



# Malletts Bay Buzz

*Malletts Bay School*

*Home of the Ospreys*

802-264-5900

<http://www.csdvt.org/MBS>

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## A New Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan

Recently, Superintendent Larry Waters presented the new Colchester Schools Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan to the School Board. This plan was the result of several months of collaboration and deliberation with a wide range of Colchester citizens. A unique process called “Appreciative Inquiry” was used to develop the plan, which will guide our work for the coming years. The school district coordinated closely with the Town of Colchester, with both bodies working together to support our community as a whole.

The community is central to the new plan. In fact, the new mission statement starts with partnerships – our mission is to “Partner with our community to educate each of our citizens to become engaged, productive citizens who lead successful, balanced, and healthy lives.”

Through Appreciative Inquiry, we were able to capitalize on the many things that make Colchester a special place to live, work, and learn. One of our great strengths is the engagement of our families in our schools. We are also fortunate to be surrounded by the natural beauty of forests, lakes, and fields. There are strong personal connections in Colchester, with a sense the community genuinely cares about its youth. Colchester is a “just right” size – big enough to offer our students many opportunities, but not so big that they are lost in the crowd.

I know this is a busy month for everyone, but I hope you will take a few minutes to review the new plan, and think about the future of your schools. The plan can be found on the District’s website (<http://csdvt.org>). Click on the link that says, “Students and Parents,” then on the left side click on “Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.” Again on the left, near the bottom, you will find the link to “Vision Plan.”

While you are visiting the District site, please read the letter from Mr. Waters requesting input for the budget development process. As Mr. Waters writes, “In order to balance the needs of all learners in our community while respecting taxpayers’ ability to fund education at a reasonable level, we are asking for your input.”

Please share your thoughts – you can contact one of your Board members (contact information is on the CSD website) or Mr. Waters at 802-264-5999.

Thank you as always for your support! I wish you all a wonderful holiday season –

Julie Benay, Principal



## Calendar

December 20<sup>th</sup>:  
School Board  
meeting, CHS  
library, 7:00 p.m.  
Public input for  
school budget  
development  
welcome.

December 22-30<sup>th</sup>:  
No School. Holiday  
recess.

Monday, January  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Welcome back!

Thursday, January  
5<sup>th</sup>: PTO "social"  
meeting – come and  
mingle, meet new  
friends! Special sing  
along for children by  
Mrs. Benay and Ms.  
Millham; free  
childcare and pizza  
dinner!

Monday, January  
16<sup>th</sup>: In-service day,  
no school for  
students.



## MBS PTO Makes A Difference

Thank you to everyone who helped support the MBS PTO in the recent fundraiser. In spite of the tough economy, you were generous in your sales and contributions and the PTO was able to exceed their profit goals!

Recently, the MBS PTO voted to add some wonderful elements to our students' school experience. The PTO sponsored an interactive session with Puppets in Education (formerly known as Kids on the Block). The presentation was designed to help children understand more about autism and other disabilities. Due to the generosity of the PTO, Ms. Millham will be arranging for Puppets in Education to return this spring. The PTO felt it was important for all the Ospreys to have this learning experience.

Additionally, the PTO provided funding for a visit from the NED show. This was a really

fun assembly that helped our students learn to: **Never** give up; **Encourage** others; and **Do** your best.

At the last PTO meeting, members voted to support the purchase of a new online reading program, RAZ kids. Soon we'll be rolling out logins for this exciting program, which not only inspires kids to read, but offers teachers some innovative ways to monitor reading progress.

We are so grateful for this support! Mark your calendars now for a fun evening on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be a relaxed pizza dinner, providing everyone with a chance to unwind after the holidays. Mrs. Benay and Ms. Millham will provide the children with a sing a long! Join us in the library at 6:00 p.m.

***MBS will be sponsoring a giving tree for the holidays. The tree was set up in our lobby last week. Please feel free to donate "NEW" hats/mittens or socks (preferably not wool or heavy knit) to help Colchester families who may need a little help keeping warm this winter.***

## New Guidance Counseling Intern

Dear Families,

Hello! My name is Kristen Rocca and I am working in the Guidance Department as an intern until the Spring. I am a student at Johnson State College in the Masters in School Counseling program and will be graduating in May of 2012. I am very excited to have the opportunity to be a part of the Malletts Bay School Community.

I am looking forward to getting

to know your children and will be working directly with them in the guidance classroom, running small groups, and working on an individual level, as supervised by Luba Routsong. If you have any questions, please contact me or Luba Routsong at 264-5898.

Sincerely,

Kristen Rocca

