

Spotlight

NEWS FROM THE BURLINGTON SCHOOLS



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Greetings all,

Sooner or later, it will start to look more like winter out there. Be sure to read the snow day info on our website and in the last issue of Spotlight. Also be sure your correct contact number is in Alert Now;

check with your building administrative assistant to be sure!

I am excited to announce that we have received the **Nellie Mae Education Foundation grant**. Our grant proposal is in partnership with Winooski School District and several community partners. Our vision is to transform high school education, and thus education in whole, to a student centered, proficiency based system that is technology rich and can better meet the needs of our students as they prepare for college and careers. While we are still finalizing the budget with Nellie Mae, we anticipate somewhere around \$3.5M over three years, which includes an investment in the 1:1 initiative we are matching with our local budget proposal. It is very exciting to be on the edge of education transformation and we will be working to include as many community voices as we can to shape our vision further. You can read more about the grant proposal at: <http://bsdweb.bsdt.org/district/Grants/NellieMaeGrant/nelliemaestart.php>. Stay tuned for more information as this grant unfolds over the next few months.

Continuing with the theme of technology...Access to technology has become increasingly more necessary in today's work world, and thus, in today's schools. Technology in the classroom allows students to skype Sudan to learn about their peers in schools there, to work with NASA to solve science problems, to research countries that are not even yet written into textbooks which are expensive and out of date as soon as we receive them. Technology leads to greater engagement and collaboration among students, increases writing and communication skills, and ensures that our students are prepared for college and careers upon graduation. EMS Navigator Team teacher Brent Truchon writes, "Technology alone will not lead to better educated, more productive students. However, thoughtful, effective (technology) integration provides students additional opportunities to creatively escape the walls of the classroom. Whether it be real time, face to face interactions with students in Uganda, writing for the Young Writers' Project, writing essays, stories or blog entries to be viewed by their classmates, students are motivated by the creativity and authentic audiences that 21st century tools present for them." View samples of this work from the Navigator Team at: <https://sites.google.com/a/bsdt.org/components-of-a-successful-21st-century-environment/>. *Jeanné*

Teacher Feature

Jill Jacobelli (BHS)

The class was filled with an energized and enthusiastic group of students from many different countries. In small groups, students helped each other to complete their assignment...

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



Tim Buckingham (EMS)

His passion for teaching shined through. In his classroom, I witnessed creativity, passion, kindness, and a wonderful silliness that created a brilliant atmosphere...

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

New Teacher Event at ECHO

On January 19th, Jeanné Collins and other members of the Central Office Team had the opportunity to talk with and receive feedback from 22 new BSD teachers. Dan Balón facilitated an activity that gave the teachers a means to provide an overview of how the first half of their first year was going. Through a partnership with ECHO the teachers were invited to see the facility and provided with a pass for a future visit. Dinner for the event was prepared by Burlington School Food Project (pictured above).



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED.

2011-2012 Campaign Totals and Raffle Winners Announced!

THANK YOU...to Burlington School District employees! BSD employees contributed **\$18,202** this year! We surpassed last year's total by \$227, a 1.26% increase. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and several Chittenden County agencies will benefit from your generosity.

Congratulations to Melissa Nutting who will be attending a Red Sox Game this summer! Movie tickets were won by Tracey Bellavance, Teresa Giallorenzo and Mark Nigolian.



Invest EAP Is Available On or Off-Site For BSD

This free and confidential Employee Assistance Program is designed to provide quick access to short-term counseling, assessment, resource and referral information on a broad range of life and work issues, including financial, legal and crisis services. For complete info and to access EAP services, call a trained counselor at **800-287-2173** or visit www.investeap.org. "VSBIT" is our password.

Schedule online for the next ON-SITE BSD session:
Feb. 8th at 150 Colchester Ave. from 2 - 4:30 p.m., Room 1G
by visiting: <http://investeap.org/schoolreservations/>
or call EAP counselor Lynn Bursell at 651-1837.

If you are unable to make it during this scheduled on-site time, call 800-287-2173 to set up an appointment that meets YOUR schedule. Let your administrator know if scheduling an on-site EAP meeting at your location on a Wednesday afternoon would be something you are interested in.



DOE Acknowledgement of PBIS at Champlain



A staff member from the Department of Education recently commended the PBIS Team at Champlain Elementary: "Based on their descriptions of what is happening you are clearly an exemplar of PBIS implementation. It sounds like you have a cohesive staff and community supporting your terrific efforts. You and your staff should be proud of your accomplishments and know you have the admiration and thanks of all of the VTPBIS State Leadership team."

Tech Byte

Today is Digital Learning Day!



February 1st, 2012 is the first annual Digital Learning Day. Sponsored by the Alliance for Excellent Education, "Digital Learning Day is a nationwide celebration of innovative teaching and learning through digital media and technology that engages students and provides them with a rich, personalized educational experience."

Even if you are reading this late in the day or after February 1st, you can still access the [Digital Learning Day website](#) with archived webinars, [educator toolkits](#) and "[awesome ideas](#)" that provide inspiring models for technology integration.

Organizations such as Edutopia have contributed to Digital Learning Day. Check out their interesting and teacher-friendly videos, helpful hints, and new tools and resources on:

- [Integrating Technology into Schools](#)
- [Online Learning and Blended Classrooms](#)
- [Teaching with New Media Tools](#)
- [Working with Digital Learners](#)
- [Additional Resources on the Web](#)

Get inspired!

SA Mayoral Forum a Success!

On January 23rd, The Sustainability Academy School proudly hosted a Mayoral Forum featuring the three candidates for Mayor of the City of Burlington. This Forum, organized and put on by SA's 4th and 5th graders, hosted Miro Weinberger, Wanda Hines, and Kurt Wright, who answered questions put together by students that came directly from their units of study this year. The students asked questions on topics ranging from the budget to food programs to local crime and the candidates were held to tight time limits by students with green, yellow and red paddles. The candidates gave great answers, were thankful for the opportunity and, in contrast to other political races, were friendly and respectful to each other. It was a powerful experience for the students and we wish the candidates the best of luck in the election. CCTV was there and shot video that can be seen at: <http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/burlington-sustainability-academy-mayoral-debate>.



Here's what a couple of people had to say about the event at SA (pictured above):

*"The kids did a spectacular job--from greeting and welcoming to asking the tough, straight-talk questions. Congratulations, SA students, on being engaged, engaging others and doing it all with such grace and poise."
Jessica Nordhaus, IAA/EMS Parent*

*"Words cannot express how proud I am right now of our students and the Sustainability Academy. Our hosting of the Mayoral Forum today was a resounding success. I have heard nothing but positive feedback from the community. Special thanks to the students who hosted the Forum, the students in the audience and, of course, their mentor Tewks. Great job one and all!"
Brian Williams, Principal, SA*

Welcome to the District!

Amy Bourgea, Library Paraeducator, HMS

Betty Gelles, Paraeducator, BHS

Leanne Gibson, Paraeducator, IAA

Rachel Horton, BKids Site Director, Champlain

Vicki Jette, Paraeducator, HMS

Karen Merchant, Recess Monitor, IAA

Christine Neidow, ELL Paraeducator, Champlain

Zar Ni Maw, Burmese Home School Liaison, District

Elizabeth Rees, Paraeducator, EEE

Corrie Rilling, SLP Assistant, District Substitute