

SMITH TIMES

Friday, February 7, 2014

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The Principal's Corner



The school play “Frankenstein” is really taking shape. The cast, chorus, and crew have been working very hard on the play, and we know it will be a super one. Many thanks to Very Merry Theater,

the Burlington Kids Afterschool Program, and dedicated parent and community volunteers for making possible our annual play. It is such an important part of our school community and the lives of those who find their voice on stage or back stage. A great number of the students who “shine” in the middle and high school productions we all enjoy get their start in elementary school plays. A special thanks to Mrs. Alison Johnson for her dedicated efforts to coordinate parent volunteers. We are still in need of a few additional volunteers for each dress rehearsal (note times in the calendar), to create a “Frankenstein” playbill, assist backstage during each show (again please note times in the calendar), and provide items for a bake sale and staff it during each show’s intermission. Financial donations to defray the cost of the play (a total of about \$4,000) would also be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to Very Merry Theater and drop them off at school or give them to Mrs. Johnson at Sunday’s rehearsal. You may also give them to me in the lobby at each performance. Thank you for your efforts to support children’s theater in our school and for our community.

As you know, 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.** *Please find attached to this newsletter more information about the process to be used for registering for conferences.*

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 Guidance Office: (By Kate Guilmette)

Classroom Guidance Update: After finishing the unit on harassment we spent time talking about empathy. We talked about empathy being more than understanding how someone else feels but, showing or letting them know you care. Younger students practiced showing empathy in role plays while older students were asked to think about specific people and identify ways they could show understanding and concern for them. Empathy helps us practice perspective taking which we know is an important ability to possess when forming friendships and solving conflicts.

In the weeks leading up to February break we will be talking about conflict and peaceful ways to de-escalate a conflict. All students will be practicing ways to solve small problems, they are encouraged to seek help from an adult when their strategies are not working or when there is a safety concern. More about specific strategies will be coming, in the meantime please ask your child to tell you about the conflict escalator and choices they can use to de-escalate a conflict.

Calendar of Events



- 2/8:** Open Gym Time for Families (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym
- 2/9:** Dress Rehearsal for “Frankenstein” (11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) -- Hunt Middle School
- 2/10:** Dress Rehearsal for “Frankenstein” (3:00-6:00 p.m.) -- Meet at Smith/Escorted to Hunt
- 2/12:** Dress Rehearsal for “Frankenstein” (3:00-6:00 p.m.) -- Meet at Smith/Escorted to Hunt
- 2/12:** P.T.O. Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) -- Library
- 2/13:** Performance of “Frankenstein” for Students (1:00 p.m.) -- Hunt Middle School
- 2/14:** Performance of “Frankenstein” (7:00 p.m.) -- HMS
- 2/15:** Open Gym Time for Families (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym
- 2/15:** 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).

News from Around the School

The Kindergarten students of Ms. Kerrin Flanagan, Mrs. Lynn Slack, and Mrs. Christine Tetrault created many interesting ways to represent the number 100 to honor the 100th day of school, which was earlier this week. Students used 100 of a wide range of things from pasta to popsicle sticks. Come see this display in our lobby!

The Grade 3 students of Mrs. Nicole Bahrenburg, Ms. Kim Brockway, and Mrs. Kelly Mancuso are visiting the Heineberg Senior Center once a week for three weeks. (We are so pleased to have a community partnership with these wonderful friends and neighbors.) Students and teachers bring their iPads to the center to show members what they are learning through this use of technology. I am sure the members of the HSC learn a lot from these interactions, too.

Thanks again to our Grades 4-5 Chorus for singing so beautifully at our annual International Celebration Dinner. Many thanks to Mrs. Danielle Hurley for all she does to lead our chorus and to our Family-School Partnership Team for sponsoring this delicious event, which featured foods from countries and cultures around the world. Did you know that 14 languages are spoken by members of the Smith School community?

Donate Your Returnable Bottles and Cans This Weekend



Please consider taking your bottles and cans to “Bottles R Us” located beside Merola’s on North Avenue. Tell them you would like to make your return a donation to CP Smith PTO. So easy to do and can add up so quickly! Thank you.

From the Learning Center:

You can access **World Book Online at home**. Use the link under "Library" on the CP Smith website. Login ID: cpsmith, Password: worldbook

The Learning Center has posted **short videos about Winter Olympic Athletes and Sports**. Go to the Learning Center website by clicking on "Library" on the CP Smith homepage.

Articles about the Winter Olympics can be found on the Homepage of the Library "Destiny" catalog. Click on "Library" on the CP Smith homepage.