



Volume 1 No. 9

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### Superintendent's Message

Dear Faculty and Staff,

We are in our final hours of the school year. It has been a wonderful year, full of exciting learnings, changes and friends. This year, we settled a teacher contract in a month's time, we prepared to open two magnet schools, and we prepared to restructure a middle school. Communications with the Board and community and teachers are strong, resulting in a passed budget and a bond that will address many needs of three of our schools.



We have had sad moments this year as well, losing two beloved staff members: DG Weaver and Sue Thompson. Together, we have had to say goodbye and hold on to each other as we thanked DG and Sue for what they leave behind.

I want to thank each of you for the role you played in the lives of our students this year. Because of each of you, our students feel safe and are able to learn. They are fed, cared for, and challenged. Everything you do makes a difference in the lives of our students.

As you head into summer, taking a break, reflecting on the year, preparing for next year, I wish you the best that life can bring you. From the bottom of my heart, I thank each of you for being a teacher, for working in the Burlington schools.

Jeanné

### THANKS!

To all staff members who have completed our Spotlight Survey, which is still available at: [www.tinyurl.com/spotlightsurvey](http://www.tinyurl.com/spotlightsurvey) . We will work to incorporate your feedback into future issues.

### Golden Apple Award

Robin Dimmick, the District's Special Education Liaison who follows students who are currently in out-of-district placements, was honored by the Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators for her work with special needs students (pictured L to R: Jeanné Collins, David Ritter and Robin Dimmick). The *Golden Apple*



*Award* is a special honor bestowed on individuals who have demonstrated exceptional resourcefulness in meeting students' needs, contributed to a collaborative team process, developed programs or activities that focus on students' strengths and maximize students' potential and created opportunities for students with disabilities to be educated with their non-disabled peers. The *Golden Apple* is the highest recognition offered by the VCSEA, and to be a recipient of a *Golden Apple* is a very distinct honor.

Congratulations, Robin!

### Outstanding Leadership Award

Congratulations to Kathy Olwell! The Vermont Department of Education gives out three awards annually for outstanding leadership in youth services. Holly Morehouse, the Vermont 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center State Coordinator explained: "With this award we are celebrating Kathy's dedication to the students, her advocacy for the good of the kids, her vision in going after funding, and her leadership in bringing the community in and making the afterschool programming part of the school budget." Kathy established the afterschool site in the New North End, and serves as the Coordinator at Hunt Middle School and the Director of Sara Holbrook's New North End Youth Center.

## News & Notes from HR

**YOUR HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT IS HERE TO HELP YOU YEAR ROUND!** HR Summer Hours are M - F 8 am - 4 pm beginning on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**OPEN ENROLLMENT:** is currently ongoing.

**PARAEDUCATOR CONTRACTS:** will be issued on or before July 22<sup>nd</sup> and must be returned by August 5<sup>th</sup>. If you expect to be away from home, consider providing a summer address to HR for the mailing of your contract. Openings for paraeducator positions will be posted on BSD's website and on SchoolSpring.com by early July. If you wish to be considered for a transfer to a new position, apply on SchoolSpring as an internal candidate.

**TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR SUMMER COURSES:** that **END** by August 31<sup>st</sup> is considered financed from the 2008-2009 funds. Tuition Reimbursement Requests must be received **before** the course begins. The FY 2010 tuition reimbursement year begins September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### 2009 Freedom Award

Chris Giard, Director of Property Services, has been named as one of three Vermont Semi-Finalists for the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The award is the U.S. Government's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of their employees serving in the Guard and Reserve. The Freedom Award is significant because only members of the National Guard and Reserve or their family members are eligible to nominate their employers for the award.



Semi-Finalists from Vermont also include the Burlington Police Department and PBM Nutritionals LLC. The three Vermont employers are among 131 Semi-Finalists from across the nation, selected from more than 3,200 nominations submitted by National Guard and Reserve members or their families for outstanding employer support. From this field, a national review board will select 35 finalists for the award. A national selection board comprised of senior defense officials and business leaders will then select the award's 15 recipients. The Department of Defense will announce the 2009 finalists in June and the award recipients in July. The 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards will be presented at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Center.

**Congratulations, Chris!**

*(Excerpted from 5/14/09 Secretary of Defense Press Release)*

## Retiring/Resigning BSD Staff Members

Paula Bowen  
Principal  
Barnes – 7 years



Bea Carroll  
Guidance Admin.  
Asst.  
BHS – 33 years



James Miller  
Spanish Teacher  
BHS – 26 years



Nancy Morrie  
Business Ed. Teacher  
BHS – 33+ years



Laura Stevens  
Science Teacher  
BHS – 15+ years



Nancy Crowley  
Paraeducator  
Champlain – 28 years



Dianne Tkach  
Lib. Media Ctr./Tech.  
Integration Spec.  
Champlain – 10 years



Guy Egri  
Principal  
EES – 21 years



Ann Park  
Language Arts Teacher  
EMS – 35 years



Bonnie Ayer  
Principal  
Flynn – 19 years



James Morrison  
Social Studies Teacher  
Hunt – 6 years



## Linking Learning to Life Awards

Amy Mellencamp has been involved with LLL, literally since before we began. She was the primary author of the federal grant that launched us in 1997. As Principal at Burlington High School, her open door policy and willingness to work jointly on various projects has allowed LLL to begin and expand many opportunities for BHS students. As a result we have been able to pilot many of our most successful program models there including College Connections, Ready, Set, Work!, TIPS student internships and more.

Amy is a former board member and truly dedicated administrator whose support ranges from providing office space for our staff to assisting with letters of support for grants to meet the needs of the students. In the past year, Amy fully funded 23 BHS students taking the TOEFL Prep course offered through St. Michael's College. If approached about a student's financial hardship, she creatively looks and always finds a savvy solution. And so, Linking Learning to Life is proud to present this Outstanding Service Award to Amy Mellencamp for her dedication to LLL's continuing success.

Burlington Schools Food Service Who are you going to call?...When you want to offer a free community dinner with ethnic dishes, with attendance unknown, and little or no money...When you want to expose students to healthy Vermont foods through local farmers' taste tests to try things like fennel, rutabaga, and delicata squash...When you need to serve a totally local Vermont meal at all Burlington Schools on the same day, cutting over 1000 lbs of Misty Knoll chicken breasts into 2 oz servings of chicken fingers...When you want students to become creatively involved in cooking local Vermont foods in original recipes that can be served in school cafeterias, through sponsorship of the Vermont State Junior Iron Chef Competition...When you need free breakfasts and lunches for all students participating in a special program like the LLL Ready Set Work Program.

So who are you going to call? The Burlington Schools Food Service! We would like to recognize their outstanding community partnerships in support of LLL Programs. Accepting the award were Doug Davis, Director of Food Service, and Robert Young, Farm to School Coordinator.

Congratulations Amy and BSD Food Services!

*(Excerpted from Linking Learning to Life's Community Partner Recognition Event on May 27<sup>th</sup> at Champlain College)*

## Champions of Diversity & Equity

On Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Burlington School District, in partnership with the Social Equity Investment Project, and the City of Burlington, honored this year's inaugural Champions of Diversity & Equity. Over 200 attendees (standing room only!) were present at City Hall for the community-focused award ceremony. Mayor Bob Kiss provided welcome remarks and Dr. Dan Balón, BSD Director of Diversity & Equity, was Master of Ceremonies. Wanda Hines made closing comments to wrap up this celebration of our District's diversity and commitment to social change.

Chosen by a selection committee, this year's award recipients include: BHS student **Nicole Murphy**, Hunt Middle School art teacher **Joy Kipp**, Champlain Elementary parent **Michael Wood-Lewis**, *Reading-to-End-Racism* coordinator **Denise Dunbar** and Bilingual/Bicultural Home-School Liaison **Nimo Girreh**. **Nancy Zahniser**, former Champlain and Barnes Principal, and **Patrick Brown**, Director of the Greater Burlington Multicultural Resource Center, received Lifetime Achievement Awards for their career contributions to the Burlington School District. During the event, audience members were treated to memorable performances by the African/International Dance Group and the Bosnian Lilies.



*L to R: Dan Balón, Joy Kipp, Denise Dunbar, Jeanné Collins (Superintendent), Wanda Hines (Director of Social Equity Investment Project), Mayor Bob Kiss, and Nimo Girreh. Not pictured: Patrick Brown, Nicole Murphy, Michael Wood-Lewis, and Nancy Zahniser.*

The **Champions of Diversity & Equity** are everyday individuals who reflect the Burlington School District's *Commitment to Diversity & Equity* and represent the most ideal qualities and accomplishments that: **AFFIRM** the rich social, cultural diversity in Burlington schools; **BUILD** communities across differences and for common purposes; and **CREATE** a culture for leadership, action, and social change for our kids. More information about the event and other diversity initiatives can be found at the Diversity & Equity Office webpage: <http://www.bsdt.org/diversity> or by contacting Dan at **864-8494** or [dbalon@bsdt.org](mailto:dbalon@bsdt.org).