



# Sustainability Academy's Newsletter

December 1, 2017

## Winter Warm Up



Monday, December 4th starting at 8:10am

The preschoolers invite SA families to warm up with hot cocoa and **FREE** gently used winter clothing for all ages.

Meet us in the lobby and the downstairs hallway.

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## Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction



Saturday, December 9th  
8:30am - 11:30am  
SA cafeteria

Come ready to shop! Our silent auction features an array of local art, services, and treasures you won't want to miss. Come support our nation's first sustainability themed elementary school!

\$6 Adults                      \$4 Children ages 3-12  
\$15-20 Families      Children 2 and under FREE

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## Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Thank you** to all the parents and guardians who were able to attend their child's parent/teacher conference. We were hoping to achieve 100% participation so if you have not yet met with your child's teacher please contact them for a meeting time. If you need additional help feel free to contact the main office at 864-8480.

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## Curriculum Corner



### What Is Zearn?

Zearn is a free online math program that is widely used at SA and across the district. In grades 1-5, Zearn is directly aligned with your child's daily math lessons. Zearn allows children to be retaught lessons or play games to work on their fact fluency at home. In Kindergarten, Zearn focuses on foundational skills like counting, number identification, addition, and subtraction through a series of games.

Often times, families are confused by the new ways children are learning math. In addition to helping students, it is a great resource for parents to see similarities and differences in the way they learned math growing up. Students, families, and teachers being on the same page is a huge part of academic success. Most children in grades 2-5 should have a Zearn account that they use in school.

If you would like to sign up for a parent account go to [www.zearn.org](http://www.zearn.org)

Please feel free to contact me, Tim Fitzsimmons, Math Interventionist, at [tfitzsim@bsdvt.org](mailto:tfitzsim@bsdvt.org) with any questions.

Happy Zearning!

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## School Expectations

**Be Safe**

**Be Responsible**

**Be Respectful**

**Do Your Best**

## Bee Card Winners

### Holiday Kids Bicycle Bonanza



Thursday, December 14th, 5:30-8pm

Sponsored by Old Spokes

**Eligibility:** Bikes are only available to children ages 3 through 8. Children must be on free or reduced lunch to receive a bicycle through Bonanza.

If a child is too old for the Bonanza but is on free or reduced lunch, please consider our [Everybody Bikes program](#).

If a child is not on free or reduced lunch but their family is interested in getting them a bike, please consider purchasing a [refurbished kids bike from Old Spokes Home](#).

**Register:** Preregistration is required and capped at 140.

Families can **register on our website:**

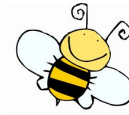
[oldspokeshome.com/kids-bike-bonanzas](http://oldspokeshome.com/kids-bike-bonanzas)

### School-Family Style Lunch!

Thank you



Thank you to the families and staff members who volunteered to facilitate November's school-family style lunch experience. The adult support serving food, promoting inclusive conversation at tables, and setting tables was critical to the success of the event. Some benefits of family style dining include: less food and container waste, enhanced communication, and increased awareness of nutritional portioning.



**November 15th**



**KDG - Zaelen**

**1st- Bella**

**2nd- Nevaeh**

**3rd/4th - Shikha**

**3rd/4th - Apple**

**5th- Ajang**

**November 29th**



**KDG.- Asnina**

**1st- Chris**

**2nd-Sanjeeta**

**3rd/4th- Bachan**

**3rd/4th-Thomas**

**5th-Rory**

### Food Drive



Thank you for all the lovely donations to our harvest baskets. The families who received the basket were very grateful. Thank you for sharing our bounties with the SA community.

## Volunteers needed!

School-Family Style Lunch  
Friday, December 15th



Join us for our next *school-family style dining* in the cafeteria on **Friday, December 15th**. We are **looking for volunteers** to help students during this event. If you can help during any or all of the lunch shifts, please email Julie Norman at [jnorman@bsdvt.org](mailto:jnorman@bsdvt.org)

The lunch waves:

Kindergarten & Grade 5: 11:00-11:30

Grades 1 & 2: 11:35-12:05

Grades 3 & 4: 12:05-12:40

If any family members would like to eat school lunch, it is a great deal at \$3.75 per meal.

## Morning Move It!



## **Congratulations to first grade student Jasper for running ten miles during Morning Move It! sessions this fall!**

Monday & Thursday are our days for Morning Move It! Join us around the back track from 7:50-8:05. Start your school day with a clear mind and an energized body by walking or running before the bell rings. We'll help you keep track of your mileage and even recognize your big milestones with announcements and prizes! Hope to see you out there!

~ Mr. Bissonette and Mrs. Norman

## CLiF event with Author Jason Chin



Author and illustrator Jason Chin wowed the Sustainability Academy students and staff with his Children's Literacy Foundation presentations on his award-winning books, *Grand Canyon*, *Island: A Story of the Galapagos*, *Redwoods*, *Coral Reefs*, and *Gravity*.

Mr. Chin's visit was part of the \$25,000 CLiF Year of Book grant sponsored by the Shelley Family Foundation and an anonymous donor. SA won the grant through the leadership of Principal Sells and a collaboration among Fletcher Free Children's Librarian Rebecca Goldberg, SA PTO and SA staff. SA students will receive 10 books this year for their home libraries. During the presentation, Mrs. Goldberg shared some of the 30 book sets that will be available to SA teachers this year. These are books she purchased through the CLiF grant. In addition, school librarian Sharon Hayes displayed some of the books purchased with the \$4,500 SA library grant.

First, the preschoolers were treated to Mr. Chin's reading his book, *Gravity*. He showed the students how he created a book dummy to show his idea to his publisher, Roaring Brook Press. Then he drew one of the students, who is an amazing artist himself. The preschoolers and Mr. Chin created art together!

Then, Mr. Chin showed the kindergarten through Grade 2 students how he developed the idea of his book, *Redwoods*, on the California Redwoods when riding the F train to his job as a bookseller in New York City. He learned about scientists studying the Redwoods from a New Yorker Magazine article he read on the train. He wondered if he could create a children's book telling the story of these amazing trees. *Redwoods* was the first book that he wrote and illustrated, and the book was named a Red Clover Book -- Vermont's picture book award. The illustrator treated the audience to drawing -- right in front of us!

In addition, Mr. Chin told the third through fifth graders that he researches his books extensively. First, he reads articles and books. Then he finds authoritative sources on the Internet. For example, he told the audience that he went to the Grand Canyon National Park website to learn more about the Grand Canyon. He said that he never uses information unless the author is identified, and the author's credentials related to the topic he is studying. Then he finds scientists and other experts to answer his questions. Lucky for him, his neighbor is a UVM professor and an expert on the Grand Canyon. He shared photos from his trip to the Grand Canyon and talked about his extensive revision process. He made 50 drafts for the Grand Canyon book. Again, Mr. Chin shared some illustration tips while drawing in front of us!

## **Burlington School District Community Conversations**

The Burlington School District and the community it supports have had some tumultuous times recently. Contract negotiations, the strike and other events have formed wounds that are in need of healing. CEDO's Community Justice Center and the City of Burlington invite you to listen and be heard in a Community Conversation. This conversation will be based on a foundation of mutual respect, civil discourse and our desire to strengthen our community. For questions, please contact Rachel Jolly, CJC Assistant Director at (802) 865-7185. Refreshments and language translation provided!

Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm  
ONE Community Center  
20 Allen Street, Burlington

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **PTO Meeting**

Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:45-7:30  
Dinner & Child Care Provided

#### **Community Conversations**

Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm  
ONE Community Center  
20 Allen Street, Burlington

#### **AfterSchool Program Event**

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00pm  
SA Cafeteria

#### **Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction**

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 - 11:30 am

#### **Family Style Lunch**

Friday, December 15

#### **Bicycle Bonanza**

Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8pm  
SA Cafeteria

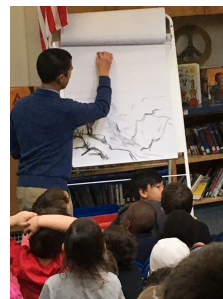
#### **Treehouse Committee**

Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8pm  
SA Community Room

#### **Holiday Vacation**

No school Dec 25-Jan 2

Besides all these presentations, Mr. Chin had lunch with a group of fifth-graders. These students will share what they learned from the author/illustrator during Wednesday Morning Meeting. Don't miss it!



## **Preschool Registration**



The Burlington School District Early Education Program will be accepting applications, beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup>, for our play-based preschool classrooms for the 2018-2019 school year. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

Morning and afternoon sessions are offered at each of our school district sites: JJ Flynn, Integrated Arts Academy, Ira Allen, and the Sustainability Academy.

A full day program is also offered at JJ Flynn and Ira Allen. Applications can be completed online by going to the BSD web page ([www.bsdrv.org](http://www.bsdrv.org)) and clicking on 'Students and Families' then 'School Registration'. All applications will be reviewed with notification of acceptance beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>. Spaces are limited.

Please contact the Early Ed. Office at 864-8463 if you have further questions

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