

THETFORD TOWN NEWSLETTER

NO. 93 NOVEMBER 2011

THETFORD ACADEMY NEWS AND NOTES

***Congratulations to Zachary Chatot, TA '14, who is the Vermont State Champion for Division III Cross Country.** Zach led the pack with a winning time of 18 minutes, 5 seconds and finished nearly 45 seconds ahead of his closest competitor. Because of his strong performance, Zach will end the 2011 season with a run in the New England Championships on November 12. Overall, the TA boys' team finished in third place, and the girls' team finished 5th.

***Friday, November 4,** the Class of 2013 will sponsor a dance, **Fall Ball, from 7:30-9:30 pm.** The dance is open to all TA students and their guests.

*Parents, community members and alumni are invited to **meet the two finalists for Head of School at Thetford Academy on Wednesday, November 9, at 4:30pm.** The meetings will conclude at 6:00pm. Folks will have the opportunity to meet with each candidate, Nelson Fogg, of White River Junction, Vermont; and Roger Richard, of Madison, New Jersey.

*The **TA Board of Trustees** will meet on **Thursday, November 10.** The meeting will start at **7:00pm in the TA Library.**

***November 14-18 is Vermont Geography Awareness Week at TA and TES.** The theme of the week is Geography: the Adventure in the Community. Thetford has been chosen as the kick-off locale for the statewide program. Governor Peter Shumlin will visit Thetford Elementary School on Friday, November 18, to visit with students and explore their projects.

***The fall play,** The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds, will be performed **Friday and Saturday, November 18 and 19, at 7:00pm,** and **Sunday, November 20, at 4:00pm,** in the Martha Jane Rich Theater in Anderson Hall. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door.

*The Thetford Academy Alumni Association (TAAA) **Holiday Craft Bazaar** will be held Saturday, **November 19, from 9:00am-2:30pm.** Admission is free; luncheon is served from 11:00am-2:00pm. Don't miss this annual extravaganza of fine handiwork, horse drawn wagon rides, door prizes, holiday cheer and more!

***Thetford Academy** will have a **half day of school on Wednesday, November 23, and close on Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25,** for the Thanksgiving holiday. We thank all of our community and friends for their continued support and wish everyone a time to rest, reflect, and give thanks.

Submitted by Wendy Cole

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND BAKE SALE

Christmas Decoration & Bake Sale, **Saturday, November 26** at the Thetford Center Community Building, Route 113, Thetford Center. Beginning at **9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** Gently used decorations and ornaments on sale along with delicious baked goods. Raffle for a gingerbread house made by Lois Paige. This event will benefit the United Church of Thetford.

Submitted by Bev Slack

THETFORD ACADEMY 2012 PROJECT GRADUATION MERCHANDISE – THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT!

Look for our table at the TA Sports Awards on November 9th (upper mezzanine outside Vaughn Gymnasium) and at the TAAA Craft Bazaar on November 19th in the TA Vaughn Gymnasium.

We have sweatshirts, sweatpants and shorts for sale in several different colors, all sporting the "Thetford Academy" logo with a paw print (Sweatshirts - \$25; Sweatpants - \$22; and shorts - \$16). We still have a few of the tie-dye t shirts with the "Thetford, Vt" logo available for \$20, along with TA t shirts in white or light blue for \$12.

We are collecting pre-paid orders for long-sleeved t shirts in the color of your choice with the TA symbol on the upper left front and the "Thetford Academy" and panther paw print logo centered on the back. Logo ink color is white for the month of November is white -- you choose the color shirt. Offered for \$15 in both men's and women's styles with over 30 colors from which to choose.

We are also collecting pre-paid orders for Flannel Pajama Pants. These are 100% cotton flannel pant with pockets and drawstring waist for \$25. Men's sizes XS-2XL. Colors: Black Stewart, Black Watch, Dress Gordon, Dress Stewart, Mossy Plum, Royal Stewart. Printed with the white ink "Thetford Academy" and panther paw print logo on the upper left thigh.

We are still collecting pre-paid orders for fleece vests with "Thetford Academy" and panther paw print embroidered in white on the upper left chest for \$35. There are many exciting colors offered in both men's and women's styles (here's a sampling of the 11 colors available: royal blue, raspberry, light blue, pink, and dark green).

For more information, please contact me at lmswett2003@yahoo.com.

All proceeds benefit Project Graduation for TA's Class of 2012. We thank you for your support.

Submitted by Lisa Swett, on behalf of the Project Grad Committee

FREE HOME ENERGY EXPO

Saturday, Nov. 5th from 9am to 2pm at the Thetford Academy gym.

Come learn how you can save energy, save money and increase your home comfort. Meet and talk with weatherization contractors, solar and wood dealers and financing representatives. Attend workshops, see demonstrations of weatherization measures being installed and learn from the Parish Players why "*Weatherization IS Sexy!*" The first 50 at the door win door prizes and there will be a drawing for Thetford residents who fill out a home energy survey, including their energy use and size of home, to win a **free home energy assessment, worth \$450** (survey posted at <http://www.heronhost-4.net/serg-info/residential-efficiency-survey/>) TA Environment Club will sell refreshments to raise funds for an energy project at the Academy. The Home Energy Expo is free and open to all.

Organized by Sustainable Energy Resource Group and the Thetford Energy Committee. For more information contact SERG@valley.net or 802-785-4126.

Submitted by Bob Walker

WEATHERIZATION SKILLSHOP

Saturday Nov. 12th, 9am to 4pm at the Thetford Center Community Center.

Central Vermont Community Action Council will provide hands-on training in fundamental techniques for improving your home's efficiency. Participants will learn the basics of building science, how to find and seal trouble spots and practice installing rigid foam insulation, door weather stripping, and spray foam gun sealing in the attic and basement. This will prepare you to participate in Efficiency Vermont's Do-It-Yourself program that provides financial incentives for owner-installed weatherization improvements.

\$50 registration fee includes training and lunch. **Ten scholarships are available to the Thetford residents upon request** to attend the 11/12 Skillshop in Thetford. Please contact Mike Kiess at 802-785-2438 if you are interested.

For more information, check out <http://www.weatherizationskillshop.com/> or contact 888-514-2151 or email info@weatherizationskillshop.com.

Submitted by Bob Walker

HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR OPEN HOME TOUR

Saturday, November 19, 2011 – 10am – 2pm

Tour two Thetford homes that have participated in various Weatherization programs. Talk to homeowners about their experience through the process and what their home is like after the improvements. The homes featured on the Free Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Open Home Tour will be Toth and Biddle homes featured in case studies on their jobs developed by SERG. Efficiency Vermont representatives will be at the Toth home to answer questions. There will be child-care available and door prizes. For directions go to www.googlemaps.com and enter for the Toth's (139 VT Route 244, Post Mills, Vt 05058) and Biddle's (1849 Gove Hill Rd., Thetford Center, Vt. 05075). For more information contact SERG@valley.net or 785-4126.

Submitted by Bob Walker

THETFORD HOME WEATHERIZATION INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The Town of Thetford received a deadline extension for our federal grant program to provide incentives matching those from Efficiency Vermont (up to \$2,500 from each, depending on work performed) to homeowners who get Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® assessments and improvements. Thetford Home Weatherization Incentives Program (THWIP) funds will be reserved on a first-to-

qualify basis as long as funds last or until the grant runs out at the end of the year. Complete details on the THWIP, including new deadlines and a downloadable application form, can be found at <http://www.thetfordvermont.us/weatherization-incentives/> or by contacting THWIP Manager, Ellen Blumberg (elblumberg@gmail.com, 802-785-9883).

Submitted by Bob Walker

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD UPDATE

Dear Thetford Community,

We would like to share with you a summary of some of the things the Thetford Town School District Board has been doing recently, and also to describe some projects we expect to focus on in the near future.

Financial Oversight: As we discussed in the 2011 School Report, the Board took the unusual step of including in the 2011-2012 school budget a line item of \$50,000.00, to be used if necessary for outside accounting or other fiscal services, as a result of our concerns during that budgeting process with the lack of reliability and timeliness at that time in the financial reporting provided by the Orange East Supervisory Union (OESU). OESU has now hired a new business manager who is making excellent progress in resolving the many longstanding problems. As a result, we are optimistic, though we cannot yet be absolutely certain, that we will be able to achieve adequate financial reporting without paying for outside assistance.

TES Strategic Plan: In September, the Board approved a new five year (2011-2016) Strategic Plan for Thetford Elementary School. Copies of the plan are posted around town, and can be viewed both on the Town website (www.thetfordvermont.us) and on the Thetford Elementary School website (www.thetfordschool.org). The plan reflects the ideas and priorities of the many members of the Thetford community who participated in public forums and a survey, as well as the dedicated work of the volunteer members of the Strategic Plan Committee: Kathleen Cunneen, Matthias Senger, Laura Shepard, Josselyn Swett, James Tierney, Aimee Toth and Joanna Waldman. The Board is very grateful to everyone who contributed to the creation of the plan.

Governance: There is a major political push for supervisory union consolidation in Vermont. Although it is not clear what this may mean for the Thetford Town School District, the Board believes it has an obligation to explore possible governance options and has begun to do so. These options include remaining within OESU, creating a new supervisory union with several neighboring towns, and converting Thetford Elementary School into an independent school. The Board will keep the town informed as these options are explored and will seek input from the town as it moves towards proposing what it thinks will be in the town's best interests.

Relationship with Thetford Academy: The Board and the Board of Trustees of Thetford Academy continue to work to enhance their communication and collaboration. As part of that effort, they will have a joint public meeting at the Academy on October 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Policy Review: As part of its decision to conduct a review and update of all board policies, the Board has now completed updating all state-mandated policies. The Board will begin to review other policies that have been of particular interest to the community, such as the high school tuition waiver policy.

TES Negotiations: The Board will soon begin new contract negotiations both with TES support staff and with TES teachers. The Board looks forward to a mutually satisfactory result and is particularly pleased that TES teachers and support staff have both asked to deal directly with the Board rather than as a part of merged multi-school negotiations.

Recruitment Strategy for TES: The Board believes that it is important to the long-term stability of TES, particularly in light of declining enrollments state-wide, to develop a strategy for attracting to TES students from places other than Thetford. The Board will therefore work to develop such a strategy, in hopes that it will sustain TES student numbers. It is noteworthy that Thetford Academy has successfully engaged in such recruitment efforts.

Annual Community Survey: The Board believes that it is essential that it be kept aware of community perceptions, priorities and concerns related to education in Thetford. We plan, therefore, to create an annual survey with the help of volunteers and using models from other schools.

Promoting a Culture of Respect: Bullying and harassment of students, in schools at all levels, has received increasing attention throughout the country, especially as new technologies increase the means available for such behavior while making monitoring and prevention of it ever more difficult. Both TES and Thetford Academy have policies and protocols in place to address and reduce bullying and harassment, but the Board also plans to hold one or more events this school year to determine whether it may be possible to make the existing situation even better and to reaffirm and enhance a culture of respect that nurtures all students.

As always, we encourage you to share with the Board whatever thoughts, concerns, suggestions, criticisms, or even praise, you may have for the state of education in Thetford. You are very welcome to do this by attending any of our meetings, by emailing us at our new email address, schoolboard@thetfordvermont.us, by writing to us at Thetford Town Hall, PO Box 126, Thetford Center, VT 05075, or by communicating with any of us individually.

Sincerely,
Elise Tillinghast
Chair, for the Thetford Town School District Board

Submitted by Elise Tillinghast

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION INFO

The deadline for submissions is around the 24th of each month. Send news including contact name and telephone number to Sheila Fifield at sheilafifield@aol.com. Please list Thetford Town Newsletter in subject line. Thanks!