

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ

February 16 - March 7, 2024

Dear SA Families,

It's great to see some snow on the ground! Throughout the month of February, we are celebrating Black History Month. Each class is celebrating in different ways - check in with your student to ask what this looks like in their classroom and what they are learning. We also celebrated Kindness & Community this week. Our physical school environment has been bright even during these cloudy winter days with celebrations of Black History, community & friendship, and all of our new plants from Community Council! Here are a few updates and reminders about events coming up:

- **Wednesday, February 21 our whole school will be walking to the Flynn Theatre to see the Dance Theatre of Harlem perform!** Ask your student on Wednesday evening what they liked best about the show.
- **Our lost and found is full!** Please consider labeling your child's items with their name so that we can help return lost items to your family. Families are welcome to look for items during pick-up or drop-off, please just check in with Donna in the front office.
- As a reminder, **students may be dropped off at SA beginning at 7:45am, but not earlier.** We have noticed some students arriving at school before 7:45 am. There is no supervision before 7:45 am, so in the interest of student safety, we are unable to have students at school before this time.
- Next week is our last week before February Break and **there is no school from Monday, February 26 - Tuesday, March 5.** We will come back to school on Wednesday, March 6.

That's it for this week. Our next newsletter will be sent the week we return from February vacation on March 8. Have a great break & don't forget to vote on Town Meeting Day! As always, please reach out with any needs.

With gratitude,

Nina

Nina Oropeza (she/her)

Principal, Sustainability Academy

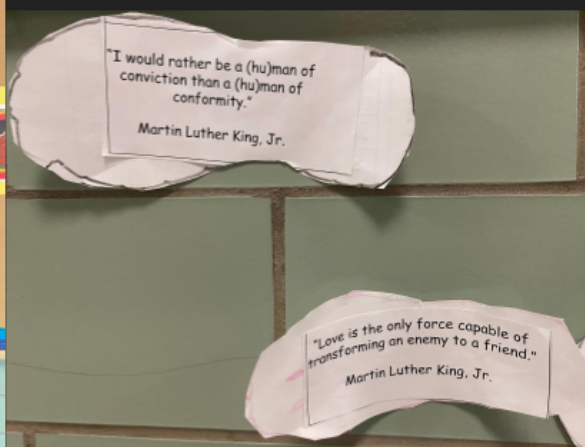
UPCOMING EVENTS

July
17

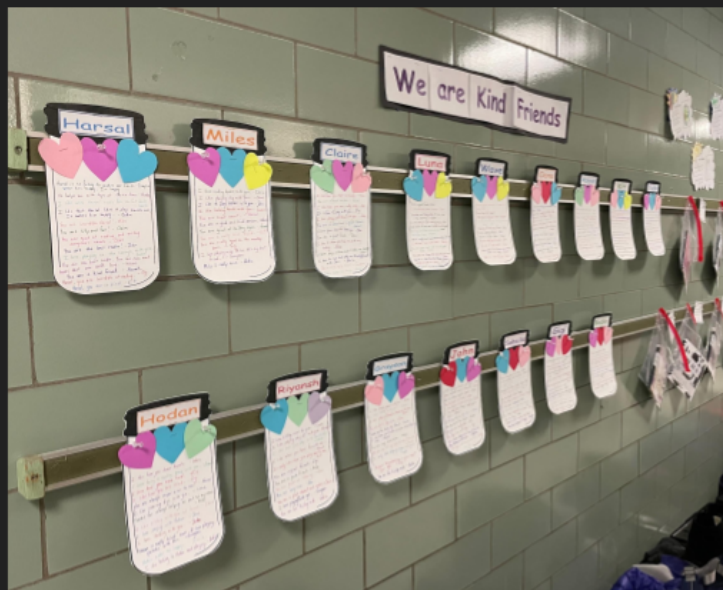
Save the Dates:

- **February 17** - ~~Winterfest~~ (postponed)
- **February 21** - Whole-School Field Trip - Flynn Theater
- **February 22** - NAEP Assessment for 4th Graders (note date change)
- **February 23** - Report Cards go home in Friday Folders
- **February 26 - March 4** - Winter Break - No School
- **March 5** - Professional Learning for Staff - No school for students
- **March 14** - Kindergarten Tour for Prospective Families - 8:30 am
- **March 19** - Kindergarten Tour 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!



We are celebrating Black History Month at SA! Students are participating in different ways at each grade level.



We celebrated Kindness, Community, Friendship & Love at SA this week on Valentine's Day and throughout the week!



Our school play, ***Superheroes!***, was a success! Thank you to our parent volunteers, Very Merry Theatre, and SA students for creating a great show!

UPDATES & RESOURCES

Testing for Lead in Drinking Water

SA families, you should have received this information through email earlier this week, but we wanted to share it in our newsletter as well:

By law, all Vermont schools and child care providers are required to test for lead in drinking water and fix any issues when lead is found above an established action level. The intent of the law is to protect children, students, and staff from lead in these settings. The health and safety of the children in our care and of our employees is our priority, and we are working quickly to check our system for lead.

The drinking water in Burlington School District will be tested for lead during February and March. We will collect water samples from all taps that are used for drinking and cooking and send the samples to a certified drinking water lab for analysis.

Why is lead a concern?

Lead poisoning can slow down a child's growth, development, and learning and can cause behavior problems. Children absorb lead more easily than adults, so they are at a higher risk for lead poisoning.

How does lead get into drinking water?

Lead rarely occurs naturally in water supplies. However, lead can get into drinking water through contact with lead pipes, plumbing fixtures and solder.

How will I be notified of the results?

You will be sent a summary of the results within 10 days after we receive the test results from the laboratory.

What will happen if there is lead in the drinking water at the facility?

Any tap that tests at or above the action level will be taken out of use for consumption. Once we fix the issue, and follow-up testing shows the lead level is at or below the action level, the tap can be used again. We want lead levels in drinking water to be as low as possible. We will find the most effective means of fixing the problem. There are many easy and low-cost fixes to reduce lead in drinking water, including removing seldom-used fixtures or encouraging the use of filtered and properly maintained bottle fill stations.

How do children come in contact with lead?

Exposure to lead is a public health concern in Vermont. Potential sources include dust from deteriorated lead-based paint and products, including toys, keys, jewelry, pottery, dishes, imported candy and foods, and antique, vintage or salvaged goods. Lead can also be found in contaminated soil and old plumbing pipes and fixtures. While a major source of lead poisoning in Vermont children is paint, the lead in plumbing pipes and fixtures can add to a child's overall lead exposure.

To learn more about lead hazards and lead poisoning prevention, visit HealthVermont.gov/lead.

Can I test the water in my home for lead?

Yes. If you want to test your home drinking water for lead, find a list of certified drinking water labs at TinyURL.com/certified-lab.

Where can I get more information?

For questions about the water testing process, or about the law and its requirements, please call the Lead in School and Child Care Drinking Water Program at 802-863-7220 or 800-439-8550 (toll-free in Vermont).

To contact someone at Burlington School District about the testing:

- Call Deb Lord at 802-864-8453

General information and a link to the summary of school or child care results and remediation, are online at HealthVermont.gov/LeadTesting. (NOTE: If your child's preschool or after school program is located at a school, the results will be listed under the school's name.)

Counselor Corner

Welcome back Dr. Dodd! Susan Dodd returned to SA on Monday, February 12th. She was excited to be back with the students and SA community! Dr. Dodd's intern and long-term substitute, Katie Miller, will have her last day at SA on February 23rd. During Guidance Class, students are creating a whole-school "Kindness Chain" to be displayed in the front lobby. Be sure to check it out when you stop by!

Ask your students: What did you write on your kindness chain link? Why is kindness important? What are ways you can be kind to yourself?

- Susan Dodd, School Counselor; Katie Miller, School Counselor Long Term Substitute

Teaching and Learning Updates

The IRLA Home Update will be included in your child's report card. This document contains information about your child's progress in reading. In the top right corner you will see your child's current IRLA level, your child's beginning of the year IRLA level and the expectation in reading for your child's grade at this point in the school year. To better understand the IRLA level I have two tips. First, the whole number is the grade level equivalent. Second, the number to the right of the decimal point is the percentage of that grade's reading skills that your child has achieved. Next you will see information about what the focus is for your child's reading level, as well as book suggestions and other tips for families. The IRLA Home Update might yield helpful information for discussion at Parent Teacher Conferences, which are scheduled for March 21 and 22.

- Kim Brockway, Instructional Coach

Family Contra Dance

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 if you have questions.

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

PTO Corner



Our [list of events](#) showed that we were supposed to have Winterfest tomorrow afternoon behind SA.

Unfortunately, the PTO will need to reschedule Winterfest this year. If you are interested in helping organize the event at a later date, please get in touch with leadership!



Town Meeting Day Bake Sale!

Join us for our Town Meeting/Election Day Bake Sale on **Tuesday, March 5**! We're calling for donations of all types of baked goods—savory, sweet, gluten-free, vegan—you name it! There was especially high demand for **dairy- and gluten-free** options last time, so those are particularly welcome. Remember, school will be closed, but the bake sale goes on!

This is a fantastic opportunity to support our school with a goal of raising \$1000. We need your help! Please consider donating a baked good or volunteering for a table shift. [To sign up, simply register here.](#)

For any questions or more information, feel free to reach out.

Val Esposito (Zara's mom, 4th grade with Ms. Lucey)

Future Meetings and Events:

Meetings this year: 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