

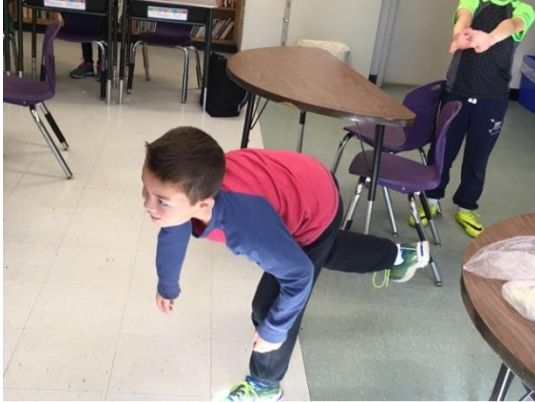
SMITH TIMES

C.P. Smith Elementary School
Burlington, Vermont

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OCTOBER 19, 2016

Partnership with the Flynn Theater



Hello.

Third and fourth grade students attended **“The Incredible Speediness of Jamie Cavanaugh!”** today at the **Flynn Theater**. This special student matinee is about a girl who is different and learns to use her strengths to become an inspiring and positive role model for other students.

Thank you to the **Flynn Theater** for providing a **teaching artist** who worked with our classrooms on Monday in advance of this performance. Students had a chance to practice their acting skills as shown in these photos.



Message from the Superintendent’s Office

This phone message was sent yesterday evening to all parents and guardians in the Burlington School District: *We are aware of the questions and concerns within the community related to a potential teacher strike. Our Central Office is working on a communication plan to inform families about the school day, athletics, afterschool programs, child care and food services should a strike occur. We will communicate using Connect 5, social media, the District Website, PTOs and Multilingual Liaisons. Please know that we will regularly share information as quickly and accurately as possible. Thank you.*

PTO Pumpkin Raffle

Pumpkins decorated by our very own Smith teachers and staff will be raffled next week. Students can buy raffle tickets Monday through Friday before school for 25 cents for a chance to win the pumpkin of their choice. Winners will be announced at the **Friday Community Meeting** on October 28th.



Lost and Found

Please check the **Lost and Found tomorrow** (Thursday) as many items have accumulated. **We will recycle any remaining items on Friday.** Many students have found some sweaters and jackets already. Please encourage your child to take a look. Thank you!



Golden Tickets

When each of our 15 classrooms achieves a “Golden Ticket” for being **“Safe, Responsible, and Respectful”** citizens in the school, we celebrate! This week we had a spontaneous dance party in classrooms with students dancing along to “Happy” by Pharell Williams. Congratulations students!



Homework



C.P. Smith teachers have been researching and discussing the issue of **homework** in faculty meetings this fall. *We have come to a common view that:*

- Research does *not* show that homework positively impacts student performance at the elementary level.
- Promoting reading outside of school *does* promote student achievement.
- Homework can become a battle for some students and parents at home with the result that some students feel less successful and are less likely to like school.
- Some families are unable to support homework completion at home. In other families, some parents may help students too much with assignments or simply sign off that homework has been completed when it has not.
- Having more time for students and families to enjoy after-school, evening, and family activities in a more relaxed way provides other important learning opportunities.
- Some families do want their children to engage in homework at home.

This Friday during our school's inservice day, teachers will be working on a **school-wide homework policy** that shifts away from homework to a focus just on **reading** at home. Teachers will also identify **optional learning resources** that interested families can use if they are looking for more learning opportunities at home.

Thank you to parents at the **recent PTO meeting** who helped to discuss the topic of homework and voiced their approval for shifting from homework to reading at home, at least on a trial basis. *Next week look for a more formal announcement about this policy which we want to **pilot** for several months and then survey parents to **get feedback**.* In the meantime, **research articles** on homework have been posted on the school web page at www.smith.bsdt.org under Parent Resources.

SBAC/NECAP Assessment Results

The **Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC)** tests are given to students in grades 3-8 and 11 in the spring of each year and measure achievement in **English**

Language Arts and Mathematics. In May of 2016 students in grades 4, 8 and 11 also participated in the administration of the **NECAP Science Assessment**.

While no single test provides a complete picture of achievement, annual state assessments coupled with district and classroom results can provide important information about student progress and areas for improvement.

The results from both of these assessments will be **included in student report cards and sent home in November**. These results may be discussed with your student's teacher along with other results from district and classroom assessments administered this fall during the **parent conferences on November 21-22**. *Look for more information next week as to how we will be doing sign-ups for conferences.*



Friday Community Meeting

Thank you to the **fourth grade** for sharing information on their work with the Community Sailing Center last week!

We DO NOT HAVE SCHOOL **this Friday, October 21**. We are looking forward to a visit from the UVM mascot **Rally Cat** next week on **Friday, October 28**.



C. P. SMITH CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- 10/21 No School – Teacher Inservice Day
- 10/28 Halloween Raffle/Fun Night
- 11/14 PTO Meeting 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- 11/18 Report Cards Go Home
- 11/21-22 Parent-Teacher Conferences