

# SMITH TIMES

Thursday, March 28, 2013

Volume 22, Number 29

## The Principal's Corner

Our Parent-Teacher Conferences take place this Thursday and Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and 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. We aim for 100% participation and usually come quite close to that goal. Please contact Mrs. Desautels at 864-8479 or [tdesaute@bsdvt.org](mailto:tdesaute@bsdvt.org) if you did not receive information about your appointment(s) or if you need to change it/them. **Please note that school will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday (the school lunch is available for families who want it for their children) and that there is no school on Friday, due to a full day of conferences scheduled.**



As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the work of placing students in classrooms for the 2013-14 school year has begun. We attached to that newsletter two (2) copies of the Parent/Guardian Information Form for Student Placement. Please complete a copy for each of your children who will be enrolled in Grades 1 through 5 at our school during the 2013-14 school year. (We use a different process for incoming Kindergarten students, and that begins with a meeting and screening session to take place in May.) Placement teams will begin their work soon, so please tell us about each of your children and what helps them thrive at school. Our classroom configuration for next year will be three Kindergarten classes, three Grade 1 classes, two Grade 2 classes, three Grade 3 classes, one Grade 4 classroom, and two Grades 4-5 classrooms. **Please complete these forms and return them to the main office on or by Friday, April 12, 2013, so we may consider your input as part of the placement process. You may pick up extra copies of this form at the information kiosk in the lobby or at the main office.**

Our Family-School Partnership Team is pleased to host Officer Rene Berti of the Burlington Police Department as part of our "Family Roundtable Sessions," a discussion series about important topics among members of our school family. Officer Berti's topic will be about keeping children safe as they navigate themselves through the world of cyberspace. Her presentation will be on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library. Please plan to join us.



We welcome to our school community, Ms. Erica Rosenthal. Actually, we welcome Ms. Rosenthal to a new role at Smith, since she has so capably served as the Director of the Burlington Kids Afterschool Program here for the last few years. Ms. Rosenthal will be substituting for Ms. Kerrin Flanagan, one of our Kindergarten teachers, who will be out on maternity leave for the remainder of this school year. We wish Ms. Flanagan well, as she and her husband await the birth of their first child.

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 262 postcards and other contacts (via telephone or email) have been made to recognize and reinforce positive student behavior. We are happy to report that 186 good deeds for others have also been reported to the office.

## Calendar of Events



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

**3/28-3/29:** Full Bag Food Pantry (Open during conference times.)

**3/28:** Family Roundtable Session (6:00-7:00 p.m.) -- Library. Topic: Internet Safety

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

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

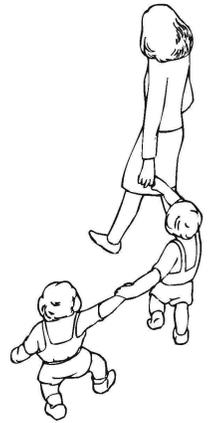
**4/18:** School Community Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)

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

**6/14:** Last Day of School for Students. (School will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m.)

## Preschool Registration

Burlington's Early Education Program is now accepting applications for the preschool classroom located at the C.P. Smith Elementary School for the 2013-2014 school year. The Smith classroom is an inclusive community based preschool program that offers a curriculum designed to meet the needs of all learners. It is our program's philosophy that all children have the ability to learn, and that children learn best through their active participation in play based activities. Children in the preschool classroom are provided opportunities to develop skills in each of the early childhood learning domains; social emotional, language, literacy, mathematics, science, and physical development.



If you have a child between three and five years of age who lives in the J.J.Flynn Elementary School's or C.P. Smith Elementary School's neighborhoods, and you are interested in receiving an application packet for the coming school year, please call 864-8463.



## Great Minds Think Alike . . .and Work Well Together

We are so proud of the Destination Imagination team made up of Smith School students Jonah Delaney, Oscar Dowling, Sabin Hart, Ethan Park, Connor Reutter, and Rory Stein. Mr. Michael Stein served as their creative and dedicated coach, and the team earned a very impressive second place at Saturday's annual competition at Burlington High School. We thank Mr. Stein for his willingness to assemble a team and congratulate these six students for the creative energy and good thinking skills they devoted to their group project. Bravo!

## Superintendent Collins Addresses Restructuring Proposal

There is currently before the Burlington Board of School Commissioners a proposal to change the elementary school schedule to create a block of time once per week for teachers to complete data and instructional reviews as required by the Vermont Agency of Education. Please find attached to this newsletter a copy of Superintendent of Schools Jeanne Collins' letter to all Burlington families which addresses this issue.

