

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, March 8, 2013

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## The Principal's Corner

I hope the recent school vacation was a safe and enjoyable time for all the members of your family. We're back in the swing of things for the last trimester of the 2012-13 school year. Our second marking period ended a few weeks ago, and report cards were distributed to students on the Friday before vacation. If you did not receive your child's report card from her or him, please contact Mrs. Desautels at the main office, and she will furnish you with another copy.

Speaking of student assessments, results of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests will be mailed home in the next few days. These tests were administered to students in Grades 3-5 in October.

You will also be receiving your Parent/Teacher Conference time(s) in the next few days. Conferences will take place on the afternoon of Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and all day on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. These sessions are important opportunities for all of us to stay in contact with each other on behalf of your children. Please plan to attend these meetings and do let us know if you need to reschedule them. We aim for 100% participation and usually come quite close to that goal.

We hold whole-school "Mini-Meetings" in the cafeteria each morning for a few minutes before students are dismissed to their classes. These short sessions include reading stories, listening to student performances, and other activities. Several days ago, I read a story entitled, Have You Filled a Bucket Today?, about good deeds being performed for others and imagining that these deeds "filled their buckets." I am pleased to report that during the last week of school prior to vacation, a total of 94 good deeds were performed by Smith students. I will continue to urge students to "fill the buckets" of others as a way of showing respect and responsibility.

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.

## Calendar of Events



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

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

**3/8:** Full Bag Food Pantry (2:00 – 3:00 p.m.) -- Cart by Side Door of School

**3/9:** Family Open Gym Time (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym

**3/11:** PTO Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) -- Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

**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)

**4/8:** PTO Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) -- Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

**4/18:** School Community Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)

**4/22 – 4/26:** Spring Vacation (No School)

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

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



As we return from break students will be entering into the Personal Safety unit of classroom guidance. Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> will be exploring digital

citizenship with Mrs. Springer. Fourth and fifth grade students will have the opportunity to see Officer Berti of the Burlington Police Department present on internet safety. It is called "Electronic Communications, Your Best Friend or Worst Enemy." It's an informative and interactive presentation that focuses on being a good cyber citizen. It covers a variety of issues such as cyber bullying, reputation preservation, internet predators and other safety concerns. We hope she will be presenting the week of March 18<sup>th</sup>.

## P.E. News

Congratulations to Dominic Dahlen! Dominic's poster was chosen to be the winning poster for the Safe Routes to School calendar for 2013-2014. His drawing will be on the cover. We also congratulate Macey Allard and Caleb Purvee for being in the top 10. Their drawings will be highlighted in the calendar as well.



## News From Around the School



Mrs. Carol McHugh's Grade 2 class recently completed a unit on the human body in their Science work. The goal of the unit is to help students

develop a better understanding of the human body: heredity, body systems, individual development, and the impact of the environment on the human body.

All Grade 2 students have been working hard reviewing Spelling words

We are delighted to host two members of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra next Friday afternoon for an assembly entitled, "Harp and Soul," a flute and harp duo. We are always eager to nurture the fine arts with our students.