



PRINCIPAL'S NOTE:

Hello SA Community,

Wow! There are so many SA community events taking place in the month of October and into November. We hope you will join us for our first community lunch of the year, taking place on Wednesday, October 30. We would also like to extend an invitation to anyone who is able to help prepare our school gardens for winter during our Fall Garden Workday on Saturday, November 2. We hope to see you at one or both of these events!

As a reminder, in an effort to have an inclusive community for all, we will not celebrate Halloween during the school day at SA. Please leave all costumes, candy, and any Halloween-themed goodies at home.

Sustainability Academy Bees are staying quite busy learning about math, reading, writing, and the world around us. Please read through the updates below about what each grade level and specialists is currently focused on during instructional time. You'll also find strategies to support student learning at home. You are always welcome to give us a call (802-864-8480), send an email (noropeza@bsdvt.org), or stop by the main office. Thanks and hope to see you soon!

With gratitude,
Nina Oropeza
Principal

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- [Upcoming Community Events](#)
- [Nurse's Corner](#)
- [Grade Level & Specialist Updates](#)

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Lunch - October 30

Next Wednesday, October 30, SA is excited to host our first community lunch of the year! On this day, food will be served family-style instead of by our traditional buffet-style cafeteria lines. Community lunch is an opportunity for us to share food with one another and continue to build community. Families are welcome to join us, help out at the tables, enjoy conversation with the students and to eat. We have three lunches at SA:

- 3rd/4th grade: 11:00-11:25am
- K / 5th grade: 11:30-11:55am
- 1st/2nd grade: 12:00-12:25pm

Please RSVP to Monica Gragg in the front office if you plan to attend, by Tuesday, October 29.

Fall Garden Work Day - November 2

It's almost time for us to come together to clean, mend and build our beloved school grounds - before the winter snows set in! Community work days are a long and awesome tradition at SA, a time when we gather, pitch in to beautify the school grounds, and enjoy getting to know one another even better. Join us!

WHEN: Saturday, November 2

TIME: 9am-12:00pm. Come for any portion of that time that works for you.

BRING: Your favorite gardening gloves, some food or drink if you can, and good spirit! Contact Kestrel at kplump@bsdvt.org with any questions.

NURSE'S CORNER

With the weather changing, we are well on our way into hat wearing season and have seen a few cases of lice recently. Your school nurse is here as a resource to you and can provide information and help with any questions you might have about lice treatment or identification. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to regularly check their child's hair for lice (recommended: once per week). BSD school nurses do not routinely check students heads for lice or check entire classrooms. If we do find lice in your child's hair, we will notify you right away. Students are **not excluded**



from school it they have lice. Although, if lice are found it is very important to treat them as soon as possible. Lice treatments such as “Rid” or “Nix” are covered 100% by Medicaid. Call your doctor or come to the School Based Health Center for a prescription if needed. Your School Nurse has information about non-toxic treatment alternatives and prevention. Please give a call at (802) 865-5859 or e-mail jstarr@bsdvt.org with **any questions!**

GRADE LEVEL & SPECIALISTS UPDATES

Kindergarten

We are counting, working on number identification and writing numerals to 10. In literacy, we are learning the routines of readers and writers workshop. We have learned the following sounds: /s/, /a/, /t/, /i/, /p/, /n/, /h/, /e/, /c/. We have worked on letter formation for the letters that make these sounds. We are also learning how to blend sounds together to make words. We have enjoyed spending time in our Outdoor Classroom. We have been using our five senses to explore our natural world in our schoolyard during the fall season. We have participated in nature scavenger hunts and we have adopted a tree in our schoolyard. We continue to study change over time by recording our observations of the changing tree monthly. We have been immersed in studying the life cycles of butterflies, owls and pumpkins. At home you can help your child by:

1. Counting out loud and counting objects.
2. Read aloud to your child and enjoy talking about the story.

1st Grade

In math, one of our first grade goals is to know all the addition facts that make 10. We have been using a variety of strategies and games to strengthen our fluency with these facts. In reading, we have been learning good habits for solving hard words, which include: check the picture, look at all the parts, get a running start (go back and reread), do a double check (does the word you are saying match the picture and letter sounds), and try it 2 ways (make the short and long vowel sound). We are learning to be flexible with strategies when we come to a hard word and try, try, try again to solve it. In science, we wrapped up our

study of living things where we learned about the ladybug life cycle. We connected our science learning to our Education for Sustainability(EFS) time through place-based learning in our schoolyard, called Explore. During this time, students were “Active” playing ladybug, ladybug, aphid to build vocabulary, “Explorers” looking for ladybugs, aphids and other insects in the garden, “Creators” by becoming ladybugs and flying through the garden to eat aphids harming our plants, and “Helpers” by releasing our own ladybugs into the garden. Ways to help your child at home:

1. Practice Make 10 Addition Facts using Math Fingers or Counting On
2. Be a Bee Reader and prompt your child to use the good habits for solving hard words
3. Spend time outside

2nd Grade

In Math, the Second graders have been working on measurement using various tools like rulers, meter sticks, paper clips and cubes. Next week we will be starting a new unit on Place Value, Counting, and Comparison of Numbers to 1,000. In Reading we have been learning about Author’s craft and how Authors write. We’ve been taking what we have learned and applying it to our own stories. In order to integrate EFS into our day, we have been studying Living and Nonliving things. We have examined the Ladybug life cycle, played a Living, Nonliving relay game (during our weekly outdoor time called Quest) and created clay models of the Ladybug life cycle. The best way to support your second grader outside of school is to have them read to you nightly (Bee Reader books or any other books they are interested in). Spend time playing outside. Don’t forget to practice your measuring using nonstandard units of measurement (paper clips, pinkies, and their feet or hands)!

3rd & 4th Grade

The ¾ team is off and running. In math, our third graders are learning about multiplication and division. They are learning their facts to three and creating arrays and equal groups. In fourth grade, students are working with place value up to a million, rounding and learning algorithms for addition and subtraction. In literacy,

students in both grades have been studying characters, how readers read and grow their ideas about characters using evidence from the text to support their ideas. Students will be writing about how characters develop over time. We have finished our heritage poems - come see them in the hall. We are working on our weather and climate unit which leads into our extreme weather unit where we will be studying climate change and its effects on our world and community. Families should continue to read with their children for twenty minutes a night, get outside and play and encouraging them to share what clouds they see in the sky. Watching the weather each night on the news and discussing it would be a great activity to reinforce their learning.

5th Grade

The fifth graders have been learning so much! In math we've been focusing on the concept of place value. Students have been using the place value chart to multiply and divide by 10, using exponents to name place value units and to explain patterns, as well as naming and comparing decimal fractions in expanded, unit, and word forms. During reading our focus is on thinking while reading. Students are focusing on thinking about character actions and reactions, plot, and setting. They are learning to take short notes to jot down and show their thinking. As part of our EFS work the fifth graders are planning, preparing for, and participating in the farmers market. They went sailing at The Sailing Center and learned about the importance of water quality in Lake Champlain and the legend of Odzihozo. For parents looking for ways to support learning at home, finding a consistent and quiet time for your child to practice the Formative Loop practice sheets and to read for 20-30 minutes nightly will help greatly. This will help to build good habits and to practice setting and achieving goals.

Art

So many bright and colorful things have been happening during art class! All students painted dots which are hanging outside the community room on the "Dot Tree". First through fifth grade began the year making sketchbooks and decorating the covers. Kindergarteners and first graders have been building

their motor skills by exploring paint, crayons, and collage. Second graders looked at all the colors in an apple and made giant apple paintings. Third and fourth graders are learning to accept mistakes. They had a VERY challenging project in which they drew sunflowers with glue and then painted them using complementary (opposite) colors. Fifth graders learned about overlapping letters to show space and got to use "watercolor spray paint" to decorate their sketchbooks. Lastly, almost all students got to investigate pumpkins, squash, and gourds when they drew nature observations.

Library Center

Library classes in October have focused on [Vermont's Red Clover Award nominees for 2019-2020](#). Each year the Red Clover Committee, composed of librarians and classroom teachers, selects 10 favorite picture books in a variety of genres. Students are learning and practicing the strategies of questioning, predicting with evidence, visualizing, and comparing information in the illustrations and the text. Bee Readers in grades 1 and 2 are buzzing with all the reading they are doing nightly. 3rd, 4th, and 5th grader have also learned how to figure out whether a book engages them. They learned how to select a book in the library, read the first page, and then check in with "how they feel," whether they "can see the story," and finally, whether "they care?" These students know as readers they "should feel grabbed!" Finally, Grade 5 students are reading long during library as well as learning to write a thank you note to a library donor who contributed \$500 for books this fall.

Music

In music class at SA students are currently building their musical classroom community through a variety of games and activities that are also introducing the basics of our music curriculum. They are doing movement activities to learn about isolating body parts in dance, developing their own voice through improvisational singing games, and coordinating as a group with dances and passing games to the beat. Last but not least, fifth graders are getting ready to start playing ukuleles!

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ! OCTOBER 2019



**SUSTAINABILITY
ACADEMY**

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Education For Sustainability is highlighted in the music classroom with our focus on the importance of community and interdependence. Specifically, we are explicitly practicing being aware of each other (listening and watching) in a group of musicians, because our success making music depends on it. Ask at home for students to share songs and games they have been learning! They should all have something to teach to you!

Physical Education

In PE, we are currently developing the overhand throw. We are infusing our overhand throw into games of multiple targets such as pins and open space. We are also incorporating social equity through diversity in PE. We are making each other aware that all of us are different in our own skill levels and interest levels yet there is a place and a job for us all to be a part of a team and be successful in our games. Please encourage your student to maintain physical activity daily outside of PE class.