



# Champlain Elementary School

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## *Blue Note ❁ June 8, 2018*

### **CHAMPLAIN'S FIFTH-GRADE STEP UP CELEBRATION!**

**Tuesday, June 12 at 6:00 PM @ School Gym**

**Please join in honoring our students' years at Champlain as they move up to middle school!**

#### **An Interview with a Very Special Champlain Nurse, Ms. Nancy Pruitt**

By Dr. Dorinne Dorfman, Principal

Beloved Nurse Nancy Pruitt retires from the Burlington School District this month. In honor of her service, she has the last word in the *Blue Note* for 2017-18.

*DD: How long have you been a nurse? Can you discuss your roles and experience?*

NP: I have practiced forty-three years as a pediatric nurse. I began my career at Duke University Medical Center on a pediatric oncology medical floor. My next position was in a pediatric emergency room. After practicing in the hospitals, I received a master's in pediatric nursing. Since that time, I have practiced in community based, preventive health settings. I have worked in the Burlington School District for twenty years; sixteen of those years have been at Champlain.

*DD: What is the best part of being a school nurse?*

NP: Every day is different. It never feels routine or predictable. I love the variety of situations. There is a constant opportunity to cultivate new relationships with students, staff members, parents and community members.

*DD: How do you manage to stay calm when things get difficult?*

NP: When I think of some of the serious emergencies I have encountered in the school such as grand mal seizures, serious head trauma, a significant laceration or fracture, the "Nurse Nancy" calm affect seems to "kick in." I may feel quite stressed internally but know it is essential to remain calm to provide good care.

*DD: What are your favorite things about Champlain?*

NP: I really enjoy the varied demographics of the South End community. The staff members are highly talented, creative and wonderful. The parent community is so supportive of our school and has faithfully volunteered every year to help with the health screening process. I feel quite fortunate to be a part of this remarkable school community.

*DD: What do you plan to do in retirement?*

NP: I will be able to visit my family and friends in the South more frequently and recharge my accent ☺. I plan to have more sunrise and sunset walks at Shelburne Farms. I love outdoor activities and look forward to more time to hike, kayak, cross country ski and snowshoe.

**Thank You, Champlain Community, for a Wonderful School Year!**

2017-18 proved to be an extraordinary year of continual learning and community building, together creating a very special, safe, and caring place for children to grow. Champlain’s faculty and staff integrated new ideas and programs, collaborated with dozens of dedicated community members, and unified to overcome challenges to bring about the best outcome. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone - students, teachers, staff, parents, guardians, students, and families - who contributes to and strengthens our children’s education and world. From volunteering in Morning Champions and classrooms to chaperoning field trips and co-curricular activities, from taking calls at all hours from the principal to joining meetings with children and parents to truly dig deep and make a difference, your efforts will never be forgotten.

Champlain’s Parent-Teacher Organization brought together parents to organize and fundraise in order to expand our students’ learning opportunities. Students enjoyed cooking with the Charlie Cart, planting in the garden, trying healthy and local dishes, performing, weaving, drumming, learning foreign languages, and delighting at the Harvest Fest and the Fun Run.

**Teacher and Class Notification:** At the end of June, Champlain families will receive information about their new teacher(s) for the 2018-19 school year and their teacher’s welcome letter. Since transitions for students take place every summer, there may be unavoidable changes to class placement based on enrollment. If this occurs, the principal will call home and provide updated information.

**Free Summer Fun for Everyone!** The summer break allows students greater flexibility and spontaneity, and keeping up their skills will best position them for success in the fall. Every day, Champlain educators encourage students to do at least one of the following activities:

<p>Read a book Write a story Draw from observation Work on a puzzle Practice fractions Practice times tables Learn the names of trees, plants, bugs &amp; birds Practice spelling unusual words Study grammar Play an instrument Sing and make up new songs Dance and make up new dance moves Cook for friends and family Play outside Learn about science and history Direct and act out a play</p>	<p>Practice athletic moves, such as a soccer banana kick Clean up till it’s spotless Create a nice outdoor play area Play school and be a nice teacher Learn to play bridge, mahjong, chess, and/or backgammon Prepare a picnic with friends Plant and tend to your own garden Go to the library often for activities and new books Do crafts like making jewelry, knit or weave Ask an adult or friend to show you a new skill Play charades</p>	<p>Join summer activities in your neighborhood Create new cartoon characters and a comic book Build a birdfeeder Write a play and plan the costumes and make-up Go for a walk with an adult you care about Call a family member whom you don’t see often just to say hi Write riddles to share during lunch at Champlain Set learning goals for 2018-19 Decide what you want to be when you grow up Work towards personal goals</p>
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**Medication Pick-up from Health Office:** Please pick up your child’s medications, including all inhalers and Epi-Pens by Thursday, June 14 at 11:30 am. Questions? Call the health office at 865-5300.

**Important Dates**

- Tuesday, June 12 Champlain Fifth-grade Step Up ceremony in the gym @ 6:00 PM
- Thursday, June 14 End-of-year assembly - “The Final Countdown” - Parents welcome @ 8:20 AM
- Thursday, June 14 Last day of school - 11:30 AM dismissal
- Wednesday, Aug. 29 First day of the 2018-19 school year!**

## **News from the Library**

Kids these days were born in the technology age. They are inherently open-source learners; they learn by doing and getting their hands dirty. Seeing the problem unfold as they progress enhances the learning process, and so many new tech tools and gadgets make the most of that hands-on style of learning. Even with access to technology and a "born digital" instinct, students still need guidance when it comes to technology. For the last month, students in grades 2 - 5 have been working with various tech tools during library class, including Makey Makey, Squishy Circuits, LittleBits and coding applications on iPads and computers. Building critical thinking and problem-solving skills have been on full display during these classes.

During the last month, K - 1 students and I have read many entertaining books written by Julia Cook, a former counselor and teacher. Cook's books help teach important social and behavior skills. Students really connected well to the topics covered in the books, including taking responsibility for their actions and controlling their impulse to interrupt others.

Calling all books! On Friday, June 1, all materials borrowed from Champlain's library were due. If parents or students find school library books in backpacks, at home, or elsewhere, please return these items as soon as possible. Champlain does not charge late fees for overdue returns. Please feel free to visit the library to speak with me or Janet Stewart about overdue books. Thank you!