

Spotlight

NEWS FROM THE BURLINGTON SCHOOLS



Volume 4 No. 10

January 18, 2012



Greetings all...As winter is upon us, I hope that you each drive safely to and from work and take your time. We rarely call snow days in Burlington, and when we do, it is based upon student needs. In Burlington, about half of our kids benefit from a warm building with

food and adult coverage that they would not have at home. Because we are a city school, busses can run and we don't have to contend with the dirt roads that our neighbors do. Therefore, we try to keep our schools open if our students can get to school. The adults have the ability to make decisions about safety on their own. If you need to be late, please be sure to contact your building administrator to let them know. I do appreciate hearing from people (before 6 a.m.) in different parts of town about road conditions. I try to make the call at 6 a.m. if at all possible, in case that helps you plan your snowy mornings. It is a nice perk to have AlertNow reach everyone almost simultaneously! **If your contact information has recently changed, be sure to check in with your school administrative assistant with these updates.**

I hope you all enjoyed the (four month delayed!) presentation by Paul Gorski on MLK Day. He was engaging, with a strong message about creating equitable classroom environments for our students. This is not intended to be a one shot inservice; rather it is part of a three-year initiative that focuses on cultural competence within the District. I anticipate you will continue discussions at the school level and there will be more opportunities to increase your learning in the District. Paul's websites offer a wealth of resources:

EdChange: <http://www.edchange.org/>

Multicultural Pavilion: <http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/>

Budget Update—Save the Date

I plan to hold an **optional budget forum for any interested staff on February 2nd at 3:30 p.m.**, at a location to be announced. I will be available to explain, answer questions, whatever you might need to understand the budget further. Your involvement in sharing the story behind the numbers in this budget is crucial for our school community. I hope to see you there! *Jeanné*

The Chinese philosopher Chuang-Tzu states, "The hearing that is only in the ears is one thing. The hearing of the spirit is not limited to any one faculty, to the ear, or to the mind. Hence it demands the emptiness of all the faculties. And when the faculties are empty, then the whole being listens. There is then a direct grasp of what is right there before you hear that can never be heard with the ear or understood with the mind."

Teacher Feature

Matt Hajdun (Champlain)

Not once did Mr. Hajdun break from Spanish, and the students willingly participated and were engaged in the conversation. Mr. Hajdun kept all of his students' attention. Using humor and fun classroom activities, he would not allow his kids to be disengaged...

http://www.bsdt.org/News/TeacherStories/champlain_hajdun_dedrick.pdf



Sarah Gordon (SA)

I realized how significant it was that Mrs. Gordon was having the children make simple, but important connections with one another first thing in the morning. If they feel comfortable enough to be themselves around one another, they can allow themselves to make mistakes and learn, without fear of being judged and getting embarrassed...

http://www.bsdt.org/News/TeacherStories/sa_gordon_myers.pdf



Patty Kissell (Smith)

Patty Kissell's teaching abilities come from a variety of experiences. Although many of Mrs. Kissell's family members are educators, she became a teacher after working as a police officer and tackling the business world. Mrs. Kissell's educational background includes environmental science, study abroad, and teaching in New York and Vermont...

http://www.bsdt.org/News/TeacherStories/cp_kissell_quesnel.pdf



Meg Flaherty (EES)

To enhance her lessons, Mrs. Flaherty described partnerships the school has with UVM, the Fleming Museum, ECHO and the Flynn Center. Mrs. Flaherty also invites parents with curriculum related expertise to be guest speakers/presenters in class...



http://www.bsdt.org/News/TeacherStories/ees_flaherty_bellis.pdf



Happy New Year! Tired of hearing that *already*? Hope not! It's still early January, 2012. A New Year! A new start! Everything is fresh and the road forward is paved with amazing and remarkable opportunities. Actually, each and every day is a tomorrow, a brand new day offering new possibilities, new goals to reach and new dreams to work towards. Start anew.

Make the most of your time. However, making the most of your time doesn't need to translate into a hectic schedule with every moment scheduled. Evaluate your priorities and make a plan to work towards your goals. What are the actions you need to take to realize your goal? A written plan reminds us of what we want to work on and how we intend to get there.

Goals do not have to be monumental to have an impact. Learn a new skill or hobby. Read a book, or if you are already an avid reader, read one that you might not ever think of picking up. Call an old friend or make a new one. Try a new food or recipe twice a month. Hand-write notes once in a while, rather than email or text.

Evaluate whether you are doing enough to keep healthy, fit and robust. Are you attending regular dentist and doctor's appointments, taking care of your skin and eyes with SPF and sunglasses, keeping up with healthy eating, moderate exercise and everything else that ensures you are staying as healthy and well as possible?

Utilize your available benefits! Consider making that dental, health or eye appointment that you have been putting off. Ask local gyms and recreation facilities about any discounts for District employees. Write down a few goals for 2012 today! Make those appointments this week. Plan to utilize your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) – It's FREE!

Tech Byte

1:1 Initiatives in Burlington School District



With the budget vote on March 6th, you may receive or have questions of your own regarding the proposed 1:1 initiatives. From the District Budget page on the District website ([http://bsdweb.bsdrv.org/ Board/BoardBudget.php](http://bsdweb.bsdrv.org/Board/BoardBudget.php)) there is a helpful resource called, "One to One Initiative Information."

The direct link for this site is <http://tinyurl.com/bsd121>. It is a resource site for the proposed 1:1 initiatives for Burlington High School, Edmunds Middle School, and Hunt Middle School. It includes links to internal information, pedagogical foundations and exemplars, as well as external links to articles, podcasts and press releases supporting 1:1. The fundamental goal of the 1:1 program is to significantly transform and enhance student learning.

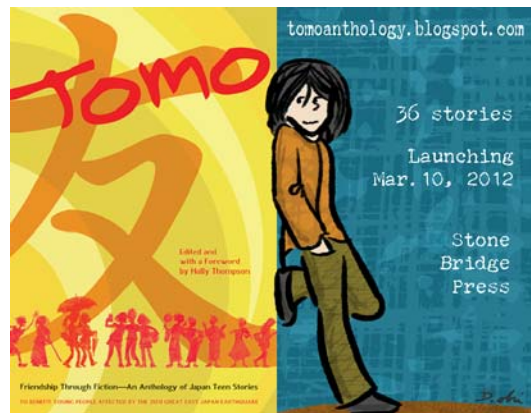
ELL Teacher to be Published!

A story that was recently translated by Misa Lindberg (ELL Teacher at EES and IAA) - "The Dragon and the Poet" by Miyazawa Kenji - will be included in the March 2012 publication of *Tomo: Friendship Through Fiction--An Anthology of Japan Teen Stories* (Stone Bridge Press). Also, over the next few months, interviews with Tomo contributors (including Misa!) will appear on the Tomo blog: <http://tomoanthology.blogspot.com/>

The book will be available through bookstores, libraries, and the internet as a printed book (ISBN: 9781611720068) and as an ebook (ISBN: 9781611725186).

All proceeds will go to benefit teens affected by the 3/11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Congratulations, Misa!



Welcome to the District!

- Christine Aldrich, Paraeducator, EMS**
- Elizabeth Casey, Paraeducator, Champlain
- Sarah Conant, Special Educator, HMS**
- Rachel Dorsey, Discrete Trial Interventionist, EES
- Rajni Eddins, Paraeducator, Flynn**
- Nicanor Garrido, Food Services, BHS
- Hemant Ghising, Paraeducator, Flynn**
- Leanne Gibson, Paraeducator, IAA
- Shelby Hemp, Paraeducator, IAA**
- Kimberly Hocker, Paraeducator, Flynn
- Phosi Kingkittisack, Food Services, BHS**
- Orlie Korrib, Assistant Site Director, Flynn
- Kelly Langston, Nurse, District**
- Christina Lauterbach, Paraeducator, IAA
- Michael McCarthy, Paraeducator, HMS**
- Kristen McNamara, Paraeducator, Flynn
- Mary Michalek, Paraeducator, Horizons**
- Sarajane Peck, Paraeducator, EES
- Ganga Sharma, Bhutanese Home School Liaison, District**
- Allison Tinson, Elementary Teacher, Flynn
- Tracy Truzansky, Paraeducator, IAA**
- Ada Wetmore, Paraeducator, SA
- Susan Woods, Food Services, SA**