



**SUSTAINABILITY
ACADEMY**
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ - SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

Dear SA Families,

Welcome back! Our school community is back together and there is joy, learning, and excitement all around! Please read through this week's newsletter for important updates.

Your child should have brought home a Friday Folder today. Friday Folders are an important method teachers use to communicate with families. On the left side of the green Friday Folder are papers to return to school and on the right side are papers to stay at home. Please reach out to your child's teacher with any questions.

There is no school on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day. I hope you will join us next **Friday, September 8 for our first community meeting** of the school year! Families are invited to join K-5 students in the cafeteria for our community meeting which runs from 8:10-8:30. During our monthly community meetings we celebrate our community, highlight learning at SA, and share upcoming events. We'll be focused on our big idea of Community throughout the year.

Also on **Friday, September 8 is our Back-to-School Popsicle Party** hosted by the SA Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Join us outside from 3:30-5:00 pm for popsicles in the gardens at SA. Enjoy the weekend and I am looking forward to next week!

With gratitude,

Nina

Nina Oropeza (she/her)

Principal, Sustainability Academy

UPCOMING EVENTS

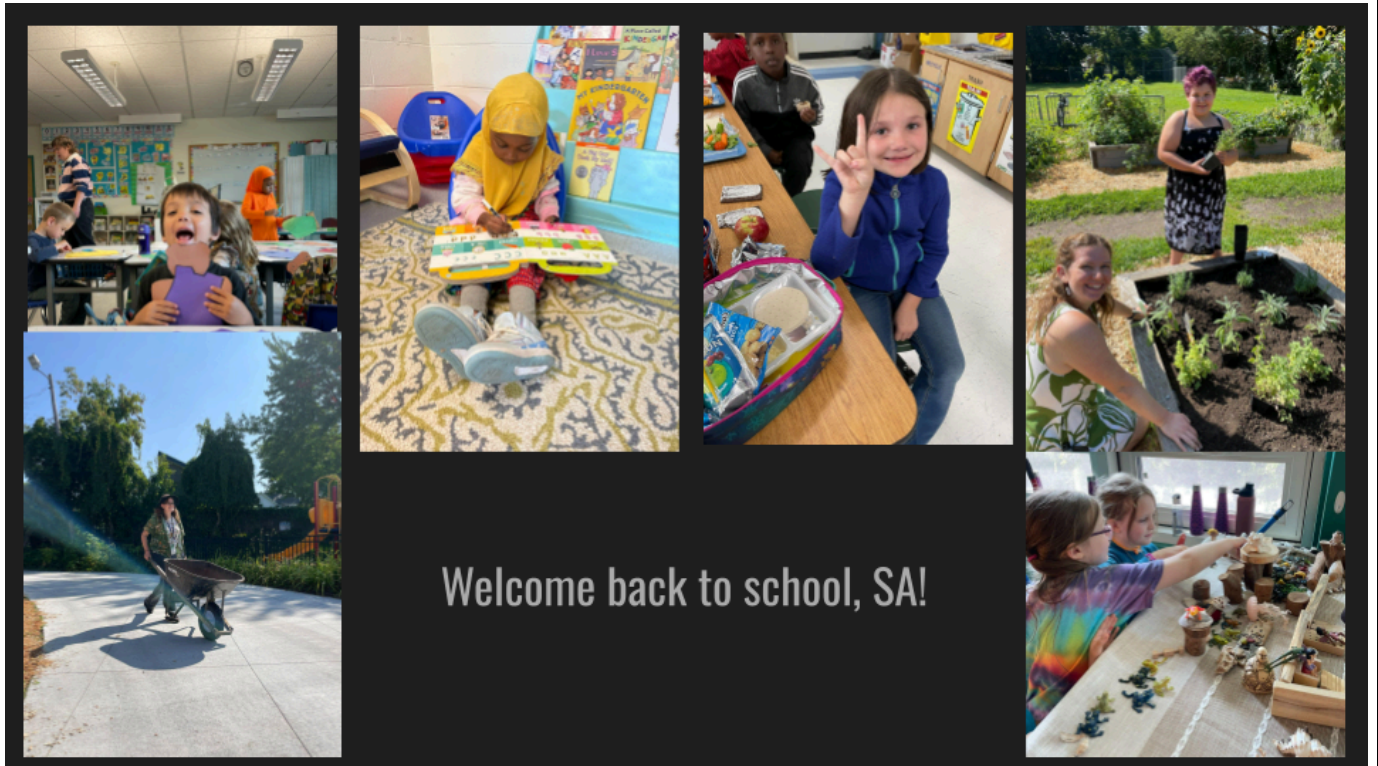


Save the Dates:

- **Friday, September 1, 1:00 - 3:00pm** - Classroom Open House for Preschool
- **Monday, September 4** - Labor Day, no school
- **Tuesday, September 5** - 1st Day of Preschool! Dismissal at 11:30 am. First day of Afterschool for kindergarten.

- **Friday, September 8** - 3:30-5:00 pm Back to School Popsicle Party
- **Monday, September 11** - 5:45 - 7:30 - First PTO meeting (SA Community Room)
- **Thursday, September 14th** - Picture Day

THIS WEEK IN PICTURES @ SA



UPDATES & RESOURCES

Burlington School District (BSD) Elementary Handbook NEW

The [BSD Elementary School Handbook](#) has been updated for the 2023-24 school year. Please use the link or QR code below to access the handbook. If you have any questions or would like a printed copy, please reach out to the office (802-864-8480).



Safe Routes to Schools in Burlington NEW

The Burlington School District, Burlington Public Works, and Local Motion are working together to form a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force, and we're looking for community members who want to get involved!

SRTS is a national program that promotes walking and biking through infrastructure improvement, education, and incentives to encourage a culture of walking and biking to school.

Did you know that physical movement at the beginning of the day helps with mental health challenges, increases attention span and improves academic achievement? By walking and biking, students also have the opportunity to connect with peers and gain a connection to their community. In addition to our District-wide Task Force, we envision school-based groups made up of representatives from staff, administrators, parents and interested community members who will collaborate on events, help the City understand issues that need to be addressed, work to address school travel barriers, and more. Anyone interested should contact Bonnie Hooper at bonnie@localmotion.org

Come march with BSD in the Annual Pride Parade, Sunday, September 10th NEW

There will be a sign making party on Thursday, September 9th at Hunt Middle School from 3-4, room C2. You can find more information in [BSD Pride Parade Flyer 2023](#).

September Lunch Menu

We have not yet received the September lunch menu, but as soon as we do, we will send home in Friday Folders and post on our website and in our newsletter.

Back to School Popsicle Party

Friday, September 8 is our **Back to School Popsicle Party**, hosted by the SA Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). It will also be a chance for families to come visit the SA Library to enjoy the new mural completed this summer by local artist, Liza Phillip. We hope you will join us on Friday, 9/8 afterschool!

Crossing Guards Needed

SA needs crossing guards! If you are interested in becoming a crossing guard please apply on the NeoGov website: <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/HR/Learn>

The hours are: 7:30-8:20 AM & 2:40-3:30 PM Monday-Friday (1:40-2:30om on Wednesdays). The job pays: \$37.50 per day (190.00/week).

Returning Student Registration (Formerly ASU)

It is time for you to complete Returning Student Registration forms (formerly called Annual Student Update) for your students. These forms ask you to update critical information, such as emergency contact information, medical information, and a device agreement form. This process generally takes about 10 minutes per student, and the update must be completed for all students before the start of the school year. Please [log into your PowerSchool account to complete this update as soon as possible](#).

PTO Corner

First PTO Meeting! Monday, Sept. 11th in the SA community room.

Interested in the goings on at the smallest school in the BSD? Curious about your child's curriculum, teachers, or learning environment? Or are you looking to find a way to help support and strengthen our community? There's no better way to get started than to attend the Sustainability Academy's first Parent Teacher Organization meeting of the year!

Where: SA Community Room (near the back entrance of the school at 123 North St.)

When: Monday, Sept. 11th from 5:45 - 7:30 p.m. (gather and eat at 5:45, meeting begins at 6pm)

Who: You, other parents, any available teachers, Principal Oropeza, and Sustainability Coach Ms. Kestrel.

What: School news, initiatives, needs, ways to get involved, and more. The agenda will be sent out next week via the PTO email list.

Will you be hungry: No! Leonardo's Pizza will be on hand.

Harvest Run - Volunteers Needed!

We need your help making the 2023 Harvest Run happen! Please review the available slots on [this volunteer signup sheet](#) and click on the button to sign up. There are a lot of slots in an effort to make each volunteer's responsibilities very light and simple.

Each role is organized around one of four categories: Celebration, Race Course, Logistics, and Marketing. Look to the volunteer Lead in each of those categories for specific instructions.

Some roles happen prior to the race, some during, and some after (each is clearly labelled). So one person could easily sign up for more than one slot if so inclined! :)

Thank you for making this wonderful event possible!

Back-to-school Popsicle Party Friday Sept. 8th!

Pop over to the school from 3:30pm - 5:00pm for a sweet treat to celebrate the beginning of the year. Popsicles and watermelon will be provided.

Future Meetings and Events:

Meetings this year: 9/11, 10/2, 11/6, 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