

# Benson Village School

October 15, 2015

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## Events/News

**Spelling News!** Congrats to our 5th and 6th graders on winning the district Spelling Bee! They will be headed to the Regional competition on the 31st. More details when we get them.

### **PTCC News:** "Trunk or Treat"

The PTCC is sponsoring a " Trunk or Treat " Friday October 30th from 6pm to 7:30pm.

The concept- A student and their families decorate the family's car trunk for Halloween and bring a bowl of candy. All cars participating come park at the school parking lot so children can do safe trick or treating from trunk to trunk! We will number all decorated vehicles so people can vote for the best decorated vehicle for a prize. If you would like to participate please contact Roberta Senn at 537-2983 or email [sennshens@gmail.com](mailto:sennshens@gmail.com).



### **8th Grade News**

The 8th Graders will be selling Little Caesar's until November 4th. You can purchase pizzas, cookies, and more from any 8th Grader! Each purchase helps support their trip to Washington, D.C. in May. The pizza will be delivered on November 13th. To place your order online, visit <http://www.pizzakit.com/fundraising-productsshop=1&f=302202&s=120964>.



This has been a new and exciting year for Benson Village School. We have been preparing for the implementation of Personal Learning Plans for almost 2 years now, and we are ready for lift off. In 2013, Governor Shumlin and the Vermont Legislature signed into Law Act 77. In a nutshell, the intent is to allow students flexible means in which to earn credits towards High School Graduation requirements, be assured that each high school graduate is college and career ready and that each student, beginning in the 7th grade, will be working on and pursuing education that is personalized to their specific needs, interests and goals. Each middle schooler in the ARSU district will be creating, exploring and refining their Personal Learning Plans (PLP's) this year. This will be done via a combination of Naviance (a web-based program that each middle schooler will have access too and their own account) as well as a Google Platform. The immediate goal is to help students become critical thinkers, embrace culture, be excellent communicators, collaborators, be creative and be connected to the world around them. These plans are ever changing and will follow each student through their high school career.

The Personal Learning Plans are exciting as is the rest of Act 77. We will be doing a lot with them in middle school and more information will follow. If you have any questions, please call Kim Ezzo, School Counselor at 537-2491. For more information, please visit:

[education.vermont.gov/.../EDU-Introduction\\_to\\_Act\\_77\\_08\\_14.docx](http://education.vermont.gov/.../EDU-Introduction_to_Act_77_08_14.docx)



### **Notes from the Nurse**

We are now at the start of cold and flu season and it is important that we all work together to prevent illness in our school. I would like to remind everyone that the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) recommends that everyone over 6 months of age get a yearly flu shot, though you should discuss this with your own provider as in some rare cases the vaccine is not recommended. For those who do not like needles and meet certain criteria, a nasal mist is available as

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well! This year it is projected that the flu shot will be more effective than it was last year. As always, frequent hand washing and cleaning frequently touched surfaces is one of the best ways to prevent illness from spreading. I would also like to remind everyone that children who are ill should go 24 hours without vomiting or fever without fever reducing medication before they return to school. Anyone with the flu or stomach bug should remain home for the duration of the illness and the additional 24 hour fever free period. As always, feel free to call or email me ([acasey@arsu.org](mailto:acasey@arsu.org)) with any questions or concerns about your child's health.



## MUSIC

**EEE:** The Thursday class has been singing and moving to songs about the world around us, including songs about our bodies, food, animals and our environment. Some of our favorite songs include: "Where is Thumbkin?", "Chop Chop Chippity Chop", "Old Mac Donald", "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and our perennial favorite, "Hop Old Squirrel". Good news! We've found a way for the Thursday group to have music class beginning next week.

**K & 1:** Students have been doing creative and rhythmic movement to "Dipidu" a morning greeting song from Uganda. We've also been playing the boomwhackers and learning our musical alphabet: ABCDEFG

**2 & 3:** Students have been learning about steady beat and meter (the grouping of beats into 2s or 3s) We've been singing and playing instruments "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" which is in a meter of 3.

**4 & 5:** Students are also working on meter and singing partner songs and rounds to form harmony. Our current songs include "One Bottle of Pop", "Pick a Little, Talk a Little" partnered with "Good Night Ladies", "Home on the Range" partnered with "My Home's in Montana", and "Dona Nobis Pacem" which is a round in Latin meaning "give us peace".

**Middle School:** Students discussed and wrote a reflection on a video entitled "FOLI: There Is No Movement Without Rhythm". The video shows how music is a part of everyday life in the Malinke village of Bora in Guinea, a country in west Africa. This video is found on YouTube.

**MS Band:** Students are working on "Banuwa", a Liberian piece which features the percussion section, "New York, New York" of Frank Sinatra fame, and "Linus and Lucy" which is the famous jazz tune heard in all of the Peanuts cartoon specials. Band and lessons are every Wednesday.

**5th Grade Band:** Students are working on their first three notes, and plying their first five songs with a steady beat and good tone quality. Lessons are every Wednesday.



## Athletics Next Week

- 7/8 Soccer Game Thursday@Castleton 4:30
- 5/6 Soccer Game Tuesday Home vs Whiting 4:30, Wednesday@Castleton 4:30(rescheduled from 10/5), and Friday Home vs. Christ the King 4:30(rescheduled from 10/9)



## Dates to remember:

- 10/16 No School-Teacher In Service
- 10/17 8th Grade Bottle Drive
- 10/19 Starbase (additional date 10/26)
- 10/21 Picture Retakes 11:30
- 10/23 Middle School to Lake St. Catherine
- 10/26 Act 46 Meeting CES 6:30
- 10/30 Fire Safety Presentations, Benson Fire Dept.
- 10/31 Regional Spelling Bee, Grades 5 & 6