

SMITH TIMES

Friday, March 14, 2014

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The Principal's Corner

We have had a wonderful 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 have learned a great deal, and we thank the P.T.O. for funding this wonderful opportunity for them.

As you know, our school is piloting a new way for families to sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences this spring. Conferences are being scheduled online using the PTCFast system. Scheduling conferences online has successfully taken place at other schools in the district, and we are now trying it here, too. Please contact the school if you have not yet scheduled your children's conferences. We regret that due to the large number of conferences to be scheduled, we are not able to schedule more than one conference per child. If you have scheduled more than one conference for each of your children, we will be contacting you to hold one conference for each child, so we can offer the other timeslot to someone who needs it.

Our annual Science Fair will be held on Thursday, March 20th 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. Please join us for this wonderful event and let us know if you need transportation to and from it. *Please refer to the Home & School Connection supplement to this week's newsletter for more information about supporting your children in successfully completing school projects.*

We will continue to offer open gym times for families on Saturday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. through the month of March. We are pleased to share these facilities—which you pay for with your tax dollars—as much as we can. I always say that I like to see facilities wear out rather than rust out.

Thank you for all you do to make our school a community of respectful, responsible, and safe learners.

New From Around the School



Mrs. Christine Tetrault's Kindergarten students greet each other during Morning Meetings in many creative ways. They use chants and rhyming activities and are also learning about alphabetical and numerical order.

They are keeping a new type of journal and participating in a new writing program called, "Artists'/Writers' Workshop." They are learning to be great artists and writers.

Mrs. Carolyn Pallutto's Grade 2 students' picture-writing times are wonderful experiences. They are also learning many new vocabulary words. Mrs. Pallutto is making a visual word wall with some of the words.

Mrs. Nicole Bahrenburg's Grade 3 students have completed their realistic fiction stories. They celebrated by sharing their stories with family members and others in the Learning Center recently as part of a "Meet the Author" gathering. They wanted to be sure to thank Ms. Holly Bodony, Ms. Maria Boyson, Ms. Amy Limoge, Mrs. Colleen Springer, and Ms. Colleen Quaglietta for their helpful assistance.

Ms. Kim Brockway's Grade 3 students played some great Fraction Bingo with parents and other visitors recently in their classroom. It was nice to have such a good turnout!

Calendar of Events



3/15: Open Gym Time for Families (10:30 a.m. - 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.)

3/22: Open Gym Time for Families (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym

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

3/29: Open Gym Time for Families (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) -- Gym

4/4: Family Fun Night (Sponsored by the P.T.O.)

4/9: P.T.O. Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.)

4/16: Spring Dinner -- **Postponed to 5/29**

4/21-4/25: Spring Vacation

Harlem Globetrotters



Come enjoy a fun filled night with the Harlem Globetrotters on March 25th at 7:00 PM in the Patrick Gymnasium for a great display of basketball and an array of comedy that everyone will enjoy! To order

BSD discounted tickets, call Brian Hill at [602.707.7009](tel:602.707.7009) or email him at hill@harlemglobetrotters.com.

The dissemination of this material is intended to be of community service. BSD does not endorse or sponsor this organization.

The Science Fair is Almost Here



The C.P. Smith Science Fair will be next Thursday, March 20th, 6:30 - 7:30.

Last year we had 30 students present their findings - and a large crowd visited to see the exhibits.

If your child would like to bring a project to the Science Fair please have them return their permission form by Friday, March 14th.

If you have questions please call or email Colleen Springer - 864-2228, cspringe@bsdvt.org

Thank you.

Let's Talk—Online Communication Tool



Building on our commitment to outstanding communication and responsiveness, Burlington School District has launched Let's Talk!, a simple way to monitor the pulse of our community by giving parents, teachers, staff, students and community members a 24/7 outlet for ideas, concerns and praise.

Let's Talk is a "button" that resides directly on the District website (www.bsdvt.org) and all school websites, accessible anytime, anywhere, from any device. The tool is based on the premise that every opinion is an opportunity for progress. It enhances and simplifies communication because — unlike postings on social media — Let's Talk! allows every comment to be carefully considered and directed to appropriate staff for follow-up. Candid feedback is not only accepted, but appreciated.