

SMITH TIMES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Volume 24, Number 4

The Principal's Corner

Greetings!

The daylight hours are fewer and fewer in number now that we pass into the season of autumn. School is going well, and we're eager to meet parents/guardians during our upcoming conferences. If you have not yet scheduled a 20-minute conference for each of your children, please do so as soon as possible. Please call the school if you would like assistance with that task.

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.

We have received our school's results for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (S.B.A.C.) tests which were administered last spring. Thousands of schools across the country also administered these tests to students in Grades 3-8 and 11. These tests replaced the New England Common Assessment Program (N.E.C.A.P.) tests which had been given for many years. The S.B.A.C. tests were administered to Smith School students in Grades 3-5 and measured academic achievement in English/Language Arts and Mathematics. Please find below some assessment data about our school, the district (made up of Burlington's six elementary schools), and the state as a whole:

Percent Meeting/Exceeding the Standard

	Smith	Burlington	Vermont
Grade 3 E.L.A.:	61%	55%	51%
Grade 3 Math:	58%	49%	51%
Grade 4 E.L.A.:	45%	55%	51%
Grade 4 Math:	45%	46%	45%
Grade 5 E.L.A.:	73%	60%	57%
Grade 5 Math:	48%	45%	42%

In order for more and more of our students to achieve and/or exceed the standard in each of these

areas, our grade-level teams of teachers meet weekly (during Wednesday's early dismissal time) to review student results, respond to academic needs by revising student groupings for intervention, and assigning para-educator support where it is most needed. Our School Leadership Team meets monthly to review schoolwide data and plan professional development activities for teachers related to these and other areas.

We are seeking volunteers to help out in our cafeteria at least once a week during the lunch periods (11:40 a.m.-12:05 p.m. for Grades K-2 and 12:05-12:30 p.m. for Grades 3-5). Volunteers assist students in lining up, making healthy food and portion choices at the salad bar, and in composting their leftover food scraps. If you can help with this, please call me at the school. Thank you!

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



9/30: 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)

10/19: P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner
(5:30-7:00 p.m.) -- Library

10/30: Halloween Family Fun Night
(6:00-8:00 p.m.)

11/2: Book Fair Week Begins

11/4: Book Fair Family Night (5:30-7:30 p.m.)