

SMITH TIMES

C.P. Smith Elementary School
Burlington, Vermont

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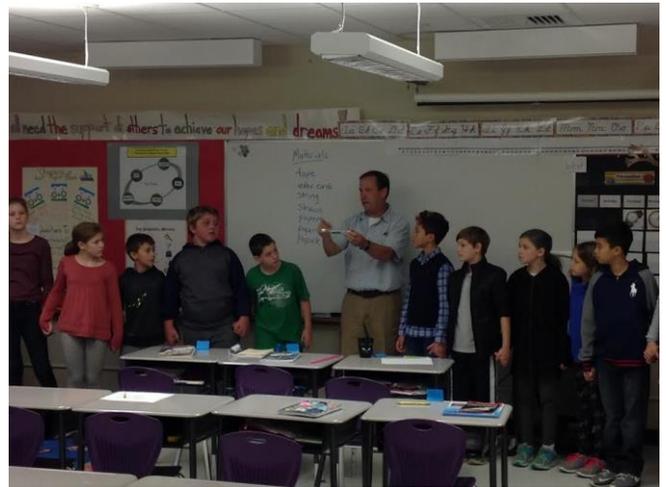
Science Thrives at C.P. Smith!



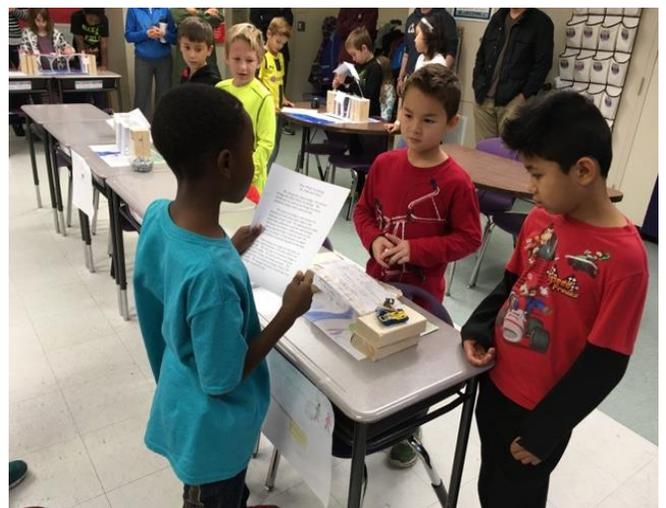
Congratulations to our **Third Grade bridge-builders** whose carefully thought-out designs were presented to classmates and parents this past week. It was great to see how engineering, math, and science principles came together in unique ways to meet design criteria. Thank you to **Mrs. Manusco's, Mr. Safran's, and Mrs. Bahrenburg's** classes for their great work.

We have also been pleased to host **Education and Chemistry students** from **St. Michael's College** who have visited Third and Fourth grade classes to give engaging chemistry magic shows and teach science experiments. We appreciate our ongoing **partnerships** with both St. Michael's College and the University of Vermont!

Speaking of science, **Fifth Graders** participated in a fun electricity experiment that ended up including all the Third and Fourth graders. To learn about circuits, students held hands and lit up a on to a device that completed an electrical connection. Only when almost every 3-5th grader had held hands that the circuit became too weak and broke. Students will always remember the idea of **circuits and electrical connections** now!



Thank you to the PTO and parents such as **Violetta Ayrapetova and Beth Bahrenburg** for teaching Four Winds science lessons to enhance the school's science curriculum!



ART

Art Night

Looking for something fun to do with your children? With support from the PTO, the school is holding an **Art Night** this **Thursday, November 10 from 6:00-7:00** p.m. in the C.P. Smith Library. Art teacher Sandy Hawkes along with 5th grade students will be hosting a Zentangle Night. Zentangle uses black markers on white paper to create interesting and innovative designs. Everyone – students in grades K-5 and their parents – can be successful doing Zentangle art. **Come and learn more!**

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences are coming! Most parent-teacher conferences will be held on **Monday and Tuesday, November 21 and 22** although teachers will be offering some conference times the week of November 14. Parents can now sign up for times through our electronic scheduling program at: http://ptcfast.com/schools/C_P_Smith_Elementary_School

Please look on our **school web page** for more information or go here: <http://tinyurl.com/smithconferencehelp>. If you are unable to access the electronic scheduling system or need assistance with scheduling a conference, please call 864-8479 so that we may assist you.



Homework Policy

As discussed in a previous Smith Times newsletter, the C.P. Smith faculty has **researched and discussed the topic of homework** this fall. Because most research has not found a correlation between homework and academic performance at the elementary level, but has found such a connection with reading at home, we have decided to move to a focus on reading at home.

Read about our new **homework policy** on our school **web page under Parent Information** or here: <http://smith.bsd.schoolfusion.us/modules/groups/homepagefiles/cms/2383194/File/HomeworkatC2.pdf>. Ideas and suggestions for **learning activities to do at home** are also listed on the web page under Parent Information, as well as many of the **articles** that teachers reviewed.

Giving Opportunities



C.P. Smith is collecting **food for Thanksgiving baskets** for families. We ask students and their families to help out if they are able by bringing in different types of food by grade level.

Please send **non-perishable donations** in with your child to school by **Wednesday, November 16**. Collection bins are located outside of each classroom.

- **Kindergarten** - Fruit: Applesauce, Cranberry Sauce, Fruit Cocktail
- **1st Grade** - Baked Goods: Cornbread, Stuffing, Cake Mix, Brownie Mix
- **2nd and 3rd Grades** - Starch: Mac & Cheese, Rice, Instant or Fresh Potatoes, Gravy Mixes
- **4th and 5th Grades** – Canned Vegetables: Corn, Carrots, Beans, Yams

Please be in touch with school counselor **Kate Guilmette** at kguilmet@bsdvt.org or school social worker **Christina Pasnick** at cpasnick@bsdvt.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

Toys for Tots is another way C.P. Smith families can support children during the holiday season. The **Marine Corps League of Vermont** has put a red barrel in our Main Office where families can drop off gifts that will then be distributed to area families.



Thanks to parent and families who donated coats and jackets for students. We will have a **Coat Swap** during **Parent-Teacher Conference time**. Parents can take or exchange outerwear in order to be prepared for winter. Thank you to the **PTO, Christine White, and Gadue's** for their help in organizing this initiative.

PTO Meeting

All are invited to **next week's PTO Meeting** from **5:30-7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 14**. Pizza and child care will be provided.

Maker's Faire

Please see an announcement below that may be of interest to students and families.



SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

You're invited! Upcoming opportunities to engage with the Burlington School District:

1) FY18 Budget Development Process

The Burlington School District has established a website to allow community members to follow the **budget development process**. This website includes a tool for submitting your input at various stages in the process. Currently, the District is soliciting ideas for content to include in its comprehensive budget document. Visit www.bsdt.org - Budget tab on left side of main page.

In addition, please review the below timeline, with opportunities for public input noted in **bold**.

- November 9 **Community Input Session: HMS Cafeteria, 7PM**
- November 10 School Board meeting – **Public input opportunity: EMS Cafeteria, 7PM**
- November 15 Finance Committee meeting – **Public input opportunity: Ira Allen Building, 7PM**
- December 12-16 BHS class preference data collected
- December 13 School Board meeting – **Public input opportunity: EMS Library, 7PM**
FY18 Current Services Line Item Budget
- December 20 Finance Committee meeting – **Public input opportunity: Ira Allen Building, 7PM**
Enhancements and reductions discussion
- 2017**
- January 9 City Council budget presentation
- January 10 School Board meeting – **Public input opportunity: EMS Library, 7PM**
Board vote on proposed budget
- January 17 School Board meeting if necessary
- February Comprehensive budget document released
Dissemination of budget information via public meetings (NPAs, etc.)
- March 7 Town Meeting Day – public vote on school budget

2) Chat with the Superintendent

Join Yaw Obeng for the second in a series of “Chat with the Superintendent” opportunities at local venues. Different topics will be highlighted at each, the second being the FY18 Budget Development Process, to be held at **Nunyun's Bakery & Cafe** (139 N. Champlain St.) **on November 15th from 8-9 a.m.**

3) Strategic Planning Forum

(Visit www.bsdt.org for details on this process.)

What has happened?

Last spring, parents, staff, students, community organizations, business partners, state agencies, City Councilors and others reflected on BSD mission and values, generating input on priorities for multi-year strategic planning. In addition, a variety of stakeholder groups within the student body discussed what District priorities should look like over the next four years, including: their own and other students' experiences relative to injustice or intolerance; how schools should address this type of behavior; barriers they experience in school; and how to remove barriers in these areas. New American families discussed goals for their children's education, what they need to achieve those goals, what might stand in the way of those goals or isn't working now and the most important things that BSD needs to focus on over the next four years to help ALL students reach their goals.

In June, 350+ BSD faculty and staff reviewed input from previous forums, and made recommendations on prevalent issues, mission, vision and core beliefs, in order to determine District priorities which will be used to inform an operational plan. Sample questions posed during the day included: What do these priorities mean in the daily lives of teachers/students? How do we ensure that the daily experiences of our students reflect District priorities?

After reviewing information and identifying trends using input from the earlier community forums, Board Members discussed mission, vision and core beliefs for the District.

Next Steps: SAVE THE DATE! We invite the community to review the work done on the Burlington School District Strategic Plan thus far, and to provide further input into the future of Burlington Schools. Please join us on **Thursday, November 17th at 6 p.m. in the Hunt Middle School Cafeteria.**

Translation and childcare services will be provided. Please RSVP to Phuket Jennings at pjenning@bsdvt.org or [\(802\) 324-7872](tel:8023247872) with childcare needs.

Burlington School District to Participate in Lights on Afterschool Event

Burlington, Vermont - On Thursday, November 10th, 2016, the **Burlington School District Expanded**

Learning Opportunities programs will be participating in the annual **Lights On Afterschool** event, a nationwide celebration of afterschool programs. BSD will be one of more than 7,500 sites across the nation sending the message that afterschool is key to children's success, and that we must keep the lights on and doors open after school.

As part of **Lights On Afterschool**, local representatives, community members, School Board members and parents are invited to attend Burlington afterschool programs as a guest for the afternoon, in order to experience the tremendous benefits afterschool programs provide for students. Guests will have the opportunity to hear firsthand from students about the importance of afterschool, as well as experience a wide variety of program offerings including Lego Robotics, Mad Science, Race Up!, Ultimate Frisbee, Random Acts of Kindness and Photography.

The event will be held on **Thursday, November 10th 2016 from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Edmunds Elementary and Middle Schools.** We are asking guests to arrive by 3:25 at the Edmunds Middle School Gym so as not to miss the introduction. Location is as follows: Edmunds Elementary and Middle Schools, 275 Main Street, Burlington, VT

The Burlington School District Expanded Learning Opportunities Program's mission is to foster the social and academic success of Burlington youth through quality programming in an environment that creates lasting connections with peers, adults and the community. We serve over 1,500 students annually and work with many community partners including Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront, the Sara Holbrook Community Center and the Boys' and Girls' Club of Burlington.

C. P. SMITH CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- 10/10 **Art Night** 6:00 p.m.
- 11/14 **PTO Meeting** 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- 11/18 **Report Cards Go Home**
- 11/21-22 **Parent-Teacher Conferences – No School for Students**
- 11/23-27 **Thanksgiving Vacation**
- 11/28 **School Resumes**