

SMITH TIMES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Volume 22, Number 4

The Principal's Corner

As our community changes, so, too, does our school. In the last decade or so, our overall student population has dropped slightly, but the percentage of students receiving English Language Learner (ELL) services has grown from 3% of the student population to 20%. The percentage of our students who qualify for Free/Reduced-Priced Lunches rose from 17% to 59% during this same period of time. Another interesting fact to mention is that every single one of the six Burlington public elementary schools has now enrolled children from each of the city's seven wards. In other words, a more even distribution of children among city schools is gradually taking place. I found these statistics to be interesting and thought I'd share them with you as our school and city continue to change over time.

You will find attached to most of our weekly newsletters information entitled, "Home and School Connection", to support excellent working relationships between our school and all our families. We hope you will find this information to be helpful. This week's article is, "Supporting Your Child's Education."

The Burlington Board of School Commissioners has begun working on the budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year. The board is eagerly seeking input from all community members about the things citizens would and would not like to see in the next budget. At our school, we are trying to build up our classroom libraries and obtain the technological resources we need in order to prepare students for enhanced learning in the information age. You will find on our information kiosk in the lobby some information from the School Board entitled, "Burlington School District 2014-2015 Budget Process." Please help yourself to a copy of this packet, so you can offer your input about the school budget. You may return completed copies of the survey either to a board member or to the main office, if you wish.

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

Falling Back Into the Routine



We are well under way getting back into the school morning wake-up and routine. While academics are the foundation of our school days we also teach life skills

to help our students become the best citizens possible. One of these skills is punctuality. **School starts at 8:10**, please aim to arrive at 8:00 unless your child needs breakfast which is available at 7:45.

Please note that students who arrive after 8:20 are considered tardy and once a student reaches 5 tardies, the family will receive a phone call reinforcing the importance of arriving on time and prepared to start the school day. The Burlington School District has developed this policy to ensure that all students maximize their learning time.

We want students to be in school when they are able. Families will also receive truancy letters, once a student reaches, 5, 10 and 15 days of absences. Many times when a student reaches 15 days of absences there will be a meeting held with family and school staff to find a way to best support the student's attendance. You can refer to the district handbook for the full policy. We want all students to flourish as learners and citizens and this is most successful when students are able arrive to school on time and be here whenever possible.

Calendar of Events



10/7: PTO Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) -- Library. (Note change of date from 10/9).

10/17: Parent-Teacher Conferences (School will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m.)

10/18: Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School)

10/21 – 10/25: Book Fair

11/8: First Trimester Marking Period Closes (Report cards distributed on 11/15)

C.P. Smith Annual Fall/Gift Wrap Fundraiser Starting



Our C.P. Smith annual Fall/Gift wrap fundraiser is starting. This year we will be working with a new local company called Genevieve's. Our fundraiser will run from 9/19- 10/7. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to the C.P. Smith

PTO to help support the programs that the PTO provides in the classroom/school. Through this fundraiser you will be able to purchase gift wrap, as usual, and there are also many other products offered through Genevieve's. Also, through this fundraiser you will have the ability to purchase your holiday photo cards! Families, friends, and relatives can participate in the fundraiser 2 ways, by ordering directly from you or by ordering online. Ordering information is included in the packet. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and we hope that you will join us in supporting the C.P. Smith PTO and our school. A permission slip has been sent home with each student. If you would like to participate in the fundraiser please return a signed permission slip or you can email me directly. When that is complete a fundraising packet will be sent home with your student. If you are not interested in participating but would like to support the C.P. Smith PTO, please consider a one time monetary donation. If you have any questions please contact me directly at jlecuyer7@gmail.com or by calling 660-9669.

Thank you - Jennifer L'Ecuyer, C.P. Smith PTO President

News from the Guidance Office

We are back into the swing of the school year. For those families that are new to our school community I would like to take a few moments to introduce my role at school. I am your school counselor, also known as the guidance counselor. I am fortunate to teach in every classroom every week. This is called Guidance in your child's schedule. Over the course of the year we will cover topics that include but are not limited to the following:

- Emotional Regulation (feeling identification, listening to our bodies & settling techniques)
- Bullying Intervention (different roles of bullying, strategies to stop bullying behavior)
- Diversity & Harassment Prevention (with a focus on race & family compositions)
- Friendship Qualities & Skills
- Conflict Resolution (identifying escalators & de-escalating behaviors)
- Personal Safety (strategies to use when feeling unsafe)
- Healthy Choices (drug & alcohol awareness)
- Career Exploration

Most units consist of 3-4 lessons. Currently we are at the start of the Emotional Regulation Unit. My goal this year is to let you know about our upcoming units so that you can have informed conversations with your child(ren) at home. In addition to classroom guidance, I work with students in small groups to support them around various issues (changing family, friendships, grief etc). I am also available to provide students with individual check-in visits. While I hope to be therapeutic it is not therapy or meant to be used as a long term support. I am happy to make referrals to resources in the community.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. 864-8504 or kguilmet@bsdvt.org

