

MMUUSD

District Happenings

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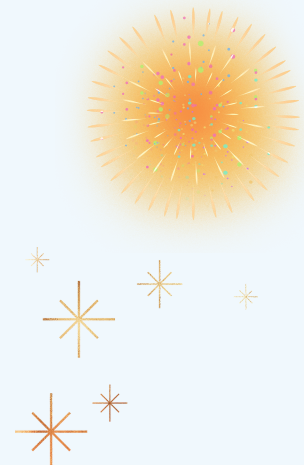


February is here! Famous Groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, forecasted six more weeks of Winter during the 136th celebration of Groundhog Day on Wednesday, February 2! The days are slowly starting to get longer, with daylight making the afternoons a little bit brighter, and despite Mother Nature being a bit frosty lately, students and staff have been spending as much time as possible outside during their break periods!

This issue of District Happenings includes important health updates and reminders, and other information about our schools and District.



(AP Photo/Barry Reeger)



Vaccine Clinic - MMUHS

The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District will be hosting a community vaccination clinic on 2/8/22 and again on 3/8/22 at MMU High School. The clinic will run from 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM both days. This clinic is open to anyone 5 and older. First dose, second dose and boosters will be available. The registration for this is open on the state website. You can either sign up online or call the registration line. 855-722-7878 or <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine>

MMUUSD strongly recommends the full series of the COVID-19 Vaccine and a Booster when eligible. If the MMU High School clinic does not work for you, please schedule an appointment at another vaccine clinic or through one of the many pharmacies that are offering the vaccine.

*Registration for the 3/8/22 clinic will be available after the 2/8 clinic

[Covid-19 Reporting Dashboard](#)

This dashboard will be updated weekly on Fridays.



Updates to Covid-19 Procedures

The Agency of Education (AOE) and Vermont Department of Health (VDH) have been working to provide the framework and resources necessary to change how Vermont's public schools address COVID-19 cases. They recently issued new guidance as we enter the next stage of this pandemic. A primary contributing factor to this policy shift is the rapid spread of the Omicron variant. Many of the strategies that previously were effective for preK-12 schools will cease to be useful and will instead become a drain on scarce resources without a clear public health benefit. In addition, these policy shifts have the support of Vermont's infectious disease experts and pediatricians and are based on sound science.

Based on the VDH's and AOE's updated guidelines and a commitment from the state that schools will have an adequate supply of rapid antigen tests, MMUUSD made the following changes to its COVID-19 procedures, which went into effect on January 20th.

- PCR surveillance testing and Test to Stay will be replaced by the Test at Home program. This includes high school athletics.
- School nurses will offer voluntary rapid testing at school if a student or staff member becomes symptomatic while at school. Schools will require consent from families/caregivers for in-school testing.
- School-based contact tracing will be replaced by notifications to families/caregivers of students who share a classroom with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Students will receive rapid antigen tests to use at home. The most recent quarantine guidelines can be found [HERE](#).

Distribution of Take Home Antigen Tests

MMUUSD will be distributing rapid antigen tests to students and families/caregivers who want to participate in the Test at Home program. If you have not already done so, please fill out the following voluntary and confidential surveys so we know how/if you would like to receive these kits:

[PreK-8 Students](#)

[MMUHS, 9-12 Students](#)



Health Updates - Continued

Important COVID-19 Prevention Measure - Stay Home When Sick

Students and staff who are sick should stay home. This is the most important prevention measure.

All students and staff should stay home if they:

- Show [symptoms of COVID-19](#);
- Have a fever (temperature greater than 100.4°F); or
- Are currently in isolation due to testing positive for COVID-19.

If symptoms begin while at school, the student or staff member should be tested for COVID-19 and sent home as soon as possible (regardless of test results), and the individual should be isolated from other staff and students until they can go home.

If they test negative (1 PCR/LAMP test or 2 antigen tests as close as possible to 24hrs apart) for COVID-19 they can return to school when symptoms improve and they are fever free for 24 hours.

Information and Resources from Health Professionals

- [Vermont Pediatricians Support Adapting Policies on Testing & Contact Tracing to Keep Schools Safe](#)
- [Vermont State School Nurses Association Town Hall](#)
- [AAPVT Conversation with Families on COVID-19 Vaccine - Leah Costello](#)
- [QuickVue At-Home OTC COVID-19 Test Instructional Video](#)
- [BinaxNow COVID-19 Self Test Instructional Video](#)

Curriculum & Innovation

Black History Month Recognition

February is Black History Month and the 2022 national theme is Black Health and Wellness. We are recognizing the importance of Black History Month and we are striving to emphasize Black History throughout the entire year so it is not a separate aspect of our curriculum. February is a month to highlight and celebrate the often overlooked historical figures and events that our curriculum has excluded in the past, while we continue to work to make our year-long curriculum more inclusive. Our district Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism (ABAR) council and school-based ABAR committees continue to support the shift towards culturally sustaining pedagogy in all of our schools.

Below are a few resources that our schools are using in their efforts to celebrate Black History Month with their students and can be used at home as well.

- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JdFniExRFFcSJtFH2f917AlUEErU0IYF3brOBJYEi_0/edit
- <https://www.ithacacityschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1346>
- <https://www.blacklivesmatteratschool.com/>
- <https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/black-history-month-teaching-the-complete-history>
- <https://www.vpr.org/2021-02-25/teaching-students-a-new-black-history>



Timeline for K-8 School Choice, Spanish Immersion, & Kindergarten Registration

March 2, 2022

MMUUSD Elementary and Middle Schools communicate to parents **Kindergarten registration, school choice and Spanish Immersion** options in MMUUSD and where to access information if they wish to register their child for Kindergarten or apply for school choice or the Spanish Immersion Program.

March 2, 2022 - April 1, 2022

Parent(s) or guardian(s) fill out a **school choice or Spanish Immersion** form either online or by printable hard copy. Hard copies must be submitted by mail or in-person to the Mt. Mansfield Unified Union School District Office in Jericho (10 River Road, Jericho, VT 05465).

Parent(s) or guardian(s) register their child for **Kindergarten** on Powerschool. Registration information can be found on the district's website under Families-Community - Enrollment and Student Forms.

April 1, 2022

Kindergarten registrations and School Choice & Spanish Immersion applications due. If parents want to apply for school choice or Spanish Immersion, all forms are due either electronically, via mail or dropped off in person at the Mt. Mansfield Unified Union School District Office (10 River Road, Jericho, VT 05465).

April 29, 2022

Schools will mail letters to parents/guardians informing them if there is capacity for **school choice or Spanish Immersion** explaining placement for their child and general information and timelines for their son/daughter's individual school.

Late Spring (elementary schools) /Midsummer (middle schools) 2021

Teacher assignments will occur within each school and letters will be sent home with the teacher placement.

To read the full letter, [CLICK HERE](#).

REMINDER: 2022-23 Preschool Registration Letter

Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District is excited to continue providing pre-kindergarten opportunities to families in our district. Please read this [LETTER](#) for more information about the pre-kindergarten options and deadlines if you are a resident of Bolton, Jericho, Huntington, Richmond or Underhill. The Universal Pre-K bill (Act 166) entitles all 3, 4 & 5 year olds (not attending kindergarten) to receive 10 hours per week of publicly funded Pre-K for 35 weeks. This education can be in any pre-qualified private program or home-based program with a tuition of \$3,656 paid to the provider by the school district. If a child attends a MMUUSD public school-based Pre-K, the program is free of charge. However, there may be a lottery for school-based programs.

Interested in the Spanish Immersion Program?

The MMUUSD Spanish Immersion Program will be hosting two informational meetings. Please join us for an opportunity to learn about the option to enroll your rising Kindergartener in the Spanish Immersion Program at Jericho Elementary School and Richmond Elementary School. Teachers and administrations will be present to answer questions and share information.

WHEN:

- February 10, 2022- 4:00 PM: Click [HERE](#) to join.
- February 16, 2022 - 7:00 PM: Click [HERE](#) to join.



Around the District

❄️ Snow Motion! ❄️

Students from **Jericho Elementary**, **Underhill Central**, **Richmond Elementary**, **Brewster-Pierce Memorial**, and **Smilie Memorial** hit the slopes this month as part of the Snow Motion Program! MMUUSD is so lucky to be able to partner with Cochran's Ski Area in Richmond to allow students to hit the slopes! From beginners to more advanced skiers and boarders, everyone has been having a great time out on the hill, enjoying the weather and everything Winter in Vermont has to offer.



Around the District - Continued

Brewster-Pierce Memorial School

Students enjoyed the snow and worked together to build a tunnel town together at recess!



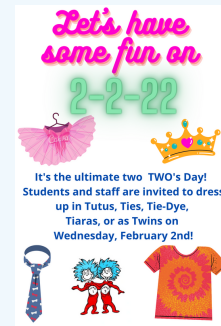
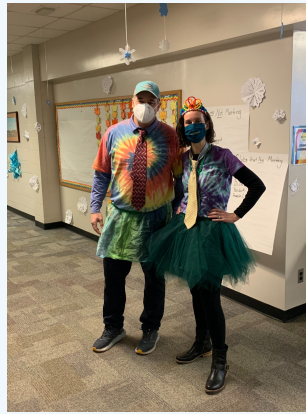
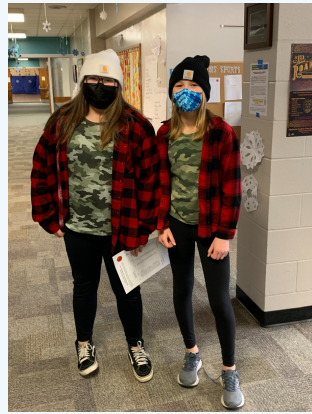
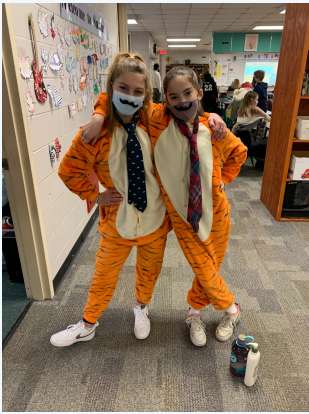
Smilie Memorial School

Winter fun continued at Smilie Memorial School where students put new sleds and shovels to good use!



Camels Hump Middle School

Students and staff at CHMS showed their enthusiasm for 2.2.22 by celebrating in pairs!



Underhill Central School

The Kindness Wall is complete at UCS! Students and staff can use the Kindness Wall to recognize kindness in their life. This could be a kind action they did for someone or something kind someone else did for them. Students and staff can write or draw their kindness on a strip of paper. Then, they fold the paper and tuck it carefully into the kindness wall. A wonderful way to honor all of the kindness going around at UCS.

keep
CALM
& be
KIND



Browns River Middle School

There are a TON of reasons why BRMS rocks, but the tradition of raising money and awareness to help local Vermont teenagers struggling with homelessness really fills our cup! Thank YOU for joining and donating, thank YOU for your kindness and thank YOU for making a difference for other teens who really need our help! Here's what you need to know;

Please join us as we participate in our 11th year Sleeping Out in Solidarity for Teenage Vermonters Experiencing Homelessness. We will be organizing another "hybrid" experience where students and parents/guardians will be Sleeping Outside at their own homes, porches, yards/tents or garages on Thursday, March 24th! We will send a google meet to connect virtually to all participants that evening at 7:00pm for inspirational messages and support. We will also help students register here at school and be providing more information through handouts, follow up River Raider articles or feel free to google the event too. We have set a BIG goal of raising \$15,000 for **EACH** team. So EVERY donation helps! Winning team will receive a PIZZA PARTY sponsored by B.R.A.G.. *Everyone who signs up and raises over \$25.00 receives a Spectrum Sleep Out Hat and special gifts for those who raise \$1,000 or more! Students & Parents can sign up here to join or DONATE for either BRMS team (just click a link and follow the instructions);

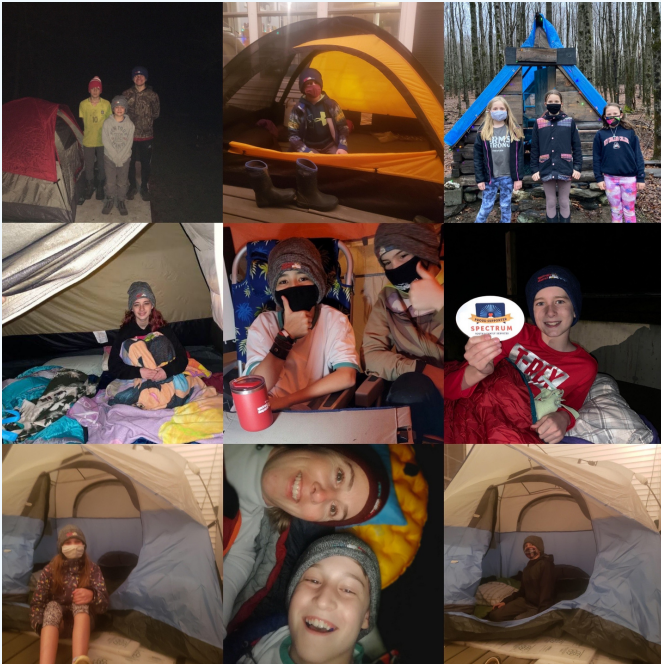
[Mr. Martin's BRMS RED TEAM](#)

[Ms. Roberge's BRMS BLACK TEAM](#)

Please take a few minutes of your time to watch a video we made showcasing this unique and incredibly important fundraising event:

[BRMS Participates in Spectrum Student Sleep Out Video](#)

Thank you kindly and don't hesitate to reach out for more info. and questions greg.martin@mmuusd.org or katie.roberge@mmuusd.org.



IMPORTANT DATES:

Important Date Reminders:

- February 9th, 2022 - Early Release/Staff Professional Development - NO SCHOOL
- February 21-28, 2022 - School Recess

We want to hear from you!

An open line of communication is what we are striving for here at MMUUSD! If you have any ideas, feedback, or just something you'd like to share with us, please email: **Jenna Stewart** at jenna.stewart@mmuusd.org

COVID-19 Resources:

- [CDC Requirements for Public Transportation](#)
- [Instructional Reopening for Fall 2021](#)
- [Vermont Department of Health Guidance](#)
- [Child Care and Out of School Programs](#)
- [CDC Recommendations for Reopening Schools](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [Proper Handwashing Video](#)



WE'RE HIRING!

- Director of Finance and Operations
- Elementary Principal- Smilie Memorial School
- Kitchen Support- MMUHS
- Accountant - District
- Long Term Sub- Speech and Language - District
- Long Term Sub- Early Childhood Special Educator- District
- Full Time Mechanic - District

Important School Links

- [School Opening Plan](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Lunch Menus](#)
- [Transportation](#)



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