

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Volume 24, Number 2

## The Principal's Corner

Greetings!

Believe it or not, it's time to start scheduling our semi-annual Parent-Teacher Conferences., which will be held in early October. (A letter about the registration process was sent home with students on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Additional copies of that letter can be found in the information kiosk in the lobby.) We are eager to support you however we can in this process. Please call the school (at 864-8479) or visit our library during one of the designated times if you wish to sign up for conferences using one of our school's computers.

Our school's emergency management protocols call for the regular practicing of three types of drills: on-site evacuations (usually to the school grounds), off-site evacuations (usually to the Miller Community Center or Lyman Hunt Middle School), and lock-down drills (conducted with the support of the Burlington Police Department). Evacuations (either on-site or off-site) are practiced at least one time per month. Lock-down drills are conducted at the rate of five per school year. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about our drills or our emergency management protocols in general. One change to our protocols is a result in a recent change in state law. As mandated reporters of suspected child abuse, all school employees and volunteers now are required to report to the State of Vermont Family Services Division within 24 hours of when we ***first received or observed the information that causes us to "reasonably suspect" abuse or neglect of a child. "Reasonably suspects" is the new standard, and it is a lower standard than the former "reasonable cause to believe" standard. This mean that it takes less information to have an obligation to make a report.***



We are putting extra focus on literacy this year and will look for many ways to promote reading. What are your ideas about that? *During the month of September, I am asking*

*students to come and show me the books they have finished reading, so I can talk to them about their books. They will earn one ticket for each book they have read and shown me. The person holding the winning ticket will earn a \$25.00 gift certificate to The Bagel Café.*

Please find in this newsletter a calendar of upcoming school events. A calendar of events for the whole school year will be posted in an upcoming newsletter.

Thank you for promptly completing and returning to school the forms in your children's "welcome back" packets, which were distributed to them on the first day of school.

Once a month—usually the last Friday school day—I hold Community Connection Breakfasts which invite members of our community to visit and tour the school, enjoy a little breakfast as our guests, and learn more about the great learning taking place within our classrooms. Feel free to pass this on to any family members, friends, and neighbors who might be interested in learning more about our school.

Please remind your children to wear or bring sneakers to school on the days on which they have P.E. classes.

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



**9/14:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.) -- Library

**9/17:** General Registration Begins for Parent-Teacher Conferences

**9/23:** Yom Kippur (No school)

**9/25:** Community Connection Breakfast (8:00 a.m.) -- Lobby

**9/30:** School Picture Day

**10/8 – 10/9:** Parent-Teacher Conferences (Some may be on 10/6, 10/7, or 10/13)

**10/12:** Columbus Day Holiday (No school)

