

Conference Committee

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Parents, Educators, and Principals Conference

From Theory to Practice

March 14, 2013
Saint Michael's College
Colchester

Keynote Jane Lindholm, Vermont Public Radio

This year's keynote will be a panel discussion facilitated by Jane Lindholm, the Vermont Public Radio host of "Vermont Edition." Joining her on the panel will be

- **Patrick Burke**, Principal, South Burlington High School
- **Danielle Corti Dinnany**, Parent and School Board Member, Newbury, Vermont
- **Brian O'Farrell**, School Counselor, St. Johnsbury School
- **Marcia Gauvin**, Science Teacher, St. Johnsbury School
- **Annie Howell**, Director of Academic Planning and Research for the Vermont State Colleges

We are excited to have Jane bring her interviewing expertise to our conference. Jane joined VPR in 2007 to expand "Vermont Edition" into the flagship daily news-magazine it is today. She has received numerous regional and national awards for her interviewing style.

Schedule

8:00 am	Registration & coffee
8:45 am	Welcome & announcements
9:00–10:00 am	Keynote panel
10:00–10:15 am	Break
10:15–11:30 am	Session I
11:30 am–12:30 pm	Lunch
12:45–2:00 pm	Session II

Registration

Cost: **\$50 per person includes lunch**
\$200 per school teams of four or more, including parents

Register online at:
www.vsac.org/ParentEducatorsPrincipalsConf

Registration closes **March 8, 2013**

Directions

Directions to Saint Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont

For directions to Saint Michael's College, please visit
<http://www.smcvt.edu/About-SMC/Vermont-Location/Getting-Here.aspx>.

Questions?

Please contact Cathy Printon at printon@vsac.org.

Sponsors



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Session I 10:15–11:30 am

The Common Core: New Standards and Assessments

Karen Heath and Beth Hulbert, Curriculum Coordinators, Barre Supervisory Union

This workshop will provide updated information on the Common Core and the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. The presenters will provide information and resources — particularly relating to shifts in instruction and ideas for supporting students at home — that will be useful to parents or to school personnel wanting to share with parents.

Transitioning to the Common Core: An Awareness Session for Parents

Pat Fitzsimmons, Common Core Implementation Coordinator, Vermont Department of Education

The English Language Arts/Literacy Common Core State Standards are changing instructional practices in K–12 classrooms. These standards require students to read and understand more challenging texts, build knowledge through content-rich informational texts, and support their responses with evidence from texts. How can parents help their children meet these expectations? This workshop will use research to clarify the thinking behind the standards and will provide suggestions to parents for building essential skills that will lead to successful educational experiences in Common Core classrooms.

Parents as Partners in Vermont's Online Learning

Jeff Renard, Director, Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC)

Rebecca Bushey, Dean of Students, VTVLC

Today's students want more availability of courses, accessibility to courses that might not be available to them because of scheduling conflicts, and flexibility to learn at times that make the most sense for them. The Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative supports students throughout the state with courses that can be completed from anywhere at any time. All VTVLC courses are facilitated by licensed Vermont teachers who are currently employed by Vermont schools, so the programs are accountable to parents and students and meet NCAA and AP College Board requirements. VTVLC uses a custom-designed learning portal that connects students, teachers, school

counselors, and parents in a technology-driven learning community. Using a variety of data sources and teacher feedback, parents can be involved in a full spectrum of their children's school work. After this workshop, educational partners will understand what online learning has to offer and the ways in which each stakeholder is connected as a part of the educational team.

Mathematics for All with Common Core: What Parents Need to Know, Understand, and Do (grades K–5)

Julie Conrad, Mathematics Coordinator, Vermont Agency of Education

Mathematics education has changed a lot in the past 30 years. Students are learning and receiving homework in ways that differ from the ways most parents were taught. The adoption of the Common Core State Standards will create an even greater divide between what most parents remember about math class and the way it should be taught today, based on what we now know. This workshop will discuss the reasoning behind the creation of the Common Core and the shifts it requires in classroom instruction. We will discuss the impact of the Common Core on children's mathematics education and will provide suggestions for parents who want to support their students and schools for future success.

Working with Families and Students from Different Backgrounds

Ali Dieng, Burlington Kids Family Services Coordinator, Burlington School District

Diop Mohamed, Family School Partnership

This workshop will provide insight and strategies for working with families of diverse cultural backgrounds. We will cover helpful support strategies and the cultural understanding that is necessary for family, school, and community success.

Identifying Strengths, Needs, and Next Steps in Family Engagement

Kathleen Kilbourne, Principal, Bridport Central School

In this workshop, Kathleen will share specific project tools and rubrics that will help to start or maintain family engagement. This workshop will help identify your current system's strengths and needs in the area of community involvement.

Session II 12:45–2:00 pm

How to Talk to Your Teens about Money

Colin Ryan, Speaker and Comedian

Our ability to manage our money directly affects our ability to have the life we want. This workshop will show you how to engage students in entertaining, yet effective conversations about money. Colin will help you open dialogue with students from all different backgrounds by examining their attitudes about money.

Understanding Conflict and Using It to Improve the Family/Professional Relationship

Janice Sabett, Family Support Consultant/Training Specialist, Vermont Family Network

Even with the very best communication, conflict is normal and inevitable. The more we recognize and understand the different styles of managing conflict that we and others use, the better we become at responding to it. In this participatory session, you'll be guided through a process of self-discovery and growth that will include identifying your own conflict style. Although the target audience is families, professionals also will benefit.

Mathematics for All with Common Core: What Parents Need to Know, Understand, and Do (grades 6–12)

Julie Conrad, Mathematics Coordinator, Vermont Agency of Education

Mathematics education has changed a lot in the past 30 years. Students are learning and receiving homework in ways that differ from the ways most parents were taught. The adoption of the Common Core State Standards will create an even greater divide between what most parents remember about math class and the way it should be taught today, based on what we now know. This workshop will discuss the reasoning behind the creation of the Common Core and the shifts it requires in classroom instruction. We will discuss the impact of the Common Core on children's mathematics education and provide suggestions for parents who want to support their students and schools for future success.

The Student Directed Parent/Teacher Conference: Encouraging Students to Lead

Michael Livingston, Head of School, The Sharon Academy

Kate Sensenich, School Counselor with parent and teacher representatives

In this workshop, teachers and parents will demonstrate the process used at The Sharon Academy middle school and high school for encouraging student-driven conferences that engage families in active discussions.

Family, Community, and School Engagement: Working Together to Make Great Schools

Terri Vest, Twinfield Union School

This workshop is for those beginning the practice of family and community engagement. Workshop objectives include:

- understanding family/community/school engagement
- reviewing family-engagement research, particularly by Anne Henderson, Karen Mapp, and Joyce Epstein
- identifying some components of family/community/school engagement, including social marketing and other communication skills and techniques
- planning future actions

The workshop will provide various resources, including examples of six successful programs of family/community/school engagement identified by the NEA.

Increasing Parent Engagement: Kids Are The Key

Students from St. Johnsbury Middle School who participated in the Middle Grades Institute spent the year in team building activities and trips to the Northwood's Nature Center as part of their science curriculum. In this workshop, the students will share the ways these activities helped them increase parent participation in and support for their achievement and school success.