



Champlain Elementary School

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Ms. Janet Breen, Administrative Assistant

Blue Note ❁ April 13, 2018

❁ CHAMPLAIN TALENT SHOW ❁

Wednesday, April 18 @ 6:00 PM in the School Gym

Donate a dessert to show support! ❁ Bring the whole family!

**Enjoy the many talents of Champlain's students, staff, and families!
See your friends and make new ones! Be a part of our school family!**

Musical Happenings at Champlain: An Interview with Music Teacher Ms. Betsy Green

What's happening in music at Champlain?

Champlain's Young Musicians are thriving! In the early grades (K-2), students focus on being tuneful, beatful, and artful. Artful means they are able to sing in tune, catch tunes and remember them, as well create their own tunes. Beatful means they are able to feel and maintain the beat in groups of two and three. And artful means they are able to recognize and perform the expressiveness of music through movement, singing, and instrument playing. They are becoming musical people - the most important part of our music learning. The upper grades (gr. 3-5) are building upon their mastery of being a musical person by becoming a music artist: someone who is balanced between performance, music reading or music literacy, and knowing about music such as historical facts or music theory. Their music learning includes singing in harmony, reading, improvising, composing, playing instruments, and dancing.

What are the fourth and fifth graders doing?

The fourth and fifth grade students are doing a cross-curricular project that has integrated environmental studies, engineering, sound and electricity, visual art, and music. They have built twenty-five electric guitars from old skateboards and cans with the expert help of artist in residence, Matt LaRocca. Matt is a very talented local composer, musician, and educator. The students are in the process of composing a song to feature their guitars. The guitars will be sold to our Champlain community during a silent auction to help raise money to fund arts at Champlain. Special thanks to our PTO for funding this project as well as to Creston Lea for help with building and donating all the strings, and to Brian from Talent SkatePark for donating all the skateboards. A huge thank you also goes to the collaborative efforts of all the fourth- and fifth-grade teachers, art teacher Sondra Sammut, her student intern Christina Bruno, and BSD science coach Colleen Cowell.

Last year they created the Champlain Record Project. Are there still copies of the record available? Do Champlain fourth and fifth graders do a special music project every year?

The Champlain Record is not available anymore. It was a one-time collaborative event lead by the fourth and fifth graders, but included all the students of Champlain. Special projects are generally with upper grades in order to find a way to connect music to the student learning in both music class and other classes. However, smaller projects or integrated learning may happen at any grade level, though not necessarily feature a performance. For instance, the kindergarten students are learning about force, gravity, and friction. We will be exploring these concepts as they relate to our classroom instruments and playing.

What other musical opportunities have Champlain fourth and fifth graders participated in?

With the help of the fourth and fifth grade teachers, we created grade-level choral experiences. The fourth grade chorus participated in the first semester with the culminating performance at Grandway Commons Senior Housing. The fifth graders take part this second semester, and have performed for the Big Change Round Up at the University of Vermont Medical Center. Now we have a combined chorus of both fourth and fifth grade students who are preparing to sing at the Jazz Fest in June. All fourth and fifth graders may join the after-school string program, too. They meet on Thursday and Friday in the music room every week.

What can we expect at this year's spring concert?

This year's spring concert will highlight the music learning in each grade level from the youngest to the oldest students. The concert will be on Thursday, May 3. Kindergarten through second grade will perform at 8:30 AM. The third through fifth grades will perform at 9:15 AM. Both performances will take place in the school gym. The fourth and fifth grade skateboard project song will premier at our school concert. Click here to get a sneak peek and listen to their composition: [Skateboard Project Song Sneak Peak](#).

While we have singalongs almost every time, are there any special music assemblies planned?

Yes, we have a couple of special music assemblies planned. On April 12 the Vermont Youth Strings performed for our whole school. They introduced the orchestra and different styles of music. We even have a current Champlain fourth grader who is a member of the orchestra, Lisa Zhou-Hackett. Our second assembly will take place in early May. This will feature the Symphony Reel, a string quartet from the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. A special thank you to the Champlain PTO for helping to support this event.

What else would you like to share with our Champlain community?

This year, Mark Sustic of Young Traditions has teamed up with the Burlington School District elementary music teachers to start fiddle clubs at every school. Any student who had taken lessons for one year or more was invited to participate free of charge. Students learn traditional fiddle tunes through traditional methods - by ear! These fiddle clubs will come together to play at the FREE citywide Community Dinner and Dance on Thursday, May 3 at 5:30 PM for students in grade 3-5 and their families. All dances are traditional New England and French Canadian dances and will be taught at the dance. BSD Food Services Director Doug Davis will serve dinner as a Farm to School Project, sponsored by all the city's elementary PTOs. We hope to see you there for a remarkable time and chance to connect and build community through the time-honored tradition of a community dinner and dance! Come get to know your neighbors and other students and families from across the city. Hope to see you there! Thank you for all your support!

Health Room Update: Lyme Disease

Lyme disease, caused by infected deer ticks, is very common in Vermont. There have been a number of cases reported in Chittenden County. The ticks infected are usually in the nymph stage and are quite small, about the size of the tip of a pencil lead. The best way to prevent Lyme Disease is to prevent tick bites.

<p><i>While outdoors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Avoid high grass and bushy area as much as possible. *Wear long pants and long sleeves to minimize exposure to ticks. *Tuck pants into socks to keep ticks out. *Wear light colored clothing in order to see ticks. *Check for ticks could look like a speck of dirt, remove right away. 	<p><i>While indoors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Check your body and check your children, pay special attention to armpits, head, and folds of skin. *Shower within a few hours of being outside
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What to do if you get a tick bite? Remove the tick with a fine tipped tweezers as soon as possible. It can take up to 36 hours to transmit the bacteria that causes the disease. Wash your hands with soap and water, and wash the tick bite with soap and water or rubbing alcohol. ***Watch for symptoms of Lyme Disease!*** Symptoms may include fatigue, chills, fever, joint pain, headache. Often there is red rash around bite. This rash sometimes gives the appearance of a bull's eye. Call your doctor immediately if symptoms are present.

Appropriate treatment of Lyme disease with antibiotics almost always results in a full cure. For more information go to www.healthvermont.gov or contact your doctor.

Champlain’s Community Dinner: A Huge Success!

By Rebecca LaMantia, Speech-Language Pathologist

Our Community Dinner on Thursday night was a huge success! Families enjoyed eating delicious food, connecting with our school community, and listening and dancing to wonderful live music! Champlain’s Family-School Partnership Committee is especially grateful to our Parent-Teacher Organization, particularly Kath Laing. We give our greatest thanks to our musicians Robert, Gigi, George, Ali, and the Champlain student drummers; Chef Kaye; Ms. Breen; Ms. Greene; our custodial staff: Carl, Sam, and Heather; and the many teachers and staff for the incredible support!

Two New After-school Opportunities from Champlain’s Parent-Teacher Organization

Last February, Champlain’s PTO sponsored two after-school classes free of charge to increase enrichment outside of the traditional school day. Both African Drumming and French Language filled with children eager to learn! Due to snow days, French will continue through Wednesday, May 9.

High demand and a waiting list convinced our PTO to offer a second session of drumming to grades 2-5. Additionally, Champlain parent Xu Zhou has volunteered to teach Chinese language to 4th and 5th graders. Classes are open to Champlain students, including those enrolled in the B’Kids after-school program. Classes run May 1 - June 8. The enrollment deadline is Thursday, April 19. Permission slips are available in the main office. Current drumming students must hand in a new permission to be considered for Session II.

African Drumming, Part 2

For Students in Grades 2-5 on Tuesdays at 3:00-4:00 in the Music Room with George Sliter!

This class introduces children to the basics of hand drums as well as learning rhythms from around the world. Goals include working together as a drum team and performing in our school community. Mr. George has studied and performed African drum and dance around the world. *Max: 12 students*

Chinese Language

For Students in Grades 4-5 on Fridays at 2:55-3:45 in Ms. Barb’s Room with Xu Zhou!

This class introduces children to written and spoken Chinese language. Goals include learning Chinese calligraphy, conversational vocabulary, and cultural appreciation. Ms. Zhou was raised and educated in China and hopes to share the value and wisdom of the world’s most populated country. *Max: 8 students*

Thanks to our PTO’s generosity and fundraising activities, these after-school classes are FREE! Please support our PTO’s fundraising efforts, which bring more learning and enrichment to our students. **THANK YOU!**

Important Dates

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| Monday, April 16 | All-school assembly in the gym - Parents welcome @ 8:20-8:45
<u>Presentation for parents - Restorative Practices: What’re Those? @ 6:30-7:30 PM</u> |
| Tuesday, April 17 | BSD elementary schools String Concert - Integrated Arts Academy @ 7:00 PM |
| Wednesday, April 18 | Champlain Community Talent Show @ 6:00 PM |
| Thursday, April 19 | Champlain Parent-Teacher Organization meeting in the art room @ 7:30-8:30 AM |
| Mon.-Fri. April 23-27 | Spring break - No school for students or staff |
| Thursday, May 3 | Champlain K-5 Spring Concert @ 8:30 AM (gr. K-2) and 9:15 AM (gr. 3-5)
Community dinner and dance featuring BSD elementary fiddle clubs - BHS @ 5:30 PM |
| Tuesday, May 8 | School hearing screening, last day for gr. K, 1, 3, 5 |
| Wednesday, May 9 | National Walk@Lunch Day - Teachers lead walking on campus (rain date: 5/10) |

Friday, May 18

BSD elementary schools Spelling Bee at the Miller Center @ 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

PINE STREET REPAIRS START THIS MONDAY 4/16! PLEASE PLAN FOR ADDED COMMUTE TIME AND DRIVE CAREFULLY!

NOTE: This is the last edition of the Blue Note in April due to the upcoming break.

Restorative Practices: What're Those? Presentation for Parents/Guardians



Monday, April 16 @ 6:30-7:30 PM
Champlain Elementary School Library
Childcare provided for elementary school children

Come hear from one of the Burlington School District's community partners, the **Burlington Community Justice Center**, about introducing restorative practices in our district over the past few years, as well as the work that lies ahead. Come with your curiosity, your questions, and your stories. There will be an interactive component built into the presentation.

Presenter Rachel Jolly oversees BCJC programs that help community members respond to crime and conflict, including Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime, Offender Reentry, and Restorative Justice.

For more information contact Kerrie, champlainelementarypto@gmail.com.

