

SMITH TIMES

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The Principal's Corner



Greetings!

It was great to see so many of you at our Curriculum Night on Tuesday. We hope you found your

sessions with teachers to be full of helpful information. They work very hard to prepare academic programs of excellence, and it's so good to have opportunities such as Curriculum Night to highlight good teaching and learning.

The registration period for Parent-Teacher Conferences began this week. If you have not yet registered for your children's conferences, please do so as soon as possible using the PTCFast system we piloted last year. For directions about how to register for conferences, please refer to the information in a separate part of this week's newsletter.

Our procedures for working with students receiving office discipline referrals have changed. Many thanks to Ms. Lori Dolson, our Student Support Coach, for working with students with equal amounts of firmness, fairness, and friendliness in a safe and supportive environment. Our belief is that a visit to the office is an opportunity for students to relearn and practice our rules, and when consequences are administered, they are done so with respect and fairness. When a student is sent to the office with an office referral form, s/he is likely to have been given a friendly reminder by her/his teacher, provided an opportunity to "take a break" in a designated spot in the classroom, and also "taken a break" in the classroom of her/his teacher's "buddy teacher's" room. After the incident is processed at the office, the student is walked back to class and delivered to the designated "take a break" chair until s/he is invited to rejoin the class. A copy of the office referral form is sent home to be signed and returned to school the following day. (A telephone call is made to that student's parent/guardian to let

them know about the incident and to answer any questions s/he may have about it.) Copies of discipline referral forms are also given to that student's classroom teacher and any other employee (such as a special educator, if applicable) with a "need to know" this information.

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.

Registering for Parent-Teacher Conferences

Our school had much success with the piloting of the PTC Fast conference registration system last year. We're eager to try it again!

This electronic scheduling of conferences allows for parents and guardians to select their own conference times at any point during the registration period, which began Monday, September 29th and continues on until the week of conferences, which is Monday, October 13th. (Please do not wait until the last minute to schedule your conferences. You may not get the dates and times you wish.)

Teachers have prepared their conference schedules for Monday, October 13th through Thursday, October 16th, using this PTC Fast system. Via that website, this system will allow you to select the teacher(s) with whom you would like to hold a conference, and by registering your email address, you will be able to view and select an available meeting time that works for you.

The web link for Smith Parent Teacher Conference scheduling is (<http://smith.bsdrv.org>)

You may also call the school for assistance with the scheduling of your conference(s).

Calendar of Events

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

10/13-10/16: Parent-Teacher Conferences

10/17: No School



News from Around the School



We recently held school celebrations to acknowledge students' efforts to be safe, respectful, and responsible in all settings at all times. The first celebration featured music, dancing, recess, fruit pops, and games, and the second one was a "Hat Day" when students could wear hats during the school day. As we work to clarify and communicate our behavioral expectations, we are noticing a decrease in the number of discipline referral forms being filed at the office. We look forward to holding another celebration soon to reinforce the positive behaviors we expect from all members of our school community.

Mrs. Christine Tetrault's Kindergarten class is learning letter names and sounds. They talk about the events that take place in stories and how they know what is happening. In Math, they are learning to count forwards and backwards.

Ms. Kerrin Flanagan's Grade 1 class is working on problem-solving in Math. They are learning to show their thinking with pictures, numbers, and words. They are learning how to read, reread, and focus on their reading and make predictions about what they are reading, too.

Mrs. Patty Kissell's Grade 2 class had a special visitor come to talk to them about shells. They are reading about shells and learning how to identify them. They recently held their annual "Shell Show" for other classes to visit and learn about shells. In Math, they are learning about place value and making estimations.

Our Grade 3 classes—taught by Mrs. Nicole Bahrenburg and Mrs. Kelly Mancuso—visited Mt. Philo recently. Students in Mrs. Mancuso's class are also creating writers' notebooks. They have written about their hopes and dreams for Grade 3 and interviewed classmates to learn more about them. The class welcomes donations of soccer balls, basketballs, and jump ropes to use at recess time.

Our Grade 4 classes—taught by Ms. Kim Brockway, Mrs. Sarah Erkson, and Mr. Joshua Safran-- recently visited the Sailing Center to gain a lot of scientific knowledge.

Students in Mrs. Carol McHugh's and Mr. Dale Pecor's Grade 5 classes are working hard to build up a sense of team spirit among their students. Their goals are to build community, define and practice behaviors, build stamina, and assess the needs of students.

P.T.O Fall Gift Wrap Fundraiser



Our P.T.O fall gift wrap fundraiser is underway. We have been able to extend the fundraiser for this year and it will run until Monday, Oct.

13th. Some information and a request form for a fundraising packet went home 2 weeks ago, and we will be sending another form out this week. If your family would like to participate in the fundraiser please send back the request form or contact me, Jen L'Ecuyer, by email at jlecuyer7@gmail.com or at 338-0072. I will just need your child's name, classroom, and your contact information, phone and/or email and a packet will go home with your child. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the P.T.O and will directly fund programs that are happening in the school. This is a great way for your family to get involved.

Family and friends who do not live in the area but would like to support our school can also participate online and information on how to do this is included in the fundraising packet. We hope that you will consider participating.

Jen L'Ecuyer, CP Smith P.T.O

Fall Clean Up and School Beautification

Calling all gardeners, tinkers and dirt lovers!!

Looking for volunteers for fall clean up and school beautification.

If interested please email Kate at: Kateahmann@gmail.com

NO green thumbs required.

