



Superintendent's Message

As I write this, I'm headed to an interview on VPR about what test scores mean for our students. I appreciate all of the work you do to use NECAP data, in combination with all of the other information that you have, to understand how our students are meeting critical standards. I hope you will share your thoughts about the NECAP data you receive at: <http://collinsj.wordpress.com>.

FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend the VT-NEA, VPA, PIRC-VT Family-School Partnership Conference in Randolph. I was honored to introduce Dr. Joyce Epstein, the founder of the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University. Her 30 years of research are behind the new Family-School Partnership Teams in place at each of our schools. It was a great chance to connect with her personally and to learn more about how we can strengthen the work we are already doing. I'm excited that we had a mix of 13 family leaders, teachers, staff and principals from BHS, Hunt, Flynn, Smith, IAA and EMS at the conference.

NEW BOARD

April is our Board reorganization month. I want to take a moment to thank our outgoing Board members: Jason Baker and Vince Brennan, Ward 3; Phillip Baruth, Ward 4; Fred Lane, Ward 5; and Nathan Moreau, Ward 7. The hours and dedication these individuals gave to Burlington's children is priceless. Their legacy will live on. I am pleased to welcome our new members and hope you have a chance to connect with them as well: Rebecca Grimm and Dave Davidson, Ward 3; Ben Truman, Ward 4; Paul Hohanadel, Ward 5; and Ed Scott, Ward 7.

PRINCIPAL SEARCHES

SA Principal Abi Sessions has announced her retirement at the end of this school year. I am having discussions with the Board about next steps and am considering appointing an interim principal. We are in the midst of a search for a new principal at IAA and I hope to bring a candidate to the Board before April vacation. *Jeanné*

Spotlight on EMS Teachers / I-LEAP

"In a classroom on the third floor of a 110-year-old faded beige-brick building, 20 middle schoolers of varying sizes and attitudes flip open their black HP laptops for an interactive lesson on the Declaration of Independence."

Read more at:

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/03/17/25ileap.h30.html?tkn=TOSFUWm0QaovsPKeproWF1c4QDKpWwkSMlcl&intc=es>

Teacher Feature



Peter McConville (BHS)

Congratulations to Peter McConville on winning a Rowland Fellowship. According to the foundation, these awards go to "applicants who are visionary, willing to lead, motivated and committed to affecting change, and who take risks and work collaboratively with others." Peter is working with teachers and administrators at Burlington High School to plan for the future...

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

Jim Monahan (EMS) is a very interactive teacher. Never standing still, he encouraged all of his students to get involved in the class...



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



Brent Truchon (EMS)

Mr. Truchon works with the teachers on his team to create authentic learning opportunities. These are often community-based projects that involve real-life challenges...

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

Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

If you need more than three days off from work because you are having a medical procedure or dealing with a serious health condition involving your child, spouse or parent, or yourself, it's important to let Human Resources know!

FMLA & VPFL (VT) laws strengthen your rights to take medical leave without jeopardizing your job and guarantee the continuation of the District's contribution to health benefit premiums. Eligible employees who qualify for a protected leave are eligible for up to 12 weeks of leave if they have not used 12 weeks in the past 12 months. Up to six weeks can be paid leave using the employee's own accrued balances.



Picture a sea of young chefs chopping, sautéing and preparing the most colorful and tasty creations in front of a crowd of over 700! This was the scene on Saturday, March 26th, at the Champlain Valley Exposition.

After practicing for several months, over 50 teams of middle and high school students (including teams from BHS and Hunt Middle) produced delicious dishes that will eventually be replicated in many school nutrition programs across the State. This 4th annual fundraiser "was our best competition yet!" say the Jr. Iron Chef Vermont co-creators Doug Davis, Pat Matton and Bobby Young, along with their Burlington School Food Project partner Vermont FEED (Food Education Every Day.) For great photos, recipes and more: <http://www.jrironchefvt.org/>.

Tech Byte

GED 588: Emerging Technology for the 21st Century Classroom



We are pleased to announce the fourth year of the BSD Educational Technology Laptop Initiative. The 21st Century classroom communicates globally, works collaboratively and promotes creativity. Participants in this course will develop an understanding of national and local technology standards and Web 2.0 applications that support the 21st Century framework. We will examine potential uses of Web 2.0 technologies such as Google applications, social bookmarking and video conferencing. After evaluating the potential of Web 2.0 tools, participants will create an instructional unit with special attention given to the 2007 National Educational Technology Standards. This course will utilize Global Classroom's Boodle as its web based content management system.

Overview and Registration (deadline is April 27th) :
<http://www.tinyurl.com/ged588>

Student Film on School Change

What should high school look like to prepare students for the challenges of the future? What types of learning experiences support all students becoming creative, productive, and responsible citizens? To kick off our school redesign work, we asked BHS senior **Graham Raubvogel** to produce a short film with students expressing their hopes for BHS in the future. Check it out at <http://vimeo.com/19418778>.



PBIS Burlington

Champlain became the fourth elementary school in Burlington to implement PBIS framework! Their student rollout was held on Monday, March 14th. Students and faculty were treated to a surprise visit from Champ - a great job by all involved!

C.P. Smith will attend the PBIS Leadership Team Training at the Best Summer Institute in Killington this June. A fall rollout is anticipated.

The first Burlington School District PBIS Calendar is now available. Check with your building administrator to view the hard copy. Many thanks to Deb Smith for putting this wonderful calendar together!! For more information on PBIS visit <http://www.pbis.org/> or contact Jim Drown, District PBIS Coach, at: jdrown@bsdvt.org.

BHS Students Bring Home 10 Trophies

The BHS Technology Student Association participated at the TSA Annual Conference March 24th/25th in Lincoln, NH. Eleven BHS students competed against 75 high school students in a variety of design and engineering challenges. These students had to complete a great deal of work prior to the conferences, as well as solve problems on-site.



- Music Production (1st place) - Wesley Mead
 - Architectural Model (2nd place) - Rachel First
 - WebMaster (3rd place) - Fisher Evans
 - Transportation Modeling (2nd place) - Zach Centerbar
 - Transportation Modeling (3rd place) - Austin Gaven Francot
 - CAD Architectural 2D (1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place) – Jefferey Fountain, Fisher Evans, Rachel First
 - Technology Problem Solving (3rd place) – Rachel First, Fisher Evans
 - Technology Bowl (2nd place) – Corey Barcomb, Zach Centerbar, Ausin Gaven Francot
- Milo Golub, Alan Ely, Nathaniel Young and Eric Butler also competed in the conference.