



JANUARY 2010

# BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

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## BHS NEWS!



Our best wishes for a wonderful New Year!

**Mid-year assessments begin January 19.**

Please encourage your student to complete assignments and begin reviewing notes and class work in preparation for the assessments.

**Teachers are available for extra help Monday-Thursday from 2:55 to 3:30, or at other pre-arranged times.** Tutors are also available after school in the **Homework Center** Mondays-Thursdays.

**Mid-Year Assessments.** Students do not come to school on **January 18<sup>th</sup>, Martin Luther King's Day**, but are encouraged to participate in city-wide celebration and community service activities. The **mid-term schedule** allows for two hour blocks for assessments:

- January 19 9-11 **Blue 1**, 11:45-1:45 **Blue 3**
- January 20 9-11 **Blue 2**, 11:45-1:45 **Blue 4**
- January 21 9-11 **White 1**, 11:45-1:45 **White 3**
- January 22 9-11 **White 2**, 11:45-1:45 **White 4**
- January 25 **Make-Ups (by permission only)**
- January 26 **Second Semester Begins, Blue Day**

During the exam week, *breakfast will be served starting at 7:30 and lunch from 10:30-12:00.* **BTC students are required to attend their regularly scheduled BTC classes January 19-22** unless they have a BHS mid-term. Mid-Term Assessments generally count as 20% of a student's First Semester grade. Students can improve their current grades significantly by doing well on the assessments so please encourage your student to study hard.

**All students are expected to be present for Mid-Term Assessments.** It is difficult for students to make up exams, especially when they have required oral presentations. *Any student who misses an exam must have written permission from me to make-up an exam.* We recognize that some students may be ill or family emergencies may arise. Please call the Grade Office at 864-8406 to provide information on the absence, and a determination regarding make-ups.

**Only students with Make-Up Exams** will need to attend school on **January 25<sup>th</sup>.** *School resumes Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> with a Blue Day schedule.*

**Sports and Co-Curricular Eligibility.** A reminder that students who are currently on an athletic team or want to try out for a sport, a dramatic production, or participate in a club activity next semester must have **passing grades** in all but one of their *Second Quarter* classes. Students must also be in good standing in the *Third Quarter* to participate in the spring. Our philosophy at BHS is that *academics must come first.*

**Snow Days.** With all the snow received already this year, it is helpful to review our school's **Snow Day Policy.** Generally, when a full day is missed, school resumes on the Blue or White day which was missed (because textbooks and assignments are already home for that day's courses). In order to get back on track with our announced calendar, we then need to repeat that day. *Thus, if a Snow Day happens on a Blue Day, then the first day back is a Blue Day, followed by another Blue Day (which follows the regular calendar), then a White Day, and so on.* The school district's new automatic AlertNow telephone system will call homes by about 6:30 a.m. regarding any changes in the school schedule.



**Parent Opportunities.** The next **Parent Network Meeting** is **February 10** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. We will focus on *testing* including the recent 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade PLAN and PSAT results given out to students in December, as well as *the 2010-11 Course Registration Process* for students the week of February 8th. All parents and guardians are welcome!

Every January, parents and guardians kindly organize an **Appreciation Breakfast** for BHS teachers and staff members. This year, the date is January 25<sup>th</sup>, the make-up day for mid-term assessments. Parents and guardians who wish to contribute food or refreshments are invited to contact Fagan Hart at 865-9165, Nancy Knox at [nknox@bsdvt.org](mailto:nknox@bsdvt.org), or bring contributions between 7 and 8 a.m. on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Year.** We have begun work on the budget and course registration process for next year. *Eighth grade* students will soon meet with BHS guidance counselors. Parents and guardians are invited to a **Parent Orientation Meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. The week of February 8<sup>th</sup>, current 9-11<sup>th</sup> graders will receive **registration materials** that describe programs and courses of study for next year. Course registration forms are due back in Home Room on **Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**. Guidance counselors will meet with each *junior* in January or February in order to plan courses for senior year and begin post-secondary college and career planning.



**Parents of Seniors.** There is a **Class Meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>** at which time seniors will order their caps and gowns for Graduation on June 18th. Information will also be distributed regarding graduation announcements and upcoming senior activities. ***It is very important for seniors to stay focused second semester and take full advantage of their classes and school activities.*** This has been a very positive year with seniors and we look forward to a great second semester!

**One-Acts.** Students are busy practicing and preparing for the One-Act Play Festival on February 17-19. Be sure to put this on your calendars!

**School Choice.** For students interested in School Choice next year with **Colchester, S. Burlington, or Champlain Valley Union High School**, please complete a School Choice Application Form (on our school web page or in the Guidance Office) by **February 1<sup>st</sup>**. We have only a limited number of slots available to send and receive from these schools which are filled first through a lottery system and then on a space-available basis throughout the year. **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** is the school choice deadline for **Winooski High School**.



**Art Parents.** Come enjoy Art and Dessert at special Open Houses for Maggie Conant's Art 1 classes on **January 27** and Art 2 on **February 18**.

**Report Cards.** First semester report cards will be sent home on or about **January 29<sup>th</sup>**. Many parents are using SnapGrades to view student progress in classes. If you need help with passwords to access a student account, please contact Bonnie Moore at 864-8414. We encourage you to *not panic* if some grades are low. It takes teachers time to grade assessments

and essays. When grades are not yet posted, it can appear that a student has a zero on an assignment. Please be patient as teachers continue to learn and adjust to this new program.

**Detour.** *Detour* is the BHS Literary Magazine. It now has a link on the **BHS homepage**, and the summer 2009 issue is up for people's viewing pleasure. We are still looking for patrons and business sponsors. Please contact teacher Rob Bohn for further information.

## HEALTH OFFICE NEWS



Thank you to those participating in the recent **H1N1 Flu Clinic** at which time over 500 people were vaccinated. Students were cooperative and helpful.

Be on the look out for **strep throat!** This is the time of year when we often see strep throat. Please consider keeping your child home if they have any of the following symptoms: severe, and sudden sore throat without coughing, sneezing or cold symptoms; pain or difficulty swallowing, fever over 101, and white or yellow spots on their throat. Strep throat can only be diagnosed with a throat culture which your doctor will conduct in their office if they are suspicious of a strep throat infection. ***Any student/staff with a confirmed case of strep will need to be on antibiotics for a full 24 hours before returning to school.***

Does your student need assistance arranging for **dental care?** February is Dental Health Month, and information will be available on Tuesdays during lunches. Feel free to contact the Health Office directly for more information at 864-8586.

Classrooms now have newly installed, wall-mounted **hand sanitizers** thanks to wellness funding earned through staff wellness activities and the efforts of Saturday School students. This is another step in helping to keep students healthy at BHS.

## ATTENDANCE OFFICE NEWS

We hope everyone's New Year is off to a great start. Mrs. Kirk will be out of the office January 19 through March 1; we welcome Mrs. Cicchetti who will be filling in during this time. Please continue to call 864-8406 to report attendance issues, preferably by 8:30 each morning. Mr. Rogers and Mrs. Winn will also be available to answer any of your questions.



## STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Upcoming school activities organized and sponsored by the BHS Student Council include:

- February 6 - Student Council Team in Penguin Plunge
- February 19 - Blood Drive
- March 3 - So You Think You Can Dance?
- March 4 - Burlington Idol
- March 8-12 - Spirit Week (Dance March 12)
- March 19 - Bash for Cash

## BOOSTER CLUB AND PARENT INFO

The next **Booster Club** meeting is **February 3rd** at 7 p.m., NOT Monday, February 1st due to conflicts with basketball games. Contact Boosters at [bhsboosters07@gmail.com](mailto:bhsboosters07@gmail.com). If you would like to receive email updates about BHS events, OR if you have recently changed your email address, please contact BHS Parent Involvement Coordinator **Nancy Knox** at [nknox@bsdvt.org](mailto:nknox@bsdvt.org) or 373-4281. Coming soon! A new link on the BHS website for "Parent Resources". Let Nancy Knox know if you would like to see particular info on this new page.

## SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Vermont Department of Education identified BHS as not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind in one or more areas for a minimum of three consecutive years, though we did make required progress in 2008-09. As a result, BHS is required to provide Supplemental Educational Services - **extra academic assistance/tutoring to improve eligible students' academic performance** - free of charge. Approximately 60 students signed up to receive these services in September. There is another opportunity for eligible families to sign up for a variety of services, including for the Shades of Ebony Program which is offered at BHS after-school.

Only children who are **eligible for free and reduced-price federal meals** can participate. If you have not previously applied for free and reduced-price federal meals program, please return the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application along with the application for Supplemental Educational Services. **Limited services are available**. As a result, we may not be able to enroll every child whose parent applies. We will give first priority to the lowest-achieving students based on the student's score on the fall 2008 New England

Common Assessment Programs (NECAP) test. **If your child already enrolled for services during the fall of 2009 you do not need to reapply to continue services for the remainder of the school year.**

For a detailed list of eligible providers, please visit: [http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/laws/nclba/educ\\_approved\\_services\\_providers.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/laws/nclba/educ_approved_services_providers.pdf). To download an application form, go to: <http://bsdweb.bsdvt.org/district/Parents/parentsstart.php>. If you do not have Internet access, contact BHS at 864-8409. Completed applications must be returned to the school by **February 12, 2010**.

## CONGRATULATIONS



**Aviva Loeb, Madison Francois, and Quincy Cundiff-Koplin** performed in the VT Ballet Theater's production of The Nutcracker.

**Chaim Lodish** and other **BHS math teachers** received a grant to purchase classroom response clickers to assist with instruction.

**Stephanie Jaques** was selected to the 2009 NSCAA/Adidas High School Girls All-Region I New England Soccer Team.

**Colin Glich's** musical composition was performed in concert as part of the Vermont MIDI Project.

The **BHS Interact Club** joined members of the **BHS National Honor Society** and **Student Council** to assist with the Polar Express to benefit the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation. **Interact Club** students also rang bells for the annual Salvation Army drive.

## FORMER STUDENTS

**Jonathan Flint**, Class of 2009, recently earned Eagle Scout status with Boy Scout Troop 50.

**Elizabeth George**, Class of 2004, MIT graduate and Ph.D. candidate at U.C. Berkeley, spends 2-3 months each year in Antarctica working on the South Pole Telescope. She writes, "We're using the cosmic microwave background to search for galaxy clusters, which are the largest gravitationally-bound objects in the universe. To all my former teachers, 'thank you!' And to all students, 'Dream big! Someday you will be amazed at where your dreams can take you.'"



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## IMPORTANT DATES

January 18	MLK Day - Inservice/No School
January 19	Mid-Term Exams Begin
January 21	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night 7:00
January 25	Parent Appreciation Breakfast
January 25	Make-Up Exam Day
January 26	Second Semester Begins - Blue
January 29	Report Cards Home
February 1	School Choice Deadline
February 3	Booster Club Meeting 7:00
February 6	ACT at BHS
February 8	Course Registration Info Out
February 10	Parent Network Meeting 7:00
February 12	Course Registrations Due
February 17-19	One Act Plays

## MLK Day of Service

*"Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve"*

January 18, 2010

Concis Auditorium, Burlington City Hall

11:30 Service site sign-up

12:30 Service projects

5:00 Celebration dinner

Visit [unitedwaycc.org](http://unitedwaycc.org) select "Volunteer Now", and search "MLK Day" to pre-register for service sites. Pre-registration is not required to participate.

Brought to you by Opportunities Credit Union, AmeriCorps, Center for Community and Neighborhoods, United Way of Chittenden County