



Champlain Elementary School

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Blue Note ❁ April 6, 2018

❁ CHAMPLAIN'S COMMUNITY POTLUCK DINNER! ❁

Thursday, April 12 @ 5:30-7:00 PM in the School Gym

Bring the whole family! ❁ Bring a dish to share!

Enjoy music with Champlain's African drumming class and more! See Champlain's staff and your children's friends! Be a part of our school family!

Students Visit Champlain's Evacuation Site at CrossFit Gym

By Dr. Dorinne Dorfman, Principal

The State of Vermont requires all schools to conduct one to two drills each month, alternating between "Evacuate the Building" (fire drill) and "Secure the School" (lockdown). This practice teaches expectations during emergency situations to staff and students. Over a year ago, Champlain faculty practiced the protocol, "Evacuate the Building," and walked to our primary evacuation site, CrossFit Gym, at 39 Birchcliff Pkwy. Conducting a whole-school evacuation site drill annually is best practice. After many successful drills with students increasingly following directions, Champlain is now ready for a whole-school evacuation drill. This is long overdue, since last fall Champlain was evacuated and the Burlington Fire Department arrived to inspect the building before we could reenter. (Something burned in the kitchen.) Had the warm September sun not shone and snow was coming down, we may have needed to move quickly to our evacuation site.

Yet students know nothing about Champlain's evacuation site. Years have passed since the last such drill. Our Safety Incident Command Team has found another way to acquaint students and staff to the protocol as an effective learning opportunity. First, members of Champlain's Safety Team will present at an all-school assembly on April 16. We will demonstrate the protocol with a map and student volunteers, whose job it is to, "listen and watch." In an emergency, directions can change and, "We walk and sit quietly and don't talk." The next day, each grade level will visit the site separately. A representative of Champlain's Safety Team will meet them in the lobby and repeat the steps they learned at the assembly. With the Safety Team leader in front, the classroom teacher behind each class, and other staff interspersed with students, they walk straight out onto the sidewalk and go right along Pine Street. At Birchcliff Parkway, they turn right and continue until they arrive at CrossFit Gym. They will go inside and sit together for a minute while the Safety Team leader explains that, in case of emergency, they would wait here until we can re-enter our school, or their parents or a bus picks them up to take them home. Then we will walk back to school the same way we came.

St. Anthony's Church on 305 Flynn Avenue is Champlain's second evacuation site, in case circumstances prevent us from going to CrossFit. The reunification site at that location is the church's parking lot.

Champlain's reunification site is the parking lot in front of CrossFit. In case of a real emergency in which we needed to evacuate the building for an extended period of time, parents/guardians will be notified and requested to pick up their children. Given the traffic that would ensue, Safety Team members and city traffic monitors and/or police would help keep the process safe.

Technically, anytime students leave campus as part of the school day becomes a field trip. This edition of the *Blue Note* is the parental notification of this off-campus activity, likely the least fun field trip our students will ever experience! Families are encouraged to talk about the “Evacuate the Building” drill to Champlain’s evacuation site and encourage children to stick to their job: listen and watch, walk and sit quietly, and don’t talk. Please be aware that additional steps are always taken to support individual students who struggle with drills. If any questions arise, please contact me.

Champlain Student Photos in the 2017-18 Yearbook - Contact Janet to Opt Out by April 13

Our yearbook is free for every Champlain student to cherish for years to come. Students love seeing photos of friends and themselves, posing for the professional photographer in the fall and participating in school activities all year. Parents/guardians may remember seeing the photo permission form as part of Burlington’s online InfoSnap registration. Uneven access to technology has prevented some parents from completing InfoSnap, who have used paper health forms instead. For this reason, parents/guardians who do not want their child’s picture included in the yearbook must write a note, call, or email Janet Breen at jbreen@bsdvt.org or 864-8477. The deadline for parents to opt out of their child’s photo in the 2016-17 yearbook is next Friday, April 13.

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

Come hear from one of the Burlington School District’s community partners, the Burlington Community Justice Center, about the work being done to introduce restorative practices in the District over the past few years, as well as some of the work that lies ahead. Come with your curiosity, your questions and your stories. There will be an interactive component built in to 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.

Important Dates

- Tuesday, April 10 School hearing screening, first day for gr. K, 1, 3, 5
- Thursday, April 12 Champlain community potluck dinner & music @ 5:30-7:00 PM
- Monday, April 16 All-school assembly in the gym - Parents welcome @ 8:20-8:45
- NEW!*** Presentation for parents - Restorative Practices: What’re Those? @ 6:30-7:30 PM
- 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
- 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
- Monday, May 28 Memorial Day - School closed
- Sunday, June 3 Champlain 5K Fun Run - Oakledge Park lower pavilion at @ 8:30 AM
- Tuesday, June 12 Champlain Fifth-grade Step Up ceremony in the gym @ 6 PM
- Thursday, June 14 Anticipated last day of school

