

Friday, February 10, 2023

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff,

## Please note important upcoming events set forth below:



LNSU/LNMUUSD Board Meeting, February 13, 2023, 6:00 pm, GMTCC. See agenda <u>HERE</u>. LNSU, Pre-Kindergarten Registration Opens for All Eligible Students, February 16, 2023 Cambridge Elementary School, Celebration of Learners, February 17, 2023, 8:20 am Johnson Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance, February 17, 2023, 7:00 pm

LNSU/LNMUUSD Annual Meeting, February 20, 2023, 7:00 pm, GMTCC (see below for more details) LNSU/LNMUUSD Informational Meeting, February 27, 2023, 6:00 pm, GMTCC

I know that most, if not all, of you are aware of events this week concerning hoax school threats and I offer an update from the Vermont Agency of Education (VTAOE). We know that 21 Vermont schools received such false threats, but Lamoille North schools were not one of the 21. Since Wednesday, there have been no further hoax threats received by Vermont schools. I recognize the fear and anxiety that these incidents leave with our school communities. The physical and emotional responses to a real or perceived threat are often quite traumatic. Please be assured that we have in-house mental health professionals and designated staff to support our students and have adults regularly checking in with them as we talk through and process the impact of events such as these. We take our responsibility to care for our students with the highest regard and will take any threat seriously until proven otherwise. Along those lines, our deep compassion for our students and staff is one of the reasons we spend time building a culture of restorative practices, safety, belonging and inclusion. Our goal of love and acceptance is the framework for building safe, brave and welcoming spaces in our schools for our students and staff.

We are fortunate to live and work in communities that are accepting of each other and who support each other. In partnership with our families, it is an awesome responsibility that can feel heavy at times, especially in a world that can be polarized. We want to educate and watch our youth thrive and be a more peaceful and accepting generation who can live their lives successfully. Schools, families and communities must work together to ensure that this will happen. Thank you for your commitment to this.



On a wonderful note, I had the absolute pleasure of seeing our athletes in basketball and dance compete over the last few weeks and I take great joy in pointing out the contrast to what we have been hearing in the news. Our basketball players, dancers, and spectators were there loudly cheering for each other and every other team present.

Families orchestrated a senior dinner and a celebratory atmosphere in a way that exemplifies what healthy communities do. Our players and dancers exhibited excellence in their sport, compassion and respectful demeanor throughout all games. Our coaches were the exemplar for what model coaching is – respectful, fair, dignified, and supportive, and our spectators cheered for all and encouraged players and dancers to give their very best. As one parent and community partner wrote in a message to me, "We are the stories that we tell". I would say that this is a beautiful one.



**SAVE THE DATE!** We are hosting our 2022-2023 Annual Meeting on **February 20, 2023**, at Green Mountain Technology & Career Center in the CEC, from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Although the official business of the evening will not begin until 7:00 pm, we invite you to join us early for a meal! You can find our Annual Meeting Warning on our website <u>HERE</u>. This is a school district open meeting and all community members are

welcome to attend! We will be asking you to register only if you are seeking childcare for your children during the meeting and if would like to have a meal with us so we know how many dishes to prepare. You can register for both dinner and childcare <u>HERE</u>. We look forward to answering your questions at the meeting and welcoming all of our community members!

For our 2024 Budget Basics, please click <u>HERE</u>.

The event is an opportunity to engage with school administrators, leadership, and school board representatives from your community to hear about all that is happening in our schools to provide the best education and support for our students! We look forward to seeing you!

As always, I continue to be so grateful for our Lamoille North community members and the strong relationships we have built together. Thank you again for your collaboration, compassion and dedication to the wellbeing of our students, staff and families.

My best to you,

Catherine Gallagher, M.Ed. Superintendent of Schools Lamoille North Supervisory Union