



PRINCIPAL'S NOTE:

Hello SA Community,

Can you believe that our school year is already two-thirds of the way complete? Trimester 2 ends on Friday, February 14. We will send home report cards in Friday folders on February 21.

The Lost & Found is currently quite full, and we will soon need to donate unclaimed items in order to make more space. Please check the Lost & Found, located outside the nurse's office, to see if any of the items belong to your family.

Please read through the several updates below - there are many exciting events happening in our SA community. I'd also like to invite all families to complete the [BSD Climate Survey](#) by Friday, February 28, so that we have family voices represented in shaping the future of school climate at SA. Hope to see you all soon - stay warm!

With gratitude,
Nina Oropeza
Principal

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Spelling Bee Team - Sign up by 2/14

The 4th and 5th grade spelling team will be starting soon! Any 4th or 5th grader who is interested in the

spelling team can sign up outside of room 203, or talk to Ms. Julia by February 14th (Valentines days!)

SA Variety Show 2/15

Come one, come all to The First Annual SA Variety Show! This event will take place on Saturday, 2/15 from 3-5pm and will feature singing, dancing, jokes, skits, poetry, instruments, magic tricks, gymnastics, storytelling, and more! Join us for an afternoon of fun and community building!

BSD School Climate Survey 2/28

The District is currently undergoing a comprehensive review of the implementation of its policies and procedures regarding harassment, hazing, and bullying. As part of this review, we want to ensure that our school community has input and that all voices are heard.

To that end, we are inviting you to complete [a climate survey](#) geared towards addressing what the District does well when it comes to addressing harassment, hazing, and bullying, and what areas need improvement. All surveys are completely confidential. The District has retained the Mid-Atlantic Equity Center, who will be collecting all data from the climate survey and analyzing the results.

Please complete your survey by February 28, 2020. You can access the survey by clicking [here](#) or typing: bit.ly/SAsurveyparents in your device's search bar. Your voice is greatly appreciated and valued.

February Break 2/24-3/3

There is no school from Monday, February 24 - Tuesday, March 3 for February break.

Superintendent Search Community Forum - 3/5

Save the date - on Thursday, March 5, the candidates for Burlington School District's next superintendent will

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ! - FEBRUARY 2020



**SUSTAINABILITY
ACADEMY**

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

be introduced to the community. The location and time of this event will be announced soon.

PTO Meeting 3/9

SA's March PTO meeting is scheduled for 6-7:30pm on Monday, March 9. Join us to meet other SA families and stay up-to-date on what's going on at SA and how you can be involved. We meet in the Community Room at SA. Food and childcare is provided.

Beyond Black History Month 3/13

Recognizing that black history does not end when March begins, BSD's District Equity, and Access Leadership Team (DEALT) is pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Beyond Black History Month taking place on Friday, March 13th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at BHS. We recognize that the heritage and contributions of Black Americans are far too often excluded from the white, Euro-centric versions of history.

The entire District community is invited to this event, which is designed to be a celebration that elevates student work. The goals are to celebrate Black History as American History, to honor the past, confront the present, and work towards shaping a future that actively deconstructs racism.

COACH'S CORNER

Collaboratively written with 5th graders Liam & Jude

The past few weeks, the farmer's market has been hibernating, but now we are starting it back up again. We are introducing new foods that we haven't sold before. We have been running some taste tests and think the food is phenomenal. Our next Farmer's Market will be on **Thursday Feb 20th, 2:50- 3:15 pm** and we will be selling Pani Puri - a snack that is popular in Nepal. We will continue to have our market about once a month through the rest of the winter. Coming soon - maple hot chocolate!

Since our last market at the end of October, we have been working on various components of our business

including our mission statement. We use this mission to help us make decisions for how we run our market.

Mission

- Our farmers market donates a portion of our profits to our community.
- We use local ingredients and source from our garden whenever possible.
- Our Farmer's Market is affordable.
- We provide products that are healthy for the Environment, Economy and SA.

We hope to see you at our next farmers market!

-Kestrel Plump, EFS Coach

NURSE'S CORNER

Hand washing with soap and water is an easy and effective way to prevent the spread of germs and keep people healthy. It's the best way to avoid getting sick and spreading illness to others. According to the CDC, hand washing can reduce the number of people who get sick with diarrheal illness by 31% and can reduce respiratory illnesses like the cold and flu by 21%. Please remember to wash your hands!

GRADE LEVEL & SPECIALISTS UPDATES

Kindergarten

We have completed our Time of Day books. They are beautiful and will be up in the hall for you to look at soon. We will begin our Vermont animal research writing unit next.

We continue to practice using the number bond model so that students begin to understand the relationship between parts and wholes before moving into formal work with addition and subtraction in the rest of the module.

During the month of February we will begin our animals in winter study. We will spend time tracking and learning how animals survive in winter.

Ways to Help at Home:



1. Please continue to count with your child at home.
2. Have your child read their Bee Reader book to you.

1st Grade

In reading, we continued our study of non-fiction during Reader's Workshop. Along with Reader's Workshop, students are in daily small reading groups to work on skills to help them grow as readers. During this time students read and talk about a book at their level, practice ways to read hard words, and write about their reading.

In math, students are in a study of measurement. They've been learning the rules of measurement (line up endpoints, no gaps or overlaps, use the same units, and name your tool) and a variety of measuring tools (centimeter cubes, rulers, paperclips, and popsicle sticks) to measure and compare objects. In science, we continue to study the moon. We learned that the moon does not change shape, but has phases that change based on how much light from the sun is being reflected. In addition to learning about the moon, we had the opportunity to connect our study of non-fiction to our Sustainability Explore time by working with our community partners at Shelburne Farms to learn more about farm animals. So far, we have enjoyed meeting and learning about Willow, an angora rabbit.

Ways to help at home:

1. Be a Bee Reader-continue to read and return just right books.
2. Measure and compare objects at home.
3. Observe animals around you and talk about what you can learn from your observation

2nd Grade

In reading we just finished our nonfiction Becoming Experts unit where students read to learn the lingo of their topics and practiced growing their knowledge across all different nonfiction texts! Each student chose a topic that they wanted to become an expert on and have been reading to gather facts for their writing. We

kept our nonfiction Becoming Experts theme in Writing as well. With the facts that students have gathered, they have been working on writing all about projects. Our main focus is on paragraph structure and learning that a paragraph has a topic sentence, three detail sentences, and a closing.

In math we introduced students to double digit addition and subtraction, both with and without regrouping. We have been working on learning different strategies to help us solve these problems. Students are exposed to every strategy and then encouraged to choose the one that they feel most comfortable with in order to solve the problem.

In science, we continue to study the moon. We learned that the moon does not change shape, but has phases that change based on how much light from the sun is being reflected.

Ways to help at home:

1. Continue to read Bee Readers every night.
2. Create math problems together to solve.

3rd & 4th Grade

In readers' workshop, all of our students have been reading historical texts and historical fiction. These reading materials have familiarized students with the events that led up to The American Revolution, the major battles of the Revolution, and the results of the colonist victory. Students have developed their skills in cross-text synthesis, close reading, and evaluating multiple points of view. They studied all parts of a text to extract the main ideas.

Students in third grade math have returned to the study of multiplication and division. We are focusing on multiplication and division within 100. All students are making progress in learning their multiplication facts and should be studying these regularly at home. This unit introduces the higher factors in multiplication and division as well as strategies for computing solutions to higher facts. Fluency in multiplication and division is the goal as students learning increasingly sophisticated strategies and patterns.

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ! - FEBRUARY 2020



**SUSTAINABILITY
ACADEMY**

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

In fourth grade math, we have been working on multiplication and division of smaller numbers, working up to larger numbers. We have used a few different strategies to help students understand the concepts, as well as how to show their math thinking. This is a time when it is extremely important for students to be fluent with their multiplication facts up to 10s and be able to use these facts quickly and efficiently. Working at home on their multiplication facts can go a long way to helping your student with this work.

All of our students took the SBAC math practice test, using the strategies and skills they have learned in class. They worked so incredibly hard and to do their very best! Well done!

In social studies, students are debating The American Revolution from the differing points of view of colonists and loyalists. Students are studying the impact European culture had on both the geographic area of Vermont and on Abenaki culture and heritage. Students studied what colonial life was like in Vermont through both the study of historical fiction set in Vermont and primary documents.

5th Grade

In math the fifth graders are continuing to work on solving multi-digit multiplication using the area model and the standard algorithm. They are also jumping into long division with whole numbers and decimals. In reading they are continuing their work with fiction and learning to grow their thinking and understanding through discussion and writing. During writing workshop they are also reading nonfiction to learn and to become informed on the great state of Vermont. They are in the process of taking notes in order to write paragraphs about a variety of subtopics related to Vermont. Students will have to have at least one paragraph on sustainability practices or the Abenaki. In Social Studies and Sustainability they are preparing for the winter farmers market. Look for announcements soon. We are very excited to be reconnecting with Ms. Chaska and her Couching Lion Maple Syrup farm as well as doing some cooking that is representative of many of the cultures at SA. They are

also continuing to work on U.S. geography and history. If you'd like to help your child at home please encourage them to complete their math homework and to read nightly for 30 minutes.

Library Center

Kindergartners have started Bee reading. Parents: Please have students keep their Bee reader books in their Bee reader envelopes in their backpacks when they are not reading them. Taking this responsibility ensures that library books return to the library and keeps books safe.

This month our K-4 readers will vote on their favorite Red Clover book from the 10-book selection for 2020. This [Vermont picture book award](#) started in 1997. K-1 students have been practicing naming facts from nonfiction selections and characters, setting, problem and resolution for fiction selections. Grade 2-4 students have been practicing making inferences as they read, determining genre, author's purpose and author's message.

This month Grade 5 students will be practicing their research skills in preparation for the SBAC as well as learning how to navigate our [new library databases](#). Using vetted information from databases is best practice for young researchers and prepares SA scholars for middle school, high school, and college. These databases may be accessed at school and at home.

I've started sending electronic overdues home to guardian emails. Encourage your students to keep library books in backpacks when not reading them. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and/or concerns. Sharon Hayes, SA school librarian

Physical Education

This month we are beginning our basketball unit. Some skills that we are working on are passing, dribbling and shooting. Beyond these basic skills of basketball, the 3rd through 5th grades are will be working on understanding the difference between a man to man defense and zone defense. By combining

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ! - FEBRUARY 2020



these basic skills with these concepts we can further develop our basketball skills and be able to carry similar defensive concepts to other team sport activities such as soccer, floor hockey, touch rugby, and handball.

Please continue to stay active with your child at home.

Sincerely, Mr. Bissonnette