



# Sustainability Academy's Newsletter

March 10, 2017

Greetings,

I am pleased to announce that the Sustainability Academy is using electronic scheduling for our Parent Teacher Conferences on **Thursday, March 30th & Friday, March 31.**

Teachers are in the process of preparing their conference schedules for **March 30 & 31st** using the online system called **PTC Fast**. This system, will allow you to select the teacher(s) with whom you would like to conference with by registering your e-mail address. You will be able to view and select an available conference time that works for you.

The web link for SA Parent Teacher Conference scheduling [https://ptcfast.com/schools/Sustainability\\_Academy\\_at\\_Lawrence\\_Barnes](https://ptcfast.com/schools/Sustainability_Academy_at_Lawrence_Barnes) will become available on the SA home page on the morning of **Monday, March 20th** for all families.

Support information for this process (including a demonstration video) can be found at:

<http://tinyurl.com/conferencesupportsa>

Please note that if you are not able to access this system via the internet, you will be able to call the office anytime Monday through Friday between 9am and 2pm, to schedule conference(s).

We hope that you will find this method of scheduling a more efficient and responsive system.

## Curriculum Corner



### Special Education

Each week at school small groups of students have fun playing games and chatting in "lunch bunches" at SA. The students seem to really enjoy spending time with their teachers in this relaxed way and have opportunities to learn more about each other. Over the past few years, the speech and language program has gotten more involved in lunch bunches to promote social language and the use of AAC (Alternative and Augmentative Communication using speech generating devices.) In our school, we have many languages spoken, including the voices of AAC for students. At SA we have students using the communication systems of LAMP, Touchchat and Tobii eye gaze. The lunch bunches focus around conversations and games with the communication devices front and center. All students seem intrigued and find the technology exciting. The techniques that are merged into the fun include :aided AAC modeling by the facilitator, use of expectant delay, answering questions, verbal and gestural prompts. Of course when there are friends and fun involved the motivation is high. I have been impressed with so many students who have learned to be great communication partners with their classmates who use communication devices. Now they have the skills to be great communication facilitators and role models to other peers, families, and communities now and in the future. It's a win-win !

-submitted by Andrea Richard, Speech-Language Pathologist



## Sustainability Academy & Very Merry Theatre

### Presents

### PETER PAN!

Rehearsals for our annual musical started on Wednesday, March 8th. This year we're performing the classic children's tale, Peter Pan. Students will be receiving a rehearsal schedule that includes weekly practices on Mondays from 2:50-4 and Wednesdays from 1:50-3. Check in Monday 3/13 for a copy of the updated script, cast list and schedule. Please contact David ([vtoasis@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:vtoasis@burlingtontelecom.net)), Don ([don@verymerrytheatre.org](mailto:don@verymerrytheatre.org)) or Suzanne ([sweishaa@bsdvt.org](mailto:sweishaa@bsdvt.org)) with questions or to receive information by email.

SAVE-THE-DATES: Performances: April 14, 15 at Very Merry stage at 20 Allen St. (the old St. Joseph's School, now the O.N.E. Community Center). Times will be set in the near future.



### Nutrition and Wellness News!



Thank you to Karen Nordstrom and Matt Myers at UVM for connecting our school with two incredible sophomore students who will be working with us until early May. It is my pleasure to introduce Emily Callaghan and Ariella Mandel. Emily will graduate in 2019 with a major in Food systems and a minor in nutrition and food science and community and international development. Ariella will graduate in 2019 with a major in environmental science and theater and a minor in food systems. We are lucky to have them joining us to support our integration of food systems, nutrition and community gardening across our school day and into after school hours.  
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## Maple Sugaring Day Shelburne Farms Sunday March 19th

Head up to the sugar bush to see the sugar house in action! Enjoy a taste of maple syrup as you learn about the journey of sap to syrup. There will also be a pancake and sausage breakfast available for purchase (\$8 for adults, \$4 for kids) until 1 pm.

Do you want to attend and need transportation? A bus will be traveling from King Street to the Sustainability Academy then on to Shelburne Farms. To reserve a spot, call or email Kestrel Plump at (215) 272-5059 or [kplump@shelburnefarms.org](mailto:kplump@shelburnefarms.org). Include the number of seats you would like on the bus and your contact information. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Here is the tentative schedule:

Leave King Street at 10:30 AM

Leave SA around at 10:45

Time at Shelburne Farms 11:15-1:15

Leave Shelburne Farms at 1:15

Drop off at SA around 1:45

Drop off at King Street around 2 P

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### BCA Children's Exhibition 2017

We are excited that the Burlington school system celebrates our children's creative expressions in what will be the Burlington City Arts 30th Annual Children's Art Exhibition. Each of the art teachers in the Burlington public schools is responsible for selecting no more than 30-40, 2-D student works of art from each school to be shown in City Hall's Metropolitan Gallery.

I base the selection of artwork on student's growth and effort as an artist by making sure to be as equitable as possible. This year's BCA art show will hang from **March 8 - March 30**. This year's art ceremony is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 15**.

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### Coming Soon!

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra's "DrumShtick" Percussion Trio is scheduled to visit all of the Burlington elementary schools in mid-March. They will be at SA on **March 14th** for an afternoon assembly. This is the 22nd year that a VSO SymphonyKids residency has taken place in the Burlington schools.

"DrumShtick" is always a big hit in schools. Brian Johnson, Nic  
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**Two highlights:**

1) Ariella will be helping with "taste tests" on Fridays during lunch. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with this 11:30-12 (Ks and 1s); 12-12:30 (2s and 3s); and 12:30-1 (4s and 5s).

2) Emily will be making some recipes with our 4th and 5th graders that only have a few ingredients and offer a lot of nutritional value. The first one is included in this newsletter - watch for more in future newsletters.

Please connect with Suzanne Weishaar to ask your questions and to share your ideas.

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**Kindergarten Tour Dates**

**Wednesday, March 15 - 9:30 am**

Enrollment for the next school year 2017-18, is open. Registration forms will be accepted beginning **January 3rd 2017 till February 24th, 2017**. School placement notification will be sent out the week of **April 3rd, 2017**. If there are more first choice registrations than there are spots, we will look at families' 2nd choices. When a student doesn't receive their first choice school, a district employee will contact the family to discuss their options for schools. Applications received after **February 24, 2017** will be considered based upon available space.

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**Bee Card Winners!**

These students were picked for following our school expectations.

- Be Safe**
- Be Responsible**
- Be Respectful**
- Do your best**

**February 22nd**



**Bella - Kdg.**  
**Evie - 1st**  
**Luca - 2 /3**  
**Kamea - 4 /5**

Cannizzaro, and Mike Laven are all excellent performers with years of experience turning kids on to classical music. Their show is called "Percussion Means the World to Us," and it explores a culturally diverse repertoire and includes demonstrations of non-Western instruments.

Through their sometimes zany humor they introduce children both to general musical concepts and to the family of percussion instruments. These performances are part of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra's statewide Symphony Kids education program, which reached over 26,000 school children last year with 278 presentations serving 175 schools in 141 different towns. The VSO's traveling ensembles visit all corners of the state as part of an outreach program known as the Lois H. McClure "Musicians-in- the-Schools" Program. These lively concerts are met with overwhelming enthusiasm, as the musical ambassadors spread the word that classical music can be fun!

For more information on "DrumShtick" or the VSO's SymphonyKids programs in general, please call Eleanor Long at (800) VSO-9293 ext. 14.

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**PTO NEWS**  
**SAVE THE DATES!**

Sustainability Academy Book Fair at **Phoenix Books**  
Sunday, April 2nd thru Saturday, April 8th  
Open House Art/Poetry Evening April 4th 6-7pm

Love reading? Love watching your children read? Know others who read? Help SA raise money for student learning! Just go to Phoenix Books during the week-long Book Fair, make your purchases (all books count), and be sure to let them know at the checkout you want to support SA. Phoenix Books will donate 20% to our school. Send your family, friends and neighbors, too. Their purchases can benefit SA as well! Can't make it to the store in person? Have family far away who want to help? Order online at [phoenixbooks.biz](http://phoenixbooks.biz) and enter "For SA" in the Comment field when you check out.

Don't miss the "Open House" on Tuesday, April 4th, 6-7pm! See SA student robot sculptures and poetry displayed at the store, chat with the artists, and enjoy some refreshments while buying a book! We hope to see you there!  
*Art will be displayed all week.*

**Book Fair:** Sunday, April 2nd thru Saturday, April 8th. At Phoenix Books: 191 Bank Street, Burlington, [802-448-3350](tel:802-448-3350) (Shop at the Essex Store, too - it counts!) or online at [phoenixbooks.biz](http://phoenixbooks.biz).

**Hours:** Mon-Thur 10am-7pm, Fri & Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 11am-5pm

**FAMILY SURVEY COMING SOON!**

The PTO is planning to do a survey with families in the coming month to ask for your input on how best we can support our students and families as we plan activities and spending for next school year. Stay tuned for a link to the survey coming

**March 1st**



**Sujal --Kdg.  
Alex-1st  
Kaydin - 2 /3  
Evara - 4/5**



**Student Support Services  
Parent Forum  
Please Join**

*Jackie Corbally, Opiate Policy Coordinator  
and*

*Laura Nugent, Student Support Director at BSD*

**Topic**

**Substance Abuse and Addiction- Impact on Child  
Development and Education**

**Where:** Sustainability Cafeteria

**When:** March 23rd

**Time:** 6:00 - 7:30



**Don't Forget**

**Set your clocks ahead one (1) hour.**



soon as well as hard copies to be shared at parent-teacher conferences. Thanks in advance for your valuable input!

**VOLUNTEER REQUEST:**

Mark your calendar for one of SA's biggest fundraisers and most enjoyable events - the 2017 Harvest Run on Sunday, October 15th. We've already begun the planning process and are looking for a new volunteer to work with Angela to help organize the celebration. This is a great opportunity to contribute and will only take a few hours of time. Please contact Angela at [angelsmithdieng@gmail.com](mailto:angelsmithdieng@gmail.com) if you're interested. Thank you!



**Upcoming Events:**

**Daylight Savings time**

**March 12th**

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.

**VSO**

**Tuesday, March 14th**

Location: Auditorium

**PTO Meeting**

**Monday, March 13th**

5:45 - 7:30

Childcare and Dinner Provided

Location: Community Room

**Parent Coffee**

**Monday, March 20th**

8:15 - 9:00

Location: Library

**Parent /Teacher Conferences**

**Thursday, March 30th** - dismissal at 11:30

**Friday, March 31st** - No School due to conferences



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