



Champlain Elementary School

Dr. Dorinne Dorfman, Principal
800 Pine Street Burlington, Vermont 05401 |

Ms. Janet Breen, Administrative Assistant
802.864.8477 | champlain.bsdrv.org

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10TH ANNUAL CHAMPLAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FUN RUN!

Sunday, June 3 at 8:30am - Lower Pavilion at Oakledge Park

Build school community and fundraise for Champlain's PTO! Runners can opt for a 1-mile, 2-mile, or 3-mile out-and-back distance on the Burlington Bike Path. We request \$5 per runner - no runner will be turned away! Volunteers will be stationed along the route. For kids under 5, we kick off the event with a fun 50-yard dash. Stick around after the run for snacks and a raffle!

Morning Champions: A Very Special Start to Every School Day

By Deena Murphy, Morning Champions Director

I am called Mrs. Murphy by just about everyone, including teachers, students and even the principal at Champlain School. I run the Morning Champion Program, which takes place daily from 7:40 to 8:08 AM. You can find me here in the wee hours before 7:00 AM getting things ready for a fun hour each day before the official start of school. Right now we are spending that time outside with balls, sidewalk chalk, racquets, and sometimes for a special treat, bubbles! While we are outside, students can also record their personal bests in jumping rope, hula hoops, or other activities. Did you know the current record for jump rope is 216? Third-graders Ifrah Hassan and Stevi Chagnon are in a head-to-head competition over the lead. Today they came up with the idea of jumping together and are ready to break the record as partners!

During the winter, our time together is spent in the library, where I have set up all the materials, including games, puzzles, legos, drawing and art materials, potholder loops, lanyards, and more. We are here to have fun. And we learn: how to build things, how to play a new game, or how to get along together. Each morning, thirty to sixty Champlain children are building with blocks or legos, constructing marble runs, designing beautiful patterns on the potholder looms, navigating a maze, making paper constructions, writing personal books and cards, mixing colors in paints, making up stories about Playmobil characters, spinning tops, exercising memory skills with memory match cards, cleaning up our messes, and remembering to say thank you. All the while building new vocabulary words!

Occasionally, we have a Special Challenge that students can join in to win a prize. We had a lego-building challenge based on number of pieces, creativity and moving parts. Many children stepped up for our math challenge and a competition for the most words we could make from the letters in "Champlain Elementary School." As for prizes, thank heavens for Oriental Trading Company, online purveyor of plastic tchotchkes. And thank heavens for the Champlain Elementary School PTO that provides much-appreciated funding for Morning Champions.

Morning Champions runs best when there are lots of people involved. Over the years, we have had many loyal and wonderful volunteers from our community. King Street Center (where I work when I leave Champlain School each morning) recruits and vets our beloved volunteers. They are: Kristin Alosso, Erin Brennan, Sienna DeVoe-Talluto, Erik Esckilsen, Joe Giallanella, Bonisiwe Green, Christine Hinkel, Brandon Hope, Deborah Larkin, Tom Maffitt, Brenda O'Grady, Amanda Talbert, Tabitha Tice, Myle Truong, and Morgan Wagner. Daily we benefit from paraeducator Deb Magnus's help, who adds her special aura of calm

and kindness. Some of our volunteers have been with us for many years. They are among the most flexible, patient and kind and generous people I know. Let me say “THANK YOU!” again right here!

We end each school year with a special waffle extravaganza breakfast. With lots of help from Chef Kaye Douglas, King Street colleagues Gabi Tufo-Strouse, Carrie Jacques, and Bonisiwe Green, and former Champlain English Learner teacher Chaska Richardson, we provided real maple syrup from Couching Lion Maple Sugar Farm and a great feast of waffles, fruit, smoothies and even (don’t tell food services director Doug Davis) whipped cream! This year, fifth-grader Caroline Perras and fourth-grader Lisa Zhou-Hackett gave amazing violin performances during the breakfast. We also had temporary glitter tattoos and a whole lot of fun.

In a recent survey, one student replied to the question, “How would you make the program better?” with this suggestion, “Make it longer!” If you would like to join in the fun as a Morning Champion volunteer, please contact Deena Murphy at dmurphy@bsdvt.org.

Merin Blake, Second Grader in Ms. Villani’s Class

In my class, we learned how to write persuasive letters. First, I wrote a letter to my Teacher about wanting a class pet. I tried to persuade Ms. Villani to get our class a pet hamster. Then, I wrote to Roaring Spring Paper Products to make their notebooks more fun and colorful. I said that their notebooks were kind of boring, and more people would buy them if they were more colorful. Mr. Hoover, the CEO of Roaring Spring Paper Products, wrote back and sent our class a big box with colorful notebooks, sketch pads, and writing paper! It made me feel happy and excited. I learned that my writing is powerful.

Message from Champlain’s PTO: Join us for the final PTO meeting of the school year on Thursday, June 7 in the Art room! We will be wrapping up and voting on next year’s PTO board: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, IT, Volunteer Coordinator, member at large. Anyone may nominate anyone! The President and Vice-President may be co-chaired. Coffee and bagels provided. Everyone welcome!

Champlain’s Annual Third-grade Invention Convention is Friday, June 8 in the Library

Beginning in May students began learning about inventors and inventions. Some questions they considered were: What is an invention? How have inventions made life easier? How can the Engineering Design Process help design an invention? Students were given the task of designing and building an invention that makes life easier or solves a problem. The inventions are brought to school in June to be presented at the Invention Convention. The inventions have been incredible in past years. We are looking forward to seeing the inventions this year’s group of inventors creates. Classes are invited to see the inventions from 9:00-10:00 AM. Families are invited to visit from 1:00-2:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

Important Dates

Monday, May 28	Memorial Day - School closed
Wed.-Fri. May 30-June 1	Champlain plant sale to benefit Outdoor Education @ 3:00-4:00 PM
Sunday, June 3	Champlain Fun Run - 1-3 mile run/walk - Oakledge Park lower pavilion @ 8:30 AM
Wednesday, June 6	Champlain student performance at Jazz Fest at City Hall Stage @ 12:45 PM
Thursday, June 7	Champlain PTO meeting in the art room @ 7:30-8:30 AM
Friday, June 8	Champlain Volunteer Celebration Breakfast in the library @ 8:10-8:40 AM Third-grade Invention Convention - Parents welcome @ 1:00 -2:00 PM
Tuesday, June 12	Champlain Fifth-grade Step Up ceremony in the gym @ 6:00 PM
Thursday, June 14	Last day of school - 11:30 AM Dismissal