

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE:

Hello SA Community,

2020 is off to a busy start! There are several community events taking place over the next few weeks - we hope you will be able to join us for our Community Dinner on January 23, Annual Title 1 Meeting on February 3, and/or one of the upcoming Superintendent Search Community Forums. You can find more information about each of these events in this newsletter.

We are excited to welcome two new members of our community:

- **Kendre Guianane** joins us as 1st Grade Long-Term Substitute Teacher for Mrs. Seitz
- **Sonam Lhakang** joins us as SA Head Custodian

With gratitude,
Nina Oropeza
Principal

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UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

MLK Jr. Day 1/20 - Early Dismissal for Students

On Monday, January 20, students will be dismissed at 11:30am. Lunch will be provided. If you are looking for a family-friendly event on this afternoon, check out the ECHO Center, which is offering free admission.

From the ECHO Center:

Join us as we celebrate MLK's life and legacy. This

family-friendly event includes walk-up and scheduled activities throughout the day. This free admission event is a partnership with the City of Burlington's Community Economic Development Office and the Connect AmeriCorps State Program.

Program of social justice educational events from 10am to 5pm.

ECHO Leahy Science Center 1 College St, Burlington, 05401.

Superintendent Search Community Forums, 1/23 & 1/29

The Burlington School District Board of School Commissioners is pleased to announce that McPherson & Jacobson, LLC, Executive Recruitment and Development has been selected to assist the Board in the important task of selecting superintendent candidates for the board to interview. Beginning immediately, the consultants and board commissioners will be meeting with community members to gather input regarding the qualities of the District's next Superintendent. All meetings are open to any community stakeholders wishing to provide input:

January 23, 2020: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Integrated Arts Academy (Interpretation and Childcare Provided)

January 29, 2020: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Champlain Elementary School (Interpretation and Childcare Provided)

During the meeting, attendees can expect to answer a number of questions, including:

- What makes your community a good place to live?
- What makes this a good school district - for students and staff?
- What are the issues that a new superintendent needs to know about as they come into the district?
- What skills, qualities, and characteristics will the new superintendent need in order to be successful?

Community members with questions and suggestions can contact the Superintendent Search Committee at: superintendentsearch@bsdvt.org.

Community Dinner 1/23

The potluck style dinner will take place on Thursday, January 23 from 6-7:30. See more details in the Coach's Corner below.

PTO & Annual Title 1 Meeting, 2/3

During our February PTO meeting we will also have our annual Title 1 Meeting. All families are invited to join to discuss how Title 1 funds are currently used at SA, our Home-School Compact, and Burlington School District's Parent Involvement Policy. We will meet in the community room at 6:00pm. Food and childcare will be provided.

COACH'S CORNER

SA will host a Community Dinner next Thursday, January 23 from 6-7:30pm. Everyone in the SA community is invited! The event is also a cultural showcase potluck, though you are not required to bring a dish to attend the event. If you would like to share a dish from your culture, please fill out and return the green half page forms that went home in folders last Friday. Be sure to check the box at the bottom if you would like money to purchase ingredients to prepare your dish. If you lost the form or have any questions- please email me at kplump@bsdvt.org. Thank you to everyone who has already returned forms.

In addition to great food, we will also have entertainment. The second half of the evening will include performances from local musicians and dancers including the Creative Bhutanese Circle, hand drumming and our very own Mr. Cadoux. It promises to be a great event and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

-Kestrel Plump, EFS Coach

NURSE'S CORNER

When should my child stay home from school?

It can be hard for parents to know when to keep their children home from school. Everybody has busy schedules and we understand that mornings can be very hectic. If you aren't sure, the School Nurse can help you determine if it would be better for your child to come to school, stay home sick or possibly see their doctor. Here are a few guidelines:

Top 5 Reasons to Keep Your Child Home from School

- **Fever** - Your child should be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to school.
- **Vomiting** - In the case of illness, your child should be free from Vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Diarrhea** - In the case of illness, your child should be free from diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Cough** - If your child has a severe or persistent cough that is keeping them from sleeping at night or would significantly impact their classroom learning, please keep them home until improved.
- **Antibiotics** - If your child is taking antibiotics for a condition or illness that is contagious and could be spread to others, it is generally recommended that your child stay home from school for 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Other situations may apply, check with your child's doctor for their recommendation.

*****Please contact the Main Office at 864-8480, if you know your child will be absent*****

The most important way to stay healthy and prevent the spread of illness is to teach your child to wash their hands with soap and water frequently throughout the day and especially before eating.

*****Head Lice*****

We **do not exclude** children from school if they have head lice. Please send your children to school, but take the necessary steps to get rid of the lice. Ask the School



Nurse if you have any questions or need help. You can also refer to the SA Health Office webpage on the SA website for more information.

GRADE LEVEL & SPECIALISTS UPDATES

Kindergarten

Writing- We just finished a reading response project on *The Snowy Day*. We are working on our “Time of Day” project. We are using a technique called Picturing Writing. We use a progression of art, literature and writing mini-lessons. As children create their Time of Day books, they learn that as they turn the page, time passes (as indicated by the changing skies). This small unit also teaches setting, establishing mood, and using descriptive language.

Word Work- Children have learned the proper formation and sounds for y, x, qu, and sh. They have associated the letters to key words and/or gestures (e.g. qu, queen, /qu/).

Math- Students will explore the concept that number bonds can be used to add and subtract. They will also begin to create stories to match their number bonds.

Important vocabulary for the unit:

- * Addition (Put together)
- * Addition and subtraction sentences (equations)
- * Number Bond
- * Subtraction (Take away)
- * Part, Part, Whole (as it relates to a number bond)

1st Grade

In reading, we began a study of non-fiction. First we learned strategies to get smart about a topic. For example, study each page and chat about what you are learning. Now we are reviewing strategies to solve hard words and will be learning some new strategies that apply to non-fiction. For example, find keywords, say them the best you can and think about what they mean. In Math, we are wrapping up our introduction to place value by learning strategies to add and subtract numbers to 20. We have been learning more about the relationship between addition and subtraction and using strategies flexibly to solve a problem. That means one person may use an adding strategy to solve, while

another

uses a subtraction strategy but they get the same answer. Next we will be learning about measurement. In science, we are studying the moon. Through read alouds, observation, and experiments we are learning that the moon does not change shape even though it looks like it does. We are connecting our moon study to our Sustainability Explore time with moon themed activities.

Ways to help your child at home.

1. Read and discuss a non-fiction text. Share what you are learning about your topic.
2. Practice making 20 facts with teen numbers. Use your make 10 knowledge or count on.
3. Observe the moon night and day. Discuss what you see.

2nd Grade

In reading, second grade is learning all about nonfiction. We are learning different strategies to help us read through various types of texts and learn about specific topics. Students have chosen topics that they are interested in exploring and are learning to “talk the talk” and “walk the walk” in order to become experts. We are transitioning that knowledge into writing and are working on all-about pieces. Each student is taking what they are learning during reading and applying it to their writing pieces. For math, we just started a new unit. We are taking our understanding of place value and moving toward double digit addition and subtraction. Students will be learning a variety of strategies to help them understand how to add and subtract 2-digit by 2-digit numbers. In science we are learning all about the moon. Specifically focusing on the question: Does the moon change shape over time? This allows us to touch upon the moon phases as well as the topic of light and reflection. As always, the ways to help at home would be to continue with Bee Readers and having your child read every night. This month you can also take a look outside and observe the moon then talk about the differences that you may see from one night to the next. For math, continuing to talk about place value; how numbers represent various values in the ones, tens, and hundreds places would be a great way to help your child.

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ! - JANUARY 2020



**SUSTAINABILITY
ACADEMY**

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

3rd & 4th Grade

The third and fourth grade team is very excited to be studying the American Revolution. We will be studying the causes, important battles, as well as the social and political results of this major event in the history of this country. In third grade math students have started module four. In this unit we revisit multiplication and division using higher facts. Please make sure your child is practicing the multiplication facts at home. In fourth grade math, we are working on multiplication and division, using different models, starting with smaller numbers, working up to two-digit times two-digit and one digit times four-digit numbers. Please continue working with your student on their multiplication facts, as this helps them greatly in this module. As we are well into the winter months, please be sure that your student has all the necessary winter gear to stay warm and dry at recess. They all need to have a coat, hat, gloves or mittens, snow pants, and snow boots. If they don't have their pants or boots, they are not able to play in the snow, which limits their activity, so please be sure that they have all their gear each day. Please be aware that students may no longer bring in sleds or toys for recess.

5th Grade

In math the fifth graders are working on solving multi-digit multiplication using the area model and the standard algorithm. Knowing efficient strategies for multiplication facts is very important in this unit. In reading they are continuing their work with fiction and learning to grow their thinking and understanding. They are also reading nonfiction during writing time as they begin researching information about Vermont. During writing they are also reading nonfiction to learn and to become informed on a topic. They will be taking notes, organizing and planning for what will be feature articles. In Social Studies and Sustainability they are finalizing the design for the new badge system and are preparing for the winter farmers market. They are also continuing to work on their maps of the U.S. and will soon be learning about the effects of the Westward Movement.

We'll be taking a break from the Formative Loop homework and starting one short "have to" homework in math in order to strengthen computation skills. If you'd like to help your child at home please encourage them to complete their math homework, read nightly for 30 minutes, and help them learn the 50 states in the U.S. through books, apps, maps, and puzzles.

Library Center

In January, 5th graders are learning how to hone their search skills using our library catalog. Students are learning how to search by topic, author, and title. Fifth-graders are also learning how to search for books on their independent guided reading level.

Students in our Grade 2 and Grade 3-4 classes are learning how to infer the author's purpose and message based on evidence in the text of Red Clover books we are reading in class.

In kindergarten and first grades, students are learning the elements of fiction and nonfiction. These students are learning about setting, characters, problems and resolutions.

Please remind your children to keep their library books in their backpacks. By keeping library books in backpacks, students keep their books safe and ensure that books are returned to the library on time. Mrs. Hayes will continue to email home information about what books your children have overdue from the library.

-Sharon Hayes, School Librarian

Music

January is a special month in music class. We study music and the important role it played in the Civil Rights movement, as well as how we can use music to fight for justice today. To celebrate and display this learning, we have an annual performance with IAA at a community event, and we hope you can join us!

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ! - JANUARY 2020



Monday is MLK Day! To celebrate Martin Luther King Jr., some students will be singing with IAA at the ECHO center. This opportunity is open to SA students in grades two through five.

Your child must be accompanied by an adult to this event, unless you have spoken with Miss Schwerin and planned otherwise. We are gathering at noon at ECHO and you can travel there however you want. A small group, including Miss Schwerin, will be meeting in the community room right after dismissal to ride the free shuttle together from SA to ECHO. The shuttle will continue running round trip until 4pm that day. ECHO is open and free to the public all day, and there will be many performances, including but not limited to us singing with IAA students. We hope to see you there!

Physical Education

Over the past few weeks, SA students have been measuring their exercise by using pedometers. They have been trying to answer the following questions, "Are pedometers a good measurement of exercise?" and, "Which activities give us the most exercise?" We have participated in many random activities and have measured the level of exercise over the past few weeks with our pedometers. Please help your students answer these questions. And a new question for them might be, "How else can we measure our exercise?" We also are in the middle of our district-wide FitnessGram testing for K-5 students. District PE teachers have decided to use the scores of 4th and 5th grade students as a tool to help us analyze where we can make improvements to our program. 4th and 5th grade reports will be sent home with the 2nd trimester report cards. These are fitness reports for each student and will not be used as an assessment tool or grade for PE. We will also complete the FitnessGram again in the spring as a requirement for 4th graders in the state of Vermont. Stay Active!

-Mr. Bissonnette, Physical Education Teacher