



## SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ - 10.02.20

Dear SA Families,



While it presents challenges to some of our outdoor programming, it was great to get some rain this week to support our local water table and what's left of our garden! We are working to get rain and snow gear for all of our students so that we can learn outside year-round. Green beans, carrots, mint, marigolds, kale, and sweet potatoes are still going strong in the SA garden. Did you see the harvest moon last night? The autumn season offers so many opportunities for students to explore and learn about cycles in the natural world.

Over the next few weeks, we will continue the hybrid model while also preparing to welcome **all hybrid students** back to school 4 days a week. **Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students will return to school 4 days a week on Monday, October 19. 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will return to school 4 days a week on Monday, October 26.** We will continue to use Wednesdays for deep cleaning. Students who are engaged in the 100% remote option will continue with this option (across the district) until the end of the first trimester, November 13.

On Wednesdays, all students should use district-provided devices to access:

- Office Hours with any teacher from 8:00-9:00am
- Classroom Community Meetings and Learning Overviews from 9:00am-10:00am
- Learning Materials throughout the rest of the day

If you have questions about how to access any of these materials or sessions, please reach out to your child's teacher. Please read through the updates below for important dates and information. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

With gratitude,  
Nina Oropeza  
**Principal, Sustainability Academy**  
 [@sustainabilityacademybsd](https://www.instagram.com/sustainabilityacademybsd)  
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## 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.
- **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
- **October 14** - **No Remote or Hybrid learning Teacher Professional Day**
- **October 19** - All K-2 Hybrid Students Return to School 4 days a week
- **October 26** - All 2-5 Hybrid Students Return to School 4 days a week

- **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

### Welcome New SA Team Members! (New!)

Please join us in welcoming new staff members and returning staff members in new positions! Get to know our new staff members in the bio section below.



Hello SA community! My name is **Erika White** and I am thrilled to begin **teaching visual art** at Sustainability Academy. I taught art for 15 years at Shelburne Community School and have most recently been a Lecturer and Program Coordinator of the Art Education program at UVM. I love what I do at UVM, and will continue my work there, but can't wait to be back in the classroom making art with elementary students! When I'm not teaching art or teaching future art teachers, I enjoy spending time with my two daughters, Mia (14) and Ruby (11). We live in Williston where we like to grow flowers, create art, cook, and play with our cat and dog.

Hello Sustainability Academy students and families! My name is **Tom Markinac**, but I go by "Mr. Tom" at school. I have been at SA for 2 ½ years as a paraeducator, but this year I will be a **Building Substitute!** You might see me filling in as a teacher, paraeducator, or another staff member, so feel free to say hello if you see me in the hallway or around the school! I love to ride my bike and listen to music in my free time, and in the summer I work as a stonemason building walls and patios. I hope to meet all of you in my new position here at SA!



Hello, my name is **Glenn Patterson** (she/her). I am joining SA, part time, as a **Special Educator**. I have worked as a Special Educator in Vermont schools for the past 15 years. I also teach at the University of Vermont in the College of Education where I work with both Graduate and Undergraduate students. When I am not supporting students in our school and community, I am continuing my own education and spending time with my family. We enjoy running, hiking, camping, reading, knitting and hanging out with our dog and two cats.

Hi everyone! My name is **Olivia Hamilton**, and I will be joining the SA team as a **Paraeducator**. I am so excited to join the SA community! I grew up on the north shore of Massachusetts, and I just finished studying Natural Resources Conservation and Psychology at UMass Amherst this past May. I have always wanted to live in Burlington and do meaningful work in the field of sustainability, and I am so excited to be living that dream this year. I love any and all outdoor activity, and I love growing my own food so I am very excited to meet all the kids and grow some lovely plants in the garden beds. I can't wait to see you all very soon!



### Library Update (New!)

Families, please see the following overview of [Library Loan and Return Information Fall 2020](#). Our new librarian, Ms. Wiz, is excited to get library loaning back up and running, beginning next week.

## Free Outdoor Remote Day Activities - Hosted by SA PTO

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

With support from the PTO, SA students and families will have access to a series of free outdoor activities on remote learning days. Check out the [full schedule of activities for September 28-October 7 here](#), along with additional details. If you have questions, feedback, or ideas for future activities, please contact Allegra Williams at [Allegra442@gmail.com](mailto:Allegra442@gmail.com). We hope to see some of you next week!

## ONE Arts Center

The ONE Arts Center is offering a free after school art class for new customers as an opportunity to try it out before signing up! We call our after school art classes Start with Art. We pick up students from SA on Mondays and Fridays and walk them 1 block south to the ONE Arts Center. SA students are welcome on other days as well, but would need to be dropped off at 3pm. Upon arrival, we will take temps, wash/sanitize hands, and then enjoy a snack that we provide. We offer ritz crackers and organic peanut butter, organic apples, organic apple sauce, organic seaweed, raisins, fruit & nut granola bars, and Honest organic juice boxes. If your child has a food allergy, we will accommodate. Then we make art together and parents pick up between 5 and 5:15. Classes are \$25 each. If you would like to try a class for free, please email me, Becca, at [info@oneartscenter.com](mailto:info@oneartscenter.com) and I'll be in touch to exchange details and make arrangements!

We are also providing day time programming for students every weekday. 8am-12pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday as well as 8am-3pm or 5:30pm on Wednesdays. Learn more: <http://oneartscenter.com>

## Burlington School Food Project Meal Distribution

The Burlington School Food Project will be providing drive-thru/walk up meal box distribution **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

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

## [Free Programs in the Parks - Sponsored by Burlington Parks and Rec](#)

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](#).

## 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!

Icon: Honeycomb By Eucalyp

## COACH, NURSE, COUNSELOR & PTO CORNERS

### **Counselor's Corner (New!)**

Hello, families! I wanted to let you all know that I have added a lot of new resources to the "Parents" section of the SA school counseling website. There are now many new resources related to the following topics: Anxiety in Children, Anti-Racism Resources, Dealing with Negative Self-talk, Peer Relationships and Internet Safety. Just head on over to [saschoolcounseling.weebly.com](http://saschoolcounseling.weebly.com) and click on the "Parent Resources" tab to find your topic of interest. 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 (Updated Every Other Week!)**

#### **Harvest Run for Sustainability**

The annual Harvest Run for Sustainability is one of our signature events, held each year in October. Our 9th Annual Harvest Run for Sustainability *is* happening, but will look a little different this year. This year, we invite anyone in our greater community to pick one of our specially planned routes in the Intervale or around the Old North End (1 k, 3k, 5k, and 10k options available!) and walk or run this route anytime during the week of Monday, October 12th-Sunday, October 18th. Learn more and register at [www.sa-pto.com/events](http://www.sa-pto.com/events). One of our major fundraisers, our school community is invited to help raise money for the Sustainability Academy by asking friends and family to support your efforts, whether you participate in the run or not.

Remember: the SA-PTO Listserv is opt-in. If you'd like to be added to this list (which is different from the School-based emails from our Principal, Nina Oropeza), please send an email to [sustainabilitypto@gmail.com](mailto:sustainabilitypto@gmail.com) to be added. Learn more about the PTO at [www.sa-pto.com](http://www.sa-pto.com)