

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, March 7, 2014

Volume 22, Number 24

## The Principal's Corner

Greetings! I hope the recent winter vacation was a safe and enjoyable one for all the members of your family.



Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful P.T.O., we have begun a seven-day residency with Burlington Taiko, a local drumming group which works with many schools in our area. We are excited to have them here at Smith! Our students will learn a lot about music, movement, and working together. Student performances will be held on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. at the school. Please join us!

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

Our annual Science Fair will be held on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the school. Many thanks to Mrs. Colleen Springer, our librarian, for organizing this event. We hope to see many wonderful student projects again this year.

A total of 172 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.

## Smith Receives Grant from Lowes



CP Smith recently received a grant from Lowes Toolbox for Education enabling us to purchase 8 iPads! A technology pilot project was developed for this grant with the focus of integrating technology into the curriculum. This year, two teachers have committed to using the iPads in their classrooms and participating in technology training for themselves. We are really excited about the increased use of technology throughout the school and hope to see it continue to build. Through this grant we will begin to prepare students for 21st century learning!

**Thank you Lowes for supporting our school!**

## Calendar of Events

**3/5 – 3/13:** Burlington Taiko Residency for all Classes

**3/7:** Scheduling for Parent Conferences Ends

**3/8:** Open Gym Time for Families (10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym

**3/10:** P.T.O. Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) -- Library

**3/13:** Taiko Residency Performances (1:30 and 6:30 p.m.)

**3/15:** Open Gym Time for Families (10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym

**3/19:** Burlington City Arts Awards Ceremony (5:45-7:00 p.m.) -- Contois Auditorium, City Hall

**3/20:** Science Fair (6:30-7:30 p.m.)

**3/27 – 3/28:** Parent-Teacher Conferences (Conferences may be scheduled at other times this week).

## News from the Guidance Office: (By Kate Guilmette)

Over the next couple of weeks students will be learning more about Personal Safety. The focus is getting students to understand that everyone has the right to be safe and there are steps to follow if they do not. In kindergarten through second grade we will be developing a strong foundation in basic safety rules. I asked each student to think about their own personal alarm system (uh-oh feelings) and how its purpose is to warn us of danger or potential danger. Through videos and discussion children will learn that they are the boss of their body and they have right to say no to *anyone* in order to keep themselves safe. We will role play practicing the basic safety rules: Say “NO”, Get Away, Tell a trusted adult and sometimes you have to yell.

For the students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> we will spend some time examining personal alarms systems and identifying who is in their support network. For students in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades we will talk about different kinds of abuse and watch a video with vignettes spoken from children’s perspectives. Our students will learn that they have a right to feel safe and there are people who can help.



## C.P. Smith PTO Meeting



Our next meeting will be held Monday, March 10, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Learning Center. I have asked both Ward 4 & 7 school board members to join us. This will be a

chance for you to meet your school board members, ask questions, and discuss any concerns that you may have. We hope to see you there.

C.P. Smith PTO

## BSD 2012-2013 Annual Report

Now Available at [www.bsdrv.org](http://www.bsdrv.org)

Burlington School District's 2012-2013 Annual Report includes the comprehensive budget for 2014-15, comparative data on school spending between Burlington and other Vermont communities, and a review of school accomplishments and assessments for the 2012-13 school year.