

SMITH TIMES

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The Principal's Corner

Greetings!

There are a number of school initiatives to which a great deal of time and energy are being devoted. I'd like to take a few minutes to update you on some of them.

A group of teachers is hard at work drafting a revision about how we deliver instruction at a variety of levels. Tier I is the term often used to describe general instruction in a classroom setting; Tier II means supplemental instruction usually occurring in small group settings; and Tier III is the name given to more intensive instructional supports for students, often due to special education eligibility. We are taking a close look at the ways we provide instruction at all three levels and making sure that special educator and para-educator support is effectively and flexibly provided to students who need it.

Increasing parental involvement in our school is another important goal. Our Parent-Teacher Organization (P.T.O.) and Family-School Partnership Team (F.S.P.T.) provide many ways for parents to be involved in our school and support a number of important projects and events. A few years ago, we asked parents and guardians to complete a survey about the school. We used the results to help craft an action plan for the F.S.P.T. Before the school year ends, I will distribute via the school newsletter a new Family Satisfaction Survey to help us gather fresh data which the P.T.O., F.S.P.T., and other school committees can use to create a learning community built on equal amounts of academic rigor and joy and which is safe and supportive of all who walk through our doors.

Speaking of safety and support, our work to implement the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (P.B.I.S.) system will be increased. A committee of teachers is working to clarify our expectations of respect, responsibility, and safety in all school settings and plan ways we can come together as a community to recognize these

attributes which blend together to promote academic excellence. We continue to raise our individual and collective cultural competence by discussing issues relating to diversity and equity and how they relate to our work with families representing a wide variety of cultural, ethnic, racial, and economic backgrounds.

Other goals will be to continue to implement the Common Core (an informational meeting about it will be held this fall) and continuing to nurture our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) as they review student academic and behavioral data, and plan, implement, and revise curriculum and instruction

We will continue to update you about and involve you in the very important work we are doing as a school community dedicated to continuous improvement.

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

Calendar of Events



5/12: P.T.O. Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.)
-- Library

5/15: Kindergarten "Get Acquainted Day"

5/16: Deadline for Summer School Applications

5/26: Memorial Day -- (No school.)

6/6: Field Day (Raindate: 6/9)

6/11: Last Student Day: Farewell Assembly at 8:30 a.m.

Do your kids use Medicaid or Dr. Dynasaur?

There are changes to the renewal process this year. Between now and September, approximately 60,000 families will have their eligibility for coverage for Medicaid & Dr. Dynasaur reviewed. This year parents will need to complete a Vermont Health Connect application to stay insured. Some families will need to transition off of the public programs and into one of the 18 private plans and subsidies offered through Vermont Health Connect. People are being asked to apply on-line and the process can be very confusing and difficult.

Don't let your kid's coverage lapse!

Navigator organizations can provide free, local support to you to complete the application.

For Help call:

[802-860-1417 x115](tel:802-860-1417)
navigator@cvoeo.org



Donations of Children's Books?

During field day the Learning Center will be hosting a station for students to choose a used book to take home. In the past the Reading Is Fundamental program has supplied these books for free. This past year the qualifications for this program have changed and BSD schools are no longer eligible. I am inviting parents to donate children's books, that their children have outgrown, to our Field Day book giveaway.

Please bring books in good condition to the Learning Center (or drop off in the Office). We will take books up to June 3rd. Thank you for your help.

News from Around the School



Mrs. Judy Carpenter's and Mrs. Patty Kissell's Grade 2 students held their annual "Tapestry of Nations" event recently. This annual celebration of countries and cultures across the world

showed a great deal of student skill in a number of areas and was greatly appreciated by the many parents, guardians, and community members in attendance. This week, they brought their presentation to our community friends at the Heineberg Senior Center.

Mr. Josh Safran is serving as the school's Spelling Bee Coach. He is working with our Spelling team of Macey Allard, Helen Argraves, Nash Barlow, Rory Stein, Nation Tyler, and Heath Walker in preparation for the district event, which Smith School is hosting.

C.P. Smith PTO Meeting **Monday, May 12, 6:30-8:00** **Learning Center**

Agenda:

Burlington Friends of Education (20 minutes)
- to speak about school budget and upcoming vote

Principal Report (20 minutes)
- Thom to speak about goal for 2014-2015 school year
- PBIS
- Q & A

PTO Business/Planning for 2014/2015 school year
(remainder of time of meeting 45-50 minutes)
- please come with ideas for next year for fundraisers and school/community building event

We hope to see you there.