

SMITH TIMES

Friday, January 29, 2016

Volume 24, Number 19

The Principal's Corner

Greetings! Have you noticed the increased daylight in the afternoons? Isn't it great? Spring is coming!

We had a very good turnout for the recent "Movie Night," hosted by the P.T.O. Children watched "Despicable Me 2" in the gym and parents and guardians viewed "Welcome to Vermont: Four Stories of Resettled Identity" and had a chance to meet and speak with filmmaker Mira Niagolova. What a great opportunity it was to learn about other cultures right here in our own area.

The school has purchased the DreamBox Math program for use with a limited number of students in a before-school setting four days each week. Students meet in the library to use this educational and engaging online program.



Over 1,600 tickets have been distributed to students for reading books or having books read to them. The tickets are part of a

drawing for gift certificates. Recent winners include Jason Lai, Luke Van Marter-Brown, Shane Gonzalez-Douglas, and Ayla Binns. My mantra continues to be, "Keep reading."

Please consult the calendar for upcoming school activities and events.

Thanks for all you are doing to make our school community one of safety, respect, and responsibility for all who come through our doors.



Calendar of Events



- 1/30:** Open Gym Time for Families (11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)
- 2/8:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
-- Library
- 2/11:** "Aladdin" Performance for School (1:00 p.m.)
- H.M.S.
- 2/12:** "Aladdin" Evening Performance (7:00 p.m.)
-- H.M.S.
- 2/13:** "Aladdin" Matinee Performance (4:00 p.m.)
-- H.M.S.
- 2/19:** Second Trimester Report Cards Distributed
- 2/22 – 3/1:** Winter Vacation
- 3/10:** Science and Engineering Fair (6:00-8:00 p.m.)
-- Gym
- 3/14:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
-- Library
- 3/17:** Annual School Concert (1:30 p.m.) -- Gym
- 3/18:** Spring Fling/Family Fun Night (6:00-8:00 p.m.)
-- Gym
- 3/24 – 3/25:** Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 4/11:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
-- Library
- 4/18 – 4/22:** Spring Vacation
- 5/9:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
-- Library
- 6/3:** Field Day -- School Grounds
- 6/3:** ??? Farewell Picnic (5:00-7:00 p.m.)
-- School Grounds
- 6/8:** Appreciation Assembly (8:30 a.m.) -- Gym
- 6/9:** Farewell Assembly (8:30 a.m.) -- Gym
- 6/9:** Last Day of School (11:30 a.m. dismissal)
- 6/17:** Student Placement Letters Mailed



**Burlington School District Pre-K - 8 Lunch Menu
FEBRUARY 2016**



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Chicken Patty Sandwich Baked Potato	2 PIZZA DAY! Cheese, Turkey Pepperoni or Veggie	3 Shepherd's Pie Whole Wheat Roll	4 Chicken & Biscuits Green Peas	5 All-Beef Burger or Cheeseburger or Veggie Burger Roasted Roots
8 Chicken Nuggets Sweet Potato Fries	9 PIZZA DAY! Cheese, Turkey Pepperoni or Veggie	10 Chicken or Bean Fajita with Lettuce, Cheese, Sour Cream, Salsa, Rice	11 Meatball Sub Roasted Roots	12  Baked Ziti with Cheese Mediterranean Vegetables
15 Chicken Patty Sandwich Baked Potato	16 PIZZA DAY! Cheese, Turkey Pepperoni or Veggie	17 Beef or Bean Nachos with Lettuce, Cheese, Sour Cream, Salsa, Rice	18 Spaghetti & Meatballs Broccoli	19 Macaroni & Cheese Roasted Broccoli

Available with
Every Lunch

Local Vermont Milk
1% White Milk
Fat Free White Milk
Fat Free Chocolate Milk

Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar

Soup-of-the-Day

Vegetarian options are
available every day.



Our Fresh Fruit & Veggie Bar features an ever-changing assortment of fruit, vegetables, whole grains, beans, homemade salads, meat, cheese and dairy selections!

Menu items are subject to change without notice. We offer a variety of choices every day.
For more information, please contact us at 864-8416 or schoolfood@bsdvt.org.
USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER





January 25, 2016

Re: Superintendent Update

Happy New Year Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

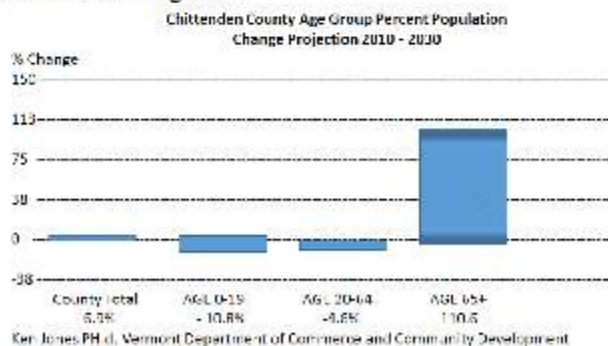
It has been a great start to the New Year.

- ✓ School Board approved and adopted FY17 Proposed Budget: School Year 2016- 2017 (Met ACT 46 requirements - NO DOUBLE TAX for taxpayers)
- ✓ External Auditors present positive report for FY15 Budget (last year) – NO DEFICIT (Demonstrating our financial practices are moving in a positive direction)

Allow me to share my gratitude to the parents, individuals, staff and organizations who communicated all sides of several issues throughout the budget process. It certainly gave us a great deal to consider and a sense of community perceptions. The challenge of finding 2.5 million dollars in an organization that has had recent reductions is difficult, and with the added restrictions and parameters of Act 46, it makes this an exceedingly arduous task.

You may rest assured that our decisions are based on data, experience, identified priorities and effective school/organization principles. As we move from this approval phase to our implementation phase (late February – March), we will provide additional details.

I would like to share some data to illustrate how we analyze societal impacts down to the school level. The chart below demonstrates a trend that is occurring and will continue to trend in Vermont, Chittenden County and Burlington. The percentage of school age children Age 0-19 is decreasing at a rate of -10.8%. The largest cohort group is Age 65+. Burlington School District has only been able to plateau in school age growth, due to the fortunate opportunities of refugee influx and immigration.



(cont.)

YAW OBENG – SUPERINTENDENT

An example of how this data is reflected at the school level is found at Burlington High School.

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Student Enrollment</u>
2008	1,100
Jan 22, 2016	<u>990</u>
Net Difference	-110 Students

We need to be able to make adjustments to reflect our reality, while simultaneously delivering offerings for students to graduate and find their college and career pathways. This proposed budget allows us to do this and also sets the stage for our Strategic Multi-Year Planning beginning this spring, which will determine what the priorities should be going forward. Bring your thoughts, ideas and voices.



Yaw Obeng
Superintendent, Burlington School District