

# Spotlight

NEWS FROM THE BURLINGTON SCHOOLS



Volume 4 No. 6

November 9, 2011



## Greetings all,

### UNITED WAY

What beautiful weather we had this weekend. I hope you got a chance to get out and enjoy it. As you do, I also hope you remember those in VT who are less fortunate than you and I in many ways. Some of these folks are your neighbors, or student families, or even relatives. This year, think about donating to the United Way as our campaign is starting. It is easy to donate a few dollars a month, using payroll deduction. And the money you give, no matter the amount, goes to people you know, people around you, throughout the month. Did you know United Way organized volunteers for the Irene efforts? Did you know United Way gives money to BHS for students in need of food at home? Did you know you could choose who your dollars go to, if you wish, including our own Burlington Students' Foundation or other children's agencies? Each school has a United Way campaign rep. who will be giving you information. Take a moment to look around you and please, share what you can. Thank you.

### DIVERSITY/EQUITY

The Board Committee on Diversity & Equity membership has changed slightly. The new Committee is now appointed with Paul Hochanadel (Ward 5) as chair, Jill Evans (Ward 6), Rebecca Grimm (Ward 3), Dave Davidson (Ward 3) and Emily Lansky (BHS student) as members. The first meeting will be November 29<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. at Ira Allen. All meetings are open to the public and will be warned. Check out our new BoardDocs program, which shares agendas and supporting documents online for you to follow along in advance of the Board meetings!

<http://www.boarddocs.com/vt/bsdvt/Board.nsf/Public>

### BUDGET

The budget process for 2013 is underway. This month, Finance Committee will hold two meetings to delve into the baseline numbers. Priorities this year include absorbing \$1M in grant cuts, looking to move our technology agenda forward with a 1:1 laptop program, and keeping taxes down. We are out of deficit at this time; however juggling all of the competing priorities with limited resources continues to be a challenge. I will keep you informed as we go—please become an ambassador for the schools' budget as you talk with neighbors, parents, and friends. The Board will hold hearings on a preliminary budget in December and the first week in January, with a final budget approved at the January Board Meeting.

Enjoy fall! *Jeanné*

## LLL Director Honored

Rich Tulikangas, Executive Director of Linking Learning to Life, Inc., is the 2011 Administrator of the Year, selected by the Vermont Association of Educational Office Professionals. Tulikangas received his award October 29<sup>th</sup> during the 73<sup>rd</sup> annual fall conference at the Stoweflake Resort & Conference Center in Stowe .



**Congratulations, Rich!**

## Teacher Feature

### Josh Friedman (BHS)

Mr. Friedman paired up students for a game of "Spanish Battleship." This provided a fun opportunity for students to connect, continue to practice their conversational Spanish and learn from each other...



[http://www.bsdtv.org/News/TeacherStories/bhs\\_friedman\\_lebensfield.pdf](http://www.bsdtv.org/News/TeacherStories/bhs_friedman_lebensfield.pdf)

### Betsy Greene (Champlain)

As Ms. Greene warmed the students up with a review of rhythm, it was clear that students were feeling the beat. When Ms. Greene gave the word, students zoomed to the instruments, eager to make music...



[http://www.bsdtv.org/News/TeacherStories/champlain\\_greene\\_wallace.pdf](http://www.bsdtv.org/News/TeacherStories/champlain_greene_wallace.pdf)

## Conversation on Race Now (CORN)

Conversation on Race Now is a group promoting dialogue between people, emphasizing respectful and courteous interaction. CORN invites you to join an evening of conversation that will explore the question: "How do you feel today, November 10, 2011, about racism/race in Vermont?" With special guest Keynote Speaker/Panelist: Dr. Wanda Heading-Grant, Ed.D., Chief Diversity Officer and Special Assistant to the President for Multicultural Initiatives, UVM.

November 10th (tomorrow!), 7:15 – 9:30pm  
Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, 188 North Prospect St.  
Desserts and beverages will be provided.



## Invest EAP Is Available On or Off-Site For BSD!

This free & confidential *Employee Assistance Program* is designed to provide quick access to short-term counseling, assessment, resource and referral information on a broad range of life and work issues, including financial, legal and crisis services. For complete info and to access EAP services call a trained counselor at (800) 287-2173 or visit [www.investeap.org](http://www.investeap.org). "VSBIT" is our password.

Let your administrator know if scheduling an on-site EAP meeting at your location on a Wednesday afternoon would be something you are interested in.

### Schedule online for the next ON-SITE session:

Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at EES

2:30PM – 5PM in ROOM B 204 B

by **clicking here:** [www.schooleap.org](http://www.schooleap.org)

or call EAP Counselor Sue Schmidt directly at:  
**(802) 863-7502**

If you are unable to make it during this scheduled on-site time, call (800) 287-2173 to set up an appointment that meets your needs.

### Tech Byte

#### Google Apps Blog

Subscribe to the Google Apps Blog for the latest information from Google on Apps such as Mail, Calendar and Sites.



Find out about updates, new features and new releases, such as the new Gmail app for the iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch.

Check it out: <http://googleapps.blogspot.com/>

### Veterans' (Armistice) Day (CTRL + click for history)

*Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>:  
Thank you to our staff and their families who have served or are currently serving our country.*



[The Veterans of Hope Project](#) offers lessons and [interviews](#) with many "veterans of hope" including Bernice Johnson Reagon, Ruby Sales, Anne Braden, Dolores Huerta, and more.

### Resources (videos, articles) for Cultural/Background Information on BSD ELL Students

(Please note that you may need to access/watch videos on a non-District computer.)

**Bhutanese:** <http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/bhutanese-vermont>

**Burmese:** <http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/burma601/additional.html>

**Congolese:** <http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/congolese-vermont>

**Somali Bantu:** <http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/somali-bantu-historical-background-and-vermont-experiences>

**Sudanese:** <http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/sudan/links.html>

**Vietnamese:** <http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/vietnamese-vermont>

### Reading for Inclusion

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, Champlain Elementary hosted Reading for Inclusion, with adults living with disabilities in the community as guest readers. These community members read a book focused on inclusion, followed by a discussion/activity with the students.



In Aziza Malik's 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom, Charlie Barasch spoke to his own experience of having Parkinson's Disease as he read Virginia Fleming's *Be Nice to Eddie Lee*, a story about a boy with Down's Syndrome. He then lead the class in a writing exercise that asked students to imagine that they had a disability and what it would feel like if others spoke to them in an unkind way about that disability. Volunteers read their pieces to the class, followed by questions/answers and discussion.

Prior to the event, students participated in a pre-lesson that focused on what social inclusion can "look like" and "sound like" at school and during extracurricular activities. Reading for Inclusion is part of a year-long program at Champlain that addresses the social inclusion of all students, particularly students with a disability.

For video footage from the event, follow the below link:

[Elementary students lesson in inclusion](#)

**\*\*\*CORRECTION\*\*\***

In our last issue, we incorrectly stated that Claude Mumbere won the national Poetry Out Loud contest. Though Claude did compete at this level, he did not win. However, he was "discovered" and got to narrate a NASA video that has just come out:

<http://www.wkow.com/story/15617451/nasa-movie-on-ocean-circulation-gets-visitors-in-the-loop?clienttype=printable>