

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ

January 19 - February 1, 2024

Dear SA Families,

Thanks for joining us at community dinner last night! As I shared at the event, it is one of my favorite SA traditions. The community dinner embodies two essential characteristics of a sustainable community - **community & diversity**. In a sustainable community, each community member contributes what we can for the greater good of the group. At SA we have community members from so many different cultures and traditions. When we each bring a food that is special to our families, the diversity physically represented on the potluck table is awesome to see, and it creates a more delicious meal than any of us could on our own. I continue to be so grateful to be in community with all of you.

Please read through this installment of our school newsletter for more information about the many upcoming events at SA! As always, reach out with any questions.

With gratitude

Nina

Nina Oropeza (she/her)

Principal, Sustainability Academy

UPCOMING EVENTS



Save the Dates:

- **February 2** - Weather at Your School - WPTZ weather van visits SA, join us at 7am!
- **February 5** - PTO Meeting - 6:00 - 7:30 pm - Canceled for Play Performance
- **February 5** - **Superheroes** SA Play Performance 5:00 PM at Very Merry Theater, 20 Allen St
- **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 9** - NAEP Assessment for 4th Graders
- **February 21** - Whole-School Field Trip - Flynn Theater
- **February 26 - March 4** - Winter Break - No School
- **March 5** - Professional Learning 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!



Thank you to Mr. Fitz's 5th Grade class for helping set up the grow towers! The lobby is looking awesome.



Last week, the 2nd and 4th Grade team went to Shelburne Farms to study animals in winter and tracking.

UPDATES & RESOURCES

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](#).

WIDA Testing Begins February 5 NEW

SA is a multilingual community! Over 10 languages are spoken at SA. In February we will begin our annual assessment of English language in listening, reading, writing and speaking for some of our multilingual students.

Over the next 2 weeks we will be celebrating multilingualism as a superpower and celebrating the diversity of languages spoken at SA! Ask your students to share what they have learned.

Options-Based Drill This Week NEW

Next week (January 22-26) we will be discussing and practicing options-based drill in the event of an emergency situation at school. Please reach out to Principal Oropeza or your child's teacher with any questions.

Counselor Corner NEW

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Day on Monday, January 15th, students have been discussing peace in Guidance Class this week. Each grade is talking about Civil Rights heroes and discussing what peace looks and feels like to them. Students are drawing or writing their Peace Picture or Peace Promise on a cut out of a leaf, which will be displayed on the Peace Tree for the whole school to see outside of the School Counseling Office. Pictures will come next week after each student has created their leaf!

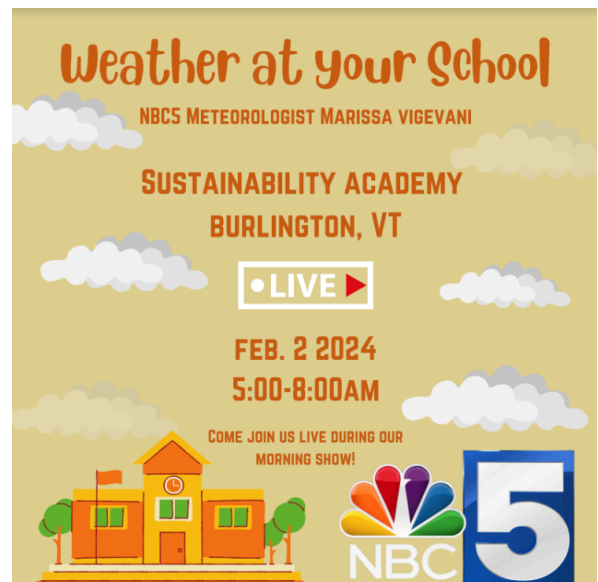
- Susan Dodd, School Counselor & Katie Miller, School Counselor Long Term Substitute

Weather at your School Event at SA on 2/2 NEW

NBC5 Meteorologist, Marissa Vigevani, will be broadcasting live weather updates from our school Friday, 2/2/24, between 5:00 - 8:00 am, at approximately 15 minute intervals. This is part of NBC5's "Weather at Your School" program. We are excited to be hosting this!

Ms. Vigevani will be positioned on the blacktop. Our 3rd grade SA students, who have been studying weather, will help Ms. Vigevani with parts of the forecast.

We are hoping that SA students and families will come out to join the event beginning at 7am. We will have treats available for students and families!



Library Corner NEW

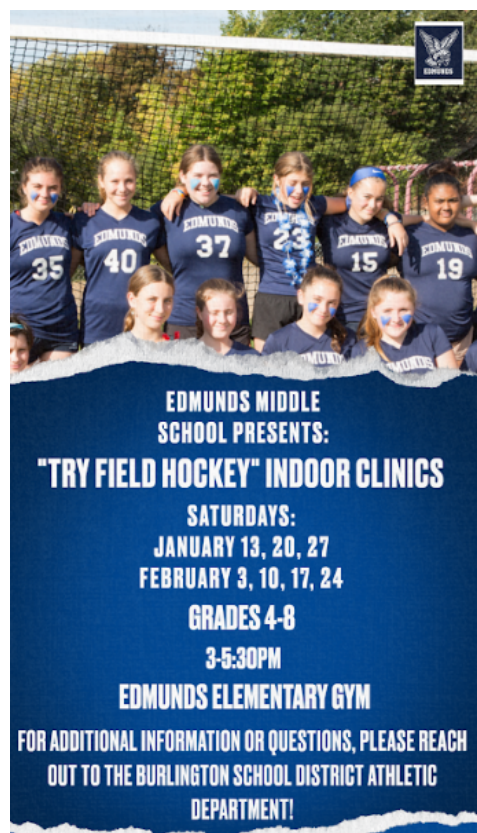
Students were sad to see our lovely collaboratively-built gingerbread houses go, but here are some pictures for memories! This month students in K, 1 and 2 are doing elementary computing skills and coding with a visit from the district's BeeBots! They'll learn why programs are important, and basic sequencing and coding skills with the help of robots they create commands for. Third grade is finishing the video work on their weather reports while fourth graders are editing video book trailers, and in fifth grade we are introducing Typing Club, an online program



to help developing typing skills. Book Award season is around the corner, so we'll soon be starting our Red Clover books. As a reminder, grades 1-5 all got an extra book to take home this month. If you need any help coordinating book returns, please email me at jwislosk@bsdvt.org or contact your child's teacher. Keep reading, SA!

- Jess Wisloski, Librarian

Try Field Hockey! BSD Indoor Clinics NEW



Health Corner NEW

Dressing for Winter

Prevent frostbite and hypothermia by wearing warm clothes



Hat
up to 40% of heat is lost through the head



Scarf
protect your lungs by covering your mouth



Winter Coat
should be weather resistant to protect against wind and snow



Layers
helps trap warm air and keep body heat in



Snow Pants
should be waterproof and loose enough to move in



Mittens or Gloves
layer gloves inside of mittens on really cold days



Socks
can be layered for extra warmth



Winter Boots
should be waterproof, insulated, and not too tight

If you don't have warm winter clothes, talk to your classroom teacher or Nurse Justina!



Dressing for Winter

Prevent frostbite and hypothermia by wearing warm clothes

Frostbite is an injury caused by freezing of the skin

Frostbite is common on the nose, ears, cheeks, fingers, and toes

Symptoms include cold, hard, or waxy-looking skin, and a prickling or numb sensation

Skin can turn grey, blue, white, yellow, or purple



Do not rub or massage frostbite, do not use hot water!

Treat frostbite by gently warming affected area with body heat, stand by a heater, or put hands/feet in room temp water

Frostbite can be severe and cause blisters, blackened skin, or death!

If color or feeling do not return or there are blisters or blackened skin present, seek emergency medical assistance immediately!

If you don't have warm winter clothes, talk to your classroom teacher or Nurse Justina!



- Justina Starr, Nurse

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

Want to get involved? On Saturday, January 27th, come to Very Merry at 20 Allen St and help build and prep for the big night! Childcare will not be provided, so no drop-offs please.

NEW! In addition to the performance on 2/5, all students will have an opportunity to see the show during the school day, on Friday, February 2nd.

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 next month's 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. 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