



## SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ - 09.18.20

Dear SA Families,

I hope you had a great week. Students and staff are getting back into the routines of being in school while focusing on building strong classroom communities. This week I saw great work happening all over school grounds - in classrooms and in outdoor learning spaces. A few important updates this week:

- **Wednesday, September 23 Teacher Professional Learning Day** - Next Wednesday (9/23) is a district day of professional learning for teachers and staff. As a result, we will begin office hours for students and families and other virtual learning activities the week of 9/30 for K-5 hybrid students across the district. (Note: some K-2 classes will begin virtual activities the following week - see device distribution update below.)
- **Device Distribution Update** - Students began using devices in classrooms on Thursday and Friday of this week. Across the district, we've adjusted our timeline for device distribution based on student need.
  - **Chromebooks for students in grades 3-5** will be sent home on Thursday (9/24) for A Day Students and Friday (9/25) for B Day students.
  - **iPads for students in grades K-2** will be sent home no later than Thursday (10/1) for A Day Students and Friday (10/2) for B Day Students. Our youngest learners (K-2) need some additional time to learn how to safely use iPads as learning tools.
- **Meal Box Distribution** - The Burlington School Food Project will be providing drive-thru/walk up meal box distribution **every Wednesday and Friday**, beginning September 16th. All families are welcome to pick up food boxes. Pick up takes place every Wednesday and Friday at the following times and locations:
  - North Avenue Alliance Church: 3:00-4:30
  - Sustainability Academy: 3:00-4:30
  - Dealer.com parking lot: 3:00-4:30
  - B&G Club/Roosevelt Park: 5:00-6:00
- **Superintendent Advisory Group Opportunity** - Superintendent Tom Flanagan is looking for families to join superintendent advisory groups. The goal is to have representation from families that represent all of our school district. More information about each group and the quick application process can be found [here](#) (apply by 9/25).

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your child's teachers with questions.

With gratitude,

Nina Oropeza  
**Principal, Sustainability Academy**

 [@sustainabilityacademybsd](#)

 [@ninaOropeza](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Save the Date:

- **Every Wednesday and Friday** - Meal box distribution - drive-up or walk-up. At SA, distribution will take place from 3:00-4:30pm.
- **September 23** - Early Release Day for Teacher Professional Learning
- **September 25** - Deadline to apply for [Superintendent Advisory Group](#)
- **September 30, 2-3pm** - Feed Everyone Task Force email Kestrel ([kplump@bsdvt.org](mailto:kplump@bsdvt.org)) for more information
- **October 5, 6-7:30pm** - October PTO Meeting
- **October 12** - No school, Indigenous Peoples Day
- **October 12-18** - Annual [SA Harvest Run](#) sponsored by SA PTO
- **November 2, 6-7:30pm** - November PTO Meeting
- **November 10** - Picture Day for B Day Students (more information coming soon)
- **November 12** - Picture Day for A Day Students (more information coming soon)

## UPDATES & REMINDERS

### Burlington School Food Project Meal Distribution (New!)

The Burlington School Food Project will be providing drive-thru/walk up meal box distribution **every Wednesday and Friday**, beginning September 16th at the following times and locations:

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The boxes that will contain some ready to eat items and some bulk items. **All families are welcome** with no eligibility requirements.

### Superintendent Advisory Group Opportunity (New!)

Superintendent Tom Flanagan is looking for families, students and teachers to join superintendent advisory groups. Read more from Tom: *"As part of my 100 day entry plan around engagement, I am forming three advisory groups with whom I wish to meet monthly to give feedback to me and the district around what is happening around the district and what is being planned. I want to engage families, students and staff as true partners in the educational process, to make sure that the needs of a broad range of people are included as decisions are made in the district. All of you play an important and integral role in promoting the social, emotional and academic success of all students, and I want to hear from you."* The goal is to have representation from families, students and teachers that represent all of our school district. Therefore, each group will have at least 12 members, including at least one representative from each of the schools. If needed, we may add additional members to ensure that the needs of specific groups of students are represented, such as those who are receiving special education or EL services, as well as diversity in terms of race, class/socio-economic background, and sexual and gender identity. More information about each group and the quick application process can be found [here](#).

### Free Programs in the Parks (New!)

September 14 through October 16 - Drop-in fun! No Registration Required! We will have a check-in station and do basic health screening. Masks must be worn by participants. For more information, including locations and times, click [here](#).

### Free Outdoor Remote Day Activities - Hosted by SA PTO (Updated!)

[Free Outdoor Remote Day Activities - Hosted by SA PTO](#)

Join us for a series of free, outdoor activities available to all SA students/families on remote learning days. Activities are organized, hosted and made possible with support from the PTO, and are led by parents and/or community partners. SA staff will not be present for these events. Masks, temperature checks and hand-washing are required at each session. Contact information will be collected for contact tracing purposes. Activities will be canceled in the case of rain or inclement weather. Please email Allegra Williams at [Allegra442@gmail.com](mailto:Allegra442@gmail.com) with any questions or ideas for future activities. We hope to see you at some of the events this month! See the full list of events [here](#).

## Powerschool Health Screening

Thank you to the many SA families who completed the health screening in advance of arriving to school this week. **As a reminder, please complete the health screening before 7:30am, if possible** - Before students leave home each day, all families should complete an online screening form through their [PowerSchool account](#). The form takes less than 30 seconds to complete per child. Step-by-step instructions [can be seen here](#) and a tutorial video is available on the [District YouTube page](#). Directions are available in multiple languages for families who speak a language other than English.

## Annual Student Update - Please Complete ASAP

Families, it's time for you to complete the online Annual Student Information Update (now listed as Forms in Powerschool) for your student(s). The Annual Student Update asks you to update critical information, such as emergency contact information, medical information, etc. *The update must be completed for all students, even those using the "Full Remote" option this fall.* Please [login to your PowerSchool account to complete this update as soon as possible](#). Step by step instructions can be found below. The process takes about 10 minutes per student. **If you already have an account in Powerschool, sign in to your Powerschool account. After you have signed in:**

1. Look for your student's name as shown on the bar in the upper left-hand corner.
2. Click on the student's name. (If you don't see your student's name, see below.)
3. Next click the Annual Update Form and then start with the form called "A. General Student Information" and complete the information. It will take you through each form.
4. Once you finish with this student, move on to the next student by clicking on their name on the bar in the upper left-hand corner. All students must be updated one at a time.
5. Done!

## Reopening BSD Updates

Check this [site](#) for ongoing updates on Reopening BSD.

## Coaches Corner (Updated Each Week!)

The Feed Everyone Task Force began last spring as a place to address issues around food in response to Covid 19. It has evolved to also be a space to think creatively about all things garden and food related at SA. We met throughout the Spring and Summer and then took a brief break as school was starting. We have started back up and would like to re-invite all to join! We will meet every other Wednesday this Fall from 2 to 3 pm. Everyone who is part of the SA community is welcome to attend these virtual meetings. Please email me at [kplump@bsdvt.org](mailto:kplump@bsdvt.org) for a link. The next meeting will be on September 30th.

-Kestrel Plump, Education for Sustainability Coach

## Nurse's Corner (Updated Each Week!)

Together we can help to keep our children, families, school and community safer. By wearing masks, socially distancing, staying home and contacting our healthcare provider when we're feeling sick and of course washing our hands, we will be stronger.



*-Justina Starr, School Nurse*

### **Counselor's Corner (Updated Each Week!)**

Hello, families! It has been another great week here at SA. I have enjoyed more outdoor time, including some outdoor lunches, with our students. During my 4th/5th grade classroom visits, we are beginning to talk about goal setting and maintaining a positive sense of self as we begin the school year. Be sure to visit my school counseling website at:

[saschoolcounseling.weebly.com](http://saschoolcounseling.weebly.com) for new resources that are being updated regularly. As always, please know that you can reach out to me by clicking on the CONTACT tab. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

*Ms. Dodd, School Counselor*

### **PTO Corner**

Learn more about the PTO at [www.sa-pto.com](http://www.sa-pto.com)

**Additional Community Resources [here](#).**

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