



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

QUARTER I - 2023

### MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Wintery weather will be upon us soon enough, and it is time again to prepare for school cancellation and delay decisions. The following update provides an outline of the process we follow for making school cancellation/delay decisions for weather events. All communications regarding closures and delays will be coming through Remind, which is our main school communication tool. These messages will come to you by text, email, or both, depending on which you prefer. Remind messages will reach you instantaneously, which is very important when we are making quick decisions very early in the morning.

If you don't receive the district notification through Remind yet, you will need to opt into Remind to make sure you get our messages. Send a text message to this number "81010". The text message must simply say "@buusdvt". When you send the text message, you will get a reply asking you to provide your full name to join BUUSD Notifications. Easy!

The school calendar is set up to accommodate snow days, and we encourage all of our students to get out and play in the snow if Mother Nature throws a snowball at us!

We typically start with a plan to delay school two hours to give everyone enough time to safely make it in, but sometimes it is obvious that we will need to close for the full day. In the event of a full snow day, all school activities will be cancelled for the day.

Check out BUUSD's procedures based upon REMIND Messaging dated November 7th. However, if you are not receiving Remind, please reach out to -----, so records can be accurate.

The decision to delay or cancel is extremely important for everyone's safety. We take it very seriously. There is no guarantee that we can make the correct decision every time, but we do our absolute best. Please help us by being patient and understanding, and providing appropriate and constructive feedback.

### *Stepping into Fall*



**above** Madame Marineau provided a warm welcome and an informative tour of Spaulding High School campus. **left** An incoming Freshman checks out Infinite Campus in order to determine his schedule with Mrs. Kellett and Ms. Ryan.

### BE IN THE KNOW

**Winter Sports** The season officially starts the week of 27th. Please reach out to our Athletic Director, Derek at [dciprshs@buusd.org](mailto:dciprshs@buusd.org) for further information.

**Holiday Drive** National Honor Society is seeking holiday desserts, baked rolls, toys, and/or monetary donations for our local homeless shelters. If interested in dropping off an item, please do so on Monday, December 22nd from 8am-1pm in the Main Office or feel free to contact Ms. Berg at [dbergshs@buusd.org](mailto:dbergshs@buusd.org) & Mr. Duddy at [aduddshs@buusd.org](mailto:aduddshs@buusd.org) for further assistance.

**Holiday & New Year Break** Begins on Friday, December 22nd with an Early Release until until Monday, January 1st

**Winter Concert** Thursday, January 18th

**Call Back Day for Semester I** Friday, January 19th





## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COMMUNITY



New School Year, New Traditions.

As **Jaquan Johnson**, *Class of 2024* noted, "I had seen first hand the devastation that the July flooding brought to our community, my community... but I am incredibly proud of what I have seen my peers, neighbors, and others have done to support one another" even if it means doing things in a different way than before.

He credits compassion and good will of wanting what's best for Barre; including the newly appointed Student Council Advisors, **Mr. Booth** and **Mr. Dunlea** who have been loyal educators to the student body.



Both advisors are encouraging student involvement not only from elected members, but also students like **Phillip Maurice**, a member of the Senior class who was present during the Student Council interview.

Mr. Booth stated "... we want more students like Phillip to be a part of our meetings, so their interests and opinions are heard."



**Brianna Pace & Bella Cecchinelli**, *Class of 2025* were in agreement, especially with the recent announcement of the Barre community being a recipient of a congressional grant.

Bella noted "...this grant was given to us by Bernie Sanders. We have started brainstorming a list of problems and solutions, so the community can vote on which problem they want to address. We are currently working with El Stanford who is providing guidance and we encourage our peers to join us on Thursdays Band B in the Band Room to a part of the brainstorming process;" noting we can make a difference.

So far, members of the Student Council are learning about themselves, their goals, and their strengths, especially after organizing the Fall Pep Rally and participating in the Barre Heritage Festival parade.

They are beginning to recognize that high school is about owning what makes you; owning every moment - big or small.

Upon reflection, they are ready to own it and take action by getting involved with greater meaning.







**Mr. Fiske and Mr. Duddy** are embracing Friday demos... with music, fire, dairy, and of course, some fun.

Think Bill Nye meets Mike Rowe with a sprinkle of Mrs. Frizzle, thus lending itself to the development of the Vermont STEM Foundation at *Spaulding High School*.

"We are in the infancy stages with the name of our club," stated Mr. Fisk with great enthusiasm. The founding principles are education, enjoyment, and sometimes science as noted in their constitution and bylaws.

Both science teachers appreciate the energies of **Aden Cushman, Hana Dobrilovic, & Kiara Hogan**.

As of now, the students came up with this name; giving credence and pedigree, but "it's all about the wonder of science and being excited about it," as expressed by Mr. Duddy. In turn, reach out to any of the members and check out a Friday demo.



**Taking a deeper look** Students compare and contrast seaweed from Hampton Beach while others dissect an albatross bolus, which is the size of an owl pellet from Hawaii. Their goal is to determine how much plastic birds consuming from garbage patches floating in the ocean and how this will have an impact on marine life.

## ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS



The newly formed Science Department from left to right: Mr. Reccia, Mr. Duddy, Ms. Risra, Mr. Fiske, Ms. Fairbrother, Mr. Crawford Stempel, and Mr. Bessette (aka: the skeleton since Mr. Bessette had another meeting).

**Igniting, Inspiring, and Improving** are at the forefront of many teachers, especially for those teachers who have passion in science.

For **Mr. Crawford Stempel**, the newly appointed department chair, his department is undergoing significant changes not only in terms of personnel, but also curriculum and space.

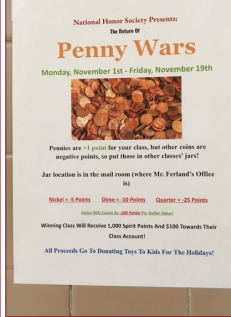
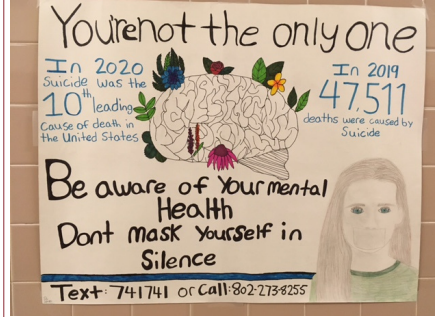
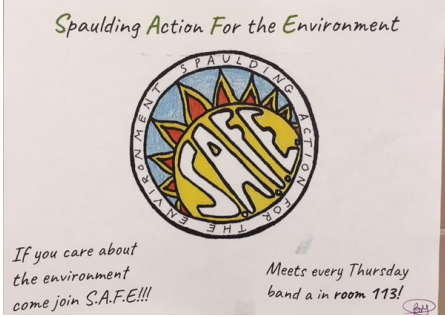
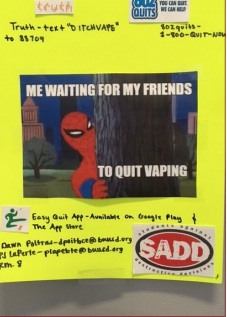
Over the past few years, his department began embracing phenomenon based science instruction, which features a storyline method of learning.

He highlights "phenomenon based teaching is where we provide real-world context to learning science. Students are presented with observable, real world events with an inherent problem, issue or mystery that needs to be solved."

He credits the energy of his colleagues and willingness to require students to problem solve with deeper learning and meaning. He hopes students will be engaged in addressing issues, such as the increase of sea levels due to global melting to creating solutions for urban growth while protecting biodiversity with human needs.

For Mr. Reccia and Ms. Risra these issues are at the forefront, but also equipping the students with the skills to collaborate, problem solve, and participate in a sequence of lessons, in which each step is driven by students' questions that arise from their interactions with phenomena. Thus fostering deeper learning and involvement with the content.





## SPREADING TIDE PRIDE

**Doing what I love, what I am interested in, and what I want to do are important** to members of *Spaulding High School*.

Pitching with purpose was **Sam Fuller's** career expectation when attending *Southern New Hampshire University* as a business major and baseball player.

As an alum of *Spaulding High School*, Class of 2010, Sam returned to his alma mater and participated in Tide Chats.

Tide Chats are part of the Work Based Learning's seasonal visits with alumni who are willing to share their career paths, explain how decisions regarding education and work impact major life decisions.

And for Sam having a work life balance is extremely important to him, especially the *Sound of A Smile Program*, which he founded for the people of Kurland.

In honor of Sam's friend, Nick Carey who passed away and their work in Kurland, South Africa, Sam spreads TIDE PRIDE to the most southern tip of South Africa. Whether it be refurbishing a school, painting walls for a community center, providing resources needed, rehabbing playgrounds, and/or interacting with the children, Sam is there.

Sam provided an overview of the challenges

that the people of Kurland face, but he credited their spirit as being remarkable and enduring.



"Kurland is a magical place. Despite the levels of poverty, the people embrace tradition and value their people... as does your high school."

He credited one figurehead being the grandmother to all by caring and feeding the village children.

Inspired by his work, fellow alumnus and our very own **Mr. Ross** who migrated from the *Physical Education Department* into the *School Counseling Office* will be joining Sam's mission this Winter.

Mr. Ross recognizes the trek will be long, but based upon his skillset, he is ready for the challenge.

And so what can TIDE Nation do to support their efforts? Send Mr. Ross with a suitcase of lightly worn or new cleats and shin guards for the children of Kurland. If interested in donating cleats and/or shin guards, please drop them off to school by Monday, December 18th so Mr. Ross can bring them on the plane.





CELEBRATING FALL ATHLETES



*We are constantly amazed and proud of our community.*

Fall Sports season narrative; will finalize on Monday/Tuesday due to awaiting for student responses

