

# Principals' Reports for December 2020

## Celebrations

### ALBANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Steve has been on bereavement leave.

### BARTON ACADEMY AND GRADED SCHOOL

To celebrate 2020 and all of the hard work of our students and staff, our Tiger Time for the week before break was extra special. We had a virtual school wide Hokey Pokey/Chicken Dance Challenge and a Rock-Paper-Scissors Tournament. Many students signed up for their "moment on the mic" and helped with morning announcements and bus dismissal. We made and sent cards to Maple Lane Nursing Home. Students also made evergreen centerpieces with Mrs. Baker.

Every week, we continue to acknowledge students for their efforts and positive behaviors with Positive Office Referrals. We have given out 59 Positive Office Referrals so far this school year.

Between Dec. 17th and Jan. 13th, we have 9 new students enrolling at Barton for in-person schooling (one 1st grader, two 2nd graders, one 3rd grader, one 5th grader and four 7th graders). We had to adjust our room arrangements and Master Schedule to ensure we are following our physical distancing guidelines.

### BROWNINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

For a huge amount of Safe, Respectful, and Responsible behavior through the fall, we held a movie and popcorn celebration on December 22. Each homeroom chose a movie while the 8th graders made and distributed popcorn to each student.

### GLOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Students and staff at GCS celebrated all of the hard work they'd done since September by watching movies with their cohorts on the afternoon of December 22nd. Parents sent in snacks, and the kitchen staff provided hot chocolate and candy canes.

Because we couldn't gather for our end-of-trimester awards assembly, I pre-recorded this, and the classes watched in on their own on December 22nd. Those students nominated for Grit, Compassion and/or Safety awards were presented certificates by their classroom teachers as they watched the video.

To thank the Glover staff for all of their hard work, I purchased Parker Pie for everyone on December 22nd. A few staff members also contributed some treats.

### IRASBURG VILLAGE SCHOOL

To acknowledge the hard work everyone had been doing since the opening of school in September, I made and delivered snacks and goodies to all staff on December 21st and hot chocolate for all students and staff in the afternoon. To show their appreciation, the Parents' Club provided a pizza lunch for all staff on the 21st as well.

Students and staff at IVS celebrated their hard work on the afternoon of December 22nd. Movies and snacks were enjoyed by all.

### ORLEANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students celebrated a PBIS achievement of filling the rocket with pom poms on December 18 with a movie and popcorn.

Community members showed up at the end of the day on December 22 with music and costumes to add a festive note to afternoon dismissal.

### OCSU REMOTE ACADEMY

The ORA staff has chosen three school-wide expectations. Our students are expected to be Open-Minded, Respectful, and @ccountable. The @ symbol was purposely chosen to replace the letter a because it has a tech feel to it. The middle school students also decided that we are the ORA Otters. GO OTTERS!

Because we couldn't show our gratitude to ORA staff the way that we did with our in-person staff, we drove around delivering gifts of appreciation before December break. We covered much of northern VT, and even part of northern NH.

## Focus on Learning & Equity

### ALBANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Steve has been on bereavement leave.

### BARTON ACADEMY AND GRADED SCHOOL

Our distributive leadership model includes a newly formed Restorative Team facilitated by Caitlin Feerick, our social emotional learning coordinator. This team's work supports our Continuous Improvement Plan's goal to promote school safety. We are continuing to learn about restorative practices and building staff capacity for this work. The Restorative Team also spends time reviewing and analyzing behavior data, procedures and protocols.

Our staff has started reading *Hacking School Discipline: 9 Ways to Create a Culture of Empathy & Responsibility using Restorative Justice* written by Nathan Maynard and Brad Weinstein. We will engage in dialogue about this text and reflect on how this information may impact our restorative approach at Barton.

### BROWNINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

In K-2, one teacher was using the Expeditionary Learning Flex Curriculum video to help teach word fluency. Another BCS teacher asked students to discuss (from a distance) the difference between strato- and shield-volcanoes before learning about 1816, the year without summer in Vermont. In middle school, after discussing the chapter from *To Kill A Mockingbird*, the teacher showed a TED talk about the Golden Rule.

## GLOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The k-4 team has been diving deeper into guided reading practices. With two new teachers on board, it's important to understand the WHY behind this practice as well as the HOW. Their team facilitator, Monique Schneider, is very well versed in guided reading and she's been introducing new teachers to resources that will help them.

All new teachers and I meet monthly while others work on the TEP goals. In December, this group read about learning targets to get a better understanding of them. Each has created a goal around trying out learning targets and we'll meet to discuss this goal and a new resource in January.

The middle school team leader is Natalie Dalpe. This group is focused on equity. They have explored resources on social/racial justice, special education inclusion practices, and more. They have invited Building Fearless Futures to some of their meetings and are hopeful that BFF will connect with them in January.

## IRASBURG VILLAGE SCHOOL

Teachers have been concentrating on ensuring students are emotionally and physically safe. They continue to learn about trauma related issues, while also providing the core instruction needed to move students forward.

The middle school teachers have also been focusing on racial awareness and racial justice with their students.

## ORLEANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Teachers have continued to focus on core skills and report that students are making progress. Teachers use programs such as Zearn, IXL, and Moby Max to help differentiate learning, targeting student learning to specific skill areas.

Middle school students began learning about planets and were very excited to see the alignment of Jupiter and Saturn. Too bad the weather didn't cooperate. They are also learning about the Second Amendment and how to analyze visual sources of information. We are also working on a Web of Voices program brought to use from the SafeArt folks.

## OCSU REMOTE ACADEMY

Just before the vacation, ORA students in grades 3-5 made presentations of their learning. Each student researched a different holiday from a large array of religions and world traditions before making a slideshow. After each presentation, classmates had a chance to ask questions or share connections. The learning included great examples of the Global Citizenship Proficiencies of "Inquiry & Research" and "Democratic Communication & Civic Participation." ORA middle school students were diving into the text Esperanza Rising to find textual evidence of the characters' emotions. A second grade group wrote a story together and then edited as a group.

## Staffing

### ALBANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Steve has been on bereavement leave.

### BARTON ACADEMY AND GRADED SCHOOL

We will be using Titles funds to increase our services with We R Hope. We will be adding a full time coach starting January 6th through the end of the school year. We R Hope engages in one on one coaching sessions with students to ensure they can learn to adopt strategies and work through everyday anxiety.

We have not advertised to fill our part-time library position this year.

### BROWNINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

We are fully staffed through December.

### GLOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

We are still looking for a long-term sub to join us from March-May. We have a 5th and 6th grade humanities teacher who needs to take leave at that time. I have a licensed candidate who has expressed interest. I'm just waiting to hear back from him.

### IRASBURG VILLAGE SCHOOL

We have been fully staffed since the middle of November, but due to planned maternity and paternity leaves, we will be hiring long-term substitute teachers for two positions.

### ORLEANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A para resigned before break and we have posted for that position. We also posted for a long-term sub for our library position.

### OCSU REMOTE ACADEMY

We are advertising for a long-term sub to join our staff in April and stay until the end of the school year. The hired candidate will teach 6th-8th grade humanities to cover a teacher leave.

## Hazing, Harassment, Bullying Investigations

### ALBANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Steve has been on bereavement leave.

### BARTON ACADEMY AND GRADED SCHOOL

No investigations

BROWNINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

None

GLOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

None

IRASBURG VILLAGE SCHOOL

None

ORLEANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

None

OCSU REMOTE ACADEMY

None