

SMITH TIMES

Friday, January 25, 2013

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The Principal's Corner

I always enjoy giving tours of our school to prospective students and parents/guardians and to showcase the good teaching and learning which takes place here. In the past year, we have seen our enrollment increase from 258 to 290 (not counting the temporary addition of a district pre-school), and we're always excited to see new families joining our school community. 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. **Please also inform your neighbors and friends who have children eligible to enter Kindergarten in the fall.** Registration packets are now available at the main office or at the Burlington School District's website at www.bsdvt.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 15th date.**

Mrs. Patty Kissell and her Grade 2 students are continuing to collect donations for the Sandy Hook Elementary School community. If you would like to donate to this very worthwhile effort, please feel free to leave your donation in an envelope designated for this purpose at the main office. Thank you for your generosity.

It's always a pleasure to highlight the events and activities of our city library, the Parks and Recreation Department, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts, etc . . . which serve children and families. If you have a daughter enrolled at Smith School, you will (hopefully) find attached to this newsletter a blue-colored information sheet about the Girl Scouts. If not, please check the Family Information Center kiosk in the lobby for valuable opportunities for girls.

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!

Calendar of Events



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

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

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)

Burlington Schools Safety Survey

Following the recent shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, Burlington Schools met with the Burlington Police and Fire Departments to revisit our safety protocols and conduct a security audit of our school facilities. In addition to these proactive plans, we are assessing our physical plants and determining necessary changes. We are working to develop a plan for Board consideration.

That is where we would appreciate your help. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey (link below) about the safety and security at your child's school. Your feedback will help us develop a list of recommendations and improvements in the current school year, along with budgeting for other changes going forward. The survey will remain open until February 1st.

Nothing is more important than our students' safety. Please know that we will do everything we can to ensure their well-being.

<http://research.zarca.com/k/RQsQPPWUsQUsPsPsP>

News From Around the School



Mrs. Judy Carpenter's Grade 1 class is working hard to correctly identify numerals from 1 to 100.

They play a number of Math games to help them identify numerals and the ones and tens

places in them. Using a big number board, students looked for patterns to identify sequences.

Mrs. Carol McHugh's Grade 2 class is studying the concept of money in their math class. Students are writing essays about what they would do if they had \$1,000,000 to give away and are also writing great biographies, too.

Mrs. Kelly Mancuso's Grade 3 class has begun a new Science unit. They are currently studying engineering and technology and have learned about three different types of bridges: suspension, arch, and beam. Soon, students will be working in small groups to construct their own bridges.

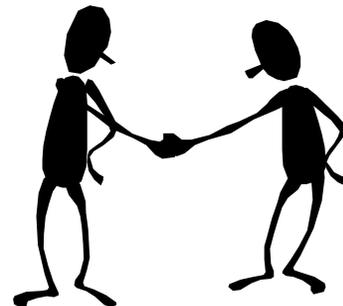
We are still seeking to involve interested students in a DestinationImagination group for our school. Please refer to the brochure about DestinationImagination we attached to last week's newsletter and contact Mr. Fleury at the school as soon as possible if your child would be interested in being on a team.

We are pleased that 5 of our classes were able to visit the ECHO Center's Exhibit on Race and do great learning about cultural diversity before, during, and after their trips.

News from the Guidance Office: (By Kate Guilmette)

Starting next week, each class will begin the Conflict Resolution Unit. We know as adults that conflicts/disagreements occur across our lifespan so it is essential for children to learn and practice peaceful ways of problem solving. Students will learn to distinguish between small and big problems. Small problems are ones that children are "strong enough and smart enough" to handle on their own. Big problems require an adult's help. We will be using the Conflict Escalator (Kriedler) to visually track conflict. Students will learn that they can decide to escalate or de-escalate conflict. They are in charge of deciding which direction they will follow on the escalator. Please ask your child to explain the escalator to you.

Since it is a conflict resolution unit we will be spending the majority of our time identifying choices that de-escalate conflict and in some cases practicing them with classmates. Please be sure to ask your child about these strategies in the coming weeks.





C.P. Smith PTO News

As you know our C.P. Smith musical will be happening in February. We have two wonderful parents who have worked hard over the past four years as production managers to make sure that the musical takes place, unfortunately, this will be their last year in this role as their children will be moving on to middle school.

We Need Your Help

We are looking for 2-3 parent volunteers who would be interested in assisting with the production of the play next year. We are hoping that these volunteers would be able to work with the current production managers to learn the in's and out's of the musical production so that there would be a smoother transition. This is a wonderful event for students and our school community and we would like to see this event continue at C.P. Smith. Without the help of our wonderful parents and guardians we will not be able to continue these annual events. If you are interested please contact Shireen Hart at shart@primmer.com, Jessica Story-Huston at jess_story@hotmail.com, or Jennifer L'Ecuyer at jlecuyer7@gmail.com.

C.P. Smith PTO will be having our annual used book sale in the spring. This has been a fun event over the last couple of years. We are looking for donations of used books appropriate for grades K-5. Reference books, cookbooks, and sports books are always a big hit. These books can be dropped off in the office. Please no adult or preschool books. If you have any questions please contact me at jlecuyer7@gmail.com or 660-9669. Thank you.

Jen L'Ecuyer
C.P. Smith PTO



Mrs. Slack's Kindergarten class recently enjoyed decorating gingerbread houses.

Community Learning Conversation:



What Do Our Graduates Need to Succeed?

Sat. Feb 2 | 9:30am-1:00pm | Burlington High School

What skills and knowledge do our young people need to thrive in today's rapidly-changing world? Please join us for this, the first of an ongoing series of Community Learning Conversations. Together, we will look at some of the ways we are "remodeling" our educational system so that every young person in Winooski and Burlington receives a world-class education. Community dialogues brought us to this point, and your input is vital for moving us forward. We will leave the day with a treasure trove of information that will be mined by working groups moving forward. Join us as we express our specific hopes and dreams for the young people in our communities as they prepare for college, career and citizenship.

Agenda:

9:30-10:00am - Welcome Reception, Coffee/
Pastries Served
10:00-11:00am - Interactive Panel Discussion
11:15-12:15pm - Small Group Discussion
12:15-12:45pm - Closing
12:45-1:30pm - Lunch Served

Childcare - We will be providing onsite childcare. Please rsvp for childcare to partnershipforchangevt@gmail.com

Transportation - We will be providing shuttle service from O'Brien Community Center leaving at 9:30am and returning at 1:30pm. Please rsvp to partnershipforchangevt@gmail.com.