

Connected Circles September 2024 Newsletter

Save The Date! September 18: School Pictures

“Every child deserves a champion-an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be.”

- Rita Pierson

Academics

Connected Circles School strives to incorporate meaningful learning experiences while balancing student needs. Social emotional learning considerations are woven into instructional content, to maximize student potential.

Please join us in welcoming new staff to our team:

Petra, *Math Teacher*

Kristen, *Connector*



Community Building

The first few days of school focused primarily on community building. We spent time each day as a large group learning about each other- finding things in common with others in our community, playing improv games, etc. We went on an all-school walk through the granite quarries, to the grand lookout, and spent the day together at Silver Lake.

We did a windmill Project! This fall, the students will study windmills as part of a community learning project that spans the curriculum areas. This is based on a book, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, as well as supporting literature related to the themes of survival, water scarcity, and engineering

Our opening unit will culminate in constructing windmills and turbines. This initiative will incorporate proficiencies through hands-on STEM activities that integrate academic areas for math, science, history and global studies, art and literature. Environmental awareness will also include landscaping design, climate and engineering projects.

Culinary Creations

We continue to enjoy wonderful culinary experiences with Acorn, as everyday breakfast and lunches are prepared on site. Students participate in meal planning, grocery shopping, meal preparation, while demonstrating kitchen community standards. Every week the menu is varied and optimizes nutritional choices.

Art

Painting! Painting! Painting! The school year has commenced with driveway painting, sculptural painting, and paint pouring. Around the building there is a guitar in progress, model windmills being built (by both students and staff!), and furniture design is in the works. There are many art opportunities in the works.



We continue to enjoy music instruction with Gary Williams. Gary comes to our campus on Friday mornings and offers individual student lessons. Several students have already jumped in with guitar lessons and drumming. Our community at Connected Circles enjoys off campus activities as part of the weekly routine.

These activities include the Green Mountain Fitness Center for gym workouts and swimming, trips to the grocery store, the mall for walking, and hikes in various locations - all of which enable students to enjoy being themselves. Several students have begun volunteering, and more students will be applying for volunteer opportunities within Central Vermont.

CONNECTED CIRCLES BEGINS SECOND YEAR WITH STRATEGIC PLANNING EFFORT

Connected Circles (CC) continues growth and success, demand continues to outpace scale.

Earlier this year the Connected Circles board began a strategic planning process to capitalize on our early successes and respond intentionally to demand. The core question is "Where will Connected Circles be in the next five years?" SPARC Associates is assisting the Board with this planning process. Below are two updates from the strategic planning process.

Location: The Board is considering a variety of future locations. The board has been carefully weighing options to best position Connected Circles to meet its mission. All options for our future location, which may include our current location, remain under consideration. The board is happy to receive any recommendations about potential future location options.