



SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ - 05.01.20

Dear SA Families,

Welcome, May! I hope you and your families are well. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or another member of the SA team if you need support. As a reminder, families can now access weekly learning materials through the Continuity of Learning Resources page (linked [here](#)) through the SA Website. Resources are housed in a google drive folder, organized by grade level and by week. The folder also includes an overview document, [SA Remote Learning Information](#), which is a great place for families to begin. Materials for each week will be posted by Mondays at 9am. Families who requested paper packets should receive them in the mail on Fridays or over the weekend. As we continue to figure out remote learning together, I want to take a moment to clarify some commonly asked questions we've received from families over the past week.

There are no links to join class meetings or lunch bunches in the online materials linked through the school website. Where can we find these, and why can't you put them online to make it easier?

We understand how challenging it is to keep all of the various pieces of information related to remote learning organized. Unfortunately, we are unable to post direct links to join classroom meetings to our website because we want to protect the privacy of student meetings. Classroom teachers are sharing all links directly through Seesaw (grades K-2) and Google Classroom (grades 3-5). Many teachers are also sharing a version of the weekly learning plan that includes live links directly with families through email or learning platforms. If this is a resource you would like to receive, please reach out to your child's teacher.

My family has a Chromebook for our 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader. Can our K, 1st, or 2nd grader use it as well?

Yes! Families are encouraged to share chromebooks across K-5 students in the household. We have intentionally structured our online learning times so that grade level meetings do not conflict with each other. For example, Kindergarten meetings do not take place at the same time as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade meetings. Please remember that all BSD Chromebooks have GoGuardian software installed to monitor all web activity, and that students should only use chromebooks during school hours and for school activities. You can read more information [here](#).

We are having trouble logging on to the Chromebook or other platform. Who can help us?

If you are having trouble getting connected, please reach out to your child's teacher. He or she can help trouble-shoot and/or connect you to a member of the Burlington School District Tech Team.

How does attendance work right now?

Our priority right now is to make sure that our students and families are safe and engaging in as much learning as they are able. SA Staff are documenting which students are attending school virtually as well as other forms of communication with families. If we have not heard from a parent/guardian or student for one week (Monday-Friday), that student is considered absent for the week, and we will make increased attempts to get in touch with your family.

How can we stay connected as an SA Community during physical school closures?

There are several ways to stay connected as a community, even though we are not physically together. In addition to joining weekly learning activities and lunch bunches, families are encouraged to watch and participate in daily



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morning announcements and Wednesday Morning Meeting. If your family has a device that can record video, and is interested in doing the morning announcements or sharing during Wednesday Morning Meeting, please email Kestrel (kplump@bsdvt.org). Families are also welcome to join the PTO meeting on Monday, 5/4 (see event information in calendar below). Lastly, if you have an additional idea for connection during this time, reach out and let us know!

Please continue to send feedback and suggestions along - we are always looking for ways to improve and better serve our community. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly (noropeza@bsdvt.org).

With gratitude,

Nina Oropeza
Principal, Sustainability Academy
802.343.6607

 [@sustainabilityacademybsd](https://www.instagram.com/sustainabilityacademybsd)

 [@ninaOropeza](https://twitter.com/ninaOropeza)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing Events:

- **May 4-8 is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week!**
- **Free meals for all kids - Monday-Friday, 10:30-11:30am next to the SA playground.** Additional food sites and information here: <https://www.burlingtonschoolfoodproject.org/menus/>
- **SA Morning Announcements Monday-Friday @ 8:30am** on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

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| <p>Monday, 5/4</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classroom Community Meetings, K-5 <i>30 minute classroom meetings take place on Monday mornings, from 9:00-11:30am. If you need the link, please visit Seesaw (K-2), Google Classroom (3-5), or reach out to your child's classroom teacher.</i> ● K Lunch bunch with Mr. David (School Psychologist), 12:00pm <i>Kindergartners, bring your lunch (optional) and come hang out with Mr. David, SA teachers, and your friends! If you need the link, please reach out to David (dfitzpat@bsdvt.org).</i> ● May PTO Meeting, 6:00-7:30pm Join Hangouts Meet: https://meet.google.com/emu-nqok-prt Join by phone +1 224-458-3352 PIN: 459 267 439# Agenda |
| <p>Tuesday, 5/5</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Math Challenge #5 Submissions Due (Optional) ● 1st Grade Lunch bunch with Ms. Oropeza (Principal), 12:00pm <i>1st graders, bring your lunch (optional) and come hang out with Ms. Oropeza, SA teachers, and your friends! If you need the link, please reach out to Nina (noropeza@bsdvt.org).</i> |



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| <p>Wednesday , 5/6</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wednesday Morning Meeting, 8:30 am <i>We hope many SA families will be able to join us on Wednesday at 8:30am. You can watch Wednesday Morning Meeting on Instagram and Facebook. We are always looking for student and family contributions for our nature notes or morning announcements. If your family has an idea for a Wednesday Morning Meeting segment, please let us know!</i> ● 2nd Grade Lunch bunch with Ms. Dodd (School Counselor), 12:00pm <i>2nd graders, bring your lunch (optional) and come hang out with Ms. Dodd, SA teachers, and your friends! If you need the link, please reach out to Susan (sdodd@bsdvt.org).</i> |
| <p>Thursday, 5/7</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3rd/4th Grade Lunch bunch with Nurse Justina and Ms. Lizzie (School-Based Clinician), 12:00pm <i>3rd and 4th graders, bring your lunch (optional) and come hang out with Nurse Justina, Ms. Lizzie, SA teachers, and your friends! If you need the link, please reach out to Justina (jstarr@bsdvt.org).</i> |
| <p>Friday, 5/8</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5th Grade Lunch bunch with Ms. Kestrel (EFS Coach), 12:00pm <i>5th graders, bring your lunch (optional) and come hang out with Ms. Kestrel, SA teachers, and your friends! If you need the link, email Kestrel (kplump@bsdvt.org).</i> ● Next Family Newsletter will be emailed |

UPDATES, REMINDERS, & TO-DO'S

Free Toys for Kids (New)

As part of Burlington School District's (BSD) effort to provide for essential needs during the coronavirus pandemic, the Burlington School Food Project serves about 1,600 meals a day to children at 11 different food pickup sites throughout the city. Now, thanks to the generosity of WowToyz in Vergennes and a strong partnership with Burlington's King Street Center, those sites are also being utilized to distribute free toys for children. You can read more and find the weekly schedule of where toys will be distributed [here](#).

We Miss you, SA Students & Families!

In case you missed it last week, check out this awesome video, made by Mrs. Hayes, from our staff to our community! We love you & miss you!

We Love SA :
And We Miss You!



Free Books for Kids - Fletcher Free Library & Burlington School District Partnership

Extra, extra, read all about it! Burlington School District and Fletcher Free Library have teamed up to offer free books to children during the coronavirus pandemic. Books can be picked up by parents at BSD food pick-up sites around Burlington. The books appeal to a variety of ages of students and are being provided free by Fletcher Free library. The books will be available at SA on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:30am. You can find more information [here](#).

Call for Wednesday Morning Meeting & Morning Announcements Contributions

SA families, we need you! **We'd like to highlight more student and family voices during Wednesday Morning Meetings and daily morning announcements.** We're open to a variety of contributions - here are some ideas to get the brain juices flowing:

- Have you been observing as spring arrives in Vermont, and do you have a nature note you'd like to share?
- Do you have an idea for a math challenge you'd like to share?
- Do you have a joke to get us all laughing on a Wednesday morning?
- Is there a topic you've been learning about, or a project you've been working on that you want to teach other SA students about?
- Do you have a mindfulness practice that you think others might benefit from?

If your family has something to share, please email Kestrel (kplump@bsdvt.org) with your idea for a contribution. We want to see you (yes, you!) in Wednesday Morning Meeting!

Burlington School District Equity Report

Burlington School District's (BSD) 2018-2019 report Equity and Inclusion Data Report has a new look and a new vision. This year's report is being presented in a new format with the goals of reaching a wider audience, highlighting a smaller number of data points with the most relevance (in both bright spots and areas in need of improvement), and setting baseline data. You can access the report [here](#) or through the [BSD Annual Report and Data](#) page.

District Plan for Continuity of Learning

The Vermont Agency of Education has approved Burlington School District's plan for remote learning. If you would like to read the plan, you can access it [here](#).

Coaches Corner

As you may remember from a previous newsletter, the 2nd and 5th Graders had an opportunity to work on the Creative ReUse* project with two local teaching artists at the beginning of March. Renee Greenlee and Alissa Faber collaborated with organizations and schools in the Old North End to build a community mural using “wishful recycling” items. While much in the world has changed since that time, Renee recently emailed me to say the project is still going! The scope of it has actually expanded so more people can be involved. As they say on their website, “Creativity is a resource for coping with stress and aids in our individual and community resilience. Through community interaction and feedback, we will identify ways to improve our recycling habits while engaging with our community in productive activities during this time of uncertainty.”

Check out [this link](#) for some pictures of students working on the project and instructions on how to create your own wishful recycling project and submit it as part of the larger project. They upload new challenges weekly. Please let me know if you submit any artwork!

*Creative ReUse is funded by a Thriving Communities Project grant from the Community Engagement Lab with support from The Pollination Project and the ONE Good Deed Fund.

-Kestrel Plump, Education for Sustainability Coach

Counselor Corner

Wow! I’ve felt a lot of big feelings lately, and I’ll bet many of you have, too.

When things and experiences do not go as we had hoped or expected it can be hard, and our feelings may become BIG. Remember, there are things that we can do to help ourselves manage our feelings. These are called coping skills. If you go to my school counseling website at <https://saschoolcounseling.weebly.com/the-7-cs.html> you will find some pictures of coping skills for you to practice when those big feelings start to come up. For example, you can practice your favorite breath (belly breathing, figure eight, star breath, rollercoaster breath etc), or find another example you can try from the attached pages. Which works best for you? One idea is to read a book. I have just added a whole page on my website that links you to some great books that are read to you online. You will also find some yoga and mindfulness/relaxation videos just for kids on the “Fun Activities” section of my webpage. Please feel free to contact me to let me know how things are going for you and your family! Have a great weekend!

-Susan Dodd, School Counselor

Nurse Corner

One of the definitions of resilience is “the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma or significant sources of stress.” When I think of our wonderful SA Community, physically located right here in the heart of the Old North End, resilience is one of the words that comes to mind. We are creative, we care for one another, we are resilient and together we are stronger. One of the things that helps bring peace and balance to my life is gardening, so I’m especially happy to share that **High Mowing Seeds and NOFA-VT are joining forces to offer Free Seeds** to people in Vermont who are food insecure, have lost a job, or who want to contribute by helping to feed neighbors and people in the community. **Here is a link to order your free seeds today.** <https://nofavt.org/blog/create-resilience-garden>

-Justina Starr, School Nurse



“Asking for help is a sign of strength and resourcefulness”

Additional Community Resources:

Has your family lost pay, have you been laid off or have you had your hours reduced?

You may now be eligible for nutrition programs that are designed to help your family and our local economy quickly in unexpected and emergency situations like this one. If you’ve never used any of these food resources before, please know they are there for you too.

Feeding Chittenden - located at 228 North Winooski Ave is the primary food shelf for the Burlington area and dedicated to serving our community in times of need. Currently they are open for food distribution M-W-F from 9-4. Breakfast is served in to-go containers from 6:30am - 8:30am Mon - Fri. See their excellent Facebook page for updates and most current schedule.

WIC: WIC gives you access to healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, and breastfeeding support. If you’re pregnant, a caregiver, or a parent with a child under five, WIC is right for you! To find out more and apply visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/family/wic> or text ‘VTWIC’ to **855-1**

3SquaresVT: Has your household lost pay? Have your childcare expenses increased? 3SquaresVT is here for you and your family to help put food on the table! You could be eligible to receive a 3SquareVT benefit or increase the benefit you already receive. To get help applying visit www.vtfoodbank.org/nurture-people/3squaresvt, call **855-855-6181** or text **VFBSNAP** to **85511**. You can also visit <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/3SquaresVT>

Vermont 211 - Resource assistance [Vermont 2-1-1 - Find Resources](#)

CVOEO - cvoeo.org/covid19-ca-faq

City of Burlington Resource and Recovery Website - [Resource and Recovery Center \(RRC\)](#)

First Call - Mental health services - [First Call For Chittenden County](#)

Steps to End Domestic Violence - [Steps to End Domestic Violence](#)

Join Urban Ministry Project (JUMP) - www.jumpvt.org

Skinny Pancake - <https://skinnypancake.com/shiftmeals/>

O.N.E. Good Deed Fund - <https://onegooddeedfund.org/covid-19-relief/>