

## Oxbow Unified Union School District

Bradford Elementary 802-222-4077  
143 Fairground Road, Bradford VT 05033

Newbury Elementary 802-866-5621  
214 Pulaski Street, Newbury VT 05051

Oxbow High School 802-222-5214  
36 Oxbow Drive, Bradford VT 05033

River Bend Career & Tech Center 802-222-5212  
36 Oxbow Drive, Bradford VT 05033

### Bradford Elementary School Principal's Report

#### November 2020

**Thorns:** The impact of the pandemic on the well-being of the adults in our community can't be emphasized enough. I include families as well as school staff in this. Health and safety rules shift. There aren't enough substitutes, breaks or planning time. The additional uncertainty of not having a budget, not knowing if "today will be the day school closes," and of not being able to be with loved ones for months on end is taking a significant toll on everyone. There's no real solution to this thorn, except to be as kind and understanding as we can with one another and to adhere to the rules we receive from the Department of Health and the Governor's Office. We want our school to stay open as long as possible because we know that's what's best for the children.

**Buds:** We're ready to launch a Digital Schoolhouse in collaboration with Newbury Elementary School. Final staffing and scheduling is still being coordinated – otherwise this would be a blooming rose! Our goal is twofold: support remote learners in a more robust way by providing better access to instruction and to the teachers, and alleviating the 12 hours or more per week of instruction that in-person teachers have been providing in addition to their full-time jobs. Collaborating with Newbury is a natural fit in academic content, and creates a unique learning community.

**Roses:** An order of Chromebooks scheduled for delivery in March and that are desperately needed to support remote learning arrived on Monday!

Parent teacher conferences are complete – in a virtual format. The DESSA screener (a social emotional scale) has been completed on all students, as are the literacy and math assessments. Teachers are now well-informed with data to support students and design lessons. Next up, report cards...out the first week in December.



Amid the fear and uncertainty that education during a pandemic brings, on October 30<sup>th</sup> BES staff and students enjoyed a dress up day. It included our first all-school-all-Zoom assembly hosted by our Unified

Arts teachers. Each class was assigned a different class to greet. There were songs, dances and joyful shouts of hello. I'm not sure who laughed more that day, students or teachers, but our school community fully enjoyed being together even though we had to be apart.

