

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, April 10, 2015

Volume 23, Number 28

## The Principal's Corner

Greetings!



The Smith School community has been doing a lot of dancing recently. Dance instructor and Smith School parent Mrs.

Nikki Boutin has been working in collaboration with Physical Education teacher Ms. Chris Souliere for the past few weeks as part of an artist in residency program around the theme of Mary Poppins and Peter Pan. Entitled, "Poppins and Hook," students have been provided excellent instruction by Mrs. Boutin and have had a lot of fun, too. The final performance for this fine arts experience took place this afternoon. We will have more to report about it next week.

In the meantime, the whole school held a Dance Party last Friday to celebrate the earning of 15 golden tickets, representing excellent student effort at being safe, respectful, and responsible in each of our 15 classrooms. Referrals to the office for behavioral infractions have dropped 28% since last year as we continue to clarify and communicate our expectations to students and reinforce their excellent work at maintaining a supportive environment for all who come through our doors.

The Emergent Reading Program at our school is really taking off, thanks to the hard work of three teachers at our school, parent volunteers who helped us get a grant to start this work, and many other parent and community volunteers who come in on Wednesdays and Fridays to read with students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 and help them practice their letters, sounds, and sight words. A beautiful next step is that students then bring home their books to read with family members. We are so appreciative for the tremendous volunteer effort that is being devoted to supporting young readers.

Our Grade 4 students are off to a very good start with their S.B.A.C. (Smarter Based Assessment Consortium) tests which students in Grades 3-5 (and middle and high school) across the country now take

on an annual basis. Test-taking for Grade 5 students begins on April 27<sup>th</sup> and on May 11<sup>th</sup> for those in Grade 3. We included quite a lot of information about the S.B.A.C. tests in last week's newsletter, and for more information (including 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](mailto:tfleury@bsdvt.org)) for more information about the S.B.A.C. tests.

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 29<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.*

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is a time to raise our individual and collective awareness about the importance of keeping children safe. Please find attached to this newsletter a calendar featuring thirty ways to nurture children's spirits, offered by the Vermont Agency of Human Services Department of Children and Families. For more information about how to prevent child abuse, please call 1-800-CHILDREN or click on [www.pcavt.com](http://www.pcavt.com).

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.

## 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.)

**4/16:** Tapestry of Nations – Grade 2 Presentation (8:30-9:15 a.m.)

**4/17:** Community Connection Breakfast Gathering (8:00 a.m.) -- Gym

**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 Year 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)

**6/19:** Placement Letters for 2015-16 Mailed

## BINGO and Musical Cake Night

Thank you to all the staff, 5th graders and their parents who helped make the BINGO and Musical Cake Night a success last week. Enough money was raised to support the 5th grader's trip to Camp Abnaki in May.

Kate Stein, Gini Park, and Jen L'Ecuyer

## News from Around the School



Mrs. Christine Tetrault's Kindergarten students are working on a number of strategies to help them become good readers. They are also learning their number partners to 5 and doing lots of writing about everyday experiences.

Mrs. Carolyn Pallutto's Grade 1 students did some incredible writing about the weather recently and shared their work with many parents, guardians, and others who came to hear them read. Everyone was impressed with the expressive language the children used in their writing.

Mrs. Patty Kissell's Grade 2 students are excited about having pen pals in Brazil. Thanks to the assistance of Mrs. Andrea Farley, one of our ELL Teachers, they each have their own friend to whom they have written letters.

Ms. Kim Brockway's Grade 4 students enjoyed reading their Persuasive Essays to parents, guardians, and others who came to their classroom for a recent celebration of their excellent work. We always appreciate how many visitors are able to join us for such celebrations of learning!

## RunVermont's, Ready, Set, Run Camp

**RunVermont's, Ready, Set, Run Camp**, Waterfront Park, Burlington: a one-week camp experience, June 22-June 26, ages 5-11. Includes running, nutrition, goal setting and helping hands. Campers play games that include running, participate in an end of week fun run, prepare healthy snacks, and participate in a short community service project. Open to children of all fitness levels. Make this a full day of fun by Sailing in the afternoon with the Community Sailing Center. Learn to sail small boats on Burlington's Waterfront. Registration located on the Burlington Parks & Recreation website. [webtrac.burlington.gov](http://webtrac.burlington.gov)

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

## **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:**

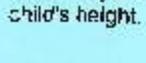
Flynn Center Box Office, [flynntix.org](http://flynntix.org) or (802) 86-FLYNN  
Burlington School Food Project Office, 52 Institute Road  
Fletcher Free Library, 235 College St.  
Burlington Parks and Recreation, 645 Pine St.  
May 9 at Kids Day on the Waterfront, Battery Park

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!**

# April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!

30 DAYS OF NURTURING YOUR CHILDREN'S SPIRITS  
 Provided by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont & Vermont Department for Children & Families

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
|  |  |   | 1<br>Come to the State House & celebrate April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!<br> | 2<br>Make a growth chart so you can measure your child's height.<br>              | 3<br>Spend quiet time with each child, listening to stories & dreams.<br>   | 4<br>Visit a farm to see maple sugaring.<br>   |
| 5<br>Plan and decorate your children's rooms together.   | 6<br>Decide together on a movie to watch and share a bowl of popcorn.  | 7<br>Read to your children, or have them read to you.                   | 8<br>Teach your child a new song or just make one up.<br>                           | 9<br>Start a collection with your child, such as stamps or rocks.   | 10<br>Take a bike ride or go sledding and make snow angels.<br>   | 11<br>Visit nursing home residents with your child.   |
| 12<br>Let your children plan a Sunday meal and help them to prepare it.  | 13<br>Watch a documentary on television together.  | 14<br>Have fun finger painting or making play dough; enjoy it together. | 15<br>Make a chart of your children's chores and put a star by every task completed.   | 16<br>Talk about all kinds of weather: "April showers bring May flowers...."<br> | 17<br>Spend time with a friend or neighbor by just talking with them.  | 18<br>Clean closets and bring unwanted items to charity.<br>   |
| 19<br>Fly kites or make a picnic (even in the snow).<br>                    | 20<br>Go the library and help your children to get a card and check out a book.<br> | 21<br>Invite another family over for a potluck dinner and games.        | 22<br>Teach your children alternatives to hitting when problems arise.   | 23<br>Draw all of your family; make a family album; talk about your family's history.   | 24<br>Write to a family member or a friend or someone who is alone.<br>   | 25<br>Take a walk or a nature hike.<br>  |
| 26<br>Bake cookies together and bring them to a local homeless shelter.<br> | 27<br>Draw pictures of your child's favorite animals.<br>                           | 28<br>Make puppets, from old socks or paper bags.                       | 29<br>Talk to your kids about what to do in an emergency.<br>                     | 30<br>Show interest in your children by playing a favorite game together.   |  <p>Prevent Child Abuse<br/>                     Vermont<br/>                     1.800.CHILDREN<br/>                     www.pcavt.com</p> |  <p>VERMONT<br/>                     DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES<br/>                     VERMONT'S CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES</p> |