

Spotlight

NEWS FROM THE BURLINGTON SCHOOLS



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Superintendent's Message



Greetings to all and welcome to 2011! I hope the vacation found you refreshed and rejuvenated, as we enter a new decade. I am certainly looking forward to all that is happening in the Burlington Schools. As I reflect upon my last six years in this office, I continually come to the same deep appreciation for the professional, dedicated colleagues I work with - each of you! Thank you for being part of the journey for our nearly 4000 students.

This month has many activities. Last night and again on January 11th, the Board continues to deliberate on the budget for FY12. Read more on our website at <http://bsdweb.bsdrv.org/Board/BoardBudget.php>. Please comment on the budget during deliberations and help to share the news with parents and neighbors as we move forward.

The Board appointed Task Force on Diversity & Equity meets several times this month – January 6th, 13th, and 27th. Meetings are at Ira Allen and start at 6 or 7 p.m. Please refer to our website if you would like to attend these meetings.

Sustainability Academy will have an open house on January 13th (7-8:30 p.m.) for the community to see the renovations and hear about the energy efficiencies now in place. Feel free to come by and check it out!

Integrated Arts Academy is dedicating an MLK sculpture from artist (and BHS teacher) Chris Sharp, with Bernie Sanders in attendance. Current plans include a soup and bread dinner and Town Meeting to discuss Dr. King's legacy and share ideas that shape our community. All are invited to participate - more details to follow.

For now, I wish you each a healthy and prosperous new year and an easy transition back to school.

Jeanné

Teacher Feature

As part of our partnership with UVM to showcase teaching excellence, UVM students visited almost 90 classrooms in October! Using notes and information shared from their visits, we will draft stories December through February, to be shared with the media, published on our website and in school newsletters. (If you are a teacher that participated in a classroom visit, you will receive a draft to review before the article is published.) Our UVM partners enjoyed observing some very engaging and creative lessons throughout the District:

- Indoor and outdoor science explorations: bungee experiments, tree adoptions, shell posters and probability mystery bag labs.
- Creating seasonal sensory poems and bringing poetry to life through music and drama.
- Marketing a colony in the "New World".
- Creating an Eric Carle-style big book.
- Sharing each other's stories in French, while being filmed; and full class morning-meetings in Spanish.
- Discussions, activities and simulations dealing with equality, power and quality of life.

It's a Wrap!

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED



Thank you to all BSD employees who contributed to this year's United Way Campaign, totaling **\$17,455!** We almost matched last year's record year and only fell short by approximately \$1,400. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and will be put to important use in many Chittenden County agencies.

Congratulations to Amy Truchon who will be attending a Red Sox Game this summer! Movie tickets were won by Betsy Patrick, Paul Irish and Stephanie Gorman. Shannon Roesch enjoyed the BHS production of *Hello Dolly!*

Thank you again for your support!



Teacher Seniority List

The annual teacher seniority listing has been sent to each school and will be posted for inspection. Please take time to review this list. §14.1 of the BEA Contract states that “any teacher aggrieved by his/her placement on the Seniority List must appeal **in writing** to the Association within ten (10) school days from the date the list is posted”. For purposes of appealing, the 10 days began on Monday, January 3rd, 2011, and extend through Friday, January 14th, 2011.

YOUR LAST CHANCE FOR HEALTH OR DENTAL OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS AT 9 A.M. ON JANUARY 24th, 2011. YOUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY WILL BE JULY 1ST, 2011. PLAN AHEAD. IT’S COMING UP QUICKLY!



Employee Assistance Plan On or Off-Site for BSD

If the season should bring you to a place that is not all that merry and bright, remember the free & confidential *Employee Assistance Program*, 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. “VSBIT” is our password.

Be aware that teachers working under a Limited Teacher Contract are not reflected on this list. Time worked under a Limited Teacher Contract will be included in the future should the teacher then be working under a regular teacher contract. Also, seniority for part-time teachers is prorated for the year. For example, teachers working 0.5 FTE for an entire calendar year would have six months added to their seniority accumulation.

Burlington Schools Foundation Grants to HMS

The Burlington Schools Foundation has awarded \$3,000 to Hunt Middle School for the purchase of three document camera and LCD projector set ups. The equipment will be used to increase student engagement, provide enhanced visual learning, and support equity among classroom experiences. Ellen Zeman, BSF Board President, commented: “We are pleased to provide this grant in support of access to 21st Century technology”. Additionally, the Foundation announced a second \$3,000 grant for an HMS spring production of *The Sound of Music*, as put on by Very Merry Theatre.



Upcoming on-site BSD appointments:
January 12th and 26th from 2 – 4:30p.m.

150 Colchester Ave. - Room 1G Conference Room
Schedule online for these sessions by [Clicking Here!](#)
or call EAP counselor Arlene Wright at 802-651-1837.

If you are unable to make it during this scheduled on-site time, call **800-287-2173** to set up an appointment.

About Burlington Schools Foundation

Established in 1996, The Burlington Schools Foundation works closely with the Burlington School District, but operates as a fully independent entity. BSF is a community based, non-profit organization dedicated to expanding educational opportunities for public school children in Burlington. BSF administers grants, scholarships and dedicated funds aimed at advancing innovative education experiences to help students learn and grow. Programming stretches across school-based projects and related community initiatives. Over the years, BSF activities have injected nearly \$1 million into creative educational opportunities for Burlington School children.

Tech Byte

Power of Story - Using Student Voice to Promote English Language Literacy



Sixteen teachers, librarians and technology integration specialists from eight schools are currently participating in the implementation of a Title IID Grant, working towards the following goals:

- To provide a common base of understanding for integrating technology in ELL classes to improve English language acquisition;
- To conduct classroom-based pilot testing of various solutions to determine effectiveness in an environment supported by technology integration experts;
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the integration using standards-based rubrics (WIDA and ISTE);
- To develop written scenarios describing these pilot integrations;
- To report and disseminate information on effective integrations to local, regional and/or state groups.

NEA Foundation: Student Achievement Grants

Do you have a project that is helping improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection? You could get up to \$5000 in grants to support your work. Deadline: February 1, 2011.

http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm