

SMITH TIMES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

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Greetings!

Our school community will miss Ms. Meghan Warda next year. Ms. Warda has been a teacher in the English Language Learner (E.L.L.) Program here at Smith for the past three years. She will be working at Champlain Elementary School next year, and we will miss her very much.

Many thanks to Ms. Jill Ballou and Mr. Dylan Baker, who have very capably served here as substitute teachers for Mrs. Sarah Erkson and Ms. Christine Souliere. Mrs. Erkson has returned to school after giving birth to her son Remington, and Ms. Souliere is continuing to heal from knee surgery and expects to return in the fall. We thank Ms. Ballou and Mr. Baker for their dedicated service to our school. We welcome Mr. Sean Palmer to our school community. He will be a teacher of Grade 4 here next year, transferring from Edmunds Elementary School. We will soon be hiring a Kindergarten teacher. (A complete roster of teacher assignments is included in this newsletter.)

My conversations with students about the books they read were heartwarming and rich. I heard about more than 2,200 books which students read this year, and many came to my office to read them to me. These are memories I will cherish forever. Each day, gently-used books were placed on a table in the lobby for students to take, read, and keep. "Keep reading" was my mantra to student readers. The most recent winners of our Reading Challenge raffle were Asha Lalumiere and Milla Heise.



Many thanks to our fantastic P.T.O. for assisting with Field Day on Friday, sponsoring the Farewell Picnic on Friday evening, creating a school yearbook, and hosting a very thoughtful reception in my honor on Monday afternoon. I have worked with many great parents and guardians over my twenty-plus years as a school administrator, but few have been as energetic, talented, and dedicated as C.P. Smith School parents and their leaders, Karen Ruben and Sue Chayer. It has been a joy to work with talented and caring people such as all of you, and I know that Amy Mellencamp is eager (and lucky!) to work with such a vibrant parent community. Many

thanks for all you do to make Smith School such a rewarding place to be. I will always remember your many kindnesses and for your being the very thoughtful people you are. I will never forget you. As I move on to my new assignment across town, I thank you for nurturing my strengths and overlooking my weaknesses, and I request your forgiveness if I ever said or did anything to hurt or offend you or fail to live up to your expectations of me. Please be assured that it was never my intention to do so. May our paths cross again, and may all be well with you and your families.

The last day of school will be Thursday, June 9th at 11:30 a.m. (Lunches to-go will be available to students who request them.) We will hold our Farewell Assembly that morning at 8:30 a.m. in the gym as we (with the help of our Kindergarten students) say goodbye to our Grade 5 students as they move on to middle school. Please join us for that ceremony if you can.

Please review the calendar for other upcoming school activities and events.

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

Calendar of Events



- 6/9:** Farewell Assembly (8:30 a.m.) -- Gym
- 6/9:** Last Day of School (11:30 a.m. dismissal)
- 6/17:** Student Placement Letters Mailed
- 8/25:** Orientation Session for Kindergarten Parents (6:00 p.m.)
- 8/30:** Open House for Families (8:00-9:00 a.m.)
- 8/31:** First Day of School (8:10 a.m.)

BSD Multi-Year Strategic Planning Process

NEW! Click [here](#) to view the Strategic Planning page, which documents the process thus far, as well as next steps.

Staff Update

We welcome Laura Nugent as the Interim Director of Special Education, beginning July 1st. Laura has been a special educator with Burlington School District for the past nine years, holding roles in many schools, including Champlain Elementary, Edmunds Middle School and Burlington High School. Laura began her career as an intensive needs special educator and has served as the Alternative Assessment Coordinator/Data Steward and Extended School Year Coordinator for five years. Currently, Laura is an Assistant Principal at Burlington High School, coordinating Special Education and 504 services.

Laura has also served as adjunct faculty for five years at Champlain College, leading a course for preservice teachers in best practice in Special Education. She completed her undergraduate work as an early and elementary education teacher and earned a Master's in Special Education in 2008, as well as a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in School Leadership at Saint Michael's College. Laura is currently a doctoral candidate at The University of Vermont in School Leadership and Policy Studies, with a focus on special education and economics. In addition, Laura is participating in education research as an Office of Special Education Programs Fellow at UVM.

Laura looks forward to the continued work of supporting students, families and staff in Burlington in her new role.

BHS Scheduling

The master schedule now includes:

- Spanish 1
- AP Spanish
- Pre-Algebra
- Latin 3/4
- Art 1

Adding these classes accomplishes several things:

- Allows underclassmen to enroll in world language
- Allows for enrollment in advanced and AP world language courses
- Provides more math instruction for those needing support
- Provides elective (art) for underclassmen
- Reduces the opportunity for 9th graders to have empty blocks

Counselors are first meeting with rising seniors who have conflicts or empty blocks. When that task is complete, counselors will then meet with grades 11, 10, and 9. Look for the next update after June 15th.

Reduction in Force (RIF)

We began the process by reducing 17.3 FTE positions, which impacted 24 people (e.g., 0.5 Art taught by Jack + 0.5 Business taught by Betty = 1.0 FTE).

This is a continuous process and, at this time, 3 out of the 24 people remain without an assignment. These individuals either do not possess the certifications required to teach available vacancies or have chosen to not work within the District for the coming year.