On Wednesday, October 20th, Corinna Magalhaes, our Food Service Director, passed away unexpectedly. Corinna was passionate about assuring everyone had access to food. She managed not just the food program for Bradford Elementary, After School Program food for BMU and Newbury, she ran an open site for food access. During the pandemic, she managed a large crew, providing thousands of meals to hundreds of people.

Despite the shock and deep grief so many experienced, staff put students first: children were fed, staff voluntarily provided extra hands in the kitchen and cafeteria, teachers skipped their planned time off to be in the classroom to gently share the news with children. Administrators from OESU were present the day we received the news to coordinate staff and student supports, grief counselors were available throughout the next day. An outpouring of care flooded in from all of the supervisory union: offers to send staffing, to help plan for operations, and delivery of comforting food. On behalf of the entire BES staff, we are so deeply appreciative of everyone’s efforts, kindesses and compassion.

We’re still in the planning stages for providing immediate BES staff space to grieve and for an invitation for others to celebrate her life. Corinna touched so many lives that it’s a little daunting to know where to begin while respectfully coordinating with her family.
INSTRUCTION

- 6th grade teacher Jenny Albright was awarded a $500 equity literacy grant from Vermont Rural Education. Jenny will be purchasing books for small group reading and discussion for her unit on World War II and the Holocaust.
- While reading That Lucky Dog!, Wanda Vaughan’s 4th grade class was inspired to make informational videos and posters to solicit donations for the Upper Valley Humane Society. Students will be rolling their project out slowly over the coming weeks - so stay tuned!
- We had an Almost-All School Hike up Tucker Mountain on October 14th. We missed our 6th graders! Two wonderful things, out of so many, were students getting to the top and sitting sit down to face the mountains, “Whoa! Look at that view!” After everyone ate, the sounds of students playing games (Duck, Duck, Goose & Freeze Tag) and laughing reminded me how important this day is.

COVID

- Both 6th grades, 5th grades and one 1st grade closed for positive covid this month.
- Thank you, Angeline Alley from the OESU Board, for coming in on Tuesdays to help our school nurse, Cathy Craigie, with covid testing. The extra set of hands frees Nurse Cathy up sooner so that she can tend to student needs.

FACILITIES

- We’re looking for a new custodian. One of our evening custodians gave his notice as of October 8th, leaving facilities short-handed and in immediate need. We’ve contracted with a cleaning service to clean bathrooms, which gives our evening custodian more time for other tasks.
- Another rain storm, another leak! Facilities Director Fred Tougas is again replacing ceiling tiles for a leaky in the same location as last year.
- On a positive facility note, Assistant Superintendent Randy Gawal visited our school and noted the exceptional condition it’s in. This is due entirely to Mr. Tougas who has us on a rotating maintenance and replacement plan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria Ianello
Principal
Bradford Elementary School