

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, February 22, 2013

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## The Principal's Corner



The cast, crew, and chorus of "Alice in Wonderland" worked hard under the supervision of the Very Merry Theatre and a group of very dedicated parent and community volunteers to present wonderful performances for the school community last week. We are so proud of all our students

who were involved in this celebration of the fine arts. We are also deeply thankful for the great support we have received from Mrs. Jessica Story-Huston, Mrs. Shireen Hart, Mr. Chip Hart, Ms. Amy Livingston, Mrs. Jennifer L'Ecuyer, Mrs. Karen LaBelle, Ms. Kate Stein, Mr. Michael Stein, Mr. Marcus Medlar, Mr. Mark Dowling, Mr. Martin Hoak, Ms. Tammy Daly, Mrs. Bonnie Paquette, Mrs. Sheila Boland-Chira, Ms. Jennifer Reay, and any others whom we may have missed. Without all of these talented and generous people, our local efforts to promote children's theater would not have been possible.

We celebrated School Spirit Week this week. With the theme, "Caring for Others," we made cards for our neighbors and friends at the Heineberg Senior Center and also performed many good deeds for others. We also had a lot of fun along the way, too. We thank Mrs. Christine Tetrault, Mrs. Lynn Slack, Ms. Kerrin Flanagan, Mrs. Christine Harvey, and Mrs. Judy Carpenter and their students for helping coordinate our efforts to raise money for the Vermont Children's Hospital or the trip to the Heineberg Center to bring over all our cards.

Have you notified us yet if you will need a specific Parent-Teacher Conference time for March 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>? If you need to make a specific appointment request, please notify us on or by March 5<sup>th</sup>, and we will do our best to find a time which meets your schedule.

The Howard Center operates First Call, a free resource for families whose children are challenged with stressful situations such as a death in the family, maintaining personal physical and emotional control, or a range of other difficulties. Children may also call for support for themselves, and the agency receives about 13,000 calls a year from families in Chittenden County alone. The staff members of First Call are available to provide assistance and support to your family and are only a telephone call away. **To contact a First Call counselor, please dial 488-7777. Again, this is a free service to all families and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

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 255 postcards and other contacts (via telephone or email) have been made to recognize and reinforce positive student behavior.

There will be no school for students next week (February 25 – March 1) and also on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. School will resume for students on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope they will all have a safe and enjoyable winter vacation. ***The school's Full Bag Food Pantry will be open on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00-10:00 a.m. if you wish to stop by and pick up some food for this vacation time. The food cart will be in a different place than it usually is: right inside the front door of the school. Please help yourself.***

## Calendar of Events



**2/22:** Second Trimester Report Cards Distributed to Students

**2/25 – 3/5:** Winter Recess (No School)

**3/5:** Deadline to Request Specific Parent-Teacher Conference Times for 3/28 and 3/29

**3/8:** Translators Available to Review Report Cards with Parent/Guardians -- Principal's Office

**3/8:** Parents/Guardians Notified of Parent-Teacher Conference Times

**3/15:** Kindergarten Registration Deadline for Early Notification. (Notices to be sent 4/29)

**3/28-3/29:** Parent-Teacher Conferences. (Half day of school on 3/28 and no school on 3/29)

**6/13:** Last Day of School for Students. (Changed from 6/12 due to our recent "snow day.")

## Parent/Teacher Conferences Coming Soon



Parent/Teacher

Conferences will be taking place on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. On that Thursday, school will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m., so that conferences may be held in the afternoon. On that Friday, school will not be in session, so conferences will be held throughout the day. Mrs. Tina Desautels, our Administrative Assistant, will soon be scheduling conferences for the parents/guardians of all our students, as these meetings are vital to an excellent working relationship between home and school. **If you wish to make a special request for a specific day and time for your appointment(s), please contact Mrs. Desautels at the school at 864-8479 or [tdesaute@bsdvt.org](mailto:tdesaute@bsdvt.org) on or before Tuesday, March 5, 2013 (which is not a school day but a day at which teachers and staff will be here for inservice.) We expect to communicate to families their conference appointments on Friday, March 8, 2013, so you will have sufficient advance notice of them.**

## News From Around the School



Mrs. Tetrault's, Mrs. Slack's, Ms. Flanagan's, and Mrs. Harvey's classes coordinated our school's "Big Change Round-up" collection for the Vermont Children's Hospital. We will soon have a final total of the amount collected for this very worthy cause.

Kindergarten students' 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Projects are amazing! They are on display in the front lobby and have received many, many positive comments for their creativity.

Mrs. Harvey's and Mrs. Carpenter's classes delivered our "thinking of you" cards to our neighbors and friends at the Heineberg Senior Center. We worked on this as a school project during Spirit Week, when our theme was "Caring for Others."

Mrs. Mancuso's class held a gathering for parents/guardians and others recently to unveil the bridges on which they have been working. Their goal was to engineer structures that are safe, stable, and strong. They certainly did so, learning a lot of Math and Science skills along the way! In their Literacy class, they have been learning about biographies and read several about President Abraham Lincoln. They are also reading one about the man known as Dr. Seuss and learning to write biographies of their own.

Students in Grades 3-5 completed New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests last October. We recently received the test results and will mail copies of this information to parents/guardians right after vacation.