



Dear Bridge School Family,

It's been a remarkable year under the big blue roof! Most visibly, we replaced the silo with a handsome and functional new gazebo. Less visible but just as important, the board, in collaboration with teachers and staff, has been developing a **new strategic plan** to ensure Bridge School has a bright future. We'll keep you posted on our progress!



Elementary Program

30 Students enrolled in the '24-'25 school year

- Received a **\$10,000 Room For Me grant** to support aftercare & summer camp.
- **Continued mindfulness program** with Educalmé.
- **Raised \$200** for Kitty Korner Café and Horizons for Homeless Children in the Oldest Home Center's change drive.
- Staff & board members are actively engaged with the **Addison County Racial Equity Learning Community**

Beginners Program

14 students enrolled in the '24-'25 school year

- **Implemented the Ourselves and Others Curriculum** in collaboration with the Education Programs Manager at Rokeby Museum. This curriculum is rooted in positivity, representation, and a celebration of each person's unique identity.
- **Incorporated Yoga** into the classroom on a monthly basis.
- **Our teaching staff attended the VTAEYC Conference**, earning 7 hours of professional development trainings hours.
- **Continued to support improvement for our program** and help families with the cost of childcare using Act 76 funds.

Welcome to new teacher Lydia Alberts

Lydia is a Bridge School alum and is thrilled to be back under the blue roof as a teacher! In addition to co-teaching with Jen in the oldest home center, Lydia is also teaching language arts for the middle home center and math for the younger home center.





Outdoor education

We utilized an **Otter Creek Audubon Educators Award Grant** to collaborate with Master Naturalist and artist, Kate Gridley in our outdoor education program. Student joined Kate for guided walks through Wright Park, observing the natural world and seasonal changes.



Play Space

We upgraded the preschool **play area** adding much needed shade and installing a large new play structure and boardwalk, all thanks to an Act 76 readiness grant and a partnership with the Hannaford Career Center. We also established several “no-mow” areas to protect our bird and insect habitats.



Creative Arts

Enjoyed the world premier of **the Big Show**, our annual student written and performed musical. The students participated in a Broadway Weekends workshop to help brainstorm ideas for the show. We also hosted programming with poet Ted Scheu.



New Gathering Spaces

This year we said goodbye to our beloved silo and mural by local artist Chris Murray. The silo had reached the end of its life, and was dismantled to ensure the safety of our kiddos. In its place, we have not one but two outdoor gathering spaces! Our new gazebo was designed and constructed by 5th grader Maxwell Newton and his father, and we were also able to salvage the silo cap, which has a new home in the back field.

Barn Buddies Update

Our **parent led group** successfully coordinated a Spring auction. With generous donations from Bridge School families and local businesses, we raised over \$8,000 for the school. We also continued our **teacher appreciation initiative**. Bridge families pitched in to show love for our teachers and provided catered lunches and other goodies on in-service days and during teacher’s week, and helped with buildings and grounds projects, like mulching the playground!

