



# NEWSLETTER

## Important Dates

- March 12** Magnet Open House 5:30 pm  
**March 14** IAA Variety Show 6:00 pm  
Friday Town Meeting 2:15 pm  
**March 17** Magnet Open House 8:15 am  
**March 19** BCA Children's Art Exhibit  
5:45-7 pm Ceremony  
City Hall Metropolitan  
Gallery  
Exhibit up through March  
28  
**March 20** First Day of Spring!  
**March 21** Deadline for K registration  
Friday Town Meeting 2:15 pm  
**March 26** IAA Math Night 6-7:30pm  
**March 27** ½ Day Parent Conferences  
11:30 dismissal  
**March 28** NO SCHOOL!  
Parent Conferences

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## Next PTO Meeting

Wednesday, April 2

6:00 pm - Pizza (at 5:45)  
Childcare available

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Fifth graders dramatize key events from the American Revolution.



## A message from the principal

Our NECAP scores are in and they are notable. We've made consistent progress over the past five years, trending upward in all categories! Our third grade scores are above the district average, in both math and reading. Additionally, fourth and fifth grade students gained 20-30% gains over the last several years. This is great news for all of us. There are many variables that contribute to the success of our students, and these scores are just one small part. We believe that arts integration is a powerful learning tool and clearly has a positive effect on our students.

On Thursday, March 6th, IAA was highlighted on RETN Channel 17 for the work we are doing in our O.N.E. Strings program. Victor Prussack, Kathleen Kono, Rossina Canazaro, Joe Cleary, and two IAA students, Kate Henry and Madeleine Baker and I all spoke about the power of strings at IAA. We have much to celebrate as Spring approaches!

Mr. Wallace and I look forward to emceeing our annual Variety Show on Friday, March 14th at 6:00 pm. We look forward to your patience and understanding as we fumble through our lame attempts at humor as we introduce the talented group of performers.

**Artfully,  
Mr. Bobby**

## Drama News

Improvisation is the act of making up lines on the spot. Just like in the popular TV show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?", improvisations always have limitations that guide the actors' imaginations. Improvising builds the ability to talk "on your feet" and to get "into the shoes" of other people. To improvise well, you need to listen well. All of these are important skills for acting -- and, of course, for life!

In the classroom, improvisation allows children to show their understanding of what they've been learning. Recently, the 5th grades studied the key events that led to the American Revolution. The children were assigned imaginary characters representing different points of view. They had to talk about the events they had studied as if they had been there, through their imagined perspective. They tapped their creativity and came up with good lines. The photos on page 1 show some of the kids improvising as colonial people. (For more photos, see the bulletin board by the music room. You'll also see some of the lines created.)

Improvisation is a fun way to spend some downtime, like when you're walking, driving, or waiting for a bus. You can ask your children who they'd like to pretend to be -- and then you can pretend to be a TV host interviewing them, or a side-kick character cooking up a plan with them. The hardest part is staying in character, and not cracking up at their smart answers.

Ms. Joan

## 1st Grade News

We hope everyone had an awesome vacation! We are looking forward to talking with you at Parent Teacher conferences on March 27 and March 28. We will send home your conference time as soon as possible. Please let us know if this does not work for you.

Ms. Jen's class has been working on our first non-fiction report about an African animal. Be sure to ask your child about this, they know so much. Ms. Alice's class has begun a mindfulness program. See what new techniques your child is learning at school!



On Wednesday we were lucky enough to attend a performance at the Flynn of the Golden Dragon Acrobats from China. This was amazing!!! Below are some comments from the students:

"I really liked it when the person was doing headstands on top of a lot of chairs."

"I really liked it when they did back flips and front flips."

"I liked the hats."

"I liked when they were holding each other and spinning around."

"I like when the boy was balancing on the chairs."

"I liked the bicycle when they were holding hands."

"I liked the part when the girl was balancing on her leg."

"I liked when the girls had things in their mouths and they were balancing."

"I really liked when they did a spinning human mountain range."

"I liked when all of them were together and the guy that was doing headstands on the chairs."

"I liked the one boy who was with the chairs and when he was dropping the chairs."

"I liked the part when they were dancing with the flags."

Ms. Jen & Mrs. Patalano

## ELL News

In March all our students who are English Language Learners (ELLs) will be taking the WIDA ACCESS assessment. This federally mandated standardized test assesses ELLs in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each student takes the Speaking test individually and then does the other three parts in small groups. Kindergartners are tested individually. The test will show us how each student is progressing in learning English and help us to see how we can best meet the needs of our students.

### BSD 2012-2013 Annual Report

Now Available at [www.bsdrv.org](http://www.bsdrv.org)

Burlington School District's 2012-2013 Annual Report includes the comprehensive budget for 2014-15, comparative data on school spending between Burlington and other Vermont communities, and a review of school accomplishments and assessments for the 2012-13 school year.



## Wave Your Flag at the IAA Carnival Parade!

Join us at the Friday Town Meeting on **March 21 at 2:15 p.m.** for the IAA Carnival Parade! The theme of the parade is *Wave Your Flag* and we will be celebrating all the cultures and countries of heritage at IAA! Students are encouraged to bring flags to wave during the parade, and to wear clothing from other countries, if desired.

For more information, contact our Spanish Teacher, Señora Fahy, at [efahy@bsdrv.org](mailto:efahy@bsdrv.org)

# Integrated Arts Academy • Snapshots

## Salad Daze with Bonnie Acker



The third grade had a wonderful experience creating a crunchy winter salad with Bonnie Acker and her fabulous crew on Friday. They followed the eating up with creating some salad related fractions in math.

