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Superintendent's Message

I would like to start this article by thanking you for your support in passing the school budget this year. As always, I feel that the faculty and staff of the District are the true ambassadors of the budget, with parents and neighbors turning to you for thoughts on whether the budget is fair. Given the incredible pressures to cut this year and the difficult economic times, I appreciate this assistance prior to developing the budget proposal to help us craft a budget that maintained class sizes, kept all critical programs intact, and even added ELL and classroom teachers. I feel fortunate to work alongside such a dedicated group of individuals.

This week, we are kicking off our Family-Schools Partnership initiative, with training today for school teams of families, teachers, staff and principals. Family representatives on each school team are intentionally diverse to reflect our student body. We have created this new structure to strengthen how we work with families, partnering with Vermont's Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) to offer a simple approach developed by the National Network of Partnership Schools. This program was developed at Johns Hopkins University and is based on nearly three decades of research, focusing on involving families in specific student achievement goals that are aligned with each school's Action Plan. These tools will help us to organize and prioritize the work we are already doing with families and community partners so that we can maximize results for our students. At the training, each team will develop a partnership plan which they will bring back to faculty and families.

The IAA Principal search is underway. The ad is on SchoolSpring.com - please share it if you know prospective principals with some experience. Our Principal Search Advisory Committee will meet this week for an anti-bias awareness training before starting the selection process. Also, we are offering a similar training for all school interview teams tomorrow and March 16th. Talk with your principal if you are interested in participating. Happy spring! *Jeanné*

Window into Burlington's Classrooms: Through the Eyes of Future Teachers

University of Vermont student visits to Burlington schools provided a unique and compelling window into area classrooms. Through a service-learning partnership, 90 first-year UVM students observed kindergarten through 12th grade classes at every public elementary school in Burlington, Edmunds and Hunt Middle Schools and Burlington High School. Professors Jen Prue and Lia Cravedi were excited to give students an early opportunity to observe teachers in action. "Providing future educators with a chance to experience Burlington schools helps our students to make powerful connections to real classrooms and to develop a deeper understanding of the issues they are learning about in our course."

As part of this project, the UVM students shared their experiences and reveal a larger story about teaching and learning in Burlington. The student's stories are featured online in "Window into Burlington's Classrooms: Through the Eyes of Future Teachers" at <http://www.bsdtv.org>. These stories explore what high school science classes are like today and show new ways that middle schoolers are learning about American History. Through these stories, community members can experience how kids create a sensory poem, how our future leaders grapple with the concepts of power, equity and government, and how elementary school students gain higher level math skills through games.

Superintendent Jeanné Collins reflected that "I often get questions about what our students are learning. How does what kids learn today differ from the past? How has teaching changed? This project has been a wonderful way to share with the community what goes on in our classrooms."

For more information about the UVM students, teachers profiled or classroom stories, please contact Dawn Moskowitz, Graduate Teaching Fellow: 318-5892 or dmoskow@uvm.edu.

Excerpted from 2/22/11 UVM Press Release



EYE Safety & Health MATTERS!

One of the best ways to prevent eye injury, disease and vision loss is proactive prevention. Begin with safe work habits, protect your eyes and schedule an eye examination. In our modern world we use technology, stare at computer screens, mobile devices etc. for extended periods of time. This can cause enormous strain on the eyes. Also, don't forget to protect your eyes from the sun's harmful UV rays with sunglasses, hats or visors year round. Learn more about the risk factors for vision loss and common eye diseases and get information about how to utilize your personal vision benefit.

An eye doctor can spot the early warning signs of vision problems such as glaucoma and macular health conditions (diabetes eyes for one.) Limited coverage for routine vision examinations is provided by [Vision Services Plan](#) (VSP).

Employees who are in the VEHI-VHP District health plan can identify themselves as a member of the BCBS Vermont Health Partnership. Covered employees in VHP are eligible for one routine vision exam per year with a \$20 co-payment with a participating VSP provider. You can search participating doctors at: <https://www.vsp.com/find-doctor-location.html?id=guest>. Unfortunately, lenses, frames & contact lenses are not covered.

Some ways to protect your vision: stay current with periodic eye exams, inspect work areas and equipment, wear protective eyewear designed for specific duties, and utilize accessible eyewash stations and first-aid training if an eye injury occurs. A safe work environment and proper use of eye safety measures can go a long way in preventing eye injuries.

TRAVELs registration has been extended to March 17th.
Online course begins March 21st.
Register on-line: www.cvedcvt.org

Tech Byte

Dynamic Landscapes 2.0:
Providing a Vision for Success
May 19th & 20th, 2011



VITA-Learn and the Vermont School Library Association (VSLA) are pleased to announce their joint sponsorship of a two-day conference at Champlain College on May 19th & 20th, 2011. Join educators from around Vermont at this two-day, educational technology/media literacy conference featuring over 70 sessions. Go to: <http://www.vita-learn.org/> and click on the Dynamic Landscapes 2011 button on the top of the page to register. Don't delay - there is "early bird" pricing and the conference usually sells out.

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! During the first session we will discuss the book, examine product life cycles and prepare for a family waste audit. In the second session 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 14th and **March 29th** from 6-7:30 at the Sustainability Academy – Potluck dinner for both sessions. FREE BOOK for participating in both sessions, as well as raffle prizes for participants (including one backyard compost bin!)



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

RSVP to Tiffany Tillman: 658-3296 / 985-0331
tillman@shelburnefarms.org

Burlington School District Implements PBIS

Improving student **academic** and **behavior** outcomes is about ensuring all students have access to the most effective and accurately implemented instructional and behavioral practices and interventions possible. Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) provides an operational framework for achieving these outcomes. More importantly, PBIS is NOT a curriculum, intervention, or practice, but is a decision-making framework that guides selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving important academic and behavior outcomes for all students.

To learn more visit www.pbis.org or contact Jim Drown, District PBIS Coach, at jdrown@bsdvt.org.

Toyota: International Teacher Program

The Toyota International Teacher Program for Costa Rica Study will send teachers to eastern Costa Rica from November 19th to December 3rd, 2011 to study the country's environmental and cultural preservation efforts. Maximum award: a fully funded (transportation, lodging, meals, and all program activities) 10-day trip to Costa Rica. Eligibility: U.S. teachers grades 7-12 with at least three years of full-time teaching experience.

Deadline: May 4, 2011.

<http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Toyota-International-Teacher-Program>