

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, January 18, 2013

Volume 22, Number 20

## The Principal's Corner



We were pleased to have had so many members of our school community join us

for our annual International Celebration this week. We hope everyone enjoyed the food and entertainment from around the world. We thank our Family-School Partnership Team and our specialist teachers for planning this special evening for our whole school community. The goal of the evening was to bring together all members of our school community and celebrate the diversity among us. Another way we do this is through our Evening Story Hours, which take place every Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Stories about various cultures are featured, and refreshments and special activities follow them. We hope you will be able to join us!

On Saturdays for the next few weeks, we will continue to have Family Open Gym Time from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. These are great opportunities to promote senses of community and wellness among us. Please join us for these, too.

As hard as it is to believe, Kindergarten registration for the 2013-14 school year has now begun. If you have a daughter or son who will turn 5 years old by September 1, 2013 and you wish to enroll her/him in Kindergarten, please do so as soon as possible. Registration packets are now available at the main office or at the Burlington School District's website at [www.bsdt.org](http://www.bsdt.org). (Go to the section marked Parents and then choose the option for Kindergarten Registration.) **Please register your child by March 15, 2013. Parents/guardians who submit completed registration packets by this deadline will be notified of their children's placements during the week of April 29th. You are more likely to receive your choice of schools if you register by this March 15<sup>th</sup> date.**

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. 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 generosity.

Our Full Bag Pantry is open every Friday from 2:00-3:00 p.m. by the side door of the school. If you help yourself to food from the cart, please return the backpacks the following Monday so we can refill them for the following Friday. Thank you. Thanks, too, for your donations of nonperishable food to the pantry.

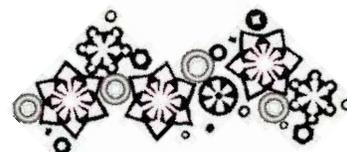


Food Pantry Donations Needed

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! This is a reminder that there is no school on Monday due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.



## Calendar of Events



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

**1/21: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**  
(No School)

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

**1/25:** Full Bag Pantry (2:00-3:00 p.m.) -  
Cart by Side Door of School

**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.)

**2/6:** Family-School Partnership Team Meeting  
(3:00 p.m.) -- Principal's Office

**2/7: Half Day of School Due to Teacher  
Inservice in the Afternoon. School Dismissed  
at 11:30.**

**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)

**3/8:** Translators Available to Review Report  
Cards with Parent/Guardians -- Principal's  
Office

**3/15:** Kindergarten Registration Deadline for  
Early Notification. (Notices to be sent 4/29)

## For Immediate Release:

### **Burlington School Board Approves a 5.3% Budget Increase Amid Cuts**

*Burlington, Vermont - January 9, 2013* - The Burlington School Board has approved a \$62,766,794 budget for the 2013-14 school year. While the original budget that was presented to the community called for an approximate 4.5% budget increase, the Board listened to the community advocate for putting back in middle school Healthy Living teachers, the Community Outreach Coordinator positions, funding for Family School Partnerships and four paraeducator positions. The final budget that was approved also includes two additional English Language Learner teachers and an additional elementary classroom teacher to meet the needs of the increased enrollment as well as approximately \$100,000 in funding for various initiatives related to Diversity and Equity. Reductions were made in administration, teaching and paraeducators, and middle and high school athletics and co-curriculars.

While the final tax effect of this budget increase is not fully known because it depends upon legislative decisions yet to be made, it appears that the tax increase will be very similar to the expense increase. This is a result of many effects, including the increasing number of students in the District, changes in the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), changes in anticipated non-local revenues and the amortization of the FY 2012 deficit.

Alan Matson, Finance Chair who led the committee that developed the budget proposal, noted: "This budget reflects a set of board goals that emphasize the importance of a strategic vision for the District. This strategic vision emphasizes that we must keep our public school budgets affordable while at the same time preserving community values such as reasonable class sizes and opportunities for all students".

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