

TOWNSHEND SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Welcome! Another year is beginning at Townshend Elementary School, a tradition that has continued since approximately 1795 according to *A Stitch In Time: Townshend, Vermont, 1753-2003*.

Our unique small school has seen many students pass through its door in the last 213 years and welcomes all of them as the bright “scholars” that they are. Scholar was the term used to describe a student in the mid-nineteenth century and we feel that terminology is just as appropriate today as it was back then. Our students come from diverse family backgrounds with a variety of life experiences to form a cohesive group of scholars every year. With the help of our ever-diligent teachers these young people study and grow to become the successful future leaders of our community.

Instrumental to our scholars’ success is the mastery of skills that our teachers bring to the classroom. They spend hours over the summer months planning special projects, organizing classrooms, preparing lesson plans, and taking professional development college courses themselves. We think of the days of summer as having “No School” but, in fact, the 10 weeks that school is not in session are filled with preparations for the upcoming year.

On top of all the work that the teaching staff does during the summer, there is also a rush to take care of any maintenance and upkeep on the building itself. A 213 year-old structure requires more detailed oversight than the average school building. This summer we are installing storm windows throughout the building to help contain heating costs. A water purification system is being installed to ensure safe drinking water and a portion of the septic system is being replaced because it is no longer up to State standards. Add to that the usual carpet cleaning, floor waxing, and the general repairs and summer seems to fly by. All must be in its place before students walk in the door in late August.

Some new faces and newly assigned faces will be visible in our school community this year. Joyce Berry will be taking over as teacher for the youngest scholars in our building, Kindergarten. Joyce has been part of our school for many years in the role of Special Education teacher. Filling her previous position in Special Education will be Nancy Aldrich who has been assigned to our school by the Windham Central Supervisory Union. Over all it is shaping up as an exciting year at Townshend Elementary School.

As is always the case, the School Board welcomes your participation at any of our regularly scheduled board meetings. The board meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month at 7pm in the school art room. We also encourage you to become involved in School Club. This group of dedicated parents is always looking to expand its membership and the projects they support enrich the lives of all of our students. Supporting your children in their academic experiences is one of the most rewarding things that a parent can do!

In summary, success doesn’t happen on its own. It is the result careful planning and execution. We take great pride in our scholars and their success and hope that this year will be as fruitful as the 213 years that came before it.

Kathy Hege, Chair of the Townshend School Board of Directors