning expeditions. We should have additional drivers soon to help share the responsibility.

*Respectfully submitted by Sam McLeod*



**Caledonia Central Supervisory Union**  
Cabot School, Twinfield School,  
Danville School District, Peacham School District  
Caledonia Cooperative School District (Barnet, Walden & Waterford Schools)

PO Box 216, Danville, VT 05828 (802)684-3801x206 - Fax (802)684-1190  
Mark Tucker, Superintendent of Schools  
[mark.tucker@ccsuvt.net](mailto:mark.tucker@ccsuvt.net)

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**Superintendent's Report February 2024**

**1. Open Positions**

**Barnet School**

- After School Program Coordinator

**Cabot School**

- Special Education Paraeducator
- Bus Driver

**Central Office**

- 2 High School Paraeducators at the St. Johnsbury Academy
- Certified Deaf/Blind Intervener
- School Psychologist
- Superintendent of Schools
- Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Coordinator

**Danville School**

- Custodian evenings
- Elementary Special Education Paraeducator

**Peacham School**

- Life Skills one-on-one part-time paraeducator

**Twinfield School**

- Bus Driver
- Food Service
- Preschool Paraeducators (1)
- Elementary Paraeducator (1)
- High School Paraeducator (1)
- Global Citizenship Teacher part-time
- Long Term Substitute Teacher for Preschool (Spring 2024-Spring 2025)
- Custodian

**Walden School**

- No open positions at this time.

**Waterford School**

- Preschool paraeducator

**“It is the mission of the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union and its seven member schools to create a learning community in which each individual can achieve the highest standards of excellence in intellectual growth and citizenship.”**

1. **Legislative Activities** – Summary of bills being considered this session:
  - Act 127 Correction – I have written extensively about this in a separate memorandum
  - H.634 - *An act relating to school closures and the designation of a public school to serve as the public school of the district.* Would apply to any public school that opts to close grades or the entire school; would require the district to designate up to three public schools to receive students displaced by the closure.
  - H.820 - *An act relating to public school designation and the use of public funds for tuition.* This is a carry-over from last session, amended to further identify expectations for approved independent schools to (continue to) receive public dollars.
  - H. 630 - *An act relating to boards of cooperative education services.* Would allow school districts/SUs to form cooperative agreements for the purpose of sharing costs for services.
  - H.716 - *An act related to career and technical education.* Aimed at reforming the governance and funding for CTE sessions
  - Literacy - Both the House and Senate Education committees have indicated that improving literacy outcomes for students is a priority this session. S.204 outlines responsibility for approving the credentials of “reading screeners” to identify the needs of students. This bill is undergoing rewrite following testimony last week; we will be commenting on the revised bill. S.281 seeks to establish standards for educator training in literacy as it applies to teacher licensure.
  - *Holocaust Education* - Senate Education took up S.87, an act relating to Holocaust education in public schools, which was introduced last session. The bill proposes to require Vermont public schools to include Holocaust education in supervisory union-wide curricula for grades six through 12 each year for a minimum of six hours per year, beginning in the 2024–2025 school year. This bill also proposes to require the Agency of Education to provide assistance in the development and maintenance of Holocaust education.
  - *S.55 - an act relating to authorizing public bodies to meet electronically under Vermont’s Open Meeting Law* . This bill makes changes to the Open Meeting law to codify temporary changes enacted to facilitate in-person meeting concerns stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic. For purposes of our Boards, it would *require* that future Board meetings (beyond June 30, 2024, when the temporary exceptions expire) operate in hybrid mode (in-person and remote) which is what we have been doing for three years now.
  - *S.284 – a bill that would ban the use of cellphones in schools. It would also allow families to opt-out of the use of other electronic devices (i.e., school-issued computers). As part of this opt-out, the school would have to create special spaces for those students to “protect them” from contact with these electronic devices. Current language in this bill is an overreach on the concerns over the use of cellphones by students, and it is unanimously opposed by members of VSA.*
2. **PCB Testing** – A proposal by Agency of Natural Resources to limit reimbursement for PCB remediation to school sites above the school action level would essentially deny reimbursement to Cabot, Danville and Twinfield. There is no mention of providing regulatory opt-out; thus, this could leave these three schools on the hook for remediation costs. This proposal went over like a lead balloon when it came out two weeks ago; I am deep in the lobbying opposing such a change in policy, which would be a violation of law.
3. **Policy Work** – the CCSU Board will be taking up for consideration 17 new or revised/updated policies starting at is February meeting. Recommended policies will be referred to the District Boards for action; required policies can be adopted on behalf of the districts by the CCSU Board.

Mark Tucker, M.A.  
Superintendent of Schools

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