THE BOLTON GAZETTE

THE TOWN OF BOLTON, VERMONT

"THE LAND OF BOULDERS AND BEARS"

3045 THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGHWAY, BOLTON VT 05676

JANUARY 2014 EMAIL: BOLTONGAZETTE@GMAVT.NET VOLUME #2 ISSUE #1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year from the gingerbread version of the town office! Here's to a New Year filled with peace and prosperity, health and happiness for all!

REMINDER: the third installment of property taxes will be due on Monday, February 17, 2014. Postmarks of 2/17/14 are accepted as on time.

CLERK'S CORNER

AMY GROVER * TOWN CLERK & TREASURER
CLERKBOLTON@GMAVT.NET

2014 DOG LICENSES

The 2014 Blue Shield dog tags (chosen by the Smilie School students' vote!) are in and we are ready to license your dog by April 1st. Licenses are $11 (due to a $1 increase from the state), there is no late fee, and we are happy to issue licenses by mail. Please contact the town office if you need more information.

WINTER IS HERE!

Again, thanks and kudos to both our road crew and the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department for their hard work cleaning up from the December ice storm, and for keeping our town highways open, salted, sanded, and plowed! For more information on winter plowing, see the Winter Operations Plan on the town website.

REAPPRAISAL ON WINTER HIATUS

Due to difficult winter access, we are taking a short break in scheduling appointments for the reappraisal currently under way in West Bolton. We will start calling in late winter to begin scheduling appointments again.

SENIOR NEWS

Are you or your spouse 60 or older, and do you enjoy a good dinner and socializing?
If so, then come join us!
Date: January 22, 2014
Time: 5:00 PM
Place: Smilie Memorial School
Menu: Prime Rib, baked potatoes, vegetables, rolls and cheese cake for dessert.
Suggested donation $5.00
You must RSVP by January 18, 2014 to Doris @434-3769 ~ thank you!

PHOEBE CHECKS A BALLOT BOX TO SEE IF IT IS READY FOR TOWN MEETING 2014!

PHOEBE'S KIDS' QUESTION OF THE MONTH!

Can you guess how many registered voters there are in our town? A registered voter is a resident who has "exercised their right" (some people even say it's a duty!) to vote on both the issues and candidates who run for office in Bolton, Vermont, and the USA! Phoebe hopes the adults in your home are registered to vote.

See next month's issue for the answer!

WOOF! WOOF!!

Last month's answer: Check out the CORRECT answer on the next page from Mr. Menz's mathematicians! They used their amazing math skills to calculate the answer!

 Clerk's Corner Continued on Page 5

SMILIE SCHOOL NEWS

SMILIE MEMORIAL SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ANNOUNCEMENT

By John Alberghini

The Directors of the Bolton Town School District are pleased to announce Interim Principal, Barbara Tomasi-Gay has been appointed Principal of Smilie Memorial School.

Ms. Tomasi-Gay received a Bachelor's Degree from St. Lawrence University, a Master's Degree from Goddard College and Certificate of Advanced Educational Studies from Northern Arizona University. Prior to her appointment as Interim Principal of Smilie Memorial School, she served as the Assistant Principal of Thatcher Brook Primary School in Waterbury, Vermont for fourteen years. In addition, Ms. Tomasi-Gay has worked as a Learning Specialist/ Consulting Teacher, Language Arts Teacher and Special Educator.

Ms. Tomasi-Gay has demonstrated strong communication and educational leadership skills. Her diverse and extensive experience in curriculum development, parent and community involvement, staff development and teaching will support Smilie Memorial School students in achieving their full potential.

The Board and I are excited about the leadership strengths and expertise that Ms. Tomasi-Gay will provide Bolton students and the community.

GRADE 2 & 3 MR. MENZ'S CLASS

Our Town Clerk has issued a challenge. She said that there were 717 cubic yards of sand delivered to the town garage. She wanted to know how many pounds of sand that was. We have decided to help her out. The first thing we needed to know was how much dry sand weighed. We found out that it weighs 100 pounds per cubic foot. We know that to find the volume of an object we have to multiply the width x the height x the length. Since a yard is 3 feet long we had to multiply 3x3x3.We found out there was 27 cubic feet in a cubic yard. Then we multiplied 27x100 which is 2,700 pounds. Finally we multiplied 2,700x717 to get our answer. We learned that 1,935,900 pounds of sand were delivered to the garage! (We did not use a calculator to figure out the answer but we did use one to check our work)

Koa holding 1 cubic foot (27 pounds) of sand!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

CHMS APEX Initiative

by Mark Carbone, Principal of Camels Hump Middle School

Camels Hump Middle School has taken on a new initiative to help students and their families learn problem solving skills, enhance communication, and make healthy choices in a fun and productive environment.

Starting in January, the APEX (**A**spire, **P**ersevere, **EX**cel) program will engage a sample (approx. 20%) of 6th grade families in conversation and learning about adolescent development. Adolescence and the middle school years can be a challenging time in many ways: academically, physically, emotionally, and socially.

CHMS, in partnership with UVM Extension and PROSPER Partnerships will offer the APEX program to provide hands-on learning opportunities through evidence-based programs. Participants experience a weekly seven-session program which includes family dinner, fun games and activities, and childcare for younger siblings. For a portion of the time, parents will attend workshops on topics such as setting limits and computer/Internet safety, while the student group may learn about saying no, advocacy, and problem solving. The two-year APEX program will continue into the 7th grade year through the CHMS health curriculum and parent education and outreach.

Studies similar to APEX have shown to have significant positive impact on youth, family, school and community. It is our hope that participating families enjoy more quality time together; parents gain more confidence in their parenting and communication skills; and students have fun and learn tips for surviving and thriving in middle school.

The next CHMS/MMU school board meeting will be held on January 9th, 2014 at 7pm. The public is welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

TOWN MEETING – MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 3, 2014

Town Meeting 2014 is just around the corner – look for more information about Town Meeting in the February Gazette. Petitions for offices are due to the town office by 5 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2014, and the last day to register to vote is by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2014.

BREAKING NEWS…FEMA PAYMENT!

The town just received a FEMA payment (hopefully there will be more reimbursement!) of $25,702.86 toward the June and July 2013 road washout repairs.☺

SENIOR HOLIDAY BAGS

While we did not receive sufficient donations by the deadline to re-establish the senior holiday bag tradition, we thank those who helped us try ~ the items we did receive were donated to and greatly appreciated by the Richmond Food Shelf; "Thank you for the delivery of food; last month we served 88 families from Bolton, Huntington and Richmond. We appreciated the donation!"

WHEELER TRUST SCHOLARSHIP

Reminder that the *Wheeler Trust Scholarship* application deadline is April 30th. Overseen by the Board of Civil Authority, the Wheeler Trust Scholarship annually awards funds to 1 - 4 full time college students from Bolton. See the town website for the full guidelines on applying for a scholarship, or call the town office for more information.

SO, YOU DON'T AGREE WITH THE ASSESSED VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY…

I recently had a call from a property owner who asked what an owner could do if they disagreed with the town's assessed value of their property, which of course is the basis for calculating your property tax. There is formal process in place to address this concern, and you can find out all about it at: http://www.sec.state.vt.us/municipal/pubs/Appealing.pdf.

YES…STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

To serve as Alternates on the Development Review Board. Interested? Contact the town office!

BOLTON GAZETTE INFORMATION

Reminder: The deadline for submissions in the 15th of the previous month for the following month's edition. To OPT IN to receive the Bolton Gazette electronically and in color (help the town save $ on paper and postage costs!) email boltongazette@gmavt.net.

We welcome all submissions, in any format: stories, news, events, art, poetry, photographs. Drop submissions at the town office or, you've got it, email them to boltongazette@gmavt.net!

SMILIE SCHOOL NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Smilie School Board News

At the December Smilie School Board meeting, the Bolton School Board continued to work with a "status quo" budget for the next school year. Without significant changes except for increases in health care, salary, and heating costs we expect a minimal increase in the budget. In late November, Tax Commissioner, Mary Peterson wrote to the Legislature and the Governor notably concluding the Statewide Education Property tax rate should increase by $0.05. If the Legislature follows her recommendations next year, this would have a significant impact on our taxes.

The School Board will finalize the budget at our January 8th meeting at 6:30 PM at Smilie school. Public input is always requested at the beginning of every meeting, and may be accepted later in the meeting at the discretion of the Board. We will have a budget information presentation at Town Meeting this year, and the budget will be voted by Australian ballot the following day.

The Modified Unified Union School District voluntary merger committee had its first meeting last month. We continue to anticipate a merger vote in late 2014 to take effect for the 2015-2016 school year. The merger will increase educational opportunities and have tax savings for Bolton and other elementary districts in the Chittenden East Supervisory Union. Keeping Smilie as an outstanding school with the current tax formula would place too large a burden on Bolton taxpayers.

Andrew Pond andrew.pond@cesuvt.org 434-2363
Alain Cohen griffonier@gmavt.net 434-2280
Paula Gervia pgervia@gmail.com 434-3892
Mary Ellen Seaver-Reid mseaverr@uvm.edu 434-4813
Amy Turner mrslthiker@hotmail.com 434-3514

GRADE 1 AND 2 MRS. LEFRANCOIS' CLASS

POETRY

Alliteration Delicious Words Poems

These poems focus on alliteration and how words that start with the same sound can make writing more delicious! We then strengthened our writing further by using strong delicious words that are so descriptive they create a picture in your mind. We hope you enjoy our poems!

Continued next page

Nature
By Morgan
Nature,
nature is so beautiful.
Trees growing out of the
green grass.
Trees and grass swaying in
the wind.
The sky is so blue!
I feel the hard force
of the breeze in my hair.
Rain dribbles to the ground.
I see leaves on the wet
ground.

Darkness And Stars
By Ebbe
Darkness fills caves
next to the stars
into the holes
over the mountains.
Darkness is everywhere.

The moon shines on the city
space.
The lightest night
filled with stars
with the moon, giant moon.
The lightest moon of the
year.

I wish that always
the moon will shine this way.
A beautiful bird will fly
across the sky.
And the moon will always
shine
across the great pond,
and stars shine away.

Dad
By Lilia
Dad likes dogs. He is
Awesome!
Dad is amazing!

Crane
By Walker
A long boom
stretching straight out.
The crane is starting to
move
and fold back in.
It turns every time it wants
to.
Then its leaving to another
job site.

Nature Leaves
By Caroline
Nature is beautiful
with the wind blowing on the
trees,
the wind whistling in my
ears.
I love nature.

Lilia
By Lilia
Lilia is loving.
I am awesome!
Lilia likes laughing.
I am a marvelous
Awesome acrobat!

Molly
By Lilia
Molly is marvelous
Outstanding and she
Loves Lilia! Molly
Likes laughing
Yes!

Mom
By Lilia
Mom is marvelous and
One of a kind!
Mom is a master!

About My Dog Koa
By Maggie
My dog dashes
down the path at the park.
I love my dog Koa.
And Koa,
he love donuts.

Holly Horse
By Zoe
Holly Horse likes to run.
Holly Horse loves to sleep.
Holly Horse likes to stay
awake all day.
Holly Horse jumps in the
snow.
Holly Horse is amazing!

The Pound Man
By Jared
The pound man is fierce and
fiery!
The pound man pounds
perfectly on walls.
At dark, the pound man eats
chunky chicken
and doesn't like other
people.

Feathers
By Isaiah
Look at the feathers;
these feathers are
beautiful.
The feathers flutter
through the sky.
The feathers flying
are on a bird.
Feathers are beautiful!

Continued next page

I Love My Bird
By Bella
My birds,
my birds can fly fast in the wind.
My birds can read.
My birds like to play with a ball,
a beautiful ball.
My birds were circling.
I love my birds,
my birds, my birds.

Fabulous Snowboarder
By Nashua
I am an awesome snowboarder.
In the powerful powder
I slowly sneak down the sick trails.

In The Ocean
By Will
The silent seaweed sways.
The seahorses suck seaweed.
The clownfish hide in anemones.
Angelfish show off their beauty
under the ocean.
That's what you find in the ocean!

Cat
By Rosemary
I see this wounded cat
run from the dog.
The dog tries
to bite the cat.
Can the wounded cat get away?...
No!
The dog wins the war.

My Cat Jam
By Rosa
Jam jumps on everything
And I call him Jammy Jaroo the Boo Boo
My marvelous Jam!

Flowers
By Abby
Flowers flow fast and nice.
On windy days,
flower petals look like beautiful silk.
Green leaves,
nice, nice, nice,
awesome, awesome, awesome,
just so great!
Pink petals,
purple petals,
and perfect petals.
Flowers, flowers, flowers,
Awesome flowers!
I love flowers!

News From Our Community Cares Camp ~ by Marie Thomas

Winners of #Giving Tuesday OCCC promotion of 4 single day off-peak lift tickets to Bolton Valley are Jeanette Malone and Dan Wolfson!

Thanks to everyone who donated during the #Giving Tuesday promotion.

You can support OCCC by donating online at https://www.facebook.com/OCCCVT or at www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org. Or mail your check to OCCC, PO Box 503, Richmond, VT 05477.

Thank you for your support of local children. Every donation helps us to reach our goal. This year we will host 80 children a day, from grades k - 8. Your charitable dollar goes further when you give local. Invest in your own community.

OCCC provides 4 weeks of summer enrichment camp and 2 healthy meals a day to children from Richmond, Huntington and Bolton. Local support is critical to the success of this endeavor.

Thank you.

Trimarker Monument Adventure by Amy Grover

Trimarker Monument in summer on the Ethan Allen Firing Range. Notice the faint "TL" carved on the top of the monument; we all thought that could stand for "Town Line!"

I had a really unique opportunity in December with the town clerks from Underhill and Jericho; Sherri Morin and Jessica Alexander. With National Guard permission, we were escorted onto the Ethan Allen Firing Range to the "Trimarker Monument," that marks the three corners where the boundaries of Bolton, Jericho, and Underhill meet. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the area's natural and military histories, as well as the 3 towns' histories. My thanks to the National Guard for making the "Trimarker Monument Adventure" possible!

CHMS CELEBRATES STUDENT EFFORTS

By Mark Carbone, Principal, Camels Hump Middle School

Camels Hump Middle School will host hundreds of middle-schoolers and their families over two nights in celebration of winter and the youth's progress since September. The gatherings are planned for January 16th for 7th and 8th graders and January 23rd for 5th & 6th graders. Attendees will be treated to choral and band concerts as well as ice skating under the lights. Art work from all grades will line the halls of the school. Student projects will be in abundance throughout classrooms and in display cases. Open house gives students an excellent opportunity to share their accomplishments with family and friends. We welcome any and all community members to our open house.

I am pleased to report that last year's CHMS 8th grade class came in 10th overall statewide in the science NECAP tests—and more exciting is that they are in the top 5 among similar-size schools! Since 2005, Vermont students have been participating in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), a series of reading, writing, mathematics and science achievement tests, administered annually. The NECAP tests measure students' academic knowledge and skills relative to the Grade Expectations for Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities. Student scores are reported at four levels of academic achievement; *Proficient with Distinction, Proficient, Partially Proficient* and *Substantially Below Proficient*. In the area of science, CHMS 8th graders tests resulted in 58% *Proficient with Distinction* or *Proficient*--this is higher than the district (54%) and statewide (33%) results.

We still have openings in the PROSPER program for 6th graders and their families. The program, Strengthening Families Program 10-14, is a series of seven, fun workshops for students and their families to support successful transitions through middle school. For more information, or to register for this fun, family-oriented program, visit www.chms.k12.vt.us or email Rebecca Thompson and Stephanie Atwood at chmsprosper@cesuvt.org.

The next MMU school board meeting is February 13, 7 pm, at Browns River Middle School. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.