



## SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ - 10.30.20

Dear SA Families,

Last week was a busy one with Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character Day and the Harvest Dance! See some photos below. With all hybrid students attending school four days a week, we are making adjustments to our arrival/dismissal procedures as well as lunch time. These changes are the result of several factors - most notably the colder weather and changes in the health screening process.

- **Arrival Updates (Effective Monday, 11/9)**

- **All families must health screen students at home, according to the [Health Screening Contract](#).** Online Powerschool entries will no longer be collected. If your child is sick or has recently traveled to a yellow or red zone, they must stay home. We will continue to take students' temperatures at school.
- **Students in grades K, 1, or 2 will report to the back entrance of the school** by the N. Champlain Parking Lot and gardens. This is a significant change for **K students**, who will no longer come in through classroom doors as well as **1st grade students**, who will no longer enter through the gym in the morning.
- **Students in grades 3, 4, or 5 will report to the front entrance of the school** by the flagpole on North Street. This is a significant change for **3rd and 4th grade students in Mrs. LaChance and Ms. Deirdre's classes**, who will no longer come in through the back entrance of the school.
- **Families may drop off students and do not need to accompany them to the door.**
- Students may continue to arrive as early as 7:50am and will enter the building as soon as they arrive to avoid crowding.
- The playgrounds continue to be closed during morning arrival.

- **Dismissal Updates (Effective Monday, 11/9)**

- **Students will be dismissed from the same location as arrival, with the exception of kindergarteners who will be dismissed from classrooms.**
- **Students in grades K, 1, or 2 will be picked up at the back of the school** by the N. Champlain Parking Lot and gardens.
- **Students in grades 3, 4, or 5 will be dismissed at the front of the school** by the flagpole on North Street.

- **Lunch (Effective Thursday, 11/5)**

- **Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria beginning on Thursday, 11/5.** Students will be seated 3' apart and will have assigned seats for the purpose of contact tracing.

Lastly, I want to share an update related to the upcoming election on Tuesday, November 3. SA is a polling place for the city of Burlington. This means that on Tuesday, voting equipment will be set up in the gym and on the blacktop pavement outside of the playground and that polls will be open from 7am-7pm. The district has engaged in planning with the city to ensure that the day will be safe and smooth for all involved. Please note that when you arrive at school on Tuesday, 11/3, SA families will be unable to access the school from Murray Street. This entrance will be reserved only for voters. SA families should enter SA from the front entrance on North Street or the back entrance on N. Champlain. This will also be true during dismissal. Please reach out with any questions.

With gratitude,  
Nina Oropeza  
**Principal, Sustainability Academy**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Save the Date:

- **November 2, 6-7:30pm** - November PTO Meeting
- **November 3** - Election Day at SA
- **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
- **December 7, 6-7:30pm** - December PTO Meeting

## THIS WEEK @ SA (IN PHOTOS)

**The Harvest Dance was a success! Thanks to our awesome PTO community for a fun event.**





Elephant and Piggie were a fan favorite for Dress like A Book Character Day! Thanks to all for your participation.





## UPDATES & REMINDERS

### SA Social Justice Club - Begins 11/13

SA is excited to announce a new club - the Social Justice Club! This group, which will meet weekly during lunch, is open to any 4th or 5th grader at SA. More information here: [Social Justice Club at SA](#).

### Free Outdoor Activities on Wednesdays - Hosted by SA PTO

#### [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](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](#).

Icon: Honeycomb By Eucalyp

## COACH, NURSE, COUNSELOR & PTO CORNERS

### Nurse Corner

**Vermont Everyone Eats** is funded by the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund and made possible through a grant provided by the **Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development** to **Southeastern Vermont Community Action**.

**ShiftMeals** and the **Intervale Center** have partnered to serve the Everyone Eats Program in Chittenden County. Restaurants are paid to prepare nutritionally balanced meals for those impacted by COVID-19 by using 10% of VT products. Organizations work with Everyone Eats to request meals, or individuals can request meals.

Everyone Eats is a program intended for “everyone” impacted by COVID-19. Any and all impacts are considered eligible. We believe that this is nearly every person in our state, so we believe that you are eligible!

In Burlington, meals are available most Mondays at the Intervale Barn from 4-6, most Tuesdays at the Echo Center from 10am-1pm and most Wednesdays at the Pine Forest Children’s Center from 5-6:30. See the website for details: <https://shiftmeals.org/everyone-eats/>

### Coach Corner

Last Saturday was not the ideal conditions for a garden workday: windy, cold and very rainy. Even though we technically canceled the event after one hour, dedicated folks stayed out to lend a hand anyway. Massive thanks to all who helped us close down the garden for the season. We got enough work done to not have to reschedule the workday, though we do plan to keep some garden projects going through the winter. If you want to know more, join us for the Feed Everyone Task Force. We will meet virtually next Wednesday, November 4th, from 2pm-3pm. Email me at [kplump@bsdt.org](mailto:kplump@bsdt.org) for the link to the meeting. (Left) A very wet PTO Secretary pauses during a heavy moment of rain last Saturday Morning.



## School Counselor Corner

Greetings, families! It has been so nice to see so many of our students back together again! Thank you all for all of your efforts in keeping your kiddos healthy. This week, I began visiting first graders to discuss personal safety, which is part of the BSD classroom counseling curriculum. This unit includes several lessons on topics such as stranger danger and understanding that parts of their bodies are private and should not be touched by others. I work with students to identify the trusted adults they can go to if they have a problem or feel uncomfortable. As always, feel free to check out my counseling website for more resources or to contact me at any time: [saschoolcounseling.weebly.com](http://saschoolcounseling.weebly.com)

## Library Corner

- Readers have been enjoying the books even with our library's doors still closed! Ms. Wiz does weekly book checkouts to K-2s in their classrooms, while grades 3-5 are checking out books as needed, using the visual online catalog, [Destiny Discover](#) with Ms. Wiz doing "curbside delivery" of books when they become ready.
- **Circulation:** Since we began book loans October 5, **more than 544 books** have been circulated to SA students! All students except K are able to take books home.
- **Book Tote Bags:** Remembering your books got even easier! Every SA student will receive a dark-green tote bag for keeping library materials in. The bags allow us to increase the number of books for students, if they wish. Bags will go home on Friday, and may be used to bring library materials to and from home.
- The first bag will contain
  - Books they may keep, which are marked with a label.
  - Reminder fliers for books checked out in March. Please contact Ms. Wiz ([sa-library@bsdvt.org](mailto:sa-library@bsdvt.org)) to notify if books are lost, or write down on that sheet and return it to school.
  - Library books, if the student wants to bring them home. **The tote bag is yours to keep forever.**

## PTO Corner

**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](mailto:sustainabilitypto@gmail.com) to be added. Learn more about the PTO at [www.sa-ptto.com](http://www.sa-ptto.com)