

## SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ

February 2 - February 15, 2024

Dear SA Families,

Today our students participated in WPTZ's Weather at Your School segment in which a meteorologist visited SA and broadcasted the weather live, with the help of our students! Our 3rd graders recently studied weather for several weeks as a part of a learning unit through ARC (American Reading Company), the reading program our district adopted last school year. This was a great opportunity to put learning into action in a fun, engaging way. Special thanks to Ms. Wiz and the 3rd grade team who made this happen!

This afternoon, our K-5 students walked to the Very Merry Theatre at the ONE Community Center to see our school play, ***Superheroes!***. The play received rave reviews and the good news is there will be another performance on Monday at 5pm - families are welcome to join. Great job SA cast & crew! And a huge thank you to our parent volunteers and Very Merry Theatre staff members who have helped our students rehearse and prepare for the show!

As we close out January and head into February, this is often a time of reset in the school year. Please check in with your student about our community expectations. You can ask your student:

- What are your classroom and school wide agreements / expectations?
- What's one way you help your class and school community?
- What's one goal you have for your class and school community?

Please get in touch with me or your child's teaching team if you would like support with this conversation or to share your child's responses. I hope you have a wonderful weekend, and that we see you next Friday at our next community meeting - I'm looking forward to the sunshine in the forecast for next week!

In partnership,

Nina

**Nina Oropeza (she/her)**

Principal, Sustainability Academy

## UPCOMING EVENTS

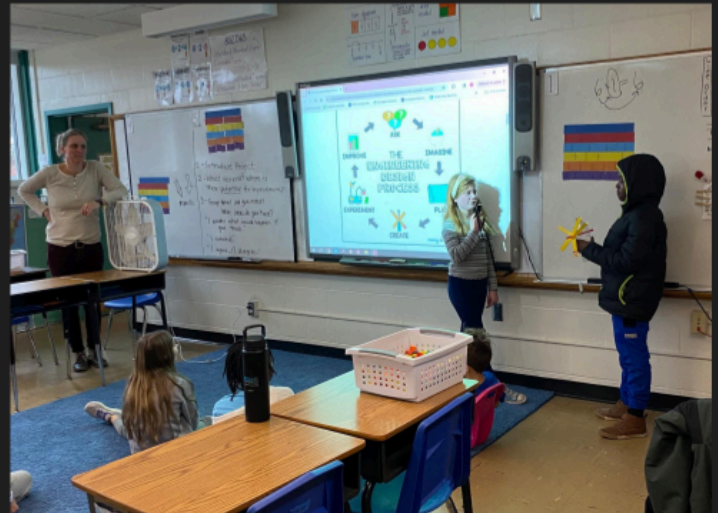
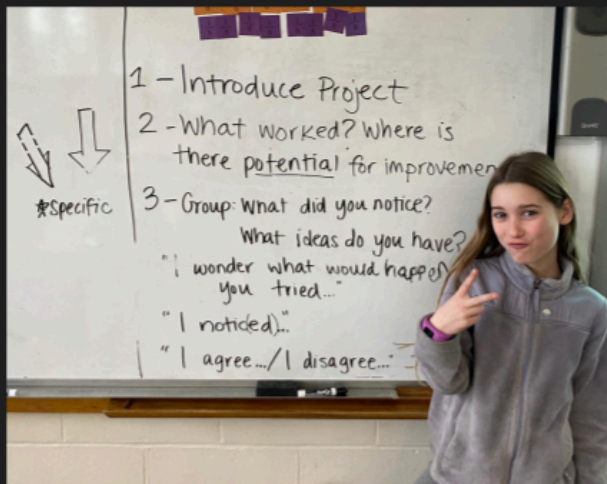


### Save the Dates:

- **February 5 - *Superheroes!*** SA Play Performance 5:00 PM at Very Merry Theater, 20 Allen St

- **February 5 - NO PTO Meeting** - Canceled for Play Performance
- **February 7** - Kindergarten Open House for Prospective Families - 8:30 am
- **February 9** - February Community Meeting - 8:10 - 8:30 am, followed by Community Coffee Chat - 8:30 - 9:00 am
- **February 21** - Whole-School Field Trip - Flynn Theater
- **February 22** - NAEP Assessment for 4th Graders (date change)
- **February 26 - March 4** - Winter Break - No School
- **March 5** - Professional Learning for Staff - No school for students
- **March 14** - Kindergarten Open House for Prospective Families - 8:30 am
- **March 19** - Kindergarten Open House for Prospective Families - 4:15 pm
- **March 21** - Parent Teacher Conferences - Early Dismissal 11:30 am (no afterschool)
- **March 22** - Parent Teacher Conferences - No School

## SA IN PICTURES!



Fourth Graders wrapped up their work on engineering windmills work with a scientist meeting. All groups shared their projects and offered feedback to other groups.



The saplings branch of community council took a trip to Gardener's Supply on Wednesday to get some more plants for classrooms.

## UPDATES & RESOURCES

### February Lunch Menu [Link](#) NEW

Your student received a paper copy in their Friday folder today, or click the link above to view. Please review the daily vegetarian option with your student, which will now be consistent on each day of the week.

#### Daily Vegetarian Options:

- Monday - Meatless Nuggets
- Tuesdays - Black Bean Burger
- Wednesdays- Meatless Chicken Patty
- Thursdays - Veggie Grillers
- Fridays - Vegetarian Chili

### Valentine's Day at SA NEW

Valentine's day is coming up! At SA we ask students and families to leave treats, toys, and valentines at home. This is for many reasons, including food safety and inclusion. To celebrate relationships and gratitude in a way that is more in alignment with our school's mission, we will celebrate Community and Kindness at SA the week of February 12th.

## Family Contra Dance NEW

4th Sunday Community Dance is back! The next one is February 25th. This will be a family contra dance from 1:30-3:00 pm. All dances will be taught. No experience necessary. Live music from Maeve Fairfax and Brian Perkins. Luke Donforth will call. They will be at the Integrated Arts Academy gym (6 Archibald Street; park on the street or the lot, enter the gym on the east side of the building). They're suggesting a \$8/dancer or \$20/family donation, but that's on a sliding scale. All ages are welcome to this family focused afternoon of circle and longways traditional dances. Masks are optional. Please catch them a different month if you're not feeling well or exhibiting symptoms. This dance series will continue on the 4th Sunday of the month throughout the summer. Reach out to Luke at [calling.luke@gmail.com](mailto:calling.luke@gmail.com) if you have questions.

The next ones will be: Sunday Feb 25th, Sunday, Mar 24th, Sunday, Apr 28th, Sunday, May 26th

## Local Motion Celebrates Walking to School in Winter! NEW

Looking for a different way to get to school in the winter? Walking to school is fun even in winter - you just need to make sure you're dressed properly--good boots, warm jacket, hats and mittens! Walking to school with your children is also a great way to add a little extra quality family time to your day, to connect with your neighbors, to teach your child about healthy habits and discover new things about your neighborhood together! Plus, you'll skip the drop-off line! Happy Walking!



## Family Art Saturday at BCA NEW

Our popular, intergenerational drop-in program welcomes children and caregivers to join fun, hands-on activities at BCS Center. Our gallery educators design projects for a wide variety of ages and abilities, connecting those projects to an idea, medium, or topic explored by an artist from a current exhibition. The BCA Gallery Learning team offers Family Art Saturdays to the public each month without charge. The next one is scheduled for February 24, 11:00 - 1:00 pm - find more information [here](#).



## Safe Routes to School NEW

Our district is participating in Safe Routes to School and data collection is at the heart of making sure this program is successful for us! In order for our district to qualify as a Safe Routes to School Partner, each BSD school completes the Family Survey every year. Family Surveys help us identify barriers to walking and rolling to school. We use this data to understand what is working and what isn't and provide that feedback to advocates and planners. Thanks for completing this [Family Survey](#).



## PE Corner NEW

Mr. Bissonnette's school/home challenges and classroom updates are now available on SeeSaw. Check it out on [SeeSaw!](#)

### Staying active at "Morning Move It!"

Despite the temperatures, we are still getting our brains ready for school and staying warm in the morning on Tuesdays and Thursdays. More students have taken advantage and have reached the 10-mile mark for the year. Congratulations to our new 10-mile students, Ryland, Asa, and Aarush (2nd Grade), and Ezhno (3rd Grade) who have completed 100 laps during "Morning Move It!" this year. Don't forget, you can make this list too! Come join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:50-8:05 on the back field. See you then!

-Mr. Bissonnette – Physical Education

## Library Corner NEW

Special thank you to all the families and staff who helped us make a great showing on WPTZ's Weather at Your School on Feb. 2. If you missed it but want to take a look later on, there will be a video at this url: <https://www.mynbc5.com/weather-at-your-school>. They also aired a segment on the 4 p.m. news about our 3rd grade team's greenscreen weather videos, so check it out when you can. It was such a fun time!

- Ms. Wiz, Librarian

## Counselor Corner NEW

Students have finished their contributions to the Peace Tree! Each student has added a leaf with their idea of what peace means to them (pictured right).

This week in Guidance Class, students are practicing and learning the origins of yoga, and they are engaging in mindfulness activities. In addition, Théo and Katie have been conducting a relationship mapping activity. Each student will be individually asked a short list of the same questions. The intention of this exercise is to ensure that no student is flying under the radar in terms of peer and adult connections and to discern whether there are opportunities to build connections among the SA community.



**Ask your student:** What did you draw/write on your peace leaf? What have you learned about yoga? What is one way to practice mindfulness?

- Katie Miller, School Counselor Long Term Substitute

## Teaching and Learning Updates NEW

Right now students and teachers are completing Progress Monitoring in reading and math. These assessments give teachers information to better design instruction to meet each student's needs. They also give teachers information for each student's report card.

- Kim Brockway, Instructional Coach

## PTO Corner NEW

Come see *Superheroes!* at Very Merry Theatre!

Our school's performance is coming up soon! Come watch SA students playing your favorite superheroes (or super-villains) as they battle to keep their neighborhood clean and safe.



**Monday, February 5th at 5:00 PM Very Merry Theater, 20 Allen St**



### Our Next PTO Meeting is Canceled!

Due to a scheduling conflict with the school play, we won't be having our PTO meeting on February 5th. We'll see you at the play!

### Donate Your Coffee Mugs! ☕

Do you have too many mugs in your cabinets? SA and the PTO could use them! The teachers and staff will use them as dishes in the teacher's lounge, and the PTO will use them whenever we provide drinks at PTO events. This will reduce the amount of paper cups we purchase for coffee Fridays and special events.



**Please bring your mugs to the February 9th Community Meeting.** There will be a box in the lobby near the coffee for you to place them in! Please check with Stephen if you have any questions.

### Future Meetings and Events:

Meetings this year: 2/5 **CANCELED**, 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](mailto:sustainabilitypto@gmail.com). Once added, you can post to the email list by emailing [barnes-pto@googlegroups.com](mailto:barnes-pto@googlegroups.com).

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

Stephen Smith, President: [stephen@mapsmith.net](mailto:stephen@mapsmith.net)

Susan Cline Lucey, Vice President: [susanclinelucey@gmail.com](mailto:susanclinelucey@gmail.com)

Valerie Esposito, Secretary: [valpoespo@gmail.com](mailto:valpoespo@gmail.com)

Cayenne MacHarg, Treasurer: [cayennem@gmail.com](mailto:cayennem@gmail.com)