

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, January 11, 2013

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## The Principal's Corner

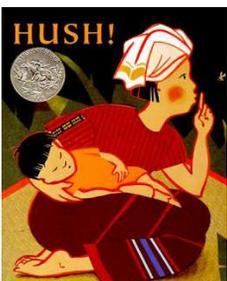
I hope all is going well for you and all the members of your family in this new year.

We hope your family is planning to join us for our annual International Celebration on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the gym.

We will enjoy a nice dinner of foods representing Eastern European and African cultures and a few songs sung by students in some of our classes.

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.



On Thursday of next week, we will begin the first of four "Evening Story Hours" featuring great children's literature from around the world. I will read, Hush, a lullaby from Thailand.

Refreshments will be served, and a short activity related to

Thai culture will also take place after the story. We will gather in the library at 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

Mrs. Patty Kissell and her Grade 2 students are collecting donations for the Sandy Hook Elementary School community. It is always a pleasure to bring to you news of community service projects taking place in our classrooms. We strive to have our students reach out to serve causes beyond themselves, be it to raise money for a most worthy community need such as this or by visiting our local senior citizen center or donating food to our school food pantry. If you would like to donate to Mrs. Kissell's class collection, please feel free to leave your donation in an envelope designated for this purpose at the main office.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity in support of school and community projects.

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 winter weekend be yours!

## News From Spanish

Hola padres y estudiantes,

If you are looking for a fun way to practice and build Spanish skills at home, I have a few resources to share that I have really enjoyed. The newest discovery is a website and/or app (free) called duolingo, which leads learners through a series of language challenges and is super user-friendly. You work your way up through different levels and can even challenge other users of the program. Spanishdict.com and studyspanish.com are websites where users can move through fun lessons and challenges and can create flashcard sets for themselves. Finally, "coffee break espanol" is a free podcast series that can be downloaded from the web or the itunes store that is a great audio program. Feel free to ask me if you ever want leads towards additional resources.

Hasta pronto amigos!

Chase Rosenberg

## 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)

## News From Around the School



Ms. Kerrin Flanagan’s Kindergarten students are working on counting, comparing, and numeral writing skills. They read the story, The Mitten, last week and retold the story using props. They are now reading a few other versions of the story and comparing and contrasting them.

Mrs. Patty Kissell’s Grade 2 class has started learning cursive writing. They have also begun a Social Sciences/Science unit on the Human Body and Ethics. In Math, they are learning how to add and subtract large numbers. Their class also had a dance instructor visit to do some creative movement activities with them.

Mrs. Kelly Mancuso’s Grade 3 students have begun their Informational Text Unit. During Readers’ Workshop, they have been learning about different types of text and the strategies used by good readers. In Writers’ Workshop, they have been practicing writing a “hand paragraph,” in which they use their hands as models to remember that each paragraph needs to include at least five sentences.

Mr. Dale’s Pecor’s Grade 5 students have opened their “Pencils and Pens” store, which offers school supplies at reasonable prices. The store is open for students in Grades K-2 on Wednesdays and those in Grades 3-5 on Fridays before school.

We also ask our Grade 5 students to serve as members of our Flag Patrol, to regularly and respectfully raise and lower the flag each day. Our January Flag Patrol members are Hawa Abdi, Jake Bergeron, and Matt Huynh. Others who have served in this role during the 2012-13 school year are Fatuma Abdulrahmanshuko, Kaleb Francis-Gabbeit, Prajal Gurung, Braelyn Howland, Dasha Jaentschke, Emma Larivee, Tyler Lavoie, Tyler Moureau, Jordan Palmer, Shannon Pecor, Reina Paul, and Lilianna Venner.