



SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ - 10.23.20

Dear SA Families,

It was great to have our K, 1st and 2nd grade students back for four days a week this week! We are looking forward to welcoming back our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders next week. Please remember that Wednesdays are a remote learning day for students who are engaged in the hybrid model. This means that:

- **All teachers at SA (homeroom, special education, etc.) are available to connect with students or parents from 8:00-9:00am each Wednesday during office hours.** If you'd like to connect with a teacher during this time, please reach out to them to schedule a time to connect. If you need assistance, let us know.
- **All students are invited to attend a class community meeting and synchronous learning on Wednesday from 9:00-10:00am.**
- **All students should access additional learning activities through their iPad or Chromebook each Wednesday.** We do take attendance on Wednesdays based on student participation in office hours, morning meeting, and/or learning activities.

If you have any questions about the Wednesday schedule or any other aspects of school, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher, Mrs. Gragg (802-864-8480), or me.

With gratitude,

Nina Oropeza
Principal, Sustainability Academy

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date:

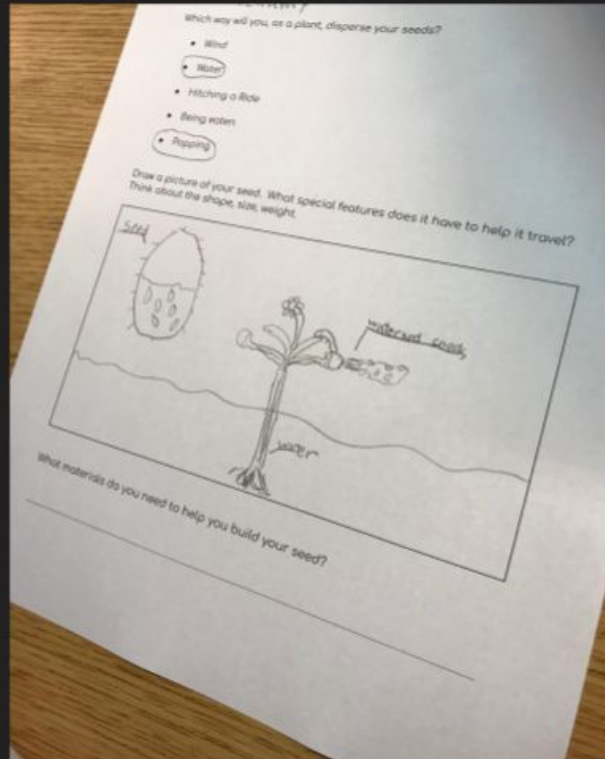
- **October 24** - Fall Garden PTO Workday
- **October 26** - All 3-5 Hybrid Students Return to School 4 days a week
- **October 30** - Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character Day
- **November 2, 6-7:30pm** - November PTO Meeting
- **November 10** - Picture Day for Hybrid Students
- **November 12** - Picture Day for Remote Students
- **November 23 & 24** - No School, Parent Teacher Conferences (Sign Ups Coming Soon!)
- **November 25-29** - No school, Thanksgiving Recess

3rd and 4th graders investigate the Red Wiggler worms that help us compost at SA.



5th graders harvest sweet potatoes in preparation for our (modified) 5th grade farmer's market - look for more information soon.

2nd graders write and draw about seed dispersal methods as they design their very own seeds!



UPDATES & REMINDERS

Phase 3 Guidance Updates (New!)

Burlington School District released the most recent version of Reopening Guidance earlier this week. This version includes additional updates for Phase 3. You can read the guidance document [here](#). For previous versions and additional information about BSD's reopening process, click [here](#).

Fall Garden Work Day - Tomorrow, 10/24

SA will have our annual Fall Garden Work day on Saturday, Oct. 24th from 9am- 12pm. Anyone from the SA community is invited to come and help us close down our garden for the season. In order to make the event as safe as possible please note:

- Everyone attending will be required to wear masks.
- Please bring your own garden tools when possible. If school tools are needed, hand sanitizer will be used and the tool will be wiped down before and after use.
- There will be no communal food or beverages served.

If you are interested in attending the garden work day or have any questions about the event, please email Kestrel at kplump@bsdvt.org.

Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character Day, 10/30

While we do not celebrate Halloween in school, we are always excited to celebrate literacy. On Friday, October 30, students and staff are invited to Dress Like Their Favorite Book Character. If you would like to participate in this optional event, simply think of a character from a book that you love and work on a costume to become that character. Costumes should not include weapons, violence, or cultural appropriation. Please use your imagination and have fun. If you have any questions, please reach

out to Mrs. Gragg (802-864-8480).

Harvest Dance - October 31, 1:00 - 2:30pm (New!)

Our Harvest Dance is happening, although it will be a bit different this year. Please join us to hear the music of DJ Marky Mark under the tent and in the back field from 1-2:30 pm on Saturday, October 31. The dance is open to all K-5 students and costumes are optional. No scary masks or violent costumes please. Masks that cover your nose and mouth are required, as is physical distancing. All children must be accompanied by an adult (no drop offs). Hope to see you there!

Free Outdoor Activities on Wednesdays - Hosted by SA PTO (Updated!)

[Free Outdoor Activities for SA Families - Hosted by SA PTO](#)

Join us for a series of free, outdoor activities available to all SA students/families on <http://sa.bsdt.org/Wednesdays> through the second half of October and into early November. 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 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](#).

Y Afterschool Program at St. Mark's (Updated!)

The Afterschool Program at St. Mark's is officially open this week! In a typical year, we have a number of enrichment opportunities that run side-by-side with our Afterschool Program. This year, we are carefully choosing classes that we can run safely, starting with EvoKids Yoga!

EvoKids Yoga class will be every Tuesday from Nov 3 - Dec 8 for ages 5-11. Cost is \$90 for full session. See gbymca.org/afterschool for more info and registration.

There are also a number of Youth Programs at our Downtown Y that families may be interested in: <https://www.gbymca.org/for-youth-development/swim-sports-play/youth-programs-sept-oct-2020/>.

All of these programs are eligible for YMCA Scholarships as needed.

Become a Substitute in Burlington School District

Burlington School District is currently hiring substitutes to support our schools this year. This a great opportunity for community members - to apply or for [more information](#) contact Kendra at 302-800-1101 ext. 10097 or email at 1822@kellyservices.com or the Burlington School District website at <https://www.bsdt.org/careers/>

Icon: Honeycomb By Eucalyp

COACH, NURSE, COUNSELOR & PTO CORNERS

Nurse Corner (New!)

Dear Families,

Times are hard for so many right now. If you have had a change in income or are wondering if you might be eligible for programs you may not have participated in before, I've attached the income guidelines for important programs such as Medicaid, WIC and 3 Squares VT. If you have questions about applying for or accessing some of these programs please feel free to reach out. I'm here to help. - *Justina Starr, RN - SA School Nurse (jstarr@bsdt.org)*

Income Guidelines

House hold Size	Head start (income eligibility ranges from 50-185% FPL depending on demand for available slots, see HS Eligibility Guidelines sheet or visit https://champlainvalleyheadstart.org) 100% Poverty	CSFP Senior 130%	School Meals Reduced 185%	School Meals Free 130%	3 Squares-VT 185%	You First 250%	WIC Farm to Family 185%			Medicaid/Dr. Dynasaur		
										Pregnant Women 208%	Children Under 19 312%	Adults other than pregnant women 133%
	Year	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Year	Month	Week	Month	Month*	Month
1		1,383	1,968	1,383	1,969	2,658	23,606	1,968	454	n/a	3,371	1,468
2	17,240	1,868	2,658	1,868	2,659	3,592	31,894	2,658	614	3,061	4,555	1,983
3	21,720	2,353	3,349	2,353	3,349	4,525	40,182	3,349	773	3,856	5,738	2,498
4	26,200	2,839	4,040	2,839	4,041	5,458	48,470	4,040	933	4,651	6,921	3,013
5	30,680	3,324	4,730	3,324	4,731	6,392	56,758	4,730	1,092	5,446	8,105	3,529
6	35,160	3,809	5,421	3,809	5,421	7,325	65,046	5,421	1,251	6,242	9,288	4,044
7	39,640	4,295	6,112	4,295	6,113	8,258	73,334	6,112	1,411	7,036	10,472	4,559
8	44,120	4,780	6,802	4,780	6,803	9,191	81,622	6,802	1,570	7,832	11,656	5,074
For each additional person	4,480	486	691	486	692	933	8,288	691	160	795	1,183	514
2020 Families are automatically eligible for the program, regardless of income, if they currently receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Reach Up; or if the family is homeless or the child/applicant is in foster care.		2020 Must be 60 years of age or older	July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021		As of 10/1/20 Multiple allowable deductions available (for example: childcare, child support, shelter expenses)	2020 Must live in VT and be 21 years of age or older	Effective 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021			Effective 4/2020 through 3/2021 The FLP % limits listed above include the program threshold plus a 5% income disregard. *Copay up to \$60.00 per month		
Vermont Department of Health WIC Program PO Box 70, 108 Cherry Street Burlington, VT 05402-0070							Count a pregnant woman and her unborn child as a household of 2. For Head Start, School Meals, CSFP Adult, and WIC: https://www.federalregister.gov/index/2020 Medicaid/Dr. D https://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/thresholds2020 3SquaresVT: https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/3SquaresVT/income-guidelines . You First: https://www.healthvermont.gov/wellness/you-first/you-first-eligibility					

PTO Corner (New!)

PTO Water bottle drive - Do you have any extra, new water bottles at home? Send them into school so they can be given to those who might need one.

All are welcome to join our next PTO meeting! Monday, November 2nd from 6-7:30pm via Google Meets

<https://meet.google.com/wcb-vmcj-ceb>

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 to be added. Learn more about the PTO at www.sa-pto.com