

SMITH TIMES

Friday, January 13, 2012

Volume 21, Number 18

The Principal's Corner

I hope all continues to go well with your family as 2012 continues to unfold.

We're eagerly preparing for our Winter International Celebration to be held on Thursday, January 26, 2012 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Ms. Souliere and Mr. Miller and members of our Family-School Partnership Team (FSPT) are preparing some presentations for the first half-hour, and others are preparing a delicious international meal for the last hour. Those who plan to attend are asked to contact the school as soon as possible and are invited to bring a nut-free dessert item (especially one with an international connection) if they wish to. We'll be serving ice-cream, but it would be nice to top off an international meal with desserts from around the world, as well. The goal for this event is to bring together as many members of our school community as possible in a multicultural celebration.



The school will soon begin a Full Bag Pantry to provide students and families with essential food items over the weekends. (Please refer to the attachment to this newsletter for more information.) Bags of food will be prepared by staff members, using leftover non-perishable snack items from the school and other items donated by members of the school community. Bags of food will be available on a cart near the office every Friday from 2:00-3:00 p.m., beginning January 20, 2012. Any adult from a family of a current C.P. Smith School student may help her or himself to a bag of food. Those wishing to make donations may leave nonperishable food items at the front office. We thank area businesses SNAP Fitness and The Bagel Cafe for their generous contributions to stock the pantry. Thank you for your help, as we reach out to all our families who need a little extra support during these tough economic times.

If you have a child who will turn 5 before September 1, 2012 and you intend to enroll her/him in



Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year, please do so as soon as possible. You may find the forms at the Burlington School District website or pick up a copy of them from Mrs. Tina Desautels in the main office. The district is encouraging families to enroll their children by March 16th, so we can determine how many kindergarten classrooms will be needed and can assign students to specific schools by the end of April.

We're pleased that a total of 144 postcards and 73 other contacts have been made to homes of students demonstrating respect, responsibility, safety, and good learning as part of our work to recognize positive student behavior and achievement.

The federal Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday will be celebrated on Monday, January 16, 2012. There will be no school that day.

This is a reminder that our school breakfast program is open to all Smith School students and begins at 7:45 a.m. each school day. Please do not drop your children off at school before that time.

Please consult the Calendar of Events for other important activities related to our school community.

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

Calendar of Events

1/16: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. (No school.)

1/20: Full Bag Pantry Begins (2:00-3:00 p.m. every Friday) – cart near front office.

1/26: Winter International Celebration (5:30-7:00 p.m.) – Cafeteria. (A program of international songs, dances, and presentations, followed by dinner. No charge, but please contact the school to let us know you're coming.)

2/13: PTO Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) – Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

2/15: Half-Day of School Due to Teacher Inservice Sessions. School will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m.

2/16: Math Night (6:30-7:30 p.m.)

2/27 – 3/5: Winter Vacation. (No School)

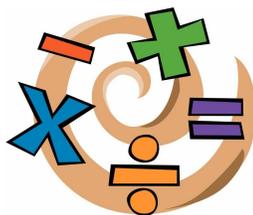
3/6: Teacher Inservice Sessions. (No School.)

3/6: Town Meeting Day. Polls are open at each ward voting site from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

3/7: School Resumes for Students.

Math Night

Mark your calendars and join us for Math Night on Thursday, February 16, 2012 from 6:30-7:30. There will be a raffle, games and lots of fun! Students must bring a responsible adult. Hope to see you at Math Night!



Pencils and Pens Grand Opening!

C.P. Smith's school store run by Mr. Pecor's Fifth Grade class, will open on January 25th. Kindergarten, First and Second Graders may shop on Wednesday's from 8:00-8:30. Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders may shop on Friday's from 8:00-8:30. Come see our great products!



A Call for "Readers" for Reading to End Racism



In February, C. P. Smith Elementary School will join in a community initiative called Reading to End Racism to support the District-wide goal of promoting and valuing diversity in the Burlington Public Schools. This project creates an opportunity for all students to listen to new literature, hear personal stories and join age-appropriate discussions to explore and explain racism.

Classroom presentations are led by volunteer readers who are solicited throughout the community, all of whom are committed to the elimination of racism. These readers are powerful role models for students, and in the past have included police officers, elected officials, educators, artists, business professionals, parents and school board members. All classes at C. P. Smith will participate in this one-day presentation, with book readings, personal stories and discussions on ways students can help end racism.

If you are interested in being a **volunteer reader**, please RSVP to Kate Guilmette (864-8504) or Shannon Walters (864-2228) by February 7th, 2012. If you are a **new volunteer reader**, there will be Reading to End Racism trainings and dialogue on January 19 from 5:30-7:00 pm at Edmunds Elementary School or February 8th at Flynn Elementary. Please plan on attending one of these training sessions.

News from the Guidance Office:

By *Kate Guilmette*

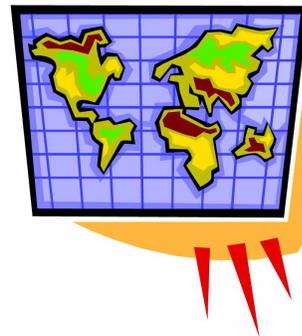
After the holiday break we began the Conflict Resolution unit in classroom guidance. Each unit works toward building their toolset that will allow them to navigate life's journey. Unfortunately conflicts/disagreements occur across our lifespan so it is essential for children to learn and practice peaceful ways of problem solving. Students will learn to distinguish between small and big problems. Small problems are ones that children are "strong enough and smart enough" to handle on their own. Big problems require an adult's help. We will be using the Conflict Escalator (Kriedler) to visually track conflict. Students will learn that they can decide to escalate or de-escalate conflict. They are in charge of deciding which direction they will follow on the escalator. Please ask your child to explain the escalator to you.

Since it is a conflict resolution unit we will be spending the majority of our time identifying choices that de-escalate conflict and in some cases practicing them with classmates. Please be sure to ask your child about these strategies in the coming weeks. Starting this week I have a graduate intern who will be working with me through June.

Hello, students and families! My name is Ms. Lyons and I am a graduate student at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. I am studying to be a school counselor and will be working with Mrs. Guilmette for the rest of the school year. She will be showing me what guidance activities occur at C. P. Smith and allowing me to practice my own skills as a school counselor. I will be in your school on Tuesdays & Wednesdays. I look forward to becoming a familiar face in your school community.

Winter International Celebration on January 26th

Happy winter everybody! It is exciting to announce that on Thursday, January 26th, C. P. Smith School will be holding a Winter International Celebration – a celebration of the diverse makeup of the C. P. Smith School community. What is sure to be a memorable event will begin in the gym at 5:30 with songs, dances and presentations until 6:00. At 6:00 the dinner will be served. It will be an international dinner served by the C. P. Smith kitchen. **Dessert will be pot luck (nut-free products)**, so if there is a special sweet, especially one from the country where your ancestors are from, that your family would like to contribute it would be yummy and appreciated.



Please let Tina know if you will be attending this fantastic mid-winter event on January 26th, and how many people in your family will be there with you before January 20th. We look forward to seeing you at the C. P. Smith Winter International

Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Give Back Day

The Burlington YMCA (266 College Street) is offering a special, free service learning opportunity. To honor the civil rights icon Martin Luther King, kids ages 8-14 are invited to work together on community service projects followed by pizza.

When: Mon., Jan. 16, 8 a.m.-1 p.m Ages 8-14.
Contact: 802-862-9622; www.gbymca.org Pre-registration required.

Price: Free morning. Optional afternoon activities include swimming and games. (\$20 fee for afternoon activities)

