

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, January 24, 2014

Volume 22, Number 19

## The Principal's Corner

Those who braved the cold weather to attend our annual International Celebration Dinner had a very good time. We all dined on a delicious array of foods representing a range of countries and cultures. We also were treated to the beautiful music of our Grades 4-5 Chorus. Many thanks to Mrs. Nadeen St. Pierre and Ms. Ann Arcovitch and all the members of our Family-School Partnership Team for hosting this event. The Smith School community is one in which 14 languages are spoken, and it's great for us to gather like this to celebrate the diversity among 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 31<sup>st</sup>), we will hold our annual Title I Meeting and have present for review copies of our Home-School Compact and district Parent Involvement Policy.

Thanks to the generosity of our P.T.O., we are in the process of planning classroom workshops with the Flynn Theater and also a residency with Burlington Taiko drummers. Details are being worked out, and we will keep you posted about these and other ways we celebrate the fine arts at Smith. On that note, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra will be returning next week to meet with more classes as part of their "Musical Petting Zoo" program to connect children with a variety of musical instruments.

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 169 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.

## News from the Learning Center

### Discarded Book Giveaway

The Learning Center recently pulled books from the shelves that were worn or had not been checked out in a number of years. These books have been on a cart in the front hallway. Students have been invited to take these books to keep. These books all have "discarded" written in cursive in black sharpie over top of the C.P. Smith barcode. Thanks.

### Red Clover Book Award

Kindergarten through 3rd grade classes have been listening to Vermont Red Clover Award picture books during their Learning Center classes. If you would like to see some of the websites and videos we have been watching in class you can find the links on the Smith Learning Center web page. Go to the C.P. Smith homepage - click on *Library* - click on *Library web page*. On the Library web page click on *Red Clover Award*. Links to activities can be found on the bottom right of this page.

### World Book Online Kids and Student

Fourth and Fifth grade students have been practicing using the World Book Online Encyclopedia during library class. Our subscription to this service starts on February 1st. For the next few weeks students can use World Book Online at school and home by searching for World Book Online (username: *americas*, password: *electricwb*)

## Calendar of Events



- 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

Mrs. Christine Tetrault’s Kindergarten students have been doing lots of counting and comparing. They have also been talking about books which follow a pattern and those which have interesting beginnings to catch readers’ attention.

Ms. Kerrin Flanagan’s Kindergarten students have also been counting and comparing numbers. They are working on their numeral writing skills. They read the book, “The Mitten,” this week, and students retold the story using props. They will read a few other versions and compare and contrast them.

Mrs. Christine Harvey is setting up a blog page online so that families can get more information about all the great things going on in their classroom. Please contact her for more information about the blog.

Mrs. Patty Kissell’s Grade 2 students wrote New Year’s Resolutions and have displayed them on a bulletin board near their classroom. They wrote resolutions that would be helpful to others. They also have begun an “Awesome Student Book.” Students are recognized for positive behaviors and their names are recorded in this special book. When their names appear in the book 5 times, they call home with that very good news! Positive behaviors that are recognized are listening, helping others, following directions the first time, focusing on work, etc . . . Mrs. Kissell’s students have been talking about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and wrote short pieces on “How are you keeping the Dream alive?” The class talked about respect, caring, responsibility, citizenship, truthfulness, standing up for what you believe in, treating others how you want to be treated, and how these are all important in life. They also watched a movie called, “Our Friend Martin,” about children who go back in time to the days of the Civil Rights Movement and meet a young Martin.

Mrs. Kelly Mancuso’s Grade 3 students receive compliment cards and recently earned another 100 of them. They voted to earn a week without homework in recognition for all the respectful, responsible, and safe behavior they are demonstrating.