

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Volume 23, Number 30

## The Principal's Corner

Greetings!



Hanging proudly in our gymnasium are 16 flags from nations and territories around the world. These flags represent the places

on which our school community is founded. On display are the flags of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Ghana, Honduras, Kenya, Nepal, Puerto Rico, Somalia, Spain, Tanzania, United States, and Vietnam. Soon to be added are the flags of Burundi, Congo, South Korea, Sudan, and South Sudan as our school community becomes stronger and stronger in its diversity.

Our Grade 5 students are in the process of completing their S.B.A.C. (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) tests, which replace the N.E.C.A.P. tests which students had previously taken. Students in Grade 4 have already completed their S.B.A.C. tests and those in Grade 3 will do so beginning on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Information about the S.B.A.C. tests was included in a recent edition of our weekly school newsletter. Please contact me at the school if you have questions about that test.

It's now May. Can you believe it? We're in the process of preparing for the finish of this school year and for the start of the next one. We're putting the finishing touches on student and teacher placement and watching enrollment numbers carefully in order to determine the configuration of our 14 classrooms for next year. (Smith School will also have a Pre-K classroom beginning in the fall.) Information about student placement for 2015-16 will be mailed to parents/guardians shortly after the finish of this school year.

At the end of this newsletter you will find a copy of a Home & School Connection supplement which has great ideas for how children can help with family and community activities (Green-Up Day is coming up tomorrow) and do well on

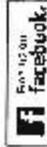
formal assessments, on which our Grades 3-5 students are working this spring. *Speaking of Green-Up Day, many area residents are gathering in Ethan Allen Park tomorrow (Saturday) morning anytime between the hours of 9:00 a.m and 1:00 p.m. to pick up litter and get the park ready for its new season. Trash bags and gloves will be available in the parking lot. Can you join us for a short while on Saturday morning to help us clean up our neighborhood park?*

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



- 5/1:** Deadline for S.O.A.R. (Summer School) Applications
- 5/7:** C.P. Smith School Night at Panera's Café on Church Street (4:00-8:00 p.m.)
- 5/11:** S.B.A.C. Testing for Grade 3 Begins
- 5/11:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
- 5/14:** Kindergarten "Get Acquainted Day"
- 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



**Burlington School District  
K-8 Lunch Menu – May 2015**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>4</b> Crispy Chicken Dippers Sweet Potato Waffle Fries Zesty Bean Salad</p>	<p><b>5</b> PIZZA TUESDAY! Cheese, Pepperoni or Veggie Pizza Zesty Caesar Salad Crunchy Croutons</p>	<p><b>6</b> Sloppy Joe PG Roasted Roots Crunchy Cucumbers</p>	<p><b>7</b> Baked Ziti Peas &amp; Carrots Orange Slices</p>	<p><b>1</b> FAJITA DAY! Chicken Fajita with Salsa Cheddar Cheese Black Beans &amp; Rice Fresh Cut Melon</p>
<p><b>11</b> Chicken Party Sandwich Italian Vegetables Sweet Bell Pepper Slices</p>	<p><b>12</b> PIZZA TUESDAY! Cheese, Pepperoni or Veggie Pizza Zesty Caesar Salad Crunchy Croutons</p>	<p><b>13</b> FAJITA DAY! Chicken Fajita with Fresh Salsa Cheddar Cheese Black Beans &amp; Rice</p>	<p><b>14</b> Spaghetti &amp; Meatballs with Pesto Marinara Chef's Choice Broccoli Pineapple Wings</p>	<p><b>15</b> BURGER DAY! Hamburger or Cheeseburger or Veggie Burger PG Roasted Roots Cucumber Salad</p>
<p><b>18</b> Chicken Nuggets Mediterranean Vegetables Fresh Cut Melon</p>	<p><b>19</b> PIZZA TUESDAY! Cheese, Pepperoni or Veggie Pizza Zesty Caesar Salad Crunchy Croutons</p>	<p><b>20</b> Meatball Sub Pesto Marinara &amp; Cheddar Cheese PG Roasted Roots Carrot Sticks</p>	<p><b>21</b> American Goulash Roasted Broccoli Sweet Red Grapes</p>	<p><b>22</b> Cheesy Breadsticks Marinara Dipping Sauce Broccoli &amp; Cauliflower Bites</p>
<p><b>25</b> MEMORIAL DAY NO SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>26</b> PIZZA TUESDAY! Cheese, Pepperoni or Veggie Pizza Zesty Caesar Salad Crunchy Croutons</p>	<p><b>27</b> TACO DAY! Soft Tortilla with Seasoned Beef or Beans Cheddar Cheese Corn Red Pepper Salad</p>	<p><b>28</b> Chicken Parmesan Spiral Noodles with Marinara PG Roasted Roots Orange Slices</p>	<p><b>29</b> BRUNCH FOR LUNCH Egg &amp; Cheese Sandwich English Muffin Turkey Sausage or Home Fries Crunchy Cucumbers</p>



**INCLUDED WITH LUNCH:**  
Milk  
Fresh Fruit  
Salad Bar  
Homemade Soup  
Salad Bars feature an ever-changing assortment of fruit, vegetables, whole grains, beans, homemade salads, meats, cheeses and yogurt selections.  
Daily Sandwich choices include PB&J, Turkey & Cheese.

**AVAILABLE EVERY DAY:**  
Vegetarian Options  
Vermont Milk Choices  
1% White  
Fat Free White  
Fat Free Chocolate

Menu items are subject to change without notice. We offer a variety of choices every day. For more information, please contact us at 864-8515 or [schoolfood@burlingtonschools.org](mailto:schoolfood@burlingtonschools.org).

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# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>SM</sup>

Working Together for School Success

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

## SHORT NOTES



### Picture this

Good readers form

mental pictures as they read. To improve your child's comprehension, read a book without letting him see it. Then, ask him to guess what the illustrations would look like. Examples: How are the characters dressed? Is the setting bright or gloomy?

### Be there!

Regular attendance in elementary school sets up a good pattern for your youngster's entire school career. Show your child that school comes first by trying to keep days off for illnesses and family emergencies. Also, schedule routine doctor and dentist appointments for after school or over school breaks.

### Line them up

Sometimes kids get math problems wrong simply because they haven't lined up the numbers correctly. Try this: Have your child work problems on graph paper, using one box per number. Once she gets used to this system, she'll be able to transfer her lining-up skills to regular paper.

### Worth quoting

"Kind words do not cost much, yet they accomplish much." Blaise Pascal

## JUST FOR FUN

**Teacher:** Name one paper airplane we have today that we didn't have 10 years ago.

**Brian:** Me



## Pitching in

Would you like your child to be more responsible, hardworking and persistent? Here are ideas for working as a family to help your youngster develop these important traits.

### A group approach

Thinking of herself as a "team player" can encourage your child to be responsible. Explain that your family operates as a team. Everyone must play a part to get things done. Example: You take her shopping for her clothes and sports equipment. She chooses her outfit each morning and keeps track of her belt and gloves.

### Hard workers wanted

Your youngster probably has regular chores to do. You can motivate her to work extra hard by placing "want ads" in the refrigerator. Choose a challenging job, and offer a benefit. Example: Washed — a hardworking family member is clean



out a corner of the basement. Reward — a place for your child and her friends to play.

### Sticking it out

Working toward small goals can make it easier to complete a big task. Perhaps your family room needs a fresh coat of paint. Write down the steps (move furniture and lay down drop cloths, prepare walls, roll paint on walls, paint trim). Tell your child you'll take a fun break after each step is done (go to the playground, take a bike ride). ♡

## Parent power

There are many ways you can support your child's learning and school. Here are a few ideas:

- Spend a few minutes every evening looking over homework your youngster brings home. Lil' out let us to return the next day.
- Tell your child's teacher. If you can't get into a school in home.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts. From time to time, send a thank-you note or an email.
- Contact your youngster's teacher immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your child succeed.
- Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly. ♡



## Standardized tests

### Choose to do well

There are three standardized tests are tough. The answer depends on how prepared your youngster is. Here are four ways to help him handle test week:

1. Explain that the tests will show how much he has learned. Encourage him to try his best, but don't put so much emphasis on them that he feels stressed.
2. Practice the test format. For example, your child might have to read a paragraph and answer questions. Ask him one



of his textbooks, have him look at the questions at the end of a section first and then read the passage. That will help him know what to read for and how to find the answers.

3. Limit activities the night before tests. You may want to avoid having guests for dinner or sleep-in friends.

baseball game if it means being out late. Be sure your child gets to bed on time and sets an alarm for the next morning.

4. On test day give him an energy-boosting breakfast. Try to include both protein (eggs, yogurt, milk) and carbohydrates (fruit, oatmeal, toast). ♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Paper bag city

Let your child create her own 3-D community. She'll practice map skills and learn about urban planning as she decides where to put the buildings in her town.

**Materials:** paper lunch bags, newspapers, drawings of houses, black construction paper, scissors, tape

Have your youngster make a list of buildings to include, such as a bank, a grocery store, a school, a library and houses. She can make them by drawing cards, windows, and signs on flat bags (on the side without the flap). For every bag she decorates, have her snip a second one with newspaper. Then, she should open each decorated bag and slice it over a stuffed bag so her "buildings" will stand up. For the roofs, she can cut black construction paper into strips and tape them together.

Finally, have your child lay out her roads and arrange her buildings along side them to make her very own town. ♥



## Q & A

### Bullying: The bystander's role

**Q:** My child came home from school upset because kids were picking on a classmate and wouldn't let her play with them. What advice should I give my daughter?

**A:** Tell your youngster that her classmate was being bullied—and that she may be able to help.

There are several things she can do. If she can't speak up, she could say something like, "That's not nice," and then walk away. She might invite the child who is being bullied to join her in a game or school project.

Also, remind your youngster to report bullying to a teacher or other adult when she sees it. Let her know this is not tattling, but a way to help someone who is being hurt. You can explain: "Asking an adult to help a child who is being bullied is like asking the nurse to help a child with a scraped knee." ♥



## PARENT TO PARENT

### Thinking games

Between school, errands, and activities, my family spends lots of time on the go. I decided to use some of it for "thinking games."

I taught my kids a game my parents used to play with me, called "Would You Rather?" I offer two options and ask

and why. For example, I might say, "Would you rather live near the beach or the mountains?"

My son came up with a game he named "Three Favorites." Someone picks

a category (oufits, movies), and we all tell our top three choices. My daughter thought of "What Doesn't Belong?" We take turns naming items and asking the others to explain which is the odd one out and why. The kids especially like this game because there can be more than

one "right" answer. For example, when I named "ow," "ostrich," and "eagle," my daughter said, "Ostrich, because it can't fly."

My son's answer was, "Owl, because it hunts at night."

Now they want to play all the time. I'm glad because we're having fun—and they're gaining better at thinking through their ideas. ♥



## OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas of proven techniques to raise, parent, involve and support their children.

For more information, contact:  
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