

Spotlight

NEWS FROM THE BURLINGTON SCHOOLS



Volume 4 No. 2

September 14, 2011



Greetings all!

As we move into a beautiful fall, I hope you are each enjoying the work that was done in your schools this summer and the return of students!

Our biggest challenge has been to move staff over to Gmail and Google Apps this month. We planned a longer transition; however GroupWise is not cooperating and we are in the process of moving the entire District over as I write this column. I think you will find Google Apps easier to access from home, school, etc. It has a different look to it so please don't hesitate to ask for some help as you navigate it. It does come with some excellent video tutorials built right in as well. Explore! Start a Google Site for your class. Blog! Use Google Docs to work on schoolwork, so you can access it from any computer, any location. Embed videos! There is so much to be done with Google Apps—be sure to share with your colleagues what you learn so they can also.

I have begun my school visits and look forward to walking through the classrooms. I will be at Smith and Flynn / IAA and SA on alternating Mondays; BTC and BHS / EES and EMS on alternating Wednesdays and Champlain / Hunt on alternating Thursdays. Already I have seen classrooms in action at Flynn and Edmunds—with no apparent break in the learning at all!

Enjoy the weather, enjoy your students, and enjoy the year.

Jeanné

Teacher Feature

Brennan Carney (BHS)

Mr. Carney designs projects that encourage students to relate what they are learning in class to current events in our society...



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



Robyn Bataille (EMS)

Each student in the group played a different role. They weren't just regurgitating facts; they were applying them in a thoughtful manner...

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

Tammy Charbonneau (Champlain)

The students are what make it easy for Ms. Charbonneau to get up every day and come to work...

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



BTC Students in Action

SkillsUSA members at Burlington Technical Center were celebrated after attending the SkillsUSA National Conference—June 19-24, 2011. Nine students traveled to Kansas City to compete, observe, and participate in the national officer elections. The students participating were Reed Belisle, Tyler Brown, Gage Bergeron, Richard Bird, Artiqua BuBois, Fisher Evans, Alyssa Jones, Alexis Noel, Nicholas Pacy, and Tanner Palermo.

In April, students competed in skills and leadership competitions at the Sheraton Conference Center, Camp Johnson, and at other business and industry locations. The gold medalists from these competitions went on to Kansas City to compete with the other gold medalists from around the country. Of our seven competitors, two medaled at nationals—Reed Belisle, from Shelburne, earned a silver medal in Aviation, and Tyler Brown, from South Burlington, earned a gold medal in Aviation, Post Secondary. In addition, they received Skill Point Certificates, indicating that they've reached proficiency levels based on industry standards.

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving high school and college students and professional members enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled, and service occupations, including health occupations in high schools and college/technical schools. SkillsUSA has more than 305,000 members annually, organized into 13,000 chapters and 54 state and territorial associations (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.)

SkillsUSA prepares America's high performance workers and provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills and emphasizes total quality at work, high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free enterprise system and involvement in community service activities. For more information: www.skillsusa.org.

From July 2011 News Release



Safety MATTERS!

Worker's Compensation: If you experience a work injury, please report it to your supervisor, the building nurse, or your director IMMEDIATELY. **Reporting work-related injuries and illnesses** must be done as soon as possible, on a 1st Report of Injury Form. Fax the report ASAP to 540-3010. By law, we must report the incident within 72 hours. Procedures are posted in multiple locations in all buildings.

FMLA / Medical Leave: *If you are going to be out of work for four or more days due to your own serious illness or injury or that of a family member, contact Maura in HR in advance to enact your rights to FMLA / VPFLA or Medical Leaves.* This law covers eligible employees for the protections of the law and involves entitlement to leave, maintenance of health benefits during leave, and job restoration after leave; sets requirements for notice and certification of the need for FMLA leave; and protects employees who request or take FMLA leave.



EAP: Employee Assistance Program:

Looking for solutions to issues related to your personal well being - on or off the job? **INVEST EAP** can help **free of charge, and confidentially!** To speak with a trained counselor at any time, call 1-800-287-2173. VSBIT is the password.

Tech Byte

Google for BSDVT.org
It's not Just Gmail!



The Google transition is occurring in the Burlington School District. Once you have transitioned to Google Apps for Education at bsdvt.org, you will have access to a suite of tools, not just Gmail! Your Google log-in provides you with access to Google Docs, Sites, Calendar, iGoogle, Bookmarks, Moderator and more. These tools were developed to enhance communication and collaboration. Wondering where to get started? Here are just a few of many possibilities:

Become a Gmail Ninja:

<http://www.google.com/mail/help/tips.html>

Subscribe to the Google Apps Blog:

<http://googleapps.blogspot.com/>

Download Google Apps Lesson Plans for k-12:

http://www.google.com/apps/intl/en/edu/lesson_plans.html

Register for a Live, Google Apps Webinar:

<http://www.google.com/apps/intl/en/edu/webinars.html>

View an Archived Webinar or Training Video on the Google Apps for Education YouTube Channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/GoogleApps?feature=chclk>

An Administrator Who is a Role Model for Wellness

Bonnie Johnson-Aten, Principal at Edmunds Middle School, has received recognition from the Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI) for her contributions toward the promotion of school employee wellness. Bonnie's efforts to promote wellness were



recognized at VEHI's Vermont Principals Association Leadership Conference in Killington on August 2nd.

Criteria for recognition included:

- integrating health into the culture of the workplace; expanding the vision of health to one of energy and vitality rather than from the absence of disease;
- promoting employee creativity, a sense of belonging, optimism, humor, humility, self-confidence, and resiliency;
- providing adequate resources; visibly demonstrating to all employees their own commitment to wellness; and
- recognizing the impact of the employees' households and their communities on their health and developing strategies to address these impacts positively.

At EMS, Bonnie makes staff and student wellness one of her priorities. Here are just some of the things that have happened in her school: The first day of school the faculty and staff hiked Mt. Philo for their inservice; one staff meeting per quarter is dedicated to wellness; and there are yearly "wellness days" where students and staff alike take part in several workshops put on by other staff members and members of the community.

BHS History Teacher Honored



On behalf of the World History Association, Fran Brock was recently presented with a certificate and award check for the World History Association 2011 Mark Welter Challenge Award for Innovative Pedagogical Activities for k-12 Teachers.

Ms. Brock's dedication to the field and excellence in teaching is recognized by her peers nationally in her selection of this prestigious award.

Congratulations, Fran!