

SMITH TIMES

Friday, September 19, 2014

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The Principal's Corner

Greetings!

Our wonderful Music teacher, Mr. Joseph Garofalo, has been away from school for more than a year now. Last year, he took a leave of absence to care for his wife and mother, who are not well. Recently, Joe learned that he has pancreatic cancer, and he is dealing with that at this time. We wanted you to have this information and to know that we are implementing a plan to support students around Mr. Garofalo's illness and to have them make cards and perhaps a music video for him. We do not anticipate Mr. Garofalo's return to school, and we want our community to stay in touch with him in other ways. **Your child should have delivered a letter home about this on Wednesday. If you did not receive one, please contact me at the school, and I will send another one to you.**



We held our first school celebration last Friday afternoon, complete with recess, dancing, fruit pops and music. We

were celebrating our 15 classrooms having each earned at least 100 Cat Cards during the first few weeks of school. Students are given Cat Cards (so named because the catamount is our school mascot) when we "catch" them demonstrating safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors. Research shows that when schools and families reinforce positive choices, they are more likely to be repeated. The number of discipline referrals to the office was very few in number during this time, so we're off to a good start to creating a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. We strive to make that happen each and every day and wanted to share with you some good news about our first few weeks of school.

In just a few short weeks, we will be holding Curriculum Night for Grades 1-5. (The Curriculum Night for parents/guardians of Kindergarten students was held a few weeks ago.) Since general registration for Parent-Teacher Conferences begins on September 29th (for meetings to be held the

week of October 14th), parents and guardians who attend Curriculum Night may sign up for conferences at that time. Computers in the library will be available for this purpose.

This is a reminder that if you wish to enroll your child for Supplemental Educational Services this fall, you must return the signed application to our school's main office on or by September 30, 2014. Please contact me for more information.

I will again be holding Community Connection gatherings in the main lobby on the last Friday of each month from 8:15-9:15 a.m. These gatherings are for all members of our school community to meet and talk about and/or tour the school. Feel free to join us and to spread the word to other members of our community who may wish to join us.

Thank you 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



9/19: School Picture Day

9/26: Community Connection Gathering (8:15-9:15 a.m.) -- Lobby

9/29: General Parent-Teacher Conference Registration Begins

9/30: Curriculum Night (5:30-6:30 p.m.)

10/13: P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.) -- Library

10/15-10/16: Parent-Teacher Conferences

10/17: No School



Shelburne Farms Fun Run



There will be a Fun Run for children and families on Sunday, September 21st at the Shelburne Farms Coach Barn on Harbor Road in

Shelburne. This is being sponsored by the Run Vermont Youth Program. The race starts at 1:00 p.m., with registration beginning at 12:30 p.m. There will be 1.5, 1.0, and .5 mile courses. The cost is \$5.00 per child or \$10.00 per family. For more information: please contact www.runvermont.org.

PBIS - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

We hope that you have heard about "Cat cards" from your student! They are one part of a new program at Smith which recognizes the positive contributions of students. PBIS or Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, is a school wide system which teaches and reinforces positive behavior. At C.P. Smith, we are the Catamounts, so we are recognized with "Cat cards" for specific positive behaviors. When each class earns 100 cat cards, they are turned into the office for a golden ticket. When each of our 15 classes has earned a golden ticket, then we have a schoolwide celebration. (Classrooms are having their own celebrations for earning 100 also.) Our student body earned 15 golden tickets on Friday and we all celebrated outside with music, dancing, playing and enjoying a juice pop! We will be sharing more information about PBIS throughout the year and hopefully having many celebrations!

Burlington Superintendent Search Moves Forward with Local and National Support

Burlington, Vermont - The Burlington School Board's search for a new superintendent is now supported by a group of community and District stakeholders, the Superintendent Search Advisory Committee (SSAC). This group will be involved throughout the search process and will have the critical role of reviewing applicants and bringing forth their top picks to the Burlington School Board. The School Board will then fully vet and select a candidate. SSAC selection began with an invitation to all community and school personnel to apply, which resulted in over 60 completed application surveys. The 15 members selected for the SSAC include business, community and municipal leaders, as well as parents, teachers, administrators, principals and Board Members. The SSAC includes residents from all seven Burlington Wards.

"This group offers a wealth of knowledge and experience to our search regarding the strengths, challenges and critical needs of the Burlington community. It is exciting to bring this group together for the purpose of selecting Burlington School District's next leader," said Brian Cina, School Commissioner and Chair of the Board's Ad Hoc Superintendent Search Committee.

The School Board has also selected Ray and Associates to assist in the search process. With offices in Iowa and New Jersey, Ray and Associates has a strong national reputation and an impressive track record of recruiting superintendents whose skill sets and personal attributes match the needs of districts who serve students with diverse backgrounds and experiences. "The Board is committed to identifying quality, long-term leadership for the District," said School Board Chair Patrick Halladay. "Ray and Associates has both national prestige and proven success in districts that resemble Burlington to identify quality candidates who can develop and guide Burlington's educational future."

Additional information regarding the SSAC and Ray and Associates can be found on the BSD website: www.bsdt.org.