

SMITH TIMES

Friday, January 8, 2016

Volume 24, Number 16

The Principal's Corner

Greetings!

Welcome back from what I hope was a safe and enjoyable holiday season for you and all the members of your family.

Many thanks to the members of our school community who contributed \$591.00 to the fund to purchase holiday presents for those in need of them. We thank you for your kindness and generosity.

We're working hard to enhance our students' experience in Literacy in as many ways as we can. Teachers are receiving professional development to implement new Reading units and conduct grade-level meetings with colleagues and administrators to review student performance data to boost interventions for those not meeting or nearly meeting the standard. Our school—and other elementary schools across the city—are participating in a study project to enhance Grades 4 and 5 students' silent reading strategies. My visits to classrooms have a Literacy focus, as I observe and support research-based instruction in this vital area across grade levels. We held a "Book Club," as we individually read chapters of a book about Literacy instruction for English Language Learners and then met to discuss what we read. Students have also read and discussed with me hundreds of books for which they earn "Reading tickets" as part of a drawing for a prize, as an incentive to keep reading and reading. Students have also picked up several hundred books from our Free Book Table to read and keep for their very own. The Community Readers Program—which was begun last year in Kindergarten and Grade 1—will begin again after the first of the year. This wonderful program unites emerging readers and community volunteers for a special connection with sharing books as its focus.



Our school conducts open gym time for families on Saturdays during the winter season. This gives members of our school community a chance to interact and exercise with other families and have lots of fun doing so.

Open gym takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on each of the following Saturdays: January 9th, 16th, 23rd,

and 30th and February 6th and 13th. A limited supply of athletic equipment will be available during these times.

You will find in this issue of the newsletter a calendar of activities and events for the remainder of the 2015-16 school year. We will keep you posted of any changes as far in advance as possible.

Thanks for all you are doing—and will do—to make our school community one of safety, respect, and responsibility for all who come through our doors.

Pre-k and Kinderarten Registration

Registration for the current 2015-2016 school year is on a rolling basis. Enrollment for the next school year, 2016-2017, opens on January 4, 2016 and closes on February 19, 2016, with school placement notification sent out the week of April 4, 2016. If you have a child turning five on or before September 1, 2016, you need to register them for kindergarten now.

If there are more first choice registrations than there are spots, we will look at families' second choices. When a student doesn't receive their first choice school, a District employee will contact the family to discuss their options for schools. Applications received after February 19, 2016 will be considered based upon available space.

Beginning January 4, all forms can be found at our District Website, www.bsdtv.org, in any of our schools, or at our District Office at 150 Colchester Ave. Families completing registration forms should bring a copy of their child's Birth Certificate or other proof of age, a copy of their immunization records and proof of residency.

Pre-k registration will also open on January 4, 2016. Visit www.bsdtv.org or call (802) 864-8463 for more information.

Feel free to contact any schools if you would like to arrange a visit.

Calendar of Events



- 1/9:** Open Gym Time for Families (11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)
- 1/11:** P.T.O. Meeting (5:30-7:00 p.m.) -- Library
- 1/18:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (No school)
- 1/22:** P.T.O. Movie Night (6:30 p.m.)
- 1/28:** International Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
- 1/29:** Annual Title I Meeting (8:00 a.m.) -- Library
- 2/8:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
-- Library
- 2/11:** "Aladdin" Performance for School (1:00 p.m.) - H.M.S.
- 2/12:** "Aladdin" Evening Performance (7:00 p.m.) -- H.M.S.
- 2/13:** "Aladdin" Matinee Performance (4:00 p.m.) -- H.M.S.
- 2/19:** Second Trimester Report Cards Distributed
- 2/22 – 3/1:** Winter Vacation
- 3/10:** Science Fair (6:30-8:00 p.m.) -- Gym
- 3/14:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
-- Library
- 3/17:** Annual School Concert (1:30 p.m.) -- Gym
- 3/24 – 3/25:** Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 4/11:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
-- Library
- 4/18 – 4/22:** Spring Vacation
- 5/9:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
-- Library
- 6/3:** Field Day -- School Grounds
- 6/3:** ??? Farewell Picnic (5:00-7:00 p.m.)
-- School Grounds
- 6/8:** Appreciation Assembly (8:30 a.m.) -- Gym
- 6/9:** Farewell Assembly (8:30 a.m.) -- Gym
- 6/9:** Last Day of School (11:30 a.m. dismissal)
- 6/17:** Student Placement Letters Mailed

News from Around the School

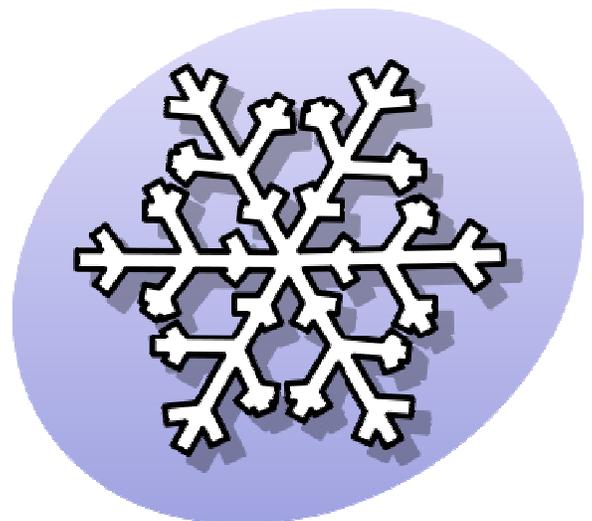


Mrs. Kelly Mancuso's Grade 3 students held a wonderful writing celebration recently. Students have been working on animal research projects and have written and illustrated stories about what they have learned. They read these stories to many teachers, who had to guess the animals about which the students had written. I learned a great deal about animals during my visit to this celebration!

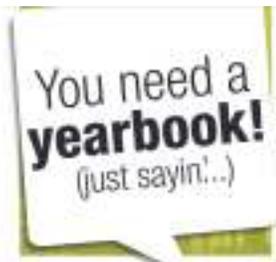
Ms. Kim Brockway's and Mrs. Connie Guyette's Grade 4 students are also doing a lot of writing. They are writing realistic fiction stories. Each student created a character and developed a story about him or her using action, thinking, and dialogue. They're also studying energy in Science, using Hot Wheels cars and tracks to learn about kinetic and potential energy.

Over 60 students have signed up to be in the cast or crew of "Aladdin," which will be presented next month, thanks to the sponsorship of the Very Merry Theatre. Students in Grades 3-5 will have speaking parts and those in Grades 1 and 2 will make up the chorus.

Each winter, we open our gym on Saturday mornings for families to use together. Look for this to begin on Saturday, January 9th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Hooray The Yearbook is Happening

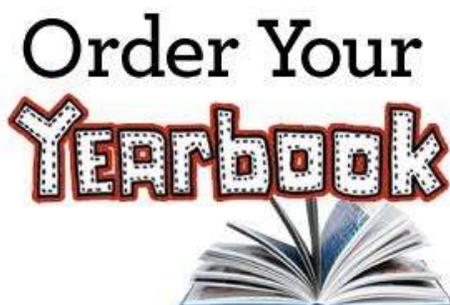


We are excited to finally have a school yearbook for C.P. Smith Elementary! Yearbooks are on sale right now. They are \$10 each if you order during the month of January, and after that they will be \$15 each. The

purchase price covers the total cost to us of the yearbook, so the PTO will not have to kick in any extra money. However, this is also not a fundraiser, so all monies collected will be spent on yearbooks. If you would like to include an additional \$10 with your order, this will help get a yearbook in the hands of a child who might otherwise not be able to get one. We would love to see every child who wants one, get a yearbook this year!

The deadline for ordering yearbooks is April 1st. This is so that we can get our final order in with the company in time to get them before the last week of school. Yearbooks should be in our hands by June 6th. Order forms were sent home this week, and you can return the envelopes with payment to the front office. Checks can be made out to the C.P. Smith PTO.

A yearbook is a wonderful thing to look back on. It includes class pictures (arranged by grade), names, candid photos, and photos of our awesome events. It's even got room set aside for autographs. This year we will have a couple questions for the graduating class, the answers being included in the yearbook. Otherwise we are keeping it simple, getting a feel for the amount of work involved, and noting where student involvement may be possible in the future. If you have any questions or would like to help out, please contact Shy Lalumiere at shylmrl@hotmail.com.



Box Tops Update

We are halfway through the year, and have collected almost 3,800 Box Tops - which means we are over 60% of the way to our goal of 6,000 Box Tops! We've still got several months left in which to meet (or beat!) our goal. Attached you will find a forceful new collection sheet.



The winner for December's prize drawing (for the 2016 weekly planner) was Zoe Grimard. Congratulations! Our next prize drawing will be on February 1st. All your child has to do to get their name entered is to turn in Box Tops anytime during the month of January. This month's prize is a set of Star Wars themed hand warmers.

Box Tops can be turned in on the collection sheets, in bags or envelopes. There are collection bins in the classrooms and also one in the office. Whichever way you choose to turn them in, make sure your child's name is on there so they are entered into the prize drawing!

If you have any questions about the program, or would like to donate a prize or help with promotion, please contact Shy Lalumiere at shylmrl@hotmail.com

News from the Guidance Office (by Kate Guilmette)

During the month of January classroom guidance lessons will focus on the protected categories of harassment. Harassment is a behavior (or behaviors) that are based on an individual's (or their families) actual or perceived protected characteristics. For students in K-2 we will be defining harassment as being mean to someone else on purpose because of who they are. With older students we will read through the Burlington School District's policy definition of harassment.

The true focus of the unit is exploring ways that we are similar and viewing our differences as assets to be respected and appreciated. We will explore different family compositions while highlighting the similarities between them. We will also spend time talking about skin color, where it comes from and some of the challenges or advantages that one might face because of skin color. This unit helps to build empathy as well as skills in standing up for self & others. As always, please feel free to be in touch with any questions or concerns.