

SMITH TIMES

Friday, January 17, 2014

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The Principal's Corner



Our school will be piloting a new way for families to sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences this spring. (Conferences days are set for Thursday, March 27th in the

afternoon and throughout the day on Friday, March 28th, but each teacher may create her/his own schedule for that week). Conferences will now be scheduled on-line using the PTCFast system, which we will describe more in upcoming newsletters. (We will also provide on-site support for families who wish it.) Scheduling conferences on-line has successfully been done at the high school for quite some time, and some other elementary schools have also piloted this system, as well. We believe you will find it more convenient, and we will allow those who need to schedule more than one conference to do so in advance of the general sign-up schedule, so you are not having to make separate trips to school for each of your children's conferences. Those conferences also needing to have interpreters present will also be scheduled in advance of the regular sign-up schedule, so that interpreters may cluster their conferences together and reduce the number of trips they need to make to the school, as well.

Plans are in the works for our annual International Celebration Dinner, which will take place on Wednesday, January 22nd from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the school. We are inviting those who attend to bring a dinner or dessert item that represents a country or culture to help us celebrate the delicious diversity among us. Please label the food item you bring with the name of the item and the country or culture it represents. We will have a special table in the lobby for you to drop off and label your items as you arrive. The items will then be placed on the main serving line by members of the Family-School Partnership Team, who are hosting the event. Please refer to the article in this

newsletter for more information about this event. Please plan to join us!

I will host monthly coffee hours in the lobby on the last Friday school day of each month. These Community Coffee Hours will be held between 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the lobby of the school. Members of our school community and the public are invited to attend and ask questions about the school, tour it, and discuss ideas and concerns. Please feel free to join us or just stop by for a bagel and coffee. Many thanks to the Family-School Partnership Team for providing the refreshments for these monthly gatherings. At our first gathering (Friday, January 31st), we will hold our annual Title I Meeting and have present for review copies of our Home-School Compact and district Parent Involvement Policy.

The school play, "Frankenstein" is coming along nicely. The cast, chorus, and crew are all doing their part, and so are the dedicated grown-ups assisting with the play. A fundraising team has been formed and will come back to our community with some ideas about that soon.

On Saturdays during the month of February, our school will again sponsor an Open Gym for families from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Children who attend must be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for their supervision.



A total of 135 postcards have been mailed on behalf of students who are respectful, responsible, and safe learners.

We seek ways to recognize positive student behavior in order to reinforce it.

Thank you for all you do to make our school a community of respectful, responsible, and safe learners.

Calendar of Events



1/20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
(No School)

1/22: International Potluck Dinner
(5:30-7:00 p.m.)

1/31: Smith School Community Coffee Hour/
Title I Meeting (8:15-9:15 a.m.)
-- Front Lobby

2/1: Open Gym Time for Families
(10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym

2/8: Open Gym Time for Families
(10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym

2/13: Performance of “Frankenstein” for
Students (TBD) -- Hunt Middle School

2/14: Evening Performance of
“Frankenstein” (TBD) -- HMS

2/15: Open Gym Time for Families
(10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym

2/15: Matinee Performance of
“Frankenstein” (TBD) -- HMS

2/19: Scheduling for Parent-Conferences Begins
(Those for siblings/interpreters will begin
earlier.)

2/21: Second Trimester Report Cards
Distributed

2/22: Open Gym Time for Families
(10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym

3/27 – 3/28: Parent-Teacher Conferences
(Conferences may be scheduled at other times
this week).

News from Around the School

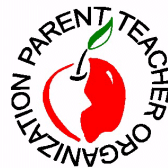


Ms. Kerrin Flanagan’s Kindergarten class has been learning different ways to open their Morning Meetings. They sometimes use a fist pump, use a baseball greeting at other times, and even try “knock, knock” greetings, as well. They have added many letters at Foundations time. They now know a,b,c,f,l,m,n,o,r,t,s,e,u, and l. They sort pictures and play games with letters and names. In Math, they are doing lots of counting and comparing and learning about odd and even numbers.

Mrs. Carolyn Pallutto’s Grade 1 class has been writing lots of fiction stories. They have also been collecting “cotton balls of kindness” for acts of kindness to each other or to the class. In Reading, they are learning about characters and story details.

Mrs. Kelly Mancuso’s Grade 3 class has started a Type to Learn program. Each student has her/his own username and password to log onto the computer to practice their typing skills at their own pace. They have also been talking about community service projects in which their class could participate to help people in our community. They recently wrote letters to men and women in the service who were far away from their family and friends during the holiday time.

PTO Bottle Drive



The PTO will be holding periodic bottle drives this year. This weekend will be our first! It is as simple as taking your returnable bottles and cans to Merola’s on North Avenue this weekend and letting them know that they are for the CP SMITH BOTTLE DRIVE. We plan to hold these drives at different times of the year when you might have a lot of bottles and cans to return (think after the Super Bowl). Please keep the bottle drives in mind when you are collecting your returnables!