



*SOAR to new heights at Botelle School ~ Show self-control, Offer kindness & respect, Achieve your goals & be Ready to learn!*

## January 31, 2025 Newsletter

### IMPORTANT DATES



2/3	PTO Meeting - 5:00PM - Room #139
2/11	Hour with the Administration - 12:00PM - Berkshire Store
2/11	Hour with the Administration - 5:30PM - Berkshire Store
2/11	Board of Education Meeting - <b>5:30PM</b> - Room #211
2/14	Early Dismissal - <b>1:15PM</b> - Teacher PD
2/17	No School - Presidents' Day
2/21	Roaring Brook Nature Center - Here
2/26	NWR#7 Informal Town Budget Presentation - Botelle Cafe - 6:30PM
3/18	2025-2026 Pre-Kindergarten Screening - 1:15PM-2:00PM

### PRE-KINDERGARTEN SCREENING AT BOTELLE SCHOOL

On March 18th from 1:15 - 2:00, we will be conducting our pre-kindergarten screening for the 2025 - 2026 school year. Any Norfolk child born on or before September 1, 2021 is eligible to attend the screening. To be sure that your child is included, please call the school at (860) 542-5286, ext 200 or email [laskom@botelleschool.org](mailto:laskom@botelleschool.org), to make an appointment. Thank you.

### SHARED SERVICES INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM (SSIPP)

The SSIPP is an integrated preschool program serving the needs of children ages 3 to 5 in the towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Hartland and Norfolk. The program is located at the Barkhamsted School and follows the Barkhamsted School calendar. A screening is being offered on March 20 and March 21, 2025, for parents who have concerns regarding their child's development. The screening process helps to identify children who may need intervention to perform successfully in school. Identified children will qualify to become a participant in the Shared Services Preschool Program.

Parents who are interested in having their child attend Shared Services Integrated Preschool Program as a role model must submit their child's name at this time as well. In the event that there are more role model applicants than slots, a lottery will be held. To be eligible for the program, children must live in Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Hartland, or Norfolk; be age 3 by September 1; and must have attended the screening. The lottery will be held the week following the screening and parents will be notified of lottery results. Please call the Preschool Program, before 9 a.m. or after 3 p.m. at 860-379-2729 to schedule a screening for your child.

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

This week students shared their informational reading, writing and research projects with Learning Buddies. The projects represent the culmination of months of learning about different science content. Early Primary students became zoologists and learned about the classifications of animals: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Their projects were posters with pictures of an animal they chose to research. They also wrote what they learned about the animal - in full sentences - and displayed that on the poster too. Their Intermediate Learning Buddies were impressed with all they knew! Primary students learned about wild and endangered animals. Students chose an animal to research and wrote nonfiction chapter books describing the animal's physical characteristics, where it lives, what it eats and the adaptations that help it survive. Students became experts on wild animals like bats and endangered animals like elephants. Intermediate students also learned about animals, specifically their adaptations. They researched an animal or group of animals of their choice and wrote a multi-paragraph, multi-section non-fiction chapter book about the animal's biome, its food web, and the adaptations it has to survive. You can see that as children get older, the focus of the research - even when it is on the same big topic - gets more complex. The Upper Intermediate students learned about Space. They too wrote multi-paragraph, multi-section nonfiction chapter books. They learned to quote and cite their sources about the space object of their choice. Some focused on a specific planet while others learned about meteors, asteroids and comets.

Mrs. Dubecky collaborated with teachers and students to extend and enrich their learning. The Upper Intermediate students used technology to print a 3-D object that matched their topic. The Intermediate students created their own animal, its biome and described its unique adaptations. This creation was brought to life in a diorama. Mrs. Dubecky also helped students create a works cited page for their nonfiction book, so students understood the importance of giving credit to the original source of their research. Finally, Upper Intermediate students studied the qualities of effective, engaging book covers and used Canva, a graphic design program, to create their own. All of the students' projects were amazing! They were very proud of their work and all they learned in the process and we are proud of them too.