

## SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ

May 3 - May 16, 2024

Dear SA Families,

Our spring garden workday is tomorrow, May 4th from 2-5pm. We have some exciting projects we are working on to transform our school grounds and are hoping for a good turnout. All are welcome - please join us if you can! Here is a list of supplies we need - do you have any of these that we could use?

- **Edgers** - Our beds need more definition and we are planning to edge them tomorrow. If you have an edger, we'd be grateful to use it for the afternoon.
- **Trucks (or trailers)** - We need to pick up several yards of mulch from Gardener's Supply. Please email Kestrel at [kplump@bsdvt.com](mailto:kplump@bsdvt.com) if you have a truck *available to transport mulch anytime on Saturday*.

Next week is teacher appreciation week! Please join me thanking the SA team for all of the awesome work they do each day on behalf of our students. I appreciate how deeply our staff care about each of our student's well-being and their commitment to providing quality learning experiences. Thank you, SA team!

Lastly, we are creating classroom teams for next school year. SA families are welcome to provide input to our team through completing this survey by Monday, May 13: [Student Classroom Placement Survey](#).

Have a great weekend and I hope to see you tomorrow!

With gratitude,

Nina

**Nina Oropeza (she/her)**

Principal, Sustainability Academy

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Save the Dates:

- **May 3** - Kindergarten Field Trip - University of Vermont
- **May 4** - SA Spring Work Day - 2:00 - 5:00 pm
- **May 6** - PTO Meeting - 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- **May 6** - 5th Grade Field Trip - ECHO
- **May 10** - Community Meeting (with Fletcher Free Library!)

- **May 13** - 4th Grade Field Trip - East Woods in South Burlington
- **May 15** - Early Release Day - 11:30 am - Professional Learning for Staff
- **May 17** - 3rd Grade Field Trip - Shelburne Farms
- **May 20** - 5th Grade Field Trip - Community Sailing Center
- **May 22** - 4th Grade Field Trip - Community Sailing Center
- **May 23** - 4th Grade Field Trip - Shelburne Museum
- **May 24** - Whole School Photo Day - 8:10 am
- **May 24** - 3rd Grade Field Trip - Shelburne Museum
- **May 24** - Middle School Step Up Day
- **May 29** - Author visit: Kate Messner and Rajani LaRocca

## SA IN PICTURES!



Third graders  
got out in the  
garden to do sit  
spots and help  
prep the beds  
for the growing  
season.



First graders  
learned about plant  
life cycles and  
dressed up as green  
beans!



4th graders are working on an exciting new addition to an end of year celebrations. This week they used paper mache and tie die. Stayed tuned for the finished project...

# UPDATES & RESOURCES

## Classroom Placement for Next Year

We are creating classroom student teams for the 2024-2025 school year! We recognize that each student brings a unique set of social, emotional, and academic strengths to a classroom community and your input is an essential part of the process. Please fill out the [Student Classroom Placement Survey](#) to share information with about your child. Please complete by Monday, May 13. Please note that we are unable to consider parent requests for specific teachers. If you have any questions, please reach out to Susan Dodd, SA Counselor ([sdodd@bsdvt.org](mailto:sdodd@bsdvt.org)).

## 24-25 Afterschool Registration is Now Open!

Current afterschool families can now log into their Transact account and complete the 24-25 registration application. New families and incoming kindergarten students can create an account through our Transact enrollment site and complete the registration application. You will need your student's student id number. This can be found in your child(ren)'s powerschool account, or you can reach out to the Afterschool Site Director.

Current students and siblings will be given priority if the registration application is completed before Friday 5/31. Registration enrollment for incoming K's and new students will NOT be on a first come first served. Programs will be working to build a diverse cohort of students reflective of school day demographics.

Please note the completion of a registration application does not guarantee enrollment in the program.

You can complete your application at [Burlington Kids Parent Portal](#)

If you have questions please contact [afterschool@bsdvt.org](mailto:afterschool@bsdvt.org).

## Playground Communication Board

We are excited to share that Burlington School District has added a new element to each of their pre-k and elementary school playgrounds; a communication board to help support communication during outdoor play time! The communication board, which was designed by district speech-language pathologists and based on a template by the assistive technology company PRC-Salttillo, includes common phrases and words that support interaction and communication during playground time. These communication boards ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn from each other, interact, minimize language barriers, and develop awareness and understanding of the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC.) A very special thank you to Len Phelan, Principal of C.P. Smith Elementary School and Stacie Curtis, Director of Early Education for supporting this initiative. Here's an [example](#) of how you can use playground communication boards.

## Spring Garden Workday

Our spring garden workday is this Saturday, May 4th from 2-5pm. We have some exciting projects we are working on to transform our school grounds and are hoping to have as many volunteers as possible. Please join us if you can! We also have identified a list of supplies we need - do you have any of these we could use?

- **Edgers** - Our beds need more definition and we are planning to edge them tomorrow. If you have an edger, we'd be grateful to use it for the afternoon.
- **Trucks (or trailers)** - We need to pick up several yards of mulch from Gardener's Supply. Please email Kestrel at [kplump@bsdvt.com](mailto:kplump@bsdvt.com) if you have a truck *available to transport mulch anytime on Saturday*.

## Library Updates

**Find Your Books!** All books are due back to the library by **June 4**, so please dig out any missing or misplaced books now! Children's circulation of books will end on May 28 and we ask any families with an account to return books by

then as well.

**Right to Read Public Film Screening:** Sat. May 18, 4 p.m. at 60 Lake Street, 1st fl.- Fletcher Free Library screens [The Right to Read](#) as part of the Vermont International Film Festival. The film will be followed by a panel discussion with local educators. The latest national failing reading scores have dispelled myths that reading achievement gaps were a minority issue, and this documentary now probes "the greatest civil rights issue of our time." The Right to Read shares the stories of an NAACP activist, a teacher, and two American families who fight to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of life-long success: the ability to read. Film by Jenny Mackenzie, exec. produced by Levar Burton. [See Trailer.](#) and [please register.](#)

**Stop the Summer Slide Book Giveaway:** Did you ever hear the term "summer slide"? It's not the fun kind of slide, with water - it means when school-aged children lose some of their school-year learning over the summer break.

**Students in grades 1 to 8 lose anywhere from 17 to 34%** of what they learned the previous year, according to a 2020 study from the Annenberg Institute. But [you can stop this slide!](#) We'll be sharing tips and help on ways to keep your learners engaged all summer, and giving away at-level reading books in June! Reading just 4 to 6 books over the summer can halt learning loss. Also, come to the May 10 and June 8 Community Meetings to learn about the Fletcher Free Library's Summer Reading Challenge with Megan Buttefield, the youth librarian there (who will stay for the parent coffee hour!)

## **Bike Bonanza 2024!**

Old Spokes Home is excited to be hosting our annual Bike Bonanza this year on **Saturday, May 4th, from 2-4pm** at the O'Brien Center in Winooski. The Bike Bonanza is a bike giveaway for children aged 3-8 years old whose families cannot afford or have difficulty affording bicycles. As many as 100+ bikes and helmets will be available on a first come, first served basis. There is no pre-registration required. This event is made possible by the many beloved Old Spokes Home volunteers who put in hours of labor to fix up kids bikes in our Community Workshop and show up to help on the day of the event, and by a number of partner organizations who help us get the word out to families and children who are in the market for a free bicycle.

## **May Lunch Menu [Link](#)**

You can access the May Lunch Menu by clicking on the link above.

## **Family Contra Dance**

4th Sunday Community Dance is back! The next one is **Sunday, May 26th**. 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.

## **PTO Corner**

 **Thank you, SA Community!** 

What an incredible day we had last Saturday at our 16th Annual Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction! Thanks to your amazing support and participation, we not only had a fantastic turnout but also surpassed last year's fundraising!

A heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you who volunteered, donated, and joined us for breakfast. Your dedication and generosity are what make this event so special and successful. It's wonderful to see our community come together to support our school in such a fun and meaningful way.

A HUGE shout out goes to Erin, Heidi, Allie, Grey, and all the PTO members who stepped up and went above and beyond to ensure that this year's event was even better than last year! It was a tremendous effort on everyone's part to put this event together, and I'm eternally grateful for your dedication to our community!

**Future Meetings and Events:**

Meetings this year: 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)