



PRINCIPAL'S NOTE:

Hello SA Community,

Happy snowy November! With the changing of the seasons there are several upcoming events at SA to welcome colder weather to our region, including the Winter Warm-Up and the PTO-Hosted Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction (more information about these events on pages 1-2 of this newsletter) we hope you'll join us.

Additionally, we have several resources available at SA to support families during the winter seasons. During Parent Teacher Conferences (Monday, 11/25 and Tuesday, 11/26) we welcome SA families to stop by the cafeteria to pick up food items to take home and enjoy during the break. There will be frozen turkeys, as well as many other food items to choose from. We also have several winter clothes, boots, hats, and gloves for those who might need them. Please get in touch with someone at school if your family could benefit from this support.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at Parent Teacher Conferences. Please note that families of students in grades 3-5 should plan on students attending the conference as participants. Please schedule your child's conference for a time when your child can attend with you. Conferences provide an important developmental opportunity for our 3rd-5th graders to contribute their own thoughts and goals as well as to hear what teachers share. Until then, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or ideas.

With gratitude,
Nina Oropeza
Principal

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UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

All-School Trip to Flynn Theater - 11/20

On Wednesday, November 20, all SA students and staff will visit the Flynn theater to see the Dance Theater of Harlem show! We are looking forward to this community event. Optional donation forms are also included in this week's Friday folder (11/15). If you have any questions, please reach out to Kristen Schwerin, SA Music Teacher (kschweri@bsdvt.org).

Parent Teacher Conferences 11/25-11/26

Scheduling for our November Parent Teacher Conferences has begun. Please use the following link to begin the scheduling process:

https://ptcfast.com/schools/Sustainability_Academy

Frequently asked questions can be found at:

<http://tinyurl.com/saptcsupport>. If needed, please call the school office (802) 864-8480 for assistance.

City & Lake Community Lunch - 12/2

Our next community lunch will be on Wednesday, 12/2. During community lunch, food is served family-style instead of in buffet-style cafeteria lines. Families are welcome to join us for lunch, help out at the tables, and enjoy conversation with students. City & Lake Burlington High School students will be joining for our Kindergarten and 5th grade lunch! 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

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Please RSVP to Monica Gragg (mgragg@bsdvt.org) in the front office if you plan to attend, by Friday, November 29.

Winter Warm Up - 12/4, starting at 8:10

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.

Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction - 12/7

Join us on Saturday, December 7th from 8:30-11:30 am for the 13th Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction. Come eat delicious pancakes, local cheese, local applesauce (made by our first graders!) with friends and neighbors. Our silent auction features an array of local art, services, and treasures you won't want to miss. All proceeds go directly to support the Sustainability Academy. \$6 Adults, \$4 Kids Age 3-13, \$15-20 Families; Kids 2 & under Free. Open to all.

Have something you can donate to the auction? (Gently used items, handmade items, food, knitting lessons, etc.) All donations should be given to Kristin Garcia or to the Front Office by December 2nd. Any questions? Contact Kristin at garciakc@gmail.com.

Interested in volunteering? Please consider signing up to help out with the silent auction and/or breakfast. We need volunteers for both Friday night to set up for the event and on Saturday. This event qualifies for City Market member worker hours! Volunteers Sign Up Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044faeaf2eaaf58-pancake>

Bike Bonanza - 12/14

The Annual Bike Bonanza will be held in the SA auditorium on Saturday Dec 14th from 10am- 12pm. The Bike Bonanza is an event put on by Old Spokes Home bike shop where students from income-eligible families can come and find the perfect bike for them. Details about registration coming soon. If you have

questions, please reach out to Tom Schoorlemmer at Old Spokes Home at toms@oldspokeshome.com

COACH'S CORNER

We are on the hunt for some amazing natural materials loose parts! What are loose parts, you ask? They are common items with open-ended uses. One of the things I love about working with young students is their ability to find innovative and unexpected ways to use materials. During my years of teaching outdoors, my favorite place was always in the forest because it fosters such imaginative and open-ended play. How many different things could the same stump become? One day it would be a boat, the next, a spaceship. Once, during a staff meeting at Shelburne Farms, we came up with a list of all the things we had seen children use a stick for (safely) over the years. It was quite a long list and we had to stop before we had recorded all of the ideas.

Do you have a collection of cool gourds? An interesting pile of sticks? Some stumps that you are willing to part with? Let us know! We might be interested in these items for our loose parts collection. Contact me, Kestrel, at kplump@bsdvt.org if you have something you would be willing to donate.

GRADE LEVEL & SPECIALISTS UPDATES

Kindergarten

We have just launched a unit looking at where to find books in our community. We have visited local Little Free Libraries and are walking to the Fletcher Free Library. We will write an opinion piece to let readers know their favorite place to get books. We will be looking for book donations to help us restock our Little Free Library here at school. Children have learned the proper formation and sounds for the letters s, a, t, i, p, n, c, k, e, h, r, m, d, g, o, u, and l. They have associated the letters to key words and/or gestures (e.g. s, snake, /s/). We have learned these sight words (l, a, see, my, like, is, to).



Ways to help your child at home:

1. Read to your child and talk with them about the story.
2. Continue to practice counting to 100.

1st Grade

In math, we are adding and subtracting to 10. We are learning to use the number bond model and simple math drawings to help us organize information and solve problems. In reading, we are learning ways to think and talk about what we are reading. One way to talk about a book is by retelling the beginning, middle, and end across three fingers. In science, we are conducting an experiment to go along with one of the big ideas of Sustainability: Change Over Time. We are observing and collecting data to see how an apple in the trash changes compared to an apple in the compost. We look forward to sharing our results.

Ways to help your child at home:

1. Count forwards and backwards by 1's beyond 100 and skip count by 2's, 5's, 10's
2. Be a Bee Reader and practice the 3 finger retell for the beginning, middle, and end
3. Spend time outside and observe seasonal changes over time in our natural world

2nd Grade

This month in math we started a new math unit called Place Value, Counting, and Comparison of Numbers to 1,000. We have been using base ten blocks to build numbers and to count using 1's, 10's and 100's to and from different numbers. In writing we are starting to revise our narratives we have been working on. We will be adding details, moving parts around and removing parts that don't make sense. In reading we have been working on building our fluency so that our reading sounds like the way we speak. We started a moon unit this month and are trying to discover the answer to: "Does the moon change shape over time?"

Ways that you

could help at home are to continue reading to your child at night and listen to them read their Bee Reader books, practice counting by 1's, 10's and 100's (124-356, 124, 224, 324, 334, 344, 354, 355, 356) and observing the moon each night and discussing what you are noticing.

3rd & 4th Grade

In third grade math we are working on a new unit on telling time, weight and rounding. Families can support their child's learning by using an analog clock, together, and putting times to daily events. In fourth grade math, we have just finished a unit on place value, rounding numbers, addition, and subtraction with numbers up to one million. We are now working on measurement and conversions using the metric system for length, weight, and volume. Families can support their child's learning by practicing addition, subtraction and multiplication

facts. Third and fourth graders are beginning their severe weather reports in science and writing classes. This is an exciting topic for students to learn about. Students will be ready to give their families tips on how to prepare for severe weather occurrences.

5th Grade

In math the fifth graders will be taking a final assessment on the work they've been doing with place value, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals. We're also continuing our exploration of Number Talks. During this short time students solve math problems in their heads in as many different ways as possible and then we share and discuss the strategies they used. In reading students are continuing to grow their thinking as readers and are starting to write "long" about some of their theories. As part of our continued work on learning to write LEAF paragraphs, students completed opinion paragraphs and essays about their visit to Shelburne Farms and completed an "on demand" LEAF paragraph. We can't wait to share these with you during conferences! As part of our EFS work the fifth grade market is on hiatus while students

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consider and propose ways to make the market more sustainable and accessible. We'll be writing a mission statement, and doing planning for our monthly winter market.

In addition to providing time for your child to read 20-30 minutes nightly, and time to practice basic multiplication facts you can also help your fifth graders learn the U.S. states.

Library Center

In library classes K-4 readers are learning about nonfiction in November. Two Red Clover books are narrative nonfiction - *Hawk Rising* by Maria Gianferrari and illustrated by Brian Floca and *Girl Running: Bobbi Gibb and the Boston Marathon* by Annette Bay Pimental and illustrated by Micha Archer. Students are learning that not all nonfiction have labels, Table of Contents, index, graphics, captions, and photos. They are learning that all nonfiction books are filled with facts. Did you know that Bobbi Gibb was the first woman to run the Boston Marathon, and that the race did not officially accept women runners until 1972? Your students do! Grade 5 readers are learning how to use our library search. Students will be searching for books on their Guided Reading level as well as books of interest.

Music

SA musicians in kindergarten through second grade are starting to play xylophones this November! Fifth graders have gotten familiar with their ukuleles and are putting together different chords and strumming patterns. As always, at all grade levels we are exploring creative movement and singing both individually and as a group. At home keep asking about songs and new musical skills your child is learning. They all have something to teach you!

Physical Education

As we approach November, we are beginning to learn about exercise. What is it? How do I know if it is an exercise? These are the questions that we are answering in the upcoming weeks in PE. In grades K-2

we are

exploring what our bodies should look like, feel like and sound like when we exercise. In grades 3-5, we will be defining exercise through the FITT principle and exploring what we can do to make sure we stay physically and mentally fit. All grades will also be measuring their exercise by using a pedometer. In grades 1-5, we are also beginning to learn about the FitnessGram and its purpose. We will be learning how to do the 4 different tests: Pushups (Upper Body Strength), Curlups (Core Strength), Sit and Reach (Flexibility), and the PACER (Cardiovascular Endurance). In K-3 grade, we are focusing on the procedures and technique so that we can use 4th and 5th grade scores for authentic, district data in order to evaluate and improve our Physical Education Curriculum. Please ask your student, "How do I know I am exercising?" Your child should be able to help you with that answer. And although we do many new exercise activities in PE, hopefully you can help your student find an activity that they like to do for exercise at home.