

The Principal's Corner

Welcome to the 2013-14 school year! I hope it will be a wonderful one for all our students, families, and staff members. Our school values are respect, responsibility, and safety. Please let us know how we can make this year fit those expectations for the children whom you entrust to us for the very best learning experiences which we can provide them. Please do not hesitate to contact your children's teachers and/or me whenever we may be of service to you in this regard. Our school telephone number is 864-8479, and my email is tfleury@bsdvt.org. Teachers' emails follow this pattern: the first initial of the teacher's first name followed by up to the first seven letters of her/his last name and then @bsdvt.org. You may expect to hear back from us within twenty-four hours during the school week and up to seventy-two hours over the weekend. If you have contacted a teacher and have not heard back from her/him within this amount of time, please let me know, and I will follow-up with the teacher on your behalf. All of us take very seriously our professional responsibility to maintain good working relationships with all our families, and this starts with regular, prompt, and professional communication among us all.

As of next Tuesday (Monday is Labor Day, on which there will be no school), our Kindergarten classes will join the others in our regular school schedule: arrival at 8:10 a.m. (breakfast program participants may arrive at 7:45 a.m.) and dismissal at 2:50 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and at 1:50 p.m. on Wednesdays, due to teachers' professional development sessions taking place afterwards. There will be fewer early dismissals conducted during the year due to this change in the inservice schedule.

Speaking of breakfast, it is important to point out that breakfast is free for all students regardless of income. Even if your family does not qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, your children may participate in the free breakfast program. All children need to do is to show up in the breakfast line (which begins at 7:45 a.m. each school day), and they will be served a delicious and nutritious meal.

The academic day starts at 8:20 a.m., at which time all children are expected to be in their classrooms and ready to learn. We begin each school day with morning announcements over the intercom, including a daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, reading of special notices and events, and honoring those celebrating birthdays that day. (On behalf of the school, a birthday card and pencil is presented to each person on or near his/her birthday.) We often sing the school song together as a

school on Friday mornings, led by a few brave and talented singers over the intercom. Those students not present in their classrooms at 8:20 a.m. are reported as absent by their teachers, and Mrs. Stephanie Marcotte, our Student Support Coach, contacts families to verify absences. We communicate with parents/guardians as soon as possible to make sure no child is unaccounted for. We strive to stay in touch with families and do our best follow-up to make sure children are present at and on time to school each day. *If a child is absent from or tardy to school five (5) or more times during the school year, we contact families to see how we can work together to support better attendance, a key indicator of academic success.*

It was wonderful to see so many of our new families at our Welcome to Kindergarten Night and New Family Orientation Night, and many others, too, at Open House. This morning's Welcome Assembly was as inspirational as ever as our Grade 5 students presented a carnation to each of our Kindergarten students, welcoming them to their school experience at C.P. Smith School. Our "Curriculum and Cones" event is a new format this year: combining Curriculum Night and our Ice-Cream Social into one event. That will be held on Thursday, September 12th with Grades K-2 classroom presentations running from 6:00-6:30 p.m. and those in Grades 3-5 from 6:35-7:05 p.m., with the social lasting until 7:30 p.m. This will be a great way to learn about your children's classroom experiences and meet other families, as well. It is being sponsored by our wonderful P.T.O. group, which works very hard to plan and implement many programs and activities throughout the year. Our first monthly P.T.O. Meeting of the year will take place on Monday, September 9th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the school library. Please join us!

Did you get your Welcome Packets containing lots of helpful school information? They are so carefully prepared by Mrs. Tina Desautels, who manages our front office. Please let us know if you did not receive a packet for your family. We ask that the Annual Parental Permission and Release Form for Local School Trips and Programs be completed and returned to the school in order for your children to be able to participate in class trips. Other forms may be completed and returned based on your wishes related to photographing/taping students and/or their work and eligibility for free or reduced-priced meals or Supplemental Educational Services.

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

Calendar of Events



- 8/30:** Welcome Assembly
(8:30 a.m.) -- Gym
- 9/2:** Labor Day (No School)
- 9/9:** P.T.O. Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) -- Library
- 9/12:** "Curriculum and Cones" School Gathering
(Grades K-2 Classroom Presentations
K-2 – 6:00-6:30 p.m. and Grades 3-5 –
6:35- 7:05 p.m. Ice-Cream Social ends at
7:30 p.m.)
- 9/19:** School Picture Day
- 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

Cub Scouts



Are you interesting in Cub Scouting (Grades 1-5) and want to learn more? Join Pack 651 for our **BACK TO THE PACK & NEW CUB SCOUT REGISTRATION NIGHT** on **Friday, September 6th at 6:30 PM** at C.P. Smith. If you need more information or are unable to attend on the 6th, please feel free to contact Nancy Bean. She can be reached at 862-5394.

School Meals

The Burlington School Food Project offers whole, fresh, and local meals to 4,000 Burlington students daily. More than one third of foods are straight from Vermont farms including milk, fruits, vegetables, and local meats. For more information about school meals, contact Doug Davis [802 864 8416](tel:8028648416).

All students in grades K-5 and morning Pre-School receive breakfast in the classroom at no cost, although students may bring in food from home if they prefer. Students also receive an extra serving of fruits or vegetables in the classroom daily at no cost.

Afternoon Pre-School and K-5 students receive school lunch for \$2.25. **Many families are eligible to receive lunch at NO COST, please fill out a meal application as soon as possible, remember, a new application must be filled out every year.**

Your child can bring a cold lunch from home if they prefer. Milk is available to purchase for \$0.50. Students enrolled in After School programs may receive After School Supper. This meal is served at no cost to all students in the cafeteria at the end of the school day.

Parents are encouraged to join us for lunch. The cost for an adult lunch is \$3.75.

Please check with the school nurse and your child's classroom teacher if you have specific dietary restrictions or food concerns. If you have questions about sending snacks for special occasions to your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher. Your child will bring home a monthly menu. Please review the menu with your child each week to help her/him choose meals for the week

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

Don't miss an opportunity to help out in your child's classroom! The 4 winds program is an amazing way for the students to get hands-on experience with our natural surroundings. This year we are learning about spiders, beavers and muskrats, and much more local flora and fauna! We will have 4 lessons throughout the school year and each class usually has two parent volunteers per lesson. The students love the lessons and even if you already consider yourself a naturalist you too will learn a lot! This is a great way to meet the students and teachers. Please contact Kristine Guthrie for details. kristineguthrie@ymail.com/802 338-8119 cell



Thanks,
Kristine