

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ

11/10/23 - 11/23/23

Dear SA Families,

Unfortunately I was away from school this week at home with COVID. Luckily everyone in my family is feeling better and I'm looking forward to being back at school on Monday.

A short update this week, but I want to highlight a couple of upcoming events:

- It's time to sign up for Parent Teacher Conferences! Please visit https://ptcfast.com/schools/Sustainability_Academy to sign up today. Conferences will be **in person at SA on Monday, November 20** and **virtual on Tuesday, November 21** (using Google Meet).
- Our PTO-sponsored **Fall Garden Work Day is tomorrow, November 11 from 11am - 1pm**. Join SA families outside to prepare the grounds and gardens for winter.

That's it for this week - see you next week.

With gratitude,

Nina

Nina Oropeza (she/her)

Principal, Sustainability Academy

UPCOMING EVENTS



Save the Dates:

- **November 10** - Community Meeting, 8:10 am
- **November 11** - Fall Garden workday, time TBD
- **November 15** - Winter Warm Up
- **November 20 & 21** - Family Conferences - sign-up here: https://ptcfast.com/schools/Sustainability_Academy
- **November 20-24** - November Break - No School
- **December 4** - PTO Meeting 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- **December 8** - Community Meeting 8:10 am
- **December 22** - Early Release, No Preschool or afterschool - 11:30 am
- **Winter Break- December 25 - January 1** - Return to school January 2nd

SA IN PICTURES!



First Graders are researching birds. During outdoor sustainability, they observed a robin's nest and noticed the materials the bird used to make the nest. Students then looked for materials in our school garden to create their own nests.

UPDATES & RESOURCES

Parent Teacher Conferences - November 20 & 21, 2023 NEW



Scheduling for our November Parent Teacher Conferences has begun. Please use the following link to begin the scheduling process:

https://ptcfast.com/schools/Sustainability_Academy

Conferences will be **in person at SA on Monday, November 20** and **virtual on Tuesday, November 21** (using Google Meet).

Please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information related to Virtual conferences using Google Meet.

If you need to request an alternate conference date or method of participation, please indicate that using the Special Request Feature in PTC Fast when you sign up for your conference or contact your child's teacher directly.

Watch this [5 min video](#) to learn how to schedule a parent teacher conference online using PTC Fast.

If needed, please call the school office, 864-8480, for assistance.

Fall Garden Workday

Our Fall Garden Work Day is this Saturday, Nov 11th, from 11am- 1pm. Help prepare the SA grounds and gardens for the coming winter. Come grab a rake or shovel and help for however long you can.

Run, Hide, Fight Emergency Preparedness

Next week students across the district will continue learning about our emergency procedures and what to do during a safety drill. Our learning conversations will take place throughout the week at SA and will look different depending on your child's age. Reach out directly to your child's teacher for more information.

The SA PTO & Very Merry Theatre present... *Superheroes!*

The SA PTO & Very Merry Theatre present... Superheroes! Come play one of favorite superheroes (or super-villains) as they battle to keep their neighborhood clean and safe.



Sign up for the school play is open now! SA 3rd, 4th & 5th graders may participate as cast or crew.

Return the paper sign up form in your Friday Folder, OR sign up online here:

<https://forms.gle/M51XptXMHfEsp7wk9>



SIGN UP MUST BE COMPLETED BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th

Winter Warm Up - Wednesday, November 15th, starting at 8:10 am

The preschoolers invite SA families to warm up with hot cocoa and FREE winter clothing for all ages. Meet in the front lobby.

Physical Education Corner

Congratulations to our first 10-mile "Morning Move It!" runner of the year!

It is that time of year! Students who are regularly joining us on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Morning Move It! are starting to approach the 10-mile mark for the year. Congratulations to our first 10-mile student, Lizzy (4th Grade) who has completed 10 miles (100 laps) during Morning Move It! Don't forget, you can make this list too! Come join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:45-8:05 on the back field. See you then!

-Mr. Bissonnette – Physical Education

Teaching and Learning Updates

ARC Unit 2 is well underway at SA! Unit 2 is a research unit, so students in each grade level are researching a topic by reading lots of books. Each student will then create a writing project to share their knowledge. Ask your student what they are learning about the topic below!

ARC Unit 2 Research Topics

K: Zoology

Grade 1: Wild and Endangered Animals

Grade 2: Bugs In Their Ecosystems

Grade 3: Weather and Climate

Grade 4: Animal Adaptations

Grade 5: Ecosystems

-Kim Brockway, Instructional Coach

Nurse Corner

Lice Reminder!

Cooler weather is hat wearing season, which is also the prime season for Head Lice. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics 6-12 million children will get head lice this year. According to BSD policy, which can be found on page 19 of the school calendar "Parents/guardians should check their young children's head once a week and especially before returning to school after vacations." BSD follows the guidelines of the Vt Dept. of Health and the CDC. Children are not excluded from school for having head lice, but parents are expected to do their best to treat them, if their child is found to have lice.

For more info refer to: <https://identify.us.com> or

<https://www.consumerreports.org/babies-kids/childrens-health/best-ways-to-treat-head-lice-a1695480068/>

Please contact the school nurse if you need any help or have any questions!

Strategic Plan Steering Committee Invitation

We are reaching out to invite you to apply to be on our Strategic Plan Steering Committee made up of students, families, staff and community members . We are in year two of our [five-year strategic plan](#) and we are committed to having the voices of students, families, school and district staff, and community voices being a part of our continued work as we continue to co-create, implement and evaluate this important work.

At the meetings, this Steering Committee shares updates on progress in the priority areas, learn from each other about ways to support the work, gather evidence and feedback about impact, and make plans for further progress. The committee also reflects on whether the current strategic planning work is student-centered and responsive, and to what extent your school and our district is adhering to our stated initiatives.

This Steering Committee meets 6 times each year, in-person, on the 2nd Monday of the month November-May from 5:00-7:00 pm at Hunt Middle School. Once a year, the committee may engage in a longer retreat, in place of

their monthly meeting to do more in-depth reflection and planning. Members of the coalition are compensated at a rate of \$25 per hour and dinner is provided. We also can arrange for childcare as needed.

To apply, please click on [this link](#).

The deadline to complete the online application is November 30. For more information about this, please email or call Victor Prussack at vprussac@bsdvt.org or 802-316-6653.

Tibet Festival

The Annual Tibet Festival is happening this Saturday at the O.N.E. Community Center on Allen St. from 10am-4:30pm. This is not a school event, but happens right around the corner from our school and is very worth a visit. There will be performances, vendors and food for purchase (cash only). More information can be found on the [Tibetan Association of Vermont's website](#).

Jordanian Popup Dinner

Enjoy a meal and help Syrian refugee students establish roots in Jordan by coming to Common Roots on December 3rd from 5-8pm. Community member Ronan Furuta and team are making a dinner of Jordanian food as a fundraiser for the Azraq Education Center in Azraq, Jordan. More information can be found on the [Roots for Refugees website](#), and feel free to reach out to Sara Leyser (sleyser@bsdvt.org) with any questions!

The Burlington Elks Lodge, #916 Hoop Shoot Contest

The Burlington Elks Lodge, #916 are holding their annual Hoop Shoot Contest on December 2nd at *Edmunds Middle School* in Burlington. It is free and open to ages 8-13. [Link for more information](#)

PTO Corner

Help out with the Play!

We need volunteers to help with the play. The time commitment is very low, but it would go a long way towards helping make the play a success! Please contact Cayenne (cayennem@gmail.com) or Sophia (sophiarella@gmail.com) if you can help.

The Community Dinner is Coming!

We are excited to announce that the community potluck dinner will be happening on Thursday, January 18th!

We need your help to make it a success! We are looking for volunteers to help organize and set up the event and oversee the potluck itself. If you are interested in volunteering, please email me stephen@mapsmith.net.

Future Meetings and Events:

Meetings this year: 12/4, 1/8, 2/5, 3/11, 4/1, 5/6, and 6/3. A full calendar of events [can be found here](#).

Join the SA PTO Email List:

To be added to the email list, please send an email to sustainabilitypto@gmail.com. Once added, you can post to the email list by emailing barnes-pto@googlegroups.com.

Questions? Here's how to reach the 2023-2024 PTO Leadership Team:

Stephen Smith, President: stephen@mapsmith.net

Susan Cline Lucey, Vice President: susanclinelucey@gmail.com

Valerie Esposito, Secretary: valpoespo@gmail.com

Cayenne MacHarg, Treasurer: cayennem@gmail.com

November Lunch Menu

[Link to menu](#)