



# JANUARY NEWSLETTER

## Hello Friends of Big Picture!

It's hard to believe it's almost February! Spring term is very busy for Big Picture students. In the coming months they'll be settling into internships, working on independent and group projects, designing and completing a Service Learning Term. Some students will show projects at the Vermont Science Fair, design Senior Thesis Projects, or participate in the Big Picture book club. There's a lot to look forward to, but it's also important to take a look back at the awesome things they've accomplished already. In this newsletter, check out the experiences BP had during Explore Week... and consider visiting us during an Open House this spring!

## Guidance Corner

**Jan 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>** – Center for Technology, Essex (CTE) and Burlington Technical Center (BTC) info sessions at SBHS

**Feb 1<sup>st</sup>** – Science Department Open House at SBHS

**Feb 17<sup>th</sup>** – Progress Reports

**Feb 24<sup>th</sup>** – Mini-Exhibitions

**Feb 11<sup>th</sup>** – CTE Open House 11- 2 pm

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** – Science Fair

*\*Halina will be meeting with Big Picture student regarding SBHS course selection for next year during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> week in February*

Questions or concerns?

Email Halina: [hgangi@sbschools.net](mailto:hgangi@sbschools.net)

## Class Candid:

*Grace teaches Big Picture how to fold paper cranes.*



## Open House Information

If you're a student, parent or teacher interested in learning more about Big Picture, now is a great time to come visit. We have Open Houses on February 15, March 15 and April 5. To sign up for an Open House, go to [bigpicturesb.net](http://bigpicturesb.net).

Questions? Email Kevin:  
[kdowney@sbschools.net](mailto:kdowney@sbschools.net)

# Explore Week

## Skateboard Building

One Explore Week group used the Tech Lab to design and build their own skateboards. The process involved gluing, pressing and sanding the wood in addition to designing images in Adobe Illustrator and using the laser cutter to etch the images onto the wood.



## Winter Experience

Another Explore Week group learned and practiced winter expedition skills including wilderness first aid, route planning, weather planning, and animal tracking. They spent one day planning their expedition and two days snowshoeing at Bolton and on Mt. Mansfield.

## Escape Room Design

The third Explore Week group visited an escape room in Burlington to learn about designing and creating these popular puzzle rooms. During the next two days they designed, built and tested their own Breakfast Club-themed escape room here in the BP classroom.



## Alum Profile

*We asked Emily Pentkowski, Big Picture class of 2016, to tell us what she's been up to since graduation:*



Last year was my first year in college because I applied to and was enrolled in the early college program through SBHS during my senior year of high school. Since graduation I have had the opportunity to work at Orchard School and at a church nursery as a lead nursery teacher for infants and toddlers. I have been taking online classes and have found an internship and job at the same location: Leaps and Bounds Childhood Development Center. I just recently started a week ago.

I feel that Big Picture has really supported my learning efforts, and has been a great building block for success not just in college but also in the real world: jobs, interviews, communication skills, relating to and sharing my opinions with others in a group and team-led environment. Because of the dreaded weekly articles, and readings in BP that everyone complained about (where we would come together to speak on and write our essays on), I have not only grown as a voice and member of society, I have gained a great amount of talent in my writing and reading skills, which I always struggled on throughout my elementary and high school years. It really prepared me to be able to meet the high expectations of my professors in writing responses, papers, and essays.

I am now attending college full time this semester and working at Leaps and Bounds part time. My plans are to attend Goddard College next year, where they are giving me the ability to have a degree in both Elementary and Early Childhood Education.

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