

# SMITH TIMES

**C.P. Smith Elementary School  
Burlington, Vermont**

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**APRIL 20, 2017**



## **Message from the Superintendent**

Dear C.P. Smith School Community:  
As we prepare for Spring Break, I have some exciting news to share regarding school leadership for the 2017-2018 academic year that begins this fall.

First, I want to recognize and thank Principal **Amy Mellencamp** for her many years of dedicated service to the Burlington School District. As you know, Amy is retiring at the end of this school year. Please join me in wishing her well in retirement and this next life chapter.

I am pleased to announce that **Len Phelan** will become the new C.P. Smith Elementary Principal this fall. Len comes from L.C. Hunt Middle School where he has served as Principal for a number of years. I am looking forward to the expanded connections Len will create between Smith and Hunt that will be drawn from his leadership experiences at each campus.

As you will read below, Len brings extensive experience as both an administrator and educator to Smith:

Prior to becoming Principal at Hunt, Len served as Principal in Cape Cod and Principal of Harwich Middle School in Massachusetts. Earlier in his career, Len was a teacher at a youth shelter, special educator and a Social Studies teacher. His years of experience will provide a steady hand for continuous progress at Smith in the coming years to prepare students for middle school.

Len is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth with a B.A. in History. In addition he earned a Master of Arts degree in History from Providence College and a Master of Science degree from Salem State University in Educational Leadership, graduating *Summa Cum Laude*. Len is

committed to working collaboratively with students, families and colleagues to help all students grow and gain the important knowledge and skills they need to be life-long learners and to experience success throughout their lives.

Have a restful, enjoyable and safe break everyone.  
*Sincerely, Superintendent Yaw Obeng*

## **Tapestry of Nations**

The **Second Grade** put on a fabulous **Tapestry of Nations** today that highlighted facts, songs, and ideas students have learned about the world. **Great job students and teachers!**



### Celebrate Day in the Dirt 2017!



**C.P. Smith is building a robust garden program** with the goal of having every classroom involved with gardening. This year classrooms will plant crops in the

spring to be harvested in the fall. The students will be able to help in growing and work with kitchen staff to serve what is grown at lunch as well as have fresh produce available for families to take home.

**Join us Saturday April 29 from 9-12 when Day in the Dirt volunteers** will help with site clean-up and getting the site ready for the season and help build raised beds. **Additional materials needed:** shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, buckets, hammers, drill/screw gun. **Bagels, coffee and juice will be served!**

**Sign up by clicking here!** If the sign-up is full, come anyway! **The more hands, the better!**

### District PTO Parent Night Tuesday May 4th 6:00 pm: Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development

A 90 minute training hosted by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (PCAVT), this opportunity provides participants with information and skills to help them understand the stages of healthy sexual development and common behaviors in children along with tips on how to talk with children and answering their questions.

Location: Edmunds Elementary School  
Questions, or to sign up for child care, please contact Edmunds Elementary School Counselor, Melissa Hathaway 540-0137.

### Another Parent Opportunity

Join us on **Monday, April 24th** at the UVM Medical Center Davis Auditorium for a FREE presentation, "**In Our Own Voice.**" The presentation begins at 6:00 PM. This program is an educational and recovery-oriented presentation given by trained presenters who are living full and productive lives while personally **overcoming the challenges of their mental illness.** This program will provide our community with practical and useful information about mental illness.

The presentation takes 60-90 minutes and is intimate and candid. It includes a short video, personal testimony and a question and answer period that allows for honest and open dialogue.

Presenters engage audiences with their brave and gripping personal journeys. They touch on the various phases of recovery including Dark Days, Acceptance, Treatment, Coping Skills, and Successes, Hopes, and Dreams.

### Controlling Students' Media Viewing

Information has come to us about **how parents can help control what students view on Netflix.** There are some programs that deal with sensitive and adult issues that parents may not wish children to view. Having controls on your system is in your child's best interest as adult content can be frightening and, at times, extremely graphic.



Parents can **set a limit on the maturity level** of show that your child can watch. If your child selects a program that exceeds the limit you've established, a pin number that you set will be required to watch that show. The levels that are described for Teens include TV 14, and PG-13. The level for Adults is described as: TV-MA, R, NC-17, NR, and UC. Please consider limiting viewing to no more than Teen for middle school students and less than that for younger children. You can always pre-screen a show and watch more mature content with your child.

You can **create a PIN** by visiting the [Your Account](#) page and selecting [Parental Controls](#). You will need to enter your account password before you can set up your PIN. Creation of a PIN can only be done on a computer and the instructions are very easy. Once you have successfully created your PIN, Netflix will send an email confirming the PIN to the email address you used to create your account.

### Friday Community Meeting

**This Friday, April 21** we learn more about the role of bees in gardening, pick our Grand Prize Smith Smackeroos winner, and sing school songs. All are invited to attend our 8:10 Friday meetings!



### Happy Spring Break!



#### **C. P. SMITH CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- 4/24-4/28 Spring Vacation – NO School
- 4/29 Day in the Dirt-Gardens 9:00-12:00
- 5/1 School Resumes