



# THE PIRC'OLATOR

Enjoy the news  
with your  
favorite brews

FACTS, TIPS  
INFO & EVENTS  
for parents and  
educators

AUGUST



A Monthly Newsletter of the Parent Information & Resource Center - PIRC Vermont

## Upcoming Events

- AUG 3-5** VT Principal's Association Leadership Academy  
Killington, VT
- AUG-OCT** Parent Advisory Meetings  
Vermont Adult Learning Center  
of Franklin/Grand Isle Counties  
5 Lemnah Drive, St. Albans  
6:00-7:30 PM 08/11, 09/08, 10/13
- AUG 17 & 18** Stern Center Learning at Lunch  
"Learning in the 21st Century"  
Dr. Blanche Podhajski will look at factors impacting today's learners & discuss balance and multi-tasking  
08/17 Noon-1:30 Williston, VT  
08/18 Noon-1:30 Lebanon, NH  
Contact: Jenn Plette  
802/878-2323  
[jplette@sterncenter.org](mailto:jplette@sterncenter.org)
- SEPT** *Principals Matter* Reading Circle  
Vermont Family Network, Williston  
In-person or via conference call  
Noon-1:00 PM or 3:30-4:30 PM  
Sept 16 Pages 1-40  
Sept 23 Pages 41-106  
Sept 30 Pages 107-141
- SEPT 18** Burlington Ensemble Performance  
(a concert to benefit the Stern Center)  
College Street Congregational Church  
Burlington, 7:30 PM  
Contact: [info@sterncenter.org](mailto:info@sterncenter.org)

### Join Us On Facebook!

Click the link at [www.pircvermont.org](http://www.pircvermont.org)



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PIRC Vermont is a project of the Vermont Family Network in partnership with the Parent Child Center Network of Vermont

## A Message from the PIRC Director

### Congratulations to our Six Scholarship Recipients!

Each Recipient Received \$1,000 to attend their school of choice.

- 2 - Johnson State College
- 2 - University of Vermont
- 1 - Community College of Vermont
- 1 - St. Michael's College

August is a great time to be thinking about ways to build family and community partnerships. Research tell us that high-quality, high-performing schools have strong partnerships with families and their communities. Out-of-school experiences and a supportive home environment are as important to the academic success of students as school factors such as high-quality teaching and a safe, nurturing school environment. What is your school doing to engage families and send a positive involvement message to the community? PIRC Vermont offers a variety of supports to help improve meaningful two-way communication, reach more families, partner with the community, and help all students succeed. All services are FREE and grant funding is available for Title I schools and schools not making AYP. Interested in learning more? Give us a call at 800-800-4005.



## Position Openings

### School-Based Parent Involvement Coordinator

Full-time - We are seeking a certified teacher to provide training to teachers and schools on strategies to improve parent involvement. In-state travel is required. Must be articulate and effective at public speaking, have strong interpersonal skills, and be an active listener.

### Community-Based Parent Involvement Coordinator

Part-time - We are seeking an individual to promote parent involvement in schools and develop partnerships with local agencies supporting families, particularly underserved populations. In-state travel is required. Excellent written and oral communication skills a must.

Send cover letter, resume, and references to PIRC Project Director Jay Morris, [JayM@PIRCvermont.org](mailto:JayM@PIRCvermont.org), VFN, 600 Blair Park Rd, Ste 240, Williston, VT 05495.

## Reading Circle Begins Sept 16th!

Join our reading circle on *Principals Matter: A Guide to School, Family, and Community Partnerships*, beginning Sept. 16th at our Williston office. Come in person or via conference call. Phone-in is easy. When two or more professionals sign up from the same district, your books are FREE. For more information contact Jay Morris at 800-800-4005, x256 or e-mail [JayM@PIRCvermont.org](mailto:JayM@PIRCvermont.org).

## Welcome New Solid Foundation Schools!

Deerfield Valley

St. Johnsbury School

Winooski School District

## Resources for Educators

### Family Involvement Network

The Harvard Family Research Project is committed to meeting the growing demand for effective ways to support family involvement. You are invited to join the Family Involvement Network of Educators (FINE) and become part of a growing community of educators, practitioners, policymakers, and researchers interested in strengthening family-school-community partnerships.

Through FINE, you will gain access to current information about family involvement, receive monthly updates on resources, and have opportunities to exchange ideas and insights. This is an easy way to stay up-to-date on the newest research, publications, and news from the Harvard Family Research Project and it's FREE!

Join FINE and subscribe to resources by clicking the link on our Community Partners page at [www.PIRCvermont.org](http://www.PIRCvermont.org) or pasting the address below into your web browser:

[www.hfrp.org/subscribe](http://www.hfrp.org/subscribe)

### Vermont School Crisis Guide

If you haven't done so already, check out the revised edition of the Vermont School Crisis Guide by clicking the link on our "Community Partners" page at [www.PIRCvermont.org](http://www.PIRCvermont.org) or pasting the address below into your web browser:

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/resources/model\\_policies/crisis\\_guide.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/resources/model_policies/crisis_guide.html)

The Vermont School Crisis Guide is designed to help schools develop their comprehensive emergency plan as required by the State Board of Education regulations. The guide has also been designed to record vital information during and after a crisis. The document is intended for use by school leaders and emergency service providers. It may be freely copied and distributed to anyone involved with planning and implementing school safety drills.

The Crisis Guide was originally updated from the 2000 edition by a committee of representatives from the Vermont Departments of Education, Health, and Emergency Management; State, Essex, and Montpelier Police Departments; Homeland Security; and the National Center for the Prevention of Cyber-Crime and Counter-Terrorism. NOTE: Various additions were made to this document in 2008 (updated in February 2009). New pages are dated in the "bookmarks" section of the PDF document.

PIRC Vermont is happy to work with your school to assemble a team to assess school safety and emergency preparedness. Give us a call at 800-800-4005.

## Community Partner Highlight

While we at PIRC Vermont are busy helping families explore ways to be active and involved in their children's education and school experience, we realize that many families may also be helping older relatives. **PACE Vermont** offers a "Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly" and combines services covered by Medicare with long term care and other wrap-around services. PACE is a nationally recognized, evidence-based model of care, helping older adults maintain their independence and continue to live at home. To learn more, call 655-6700 or click the link on our Community Partners page at [www.PIRCvermont.org](http://www.PIRCvermont.org).

## What's the Buzz?

### There's a New "BE" in Town Burlington Ensemble, that is!



We would like to introduce you to one of Vermont's newest performing groups, Burlington Ensemble. Their mission is simple "to create concerts to serve the community and build new audiences." Burlington Ensemble wants to work with area non-profits, charities, and schools to offer benefit concerts.

The formula is simple. Burlington Ensemble will collaborate with groups to design a performance. Participating groups will select a site and promote the event. BE will organize the musicians and prepare the concert. BE will receive 10% of the proceeds, the other 90% will go to the sponsoring organization for the support the benefit "cause."

BE is also hoping to work with area schools to increase student exposure to classical music by offering special family performances. BE is flexible about what this might look like from school to school. One idea to increase family involvement is to offer "Breakfast with Bach." Schools can invite families to have breakfast at school with their children. This is a great opportunity for schools to emphasize this "most important meal of day;" to feature healthy breakfast alternatives; to encourage families to eat together; to give parents one more opportunity to connect with educators, administrators, and school staff; and to precede the school day with liberal dose of music and the arts!

If you would like to learn more about Burlington Ensemble or discuss performance opportunities, contact Michael Dabroski at [michael@dabroski.com](mailto:michael@dabroski.com) or click the link on our Community Partners page at [www.PIRCvermont.org](http://www.PIRCvermont.org).



## Parent Information & Resource Center (PIRC VT)

a Project of Vermont Family Network