

SMITH TIMES

Friday, January 4, 2013

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The Principal's Corner

Happy New Year! I hope 2013 is off to a good start for you and all the members of your family.

Please find included in this week's newsletter a letter from Superintendent of Schools Jeanne Collins about school safety.

Rehearsals for "Alice in Wonderland" have begun. They occur each day during the lunch and recess times of Grades 4-5 students. (Interested Grade 3 students will make up the chorus and hold practices separately.) Please find attached to this newsletter a copy of the cast list for the play. We hope you will enjoy seeing the play during its mid-February performances.

Please place Wednesday, January 16th on your calendar for your family to join us for our annual International Celebration, a night to celebrate a diversity of music, art, dance, and of course, food. The event is free of charge and sponsored by our school's Family-School Partnership Team. *If your family is planning to attend, please call the school to let us know how many people to expect. If you also wish to bring a nut-free dessert to share, please feel free to do so.* Last year, we were fortunate to have desserts representing many different countries throughout the world.

Please consult the Calendar of Events for other important activities related to our school community.

Thank you for all you do to make our school a community of respectful, responsible, and safe learners. A total of 245 postcards and other contacts (via telephone or email) have been made to recognize and reinforce positive student behavior.

May a safe and enjoyable holiday season be yours!

Calendar of Events



1/12: Family Open Gym Time
(10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

1/14: PTO Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.)
-- Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

1/16: International Celebration (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
-- Gym

1/17: Evening Story Hour (6:30-7:30 p.m.)
--- Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

1/19: Family Open Gym Time
(10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

1/21: Martin Luther King Day (No School)

1/24: Evening Story Hour (6:30-7:30 p.m.)
-- Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

1/26: Family Open Gym Time
(10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

1/31: Evening Story Hour (6:30-7:30 p.m.)
-- Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

2/2: Family Open Gym Time
(10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

2/7: Evening Story Hour (6:30-7:30 p.m.)
-- Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

2/14 -2/16: Performances for "Alice In Wonderland"

2/15: Second Trimester Ends

2/22: Second Trimester Report Cards Distributed to Students

2/25 – 3/5: Winter Recess (No School)

An Important Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As students return, I want to update you as to the safety planning in the Burlington schools.

Following the recent shootings in Connecticut, Burlington school administrators met with representatives of the Burlington Police and Fire Departments and revisited our safety protocols. Much of what was recommended is already in place in Burlington: the use of identification in the buildings, locking all but one door at each school during the school day, monthly planning meetings at the school and district levels to be as prepared as possible for safety incidents that may occur, regular lockdown and evacuation drills, and on some campuses, such as BHS, cameras to help us monitor hard-to-see places.

In addition to these pro-active plans, we are assessing our physical plants and determining priority need for changes to be made. At the top of our list are Edmunds Elementary School, where the office is on the second floor, Champlain Elementary School, where the office cannot see the front door, and Burlington High School, where there are many entrances. We will be working to develop a plan for facility safety improvements and will be sharing these plans with the School Board in the next month or so. We anticipate making some changes in the current school year and budgeting for other changes going forward.

We all care deeply about your children – our students. All Burlington schools have a well-earned reputation of being student-centered. Nothing is more at the center of our hearts and minds than our students' safety. Please know that we will do everything we can to ensure their safety.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Collins
Superintendent