

OCTOBER 23RD, 2020

THE REEF

Burlington High School's E-Newsletter

Sara Holbrook Community Center Offering In-Person Study Hall and Adventure Programming to BHS Students, Among Other Services

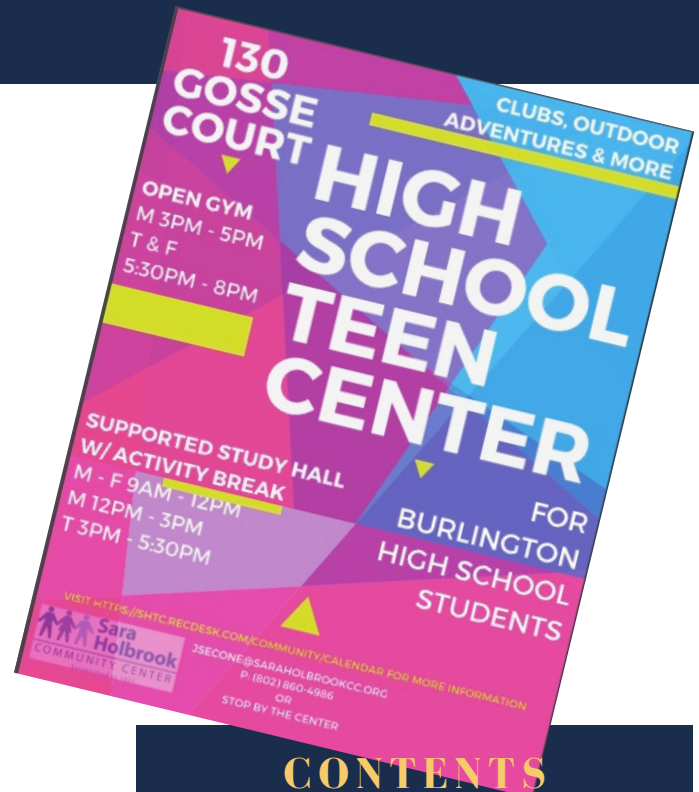
The Sara Holbrook Teen Center in the Miller Center, located at 130 Gosse Court, is now offering in-person supported study halls, open gym, clubs, outdoor adventures, and more to the BHS community.

Jada Secone, the new Teen Program Director through SHCC, explained that they are revamping the space and programming on the back end of the renovations made to the SHCC this summer.

"We are moving away from a simple drop in model to a more structured schedule which includes supported study sessions for remote school, open gym, clubs and plenty of adventure activities," Jada explained to BHS administrative staff via email. Meals are also included during programming, the SHCC asks that students register on their website for programming they are planning to attend to make sure they are included in the daily meal count.

If you're interested in signing up for any of the programming opportunities at SHCC, please visit their website [here](#) to view the community calendar and reserve your spot. You can also access the registration form [here](#) - please fill this out prior to your first programming session!

Thank you, Sara Holbrook Teen Center!



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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Principal Noel Green

Hello Seahorse Nation!

We've made it through another week, and what a week it was!

We held our first virtual Parent Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, October 21st. As I said in the last newsletter, the ability to engage with educators is invaluable to the student experience, and although it was in an atypical way this year, we would like to thank all of those who participated. I would also like to take this time to remind everyone, whether you attended Parent Teacher Conferences or not, that you are always welcome to reach out to teachers to schedule a meeting anytime. Please reach out via email to set something up with your students' teachers if you have questions, concerns, or feedback you'd like to share. Our teachers have been working extra hard in this virtual model and we are grateful for all their creativity and skill!

I'd like to extend my thanks to the

community for tuning into the BSD School Board meeting that was held on Tuesday, October 20th. Our student school board liaison, Rebecca Cunningham, has summarized the meeting in this newsletter for those who could not be present.

Lastly, please keep an eye on your email in the next couple of weeks for surveys regarding the future of BHS's location as we navigate COVID and PCB's. These surveys will be your opportunity to have your voice be heard as a community, and we ask that we receive as many responses as possible.

Have an excellent weekend, and as always: Be Safe. Work Hard. Stay Kind. Keep Swimming.

Lets go, Seahorses!

Follow Us!



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BHS Instagram



BHS Website
Home

BSD SCHOOL BOARD SUMMARY

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY 10/20/20

*by Rebecca Cunningham, BSD Student
Representative*



Public Comment: Many parents commented with concerns regarding their children who have been learning remotely for the past 7 months. Parents asked the school board to reassess if the risk of developing cancer from PCB exposure outweighed the education loss and the risk of mental health issues caused by social isolation. Additionally, they questioned the low PCB recommendation levels unique to Vermont, they asked about how masks affect inhalation, and pointed out that remote learning accentuates the equity gap.

Report from the Student Representatives: Elementary school and Middle school students love their in-person school days but they find learning remotely challenging. Many BHS students are enjoying sports and clubs but wish to attend school again in person. OnTop and Horizon students are happy to be in person 4 days a week.

Update from Superintendent Flanagan: All tested locations in A-E building had PCB levels below 500-600 ng/m³ but many had levels higher than Vermont's standard of 15 ng/m³. The district met with the Secretary of Education, DOH, and EPA who all supported the decision to transition to remote learning. BSD's consultant Fuss and O'Neil began a pilot project to test the air and determine how to remediate the building. **Expected finishing date: March 2021.** The school board has identified an alternative site. Expected finish date: **January 2021**

Three options looking forward:

- 1) Return to BHS now and continue remediation as planned. Continue the ReEnvisioning Project as planned.
- 2) Move to an alternate site in January and stay there for 2-3 years so the ReEnvisioning project can happen at BHS without students in the building.
- 3) Move to an alternate site in January and stay there for 2-3 years. Reconsider the location of Burlington's new high school.

Key points from the Board Discussion: School Board Commissioners expressed concerns for students returning to a building with elevated PCB levels. Conversely, they expressed concerns regarding students' mental health in the current remote learning environment. School board commissioners debated whether they have the authority to question the government officials who advised them to teach remotely. A doctor on the board argued that because the risk of PCB exposure is calculated based on the person with the "highest reasonable risk" factor, it is an outlier. He informed the board that medical fraud happens often when doctors use the lowest possible threshold and tell healthy patients they need treatment. All student, teacher, and parent voices matter. A survey will be sent out shortly to collect these perspectives.

Motions passed: The monitoring reports 2.2 and 2.9 for the hiring and treatment of staff passed. The proposal to approve contractor prequalification criteria to solicit contractors for the BHS upcoming renovation project passed.

SEAHORSE SPOTLIGHT

New Faculty and Staff - Part I

Madeline Wilson (she/her/hers), Speech Language Pathologist

Ms. Wilson feels so lucky to be a part of the Seahorse community! In 2018, she moved to Vermont from Pennsylvania with her husband and two boys (ages 14 and 6); they've just added a baby girl to the family!

Ms. Wilson is a lover of all this area has to offer...Cider donuts? Maple creemees? Hiking, biking, and beach time at the lake? Yes please! She looks forward to getting to know as many of you as possible in the coming months.



Ellen Wollensack (she/her/hers), EL Teacher

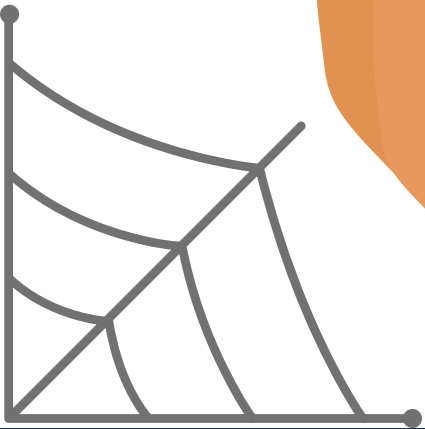
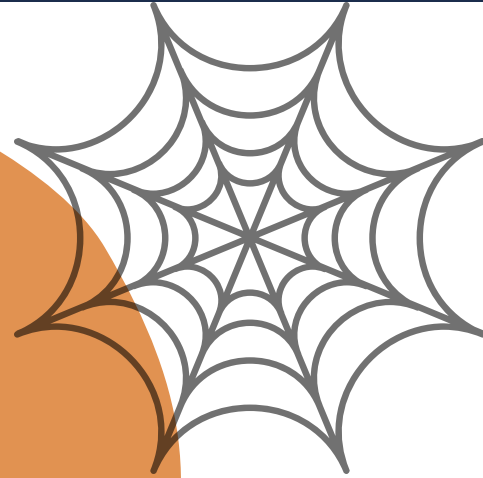
Hi! I'm Ms. Ellen (she/her). Although I'm new to working in the BHS library, I have actually been hanging around for at least 8 years when my kids went to school here. When I'm not at school, I like to canoe, hike, swim, cook, eat chocolate, read and knit. I have been working on a project to visit all 251 towns in Vermont!

NEXT WEEK'S SEAHORSE SPOTLIGHT:

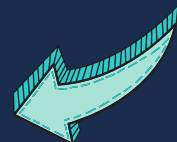
New Faculty and Staff - Part IV

HORSIN' AROUND HALLOWEEN

We want to see your
SPOOK-TACULAR
costumes, home decor,
pumpkin carvings -
anything **HALLOWEEN!**
Send pictures with your
name to
bhoyt@bsdvt.org to be
featured in next weeks
Horsin' Around section!



ANNUAL STUDENT UPDATE in PowerSchool



CLICK ON THE
CLIPBOARD TO
ACCESS
POWERSCHOOL

PARENTS/GUARDIANS! If you have not completed your ANNUAL STUDENT UPDATE (ASU) information in PowerSchool yet, please do so ASAP! Navigate to the **Forms** tab and complete all outstanding information. **All forms must be completed in their entirety.**

This annual update is important for the safety of our students while at school.

Although we are currently virtual, WE ARE STILL COLLECTING THIS INFORMATION, as there is still information that is vital to student's safety and ability to learn remotely.

If you have questions about how to complete the forms or are unable to log into your account, please reach out to Molly Roach at mroach@bsdvt.org for assistance. Please include the best email and contact number to reach you at in your email to Ms. Roach.

Extra Curriculars

ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE



Click [here](#) for a complete list of Expanded Learning Opportunities and BHS Clubs - updated regularly!

BLOOD DRIVE AT BURLINGTON ELKS CLUB

Wednesday, November 11th,
10am-3pm!



If you are interested in donating, then please [sign-up here](#). You will be prompted to add a **zip code**. Use **05401**. Then, **edit the "Date Range" by selecting November 11**. Next, scroll to the bottom and **select "Refine Search"**. Lastly, **choose "See Times"** for the Burlington Elks Club drive to sign-up.

COUNTS TOWARD
COMMUNITY SERVICE TIME!!!
SIGN UP NOW!!

**MUST BE 17 TO PARTICIPATE, OR 16 WITH
PARENT SIGNATURE - email
bhsheroes@bsdvt.org with questions!**



Commons on Friday, 10/23. There will be a modified four-team playoff; our girls are still in contention for a playoff spot! Pairings come out Sunday night, 10/25!

Cross Country has had some great showings despite no mass starts and other modifications to it's season, but there is no memory greater than hostin the first annual SeaHornet Invitational at Catamount Outdoor family Center in Williston back on Saturday, 10/3. Co-hosting with Essex High School, our Seahorses brought back some nostalgic moments for many of the long-time Chittenden County coaches. Cross Country will compete in one more race at MMU on Friday, 10/23 before the team heads down to Thetford for the State Championships on Halloween!

Although we weren't sure what it would look like in a 7V7 touch situation, things have looked promising for the combined football teams of BHS/SBHS/Winooski that are the **Seawolves**. The team sits at 5-2 after a thrilling Wednesday night victory over previously undefeated CVU in OT 38-35, with one game left to play. Senior night is Friday 10/23 at 7:00pm against Colchester. The VIFL committee has decided to have a regional playoff. The Seawolves are ranked #3 for the playoffs and will host Milton on Friday, 10/30 at 7:00pm in a quarterfinal matchup.

We look forward to an exciting playoff run for our programs! More information to come about hosting championships at DG Weaver Stadium! **#SeahorsePride #BSDAthletics #WeALLBecomeSEAHORSES**

ATHLETICS

Click [here](#) for the full BHS
Athletics Calendar



BHS ATHLETICS UPDATE 10/22/20 Q Pinckney, District Athletics Director

Thank you to all those students and parents for being cooperative with our health screening process throughout the season, and for your patience regarding scheduling!

Varsity Field Hockey wrapped up the regular season at 2-6 on Saturday, 10/17 with a 2-1 victory over MMU. The program kept that momentum going entering the postseason as the #8 seed, hosting #9 Rutland on Buck Hard Field, Wednesday, 10/21. The girls dispatched Rutland in an OT thriller 2-1 and will head down to #1 Bellows Falls for a D1 quarterfinal showdown with the defending state runners-up on Friday, 10/23. First pass back starts at 3:30pm!

Varsity Girls Soccer sits at an even 3-3 headed into its final two matches of the regular season. The team will travel to Colchester on Thursday, 10/22 for its second showdown of the season with the Lakers. Kickoff is at 4:00pm. Our girls won the first contest at home on Senior Night, 2-1. The final game of the regular season will be Saturday, 10/24 at 10:00am at MMU. Postseason pairings will come out on Monday, 10/26 by 12:00pm!

Varsity Boys Soccer has found its groove. Winners of four of its past five games -- including wins over Essex, Colchester, and powerhouse CVU -- they currently sit at 5-2-1 with two games to play. The boys will travel to MMU on Friday, 10/23 for a 4:00pm match, followed by a Senior Night game at Buck Hard Field against crosstown rival, Rice Memorial, to close out the regular season. That game will start at 5:00pm. Postseason pairings will come out on Monday, 10/26 by 12:00pm!

Volleyball has looked quite different this season while adjusting to outdoor play. While we've had some unfortunate luck with weather on game-days, our teams have still been having a great time! Our girls sit at 2-2 with a Senior Game match today at 4:00pm against Vermont Commons. Our boys are currently 0-5 with two matches left - at CVU today, October 22nd, and hosting Vermont

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

February 19 - March 6, 2021

BMAC is proud to serve as the Vermont affiliate for the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, a prestigious national program that recognizes and nurtures the creative talents of teen artists and writers. In addition to seeing their work in print or displayed in a museum, students can win college scholarships and other prizes.

Students in grades 7-12 (ages 13 and up) are eligible to enter creative work in art and/or writing in 28 categories. **There is no limit to the number of entries that an individual may submit, as long as the work was done in calendar year 2020.** (Senior portfolios may contain work created the previous year.)

The deadline for submissions is December 15, 2020. Click here for more information and instructions on how to enter.

Vermont entries will be judged regionally by teams of experts in the fields of art and writing. Gold Key, Silver Key, and Honorable Mention regional awards will be exhibited at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center February 19 – March 6, 2021. An Awards Ceremony will take place on Saturday, March 6 at 12 p.m.

Click [here](#) to view images of selected award-winning work from 2020.

What's Happening to Picture Day?!



BHS picture day for students 10-12 will be happening at a later date - we are actively working to reschedule and will communicate the new dates, times, and locations as soon as we confirm with LifeTouch!

SCAN FOR WEDNESDAY
ATTENDANCE FORM

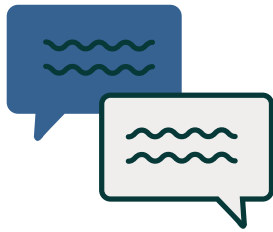


HELPFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

Links from this week's newsletter and more can be found below. Please reach out to Ms. Hoyt at bhoyt@bsdvt.org if you have questions, comments, or feedback.

BHS School Counseling Page

(including help with transcript requests, registration needs, and scheduling virtual meetings with your school counselor)



Free and Reduced Lunch Form



BSD Website - <https://www.bsdvt.org/>

BHS Website - <https://bhs.bsdvt.org/>

BHS Athletics Website - <https://burlingtonathletics.com/>

BHS Expanded Learning Program Schedule - Fall 2020 -

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1R0aszeywga2Z1GkgSWvl0zVp4el29-dtxKlalv8bnTU/edit>

BHS Afterschool Activities and Clubs - <https://bhs.bsdvt.org/about-our-school/clubs/>

Wednesday Attendance Form -

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSmv9y4wm0uyMDy0ddZ4zAa3ZhEMI46qCdB-t6VD3rKjnG3Q/closedform>

Good Morning, BHS! Announcements -

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1Tt7YJxDnS0H3wmmSTbiEhETm-A1iYsqN>

2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/brattmuseum/albums/72157712786867828>

American Red Cross Website (for Blood Drive sign-ups!) - <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive-advanced?zipSponsor=&errorParam=true>