



SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY BUZZ - 11.13.20

Dear SA Families,

As we see COVID-19 case numbers rise across the state we are closely monitoring the situation in order to be prepared for whatever comes next. We are continuing to be outside as much as possible during the school day. Please make sure your child comes to school with warm clothing. If your family is in need of any winter clothing items, please reach out to Susan Dodd, School Counselor (sdodd@bsdvt.org).

Today we sent home an update from the Burlington School District health department in school folders. You can read the update here: [BSD Health Department Update](#). I'd like to remind all families that this week, the Governor implemented a **mandatory quarantine for all non-essential travel outside of Vermont as well as a ban on all multi-family gatherings**. Please do not travel for the holidays and do not gather in groups. This is a community effort to help keep us all safe. Thank you for all you are doing to support our community.

Lastly, please join me in thanking SA teachers and staff who are doing an incredible job supporting our students every day. Our staff continues to show up each day prepared to be flexible and creative to navigate the many changes and challenges we've encountered this school year. I am so grateful to work with a community so committed to our students, and I hope you will join me in reflecting upon and recognizing their efforts. Thank you, SA staff!

With gratitude,

Nina Oropeza
Principal, Sustainability Academy



[@sustainabilityacademybsd](#)



[@ninaOropeza](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

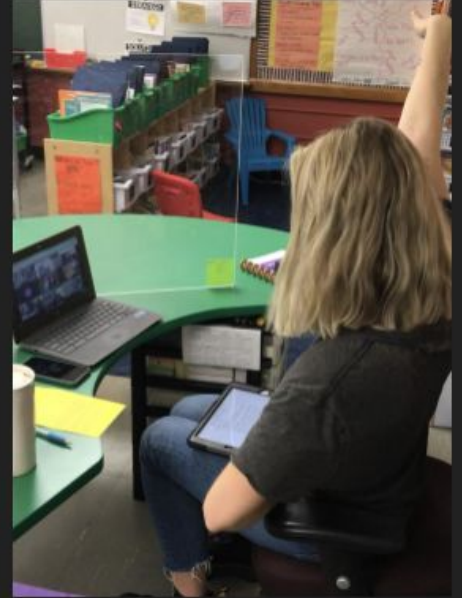
Save the Date:

- **November 23 & 24** - No School, Parent Teacher Conferences ([Sign Ups](#))
- **November 25-29** - No school, Thanksgiving Recess
- **December 7, 6-7:30pm** - December PTO Meeting
- **December 23-January 1** - No School, Winter Break

THIS WEEK @ SA (IN PHOTOS)



While we are not physically in school on Wednesdays, the learning continues! Thank you to SA teachers for leading great community meetings each Wednesday morning at 9am.



UPDATES & REMINDERS

Parent Teacher Conferences, November 23 & 24 (New!)

Scheduling for our November Parent Teacher Conferences has begun. Please use the following link to begin the scheduling process: https://ptcfast.com/schools/Sustainability_Academy

Frequently asked questions can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/saptcsupport>

If needed, please call the school office (802) 864-8480 for assistance.

Information for Families - Return to School After Illness (Updated)

This resource from the Vermont Department of Health summarizes important information about when a child should stay home from school, whether or not a child needs a COVID-19 test, and how the return to school process works.

View translated versions here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/media/translation/covid-19-translations>

New Quarantine Requirement (New!)

On Tuesday Governor Phil Scott issues a new mandate requiring a period of quarantine for all non-essential travel to or from the state of Vermont. For more information on travel and quarantine requirements, please see the Vermont Department of Health link <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/travel-quarantine>

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

As per the schedule, the series of free, outdoor activities has come to an end. Should these events resume we will post the information in the newsletter and on the PTO website. Thank You to Allegra Williams for organizing these events!

Icon: Honeycomb By Eucalyp

COACH, NURSE, COUNSELOR & PTO CORNERS

Nurse Corner

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I'm sure you have noticed big changes in the way symptoms of illness are handled this year as compared to years past. As a school nurse, one of our most important goals has been to keep students in school. Currently, because of the coronavirus, the majority of students with any symptoms of illness are sent home to ensure the safety of our school community. While this may seem a bit extreme, we know that following the state guidelines ensures our safety and allows school to remain open during the pandemic.

Below is a list of what you will need to do to have your student attend school and return to school after illness.

1. Students with any of the following symptoms (unless alternative diagnosis is provided) will be excluded from school: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, chills, recent loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhea, headache, rash, swelling or redness of hands or feet, nasal congestion or runny nose, or fever in the past 24 hours.
2. Contact your students health care provider if they have one of the above symptoms lasting greater than 24 hours or if they have 2 or more of the above symptoms.
3. The School Nurse will need to receive communication from you and/or your child's doctor *before* return to school is possible.

Finally, please make sure the phone numbers that you provided to school are up to date. Provide emergency contacts if you are able. Your student needs to be picked up from school immediately should they be sent home for illness.

Thank you so much for your support of our new procedures. Our goal is to keep you, our students, and the whole school community safe and healthy!

- Justina Starr, RN, School Nurse

Coach Corner

There is a lot of great work happening at SA around social justice topics. One of the tools we have in designing social justice curriculum is the [Teaching Tolerance Standards](#). The past few weeks I have been working with the 1st and 2nd graders exploring identity and the ways we are the same and different. We learned about pronouns and students had the opportunity to practice introducing themselves and telling us which pronouns feel right to them. We also talked about gender identity (how you feel) vs. gender expression (how you look or what you wear). Then students drew pictures of themselves wearing an outfit they feel powerful in.

- Kestrel Plump, Sustainability Coach

School Counselor Corner

Would your family like to have a free hot meal delivered to your home on Thanksgiving day? If so, please contact me!

St. Mark's Church and North Avenue Alliance Church are going to be having their annual 'Thanksgiving Meal Take Out Program' again this year! The hot, already cooked, meal will consist of turkey, stuffing, carrots, celery, cranberries, potatoes, dessert, and a roll. There will be many volunteers who will prep, cook, and deliver the meals and they will be following COVID safety and health guidelines. Meals can be expected to be received between 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm on Thanksgiving Day.

If you have not already spoken with an SA staff member about this, please contact me at sdodd@bsdvt.org or by calling the SA main line X11005 by **Tuesday, November 17th**, so I can get your family signed up for one of these fabulous meals!

-Susan Dodd, School Counselor

PTO Corner

All are welcome to join our next PTO meeting! Monday, December 7th 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