

# NEWSLETTER

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## "Super" Leadership

By Mea Sullivan

Rutland City Public Schools has a new leader, Superintendent Bill Olsen. Although he is new to this position, Mr. Olsen is not new to the district; many in the community remember him as their high school social studies teacher, their Middle School assistant principal, or their principal at Rutland High School.

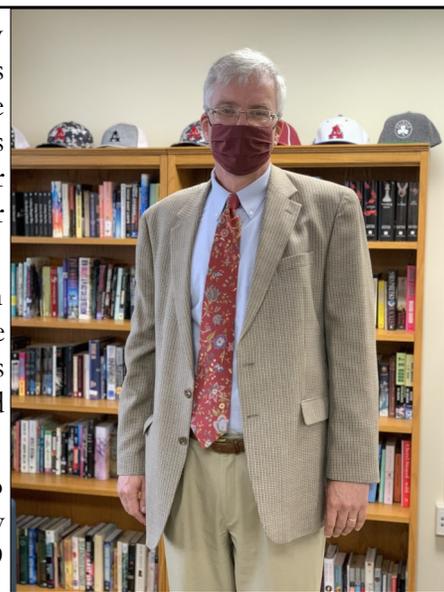
Superintendent Olsen is originally from Massachusetts. In his thirties, he decided to move to Vermont for a change of scenery. He was drawn to our amazing community in Rutland and chose to make this area his home.

The jump from school principal to superintendent is huge; there are many new responsibilities. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic makes it even more challenging. Presently, Mr. Olsen's main focus is the Reopening Plan for the district; making sure that

all students have the same opportunities and are continuing to receive a high quality education during this pandemic, regardless of whether the student is attending in-person classes, a combination of in-person and remote learning, or in a 100% remote setting. Mr. Olsen, along with the other district administrators, wants to be sure that we are learning or "getting it" and that the district is meeting the needs of all students; something that should be happening with or without this pandemic.

Mr. Olsen praised the school employees, the students, and their families for doing their part in helping us get a quality education during the COVID-19 pandemic. In schools, we are doing the right things: wearing a mask, social distancing, constantly washing our hands and cleaning to the best of our capabilities. At home, parents are making sure their kids are staying safe. However, it takes effort by the entire community to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Rutland and to keep schools open. Hopefully, as long as the community continues to follow our state's health recommendations and all of us keep up our end at school, we will have a successful year. As the Reopening Plan states, we are all in this together.

Although Superintendent Olsen started this job in a school year different than any other, the goal is for school to be as normal as possible. With his leadership, we believe our district is in good hands.



Superintendent Bill Olsen

# The Poet Within

By Darisha Yoder

Last year, Grove Street Campus students participated in “Through Their Eyes,” a poetry competition sponsored by Young Writers, a project established in 1991 to encourage young writers to read, write, and enjoy poetry, as well as nurture creative talent. This contest challenged students to step out of their comfort zones and write something a little different; a poem from someone else’s point of view.

Young Writers received over 5,000 entries from across the United States. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, contest results were just released in October. I am pleased to write that many poems written by our own Grove Street Campus students have been chosen for publication in a book showcasing young writers titled *Through Their Eyes 2020—The Poet Within*. This is amazing news and congratulations to those students whose work will appear in the anthology. Winners were also awarded a certificate and bookmark. Students were delighted to hear this news, as many students never have received any kind of award in school.

These awards would not have been possible without Carolyn Ravenna and Conrad Tuerk. They submitted our poetry for review. We want to thank them for believing in us.

Below are three of our award-winning poems. Given the number of award recipients, we plan to showcase our inspiring poems throughout the year in each issue of the *Grove Street Campus Newsletter*.



Shaun Baker and Gloria Marino  
Young Writers Award Recipients

## Growth

By Brianna Longley

As I sit here a picture on the wall all alone in this house,  
I see the pictures of you.  
I've seen all the fights and all the happy times,  
I still only see one thing out of every dark day,  
A strong person who can get through anything.

## My Head

By Darisha Yoder

Mind heavy as a couple of pounds of metal chains,  
Holding me down as if there's no other way to keep me sane.  
I'm drowning in myself  
And you would never notice the things I hold in.  
Slowly letting go, the more free I feel,  
It's like an escape but nothing feels real.



## The Phone of a Teenager

By Gloria Marino

All day, every day, all I do is buzz  
With thumbs all over me  
From constant texting and scrolling  
As soon as my screen lights up.  
I get full attention to see the information  
I spill out for the world.

## Campus Chatter

By Hailey Lemons

### How do you feel about wearing masks at school?



Personally, it's annoying because I can't wear my glasses; they fog up and I can't see out of them. So, I just don't wear them and I can't see. Other than that, I don't mind it because I'd rather not get someone else sick.

-Kiara LaPenna

I personally would rather not wear a mask; they are uncomfortable and I can barely breathe.



-Alexis Brennan-Heidenreich

It definitely sucks, but as long as we are being safe, it's okay. We will get through it.

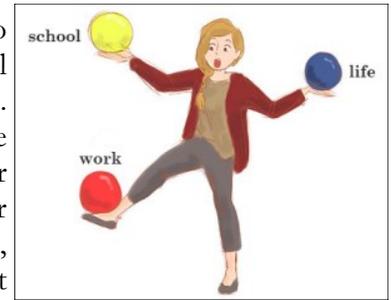


-Shaun Baker

## A Balancing Act

By Mea Sullivan

Attending school, going to work, and finding time for a personal life can be a little difficult at times. Since most of us are at the age where a good majority of us are paying for our vehicles along with saving up for college, it is easy to become tired, stressed out, and overwhelmed. It took me a year of attending Grove Street Campus before I learned how to balance my home life, my school life, and my work life. It all comes down to good planning.



I allow myself at least an hour between the time I leave school to the time I have to be at work. Then I usually give myself 45 minutes to calm down after work, which provides me the time I need to relax. From that point on, I carry on with my home life.

Even with the best of plans, some days are stressful. On days like these, I either allow myself extra time or I sometimes even cut some time off that I want to use to relax after work. It's all part of life

## A Love of Skateboarding

By Evan Lethbridge

I can still remember getting my first skateboard at Walmart when I was only six years old. Over the years, I have tried many other sports; however I find that skateboarding motivates me more than traditional sports.



I have to admit that when I first started this sport, I did not think it would mean as much as it means to me today.

Skateboarding is not just a physical activity; it can also be a ride to school as well as an escape from your inner feelings. It is something where I can free my mind; it is a combination of having fun and being free.

Skateboarding fosters independence. Most skaters set and achieve goals, challenging themselves while learning to persevere when they fall. Risks are a big part of the sport and the focus required to learn a new trick is incredible.

While I still find team sports enjoyable, in my opinion, they don't even come close to skateboarding. I am passionate about this sport; there is nothing like enjoying the ride.

**Important****Dates:****Veterans' Day:**November 11<sup>th</sup>**Thanksgiving Break:**Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> - Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>**December Break:**Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Jan 4<sup>th</sup>**Test Dates:****SAT:**December 5<sup>th</sup>**ACT:**December 12<sup>th</sup>

# Birthdays



## November

Dakota Stafford – November 17

Hailey Lemons – November 20

Joe Walsh – November 23

## December

Zander Gottlin – December 6

Charles Pellistri – December 10

Evan Lethbridge – December 12

Vincent Burke – December 15

## January

Elisabeth Emrick – January 6

Kurt Gilman – January 13

Alexis Brennan-Heidenreich – January 29

## In Appreciation

By Vincent Lee Burke

When we went remote last March, none of us knew what we were in for when it came to our education. While many students loved remote learning, there were also those of us who were lost and frustrated. This led to incomplete grades in some classes for the remainder of the school year.

Fast forward to this fall. Some students are enrolled in new classes and completing last year's courses at the same time. What seemed impossible has become achievable thanks to Jackie Gauthier, a paraeducator who motivates students.

Jackie was asked to come to Grove Street Campus to assist students with last year's incomplete coursework. In her own words, she finds us to be like a big family and she loves working at our school.

When Jackie enters the building, she is ready to help anyone who needs it and will schedule a time slot to assist you with your assignments. No matter how difficult the assignment, her advice is to have a sense of humor; no matter the struggle, it will get better.

We hope Jackie realizes how appreciative we are of all that she has done to help us catch up.

## Thoughts on COVID-19

By Darisha Yoder



*“A few weeks ago when everyone was talking about the Virus, it seemed like no big deal. We only had like five cases in the United States and it didn't seem like much. Now school is closed and people are dying and there is no food in the*

*stores. It doesn't seem real; nothing like this ever came to my mind as a possibility.”* - RHS Class of 2020 Graduate

COVID-19 has changed our lives in many ways. Whether it is school, work, or even home, everything we were used to isn't the same anymore. At school, wearing masks, hand washing, social distancing, wiping down tables and getting our temperature taken has become the new norm. Everyone understands why we need to do it and just does it. It's amazing how well we pull together as a team in order to keep everyone safe and our schools open. No one wants a repeat of last year.

Hopefully, if we can keep up with these safety measures and everyone does their part until there is a vaccine, our schools will remain open and our city will stay healthy.