

SMITH TIMES

Friday, April 3, 2015

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The Principal's Corner

Greetings!



Thanks to the artistic touches of Ms. Marcie Lussier and Mrs. Carolina Kilbourn—and the contributions of many individuals and classes-- the memory wall in honor of Mr.

Joe Garofalo is a moving tribute to the man we love and miss so much. Please feel free to stop by and see this memory wall in the main lobby of our school.

You may have seen the initials S.B.A.C. and wondered what they stood for . . . and meant. This acronym represents the Smarter Based Assessment Consortium, and in a nutshell, refers to assessments which will be administered to Vermont students in Grade 3-5 this spring. The S.B.A.C. assessments replace the N.E.C.A.P. (New England Common Assessment Program) tests which had been administered to students in the past. S.B.A.C. tests are administered on the computer and are not timed. (We're expecting to receive individual and school results in the early part of the summer.) Please find attached to this newsletter more information about the S.B.A.C. tests and a letter from Secretary Rebecca Holcombe of the State of Vermont Agency of Education. For more information about S.B.A.C.—including some practice tests—please check out the following link: <http://vt.portal.airast.org/>. Please also feel free to contact me at the school (864-8479 or tfleury@bsdvt.org) for more information about the S.B.A.C. tests. *Tests will begin on April 6th for Grade 4, April 27th for Grade 5, and May 11th for Grade 3.*

This is a reminder about the district's wonderful S.O.A.R. (Summer Opportunities Academics and enrichment) Program. S.O.A.R. is a free program open to students currently in Kindergarten through Grade 5 who meet one or more of the following criteria: 1). The student is below standard in Math

or Literacy; 2). Eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch; or 3). Receives Title, ELL, or Special Education services. **If your child meets at least ONE of these criteria, we would encourage you to enroll her/him in the S.O.A.R. Program for this summer. The program runs from June 29th through July 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at John J. Flynn Elementary School. Transportation, breakfast, lunch, and snacks are provided, along with excellent academic support. Please consider enrolling your child! The deadline is May 1st, but the program will fill up quickly. Please contact the school at 864-8479 if you did not receive an application but would like one.**

Thanks for all you are doing—and will do—to make our school community one of safety, respect, and responsibility for all who come through our doors.

News from Around the School



Students in Mrs. Judy Carpenter's Grade 2 class helped welcome the season of spring to our school by singing a song about flowers during our morning announcements last Friday.

Thanks to the hard work of Ms. Chris Souliere, our Physical Education teacher, and her team of volunteers, C.P. Smith Elementary School was recently recognized as an Outstanding Safe Routes to School Champion for the 2014-15 school year by the State of Vermont Agency of Education. We are pleased so many students (and adults!) participate in Walking Wednesdays throughout most of the school year. Won't you join us in walking to school some Wednesday or any other day, for that matter?

Calendar of Events



4/6 – 4/17: S.B.A.C. Testing for Grade 4 Students

4/10: “Poppins and Hook” Performance (1:30 p.m.)

4/13: P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)

4/20 – 4/24: Spring Vacation

4/27: S.B.A.C. Testing for Grade 5 Begins

5/1: Deadline for S.O.A.R. (Summer School) Applications

5/11: S.B.A.C. Testing for Grade 3 Begins

5/11: P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)

5/25: Memorial Day Holiday

6/4: Appreciation Assembly (8:30 a.m.)

6/5: Field Day

6/5: End of School Picnic (5:00-7:00 p.m.)

6/12: Farewell Assembly (8:30 a.m.)

6/12: Last Day of School for Students (11:30 a.m. dismissal)



Applications for BSD Early ED:



The Burlington School District Early Education Program is now accepting applications for our preschool classrooms for the 2015-2016 school year. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1st, 2015. Morning and afternoon sessions are offered at each of our sites: JJ Flynn, Integrated Arts Academy, Ira Allen, and the Sustainability Academy.

Applications can be downloaded by going to the BSD web page (www.bsdrv.org/parents/registration/prek) and submitting to Diana Langston, BSD Early Ed Program, 150 Colchester Ave., Burlington, VT 05401 or email to dlangsto@bsdrv.org. All applications will be reviewed with notification of acceptance beginning April 1st. Spaces are limited. Please contact us at 864-8463 if you have further questions.

Girls On The Run Starts March 31st



Still room for more awesome girls!

Girls in grades 3-5 can be a part of this dynamic wellness and fitness program.

Meeting Tuesdays & Thursdays Starting March 31st from 3pm-4:15pm

Register online at www.girlsontherunvermont.org

Questions email Keri Crafts at keri@place-design.com or call 777-8878



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Parents and Caregivers
FROM: Rebecca Hincombe, Secretary of Education
SUBJECT: Smarter Balanced Assessment: Another Measure of Learning
DATE: March 17, 2015

Today, schools across Vermont will begin administering the Smarter Balanced Assessment, which is the new state test and which replaces the NECAPs.

As your child takes these tests, I ask you to do her or him a few favors:

First of all, keep these tests in perspective; they are just another tool to measure learning that your teachers can use to plan improvements to their teaching through a better understanding of your child's progress to date. Our children will take tests for all kinds of purposes in life: to get a driver's license, to be eligible to hunt, to enter a profession. Tests will likely be a part of their lives. We don't do them any favors when we get our children stressed about tests.

Second, help us all keep focused on the purpose of education. We want our students to be engaged in school and excited to try out their learning in new contexts. We hope our students understand that good work takes a lot of effort. I visit a lot of schools and speak to many students, and when I ask them what the best measure is of how much they have learned, they describe senior capstone projects, objects they created on 3D printers, a computer program they wrote, a nature trail they planned and built for a community, mock trials, long flying hot air balloons they built using scientific concepts, films they made to help students with disabilities think about post-secondary opportunities. One student pointed at a pile of drafts, and spoke about how much work it took to create a great piece of writing.

And most of all, let's not forget that our schools are communities that help raise our children to be good, thoughtful and considerate citizens. We count on our schools to help our children discover what they want to do with their lives, and what role they want to play in their communities. The relationships our children build with their teachers may shape the course of their lives, as this loving tribute on the radio from one Vermonter to his shop teacher makes clear:

<http://digital.vpr.net/post/dayle-shop-class>

I know that in many states, and particularly those that chose to evaluate their teachers based on student test scores, schools and parents are protesting tests because of the way sanctions on teachers and schools are eroding their programs. Here in Vermont, we don't like labels, but since all schools that receive federal funds have to wear them now, we see them for what they are and we are encouraging our schools to move on and focus on more meaningful goals. Let's support our schools as they work on what really matters: teaching well and broadly so that all our children are able to build a strong civic, cultural and economic future for our state.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our school will join thousands of other schools across the country this spring in the first administration of the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (S.B.A.C.) tests. The S.B.A.C.s are replacing the New England Common Assessment Program (N.E.C.A.P.) tests which had served as a major part of Vermont's statewide assessment program since 2005. The new tests are designed for students in Grades 3-8 and 11 and will measure achievement in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Students in Grade 4 will begin taking the S.B.A.C.s on April 6th, students in Grade 5 on April 27th, and students in Grade 3 on May 11th.

The S.B.A.C. tests are not timed. However, the total amount of time students will be involved in the testing is estimated to be about eight (8) hours (about the same as the N.E.C.A.P.s) and will be administered over several days. The new tests employ a variety of innovations, including the following:

- All testing uses a secure on-line assessment system that includes a variety of tools and technology-enhanced questions designed to improve the assessment experience for students.
- One new technology to be used is the Computer Adaptive Testing or C.A.T. The C.A.T. selects a unique set of test questions for each student that will produce very precise results in less time than traditional paper and pencil tests.
- In addition to the C.A.T. portion of the test, students will also participate in a hands-on, minds-on performance task that permits them to use their skills on an authentic and engaging challenge.
- The S.B.A.C.s also include many accessibility tools for special populations, including features such as read-aloud, color and contrast choices, expandable reading passages, key word translation glossaries, American Sign Language translation, Braille, and many others.
- Since the test is administered by computer, results will be returned to schools very quickly. We hope to receive our school results by early July and individual student scores before that.

To learn more about the S.B.A.C.s, please log on to the Vermont Smarter Balanced Assessment Portal using this link: <http://vt.portal.airast.org/>. This site includes practice tests which you may wish to review and try. State-of-the-art security features will protect students' privacy and adhere to all federal and state confidentiality regulations—including but not limited to: the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Please feel free to contact me at 864-8479 or tfleury@bsdvt.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Fleury, Principal
C.P. Smith Elementary School

Keep Burlington Kids Hunger-Free This Summer *(New Date!)*

Burlington, Vermont – Warm up to the Caribbean Zydeco beats of Burlington’s own **Mango Jam**, enjoy tasty local foods and hit the dance floor at a benefit concert to raise money for Burlington’s Summer Nutrition and Recreation Program! For one night only, Fletcher Free Library will transform into a hot spot for music and dance, with a cash bar and raffle to keep things moving throughout the evening. This event – the first of its kind – is presented by the Burlington Summer Meals Coalition, a group of local organizations working to keep Burlington kids healthy and learning when school is out. 100% of funds raised will support our youth through meals, programming and outreach this summer!

Join Our Jam

Saturday, May 30, 7-10PM
Fletcher Free Library

\$25/person

Purchase tickets at:

Flynn Center Box Office, flynnntix.org or (802) 86-FLYNN
Burlington School Food Project Office, 52 Institute Road
Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St.
Burlington Parks and Recreation, 645 Pine St.
May 9 at Kids Day on the Waterfront, Battery Park

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger commented: “The City of Burlington is committed to ensuring that all children have access to nutritious summer meals and recreational opportunities. During the summer of 2014, Burlington School Food Project, in partnership with Burlington Parks and Recreation and other community organizations, provided meals and activity programming for approximately 2,000 children at 17 sites around the City. The ‘Join our Jam’ Benefit raises funds to expand summer nutrition and recreational programming. This summer, the Burlington Summer Meals Coalition is determined to reach 100% of Burlington children in need.”

Please join us on May 30th!