



Superintendent's Message

PRIORITIES: Spring is a great time to "pause, prioritize and prune." I recognize that under the weight of so many initiatives and mandates, lots of energy gets expended just trying to keep up. My top priority is sharpening our focus - to work toward clarity and cohesion among teachers, administrators, the Board, families, partners, and students - about what is MOST important to ensure that all of our kids achieve.

VISITORS: Last week, I was pleased to host school visits from Governor Shumlin and Representative Joey Donovan (chair of the House Education Committee), both of whom were very impressed by our teachers and students. This was a great opportunity to share the work that you are doing in Burlington to help all students succeed. I also had the opportunity to host Oscar Santos, who was invited by our Board and Diversity Now to share his experiences. Oscar shared some of his insights and reflections about working with students from diverse backgrounds. Read about both of these visits at <http://collinsj.wordpress.com>.

CALENDAR: The proposed FY12 calendar (to be voted on at the April 5th Board Meeting) has been sent to all principals to distribute to staff. With no additional snow days, the 2010-11 student school year will expand to a half day on June 17th. Staff will have full days on June 17th and 23rd. The final day to be made up will be chosen by each faculty member.

SALARY CORRECTIONS: I again apologize for the inflated salaries in the City's Annual Report. Correct salary information is available on our website and the City's website. To ensure that this won't happen again, we are instituting a system of two readers for every piece of data that goes out.

I am committed to working with our faculty, staff and families to serve all of our students. I value and appreciate the work that you do, in and out of the classroom. As always, please contact me with questions. Also, you can subscribe to my blog at <http://collinsj.wordpress.com/> to stay informed and share your thoughts with me. *Jeanné*

Spotlight on EES Kindergarten Teacher

Suzanne Weishaar is published in the latest digital edition of *Connect: Innovations in K-8 Science, Math, and Technology*. See the link below to read about "Gummies: Solid or Liquid?" (article begins on page 6)

<http://content.yudu.com/A1r9wm/ConnectMar-Apr11DRM/>

Teacher Feature



Mike Arcovitch (BHS) believes that the practical skills he provides to students will help them to be wise consumers and make smart life decisions...

http://www.bsdtv.org/News/TeacherStories/bhs_arcovitch_randall.pdf

Jill Ballou (EMS)

Everyone in the class was genuinely interested, capable and focused. Ms. Ballou motivates all of her students...



http://www.bsdtv.org/News/TeacherStories/ems_ballou_mcateer.pdf



Tracy Bellavance (Champlain) shared that children's literature is a huge passion of hers and she loves how students can express themselves through writing...

http://www.bsdtv.org/News/TeacherStories/champlain_bellavance_milnarik.pdf

Christine Harvey (Smith)

Ms. Harvey values partnering with parents as she works to motivate each child...

http://www.bsdtv.org/News/TeacherStories/cp_harvey_obrien.pdf





BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont offers easy access to information and helpful support on our website, www.bcbsvt.com. Manage your benefits, improve your health and research health care topics, all at the click of a mouse. Customer Service: 1-800-247-2583

Make the most of your benefits. Visit our Rx Center to search for the network pharmacy nearest you. Determine whether you'll need prior approval for a particular prescription drug or check to see if using generic alternatives or Preferred drugs could save you money. With our online drug encyclopedia, you can also research your medications, review known side effects and learn about possible complications.

Take care of business 24/7. Change your mailing address, order an I.D. card, print commonly used forms or read our newsletters online. Review your health plan benefits and even check the status of a claim - all at times convenient for you.

Know more, choose well & feel better with our Healthcare AdvisorSM. If you've been diagnosed with a chronic condition like asthma or diabetes, you want to find out more about it and learn how to take good care of yourself with the best resources possible. Our Healthcare Advisor site can help you learn about medications and even choose among hospitals. By providing information on various hospitals' experience, reputation and results of care, we help you choose your facility based on factors that are important to you.

Tech Byte

It's hard to turn on the news or look at a newspaper and not hear about the devastating earthquake and tsunami that recently occurred in Japan. The events that took place and the ongoing nuclear emergency is something that is certain to be on the minds of our staff and students. Please follow the link below to a wide list of resources for use in the classroom to help our students understand the events that occurred and give them an opportunity to learn from it.



<http://tinyurl.com/bsdjapan>

The Blackboard Jungle 4 Symposium March 24th - 25th UVM, Dudley H. Davis Center

*Engaging the Silences: Transformative Conversations
in the Classrooms and in the Community*

Keynote Kickoff:

"Diversity, Opportunity, and the
Shifting Meritocracy in Higher Education"
In Celebration of Women's History

Thursday, March 24, 2011

Ira Allen Chapel

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Free and Open to the Public

To review the full symposium schedule and register:
<http://www.uvm.edu/conferences/blackboardjungle4>

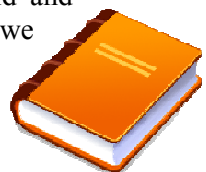
St. Patrick's Day Sighting

Edmunds Elementary
School 1st grade
leprechauns visited the
learning center last
Thursday for a little book
reading between visits to
classrooms to distribute
"green" treats. Mrs.
Case's class celebrated St.
Patrick's Day 2011
wearing the green!



Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things

Have you ever wondered what goes into that cup of coffee that you drink or that pencil that you use? Wonder NO MORE! Join the book discussion and explore how everyday things we all use affect our world and community! In the second session (below) we will look at our family waste audit, continue to explore product life cycles, and reflect on what "all this stuff" means to us.



March 29th from 6-7:30 at the Sustainability Academy –
Potluck dinner.

Discussion funded by Chittenden Solid Waste District and
The Bay Paul Foundation.

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