

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ

April 19 - May 2, 2024

Dear SA Families,

Next week is April break! We will come back to school on Monday, April 29. We had a great week at SA with our Spring Spirit Week, field trips, and SA Variety Show. Thanks for helping your child to participate in these community events. This time of year always zooms by - please save the date now for our **Spring Garden Work Day on Saturday, May 4 from 2-5pm**. We are planning more projects for that day than we have on any other garden work day in the 5 years I've been at SA, so we will need a lot of helpers! I am so excited to spruce up the SA grounds. All are welcome, there are plenty of tasks to go around.

A huge THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who organized the Pancake Breakfast last weekend. The event raised over \$10,000 to support our school...wow! Even better, the event provides such a wonderful opportunity to simply enjoy hanging out with our community.

Enjoy break next week - I'll be working for the first part of the week if you want to get in touch, and then traveling to visit family later in the week.



Please join us at SA on
**Saturday, May 4th from
2pm- 5pm**
to clean up our school
grounds and prepare our
gardens for spring!

With gratitude,

Nina

Nina Oropeza (she/her)

Principal, Sustainability Academy

UPCOMING EVENTS



Save the Dates:

- **April 19** - 1st Grade Field Trip - ECHO
- **April 19** - Kindergarten Field Trip - Coast Guard Station
- **April 22 - 26** - Spring Break, No School
- **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 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

SA IN PICTURES!



We celebrated spring with SA Spring Spirit Week this week!



Thank you to all volunteers who made the Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction such a success! Did you know our fabulous K teachers Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Benz volunteer every year?! They are amazing!

UPDATES & RESOURCES

May Lunch Menu [Link](#) NEW

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

Teaching and Learning Updates NEW

Unit 4 in reading and writing is underway. Kindergarteners are entomologists, learning lots about insects. In grades 1-5 students are applying the research skills they learned in Unit 2 (the informational research unit). In Unit 4 students are constructing opinions supported by text evidence. Each week students do research based on a question and then use that research to answer an argument prompt. Students will rehearse for this writing with partner talk, whole class conversations and debate.

-Kim Brockway, Instructional Coach

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.

Drinking water at SA

The State of Vermont requires all schools and child care providers to test their drinking water for lead. Samples of water from every tap at Sustainability Academy that is reasonably expected to be used for drinking or cooking were collected and sent to a certified drinking water lab for analysis.

Results for Sustainability Academy:

All the taps sampled had results BELOW the 4 part per billion (ppb) action level.

No further action is currently necessary. The drinking water can continue to be used.

Lead exposure poses a special risk to children because they absorb lead into their systems more easily than adults do. Lead can slow down growth, impair development and learning, and can cause behavior problems. While the major source of lead poisoning in Vermont children is paint, lead in plumbing pipes and fixtures can add to a person's overall exposure. Drinking water in schools and homes may contain lead from old pipes, plumbing fixtures (such as fountains and faucets), or the solder that joins pipe sections together.

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).

You can view school and child care results, remediation and any follow-up testing at LeadResults.vermont.gov. (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.) For more information visit: HealthVermont.gov/LeadTesting

If you have questions or concerns about our facility and the actions we are taking, please contact Deb Lord 802-864-8453

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

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

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 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!

Help Guide the PTO Budget - Survey

We are beginning our annual budgeting process, and we are inviting the broader community to contribute your ideas and suggestions. Your input is invaluable in shaping the future of our school and ensuring we meet the needs of all students. We encourage you to participate in our brief survey, which is designed to gather your ideas and preferences for the upcoming school year. We would like to receive responses by Tuesday, April 30th to ensure we can discuss your input at the May 6th PTO meeting.. Thank you for your involvement and support! [Budget Survey](#)

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. 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