

SMITH TIMES

Friday, January 31, 2014

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The Principal's Corner



The production of the play, "Frankenstein," is going well and will be presented in just a few weeks. (Please see the calendar for additional information.) The cast, chorus, and crew have been working hard under the direction of the Very Merry Theater, but we also need adult volunteers to also help on several aspects of the play. Please see the attached flyer for more specific information about volunteer opportunities. Please contact Mrs. Alison Johnson at teamjohnson105@outlook.com with questions or for more information.

Our monthly coffee hour was held this morning in the lobby. 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. Many thanks to the Family-School Partnership Team for providing the refreshments for these monthly gatherings. At today's gathering, we held our annual Title I Meeting to distribute and review copies of our Home-School Compact and district Parent Involvement Policy.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, our school will be piloting a new way for families to sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences this spring. Conferences will now be scheduled online using the PTCFast system. Scheduling conferences online has successfully taken place at other schools in the district, and we would like to try it here, too. We believe you will find it more convenient, and we will allow those who need to schedule multiple conferences for their children to do so a couple of days in advance of the general schedule. Those conferences also needing to have interpreters present will also be scheduled in advance, so that interpreters may cluster their conferences together and reduce the number of trips they need to make to the school. (Please refer to the calendar for specific dates and times for this registration.) **Please note that assistance will be provided to**

parents and guardians at the office on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. if you would like support in navigating through the PTCFast system and scheduling your conference(s) right there on the spot. We will have more information about how to use the PTCFast registration system in next week's newsletter.

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.

Call To Parents And Community



We need some props for our Frankenstein play. Please check your closets for a veil or veil material for the bride, two matching vests that are furry or stringy or the material to make them, and anything for a werewolf!

Calendar of Events



- 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
- 2/12:** P.T.O. Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) -- Library
- 2/13:** Performance of "Frankenstein" for Students (TBD) -- Hunt Middle School
- 2/14:** Evening Performance of "Frankenstein" (5:00 p.m.) -- HMS
- 2/15:** Open Gym Time for Families (10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym
- 2/15:** Matinee Performance of "Frankenstein" (5:00 p.m.) -- HMS
- 2/17:** Scheduling for Multiple Parent Conferences Begins
- 2/19:** Scheduling for Parent Conferences Begins (On-line or At Office from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- 2/21:** Community Coffee Hour (8:15-9:15 a.m.) -- Lobby
- 2/21:** Second Trimester Report Cards Distributed
- 2/22:** Open Gym Time for Families (10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym
- 2/24 - 3/4:** Winter Vacation (No School)
- 3/5:** School Resumes after Winter Vacation
- 3/7:** Scheduling for Parent Conferences Ends
- 3/27 - 3/28:** Parent-Teacher Conferences (Conferences may be scheduled at other times this week).

BSD Automated Telephone Alert System - Test Phone Call

Please note that we will be sending a TEST phone call to parents/guardians on **Thursday, February 6th at approximately 6 p.m.** If you receive the call at the number (s) you wish called for such things as school announcements, attendance calls and weather delays/closings, no action is needed. If you do NOT receive the call or receive the call at a number(s) that you do not wish called in these instances, contact your school administrative assistant with this information. Thank you for your participation.



News from Around the School



Ms. Kerrin Flanagan's Kindergarten students have been reading many books about snow recently. These include, Geraldine's Big Snow and The Snowy Day. They made their own snowy day pictures and wrote about going out in the snow. They also began making their own ABC books.

Mrs. Judy Carpenter's Grade 2 students have started a new Science unit entitled, "Force and Motion". They are exploring concepts related to this and learning new vocabulary words, too. The students are enjoying the hands-on approach as they explore the big ideas of force and motion. Students in this class wrote New Year's Resolutions about how to be helpful at home and school.

Mrs. Kelly Mancuso's Grade 3 students are becoming excellent digital citizens, using their six new iPads as part of their Math stations. They rotate through groups to practice the skill of subtracting with borrowing.