



PACT E-News

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www.pactvt.com

Questions about PACT? Please e-mail Susie Merrick (merrick@champlain.edu) or Steve Loyer (sloyer@tgvt.net).

"If you have an idea to help someone in need but you don't know how to organize it, ask for help from your parents or teachers to make it happen."

- Taylor Murphy, Grade 6

Editor's Note: Taylor recently organized a bottle drive to support a neighbor who had experienced a house fire. The money raised was donated to the South Burlington Fire Department to thank them for their role in putting out the fire.

Please Join Us

In a continued effort to reach out and connect with our entire South Burlington community, we extend a most sincere invitation to *all* members of South Burlington to join us for

PACT Potluck and Community Meeting

at F.H. Tuttle Middle School

Thursday, January 14

5:30-7:30 p.m.

South Burlington High School junior Bianca Rizzio will speak on Restorative Practices, and junior Aubrey Brueckner will speak on Treats for Troops.

The SBHS Dance Team will provide entertainment.

Please bring a dish to share, and join us for good food and good dialogue, listening to and learning from our PACTeens.

We hope to see you there!

Happy Birthday to PACT!

By Susie Merrick, PACT Co-Chair

PACT is one year old. We continue to be grateful for the two Dialogue Nights - the birthplace of PACT.

For at those Dialogue Nights, held in November and December 2008, our teenagers courageously engaged us in dialogue about the challenges they face daily.

Suddenly the adults in attendance (dozens of us) were not in charge. We did not have the answers. We were put in a position of *listening* to our teenagers.

And, as a result of listening, *we learned*. We really learned.

It's been a long time since many of us were 16 or 14 or 10 or 6. PACT believes if we truly want to celebrate the valuable role that *each and every child and teenager plays in our community* (and, after all, isn't this the mission of PACT?), then we must listen. We must slow down and take the time to hear their voices.

It is the belief of PACT that the value in this listening is immeasurable. It is the further belief that **each person** in our community plays an invaluable role in creating this climate of inclusion and respect.

As we blow out a single candle to celebrate PACT's first birthday, we most sincerely thank all of you for your support of this PACT journey.