

SMITH TIMES

Friday, October 5, 2012

Volume 22, Number 6

The Principal's Corner



My mother always instructed me that it is never too late to thank someone for what they have done for you. With that advice still rattling around in

my head after all these years, I take this opportunity to thank our many parent volunteers from the 2011-12 school year for their service to our learning community. While we did hold our annual Parent Appreciation Reception last spring, I did not mail out our "thank you" certificates before leaving for Thailand this summer. When I returned, I jumped into the process of getting ready for the upcoming school year and unintentionally left this important task undone. Regardless, we now take this opportunity to thank the following parents/guardians (and others whom we may have inadvertently forgotten) for their contributions of time and talent to our school during the 2011-12 academic year: Mrs. Donna Aldrich, Mrs. Marilyn Allard, Ms. Violetta Ayrapetova, Mrs. Beth Bahrenburg, Mr. Peter Bahrenburg, Mrs. Brenda Bean, Ms. Deborah Blom, Mr. Billy Bratcher, Ms. Dara Chira, Mrs. Sheila Boland-Chira, Mrs. Sara Campitelli, Mr. Jeff Clarke, Mrs. Stacey Clarke, Mrs. Elizabeth Connolly, Mr. Daniel Curry, Mrs. Sarah Curry, Mrs. Tiffany Delaney, Mrs. Cheryl Dowling, Ms. Dawn Fitzgerald, Ms. Ashley Geraw, Mr. Christopher Gilmond, Mr. Chris Goddard, Mrs. Olivia Goddard, Mrs. Kristine Guthrie, Mr. Chip Hart, Mrs. Shireen Hart, Ms. Tammy Hershberg, Mrs. Holly Jeffers, Ms. Gina Jimenez, Ms. Tamara Jones, Mrs. Ervina Kuckovic, Mrs. Jennifer L'Ecuyer, Mrs. Karen LaBelle, Mrs. Angie Lindstrom, Mr. Eric Lindstrom, Ms. Amy Livingston, Ms. Sarah Macmillan, Mr. Brennan McCleary, Mrs. Carol McCleary, Mrs. Lisa Moody, Mrs. Kathy Navarro, Mr. Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne, Mrs. Bonnie Paquette, Mrs. Gini Park, Mr. John Park, Mrs. Karen Poulin, Mr. Alex Reutter, Mr. Ed Scott, Mr. Edgar Solera, Mrs. Tracie Spencer, Mrs. Jessie Sprigg, Ms. Kate

Stein, Mr. Michael Stein, Mrs. Jessica Story-Huston, Ms. Amy Stuart, Mr. Bill Thayer, and Mrs. Cheryl Walker.

We recently held our first Family-School Partnership Team (FSPT) meeting of the new school year. The team supports successful school, family, and community partnerships in six key areas. (Please refer to the attachment to this newsletter for more information about the Epstein Model for School, Family, and Community Partnerships, which is used by all Burlington schools.) Our school's FSPT has an action plan for the 2012-13 school year, which includes supporting Math Night (11/15/12), the International Dinner (1/16/13), the school play (2/15 and 2/16/13) the Science Fair (3/13/13), and the Spring Dinner (4/18/13), as well as Parent-Teacher Conferences, Community Connection meetings, Family-School Roundtable sessions, and grants for teachers to help eliminate barriers to participation for students and families. We will have more information about the FSPT in newsletters throughout the school year.

Our next Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting will be held on Monday, October 8th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library. We hope you will be able to join us.

We will be administering the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests next week to students in Grades 3-5. Please refer to the newsletter item for more information about these tests. We will also be mailing home test results for the NECAP Science test, which is administered to students in Grade 4 each spring. We just received these results at school and will use the data to guide our instruction in this important content area.

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

10/8: PTO Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) – Ellie B.
McNamara Memorial Library



10/9 – 10/11: NECAP Testing for Students in Grades 3 and 4

10/9 – 10/12: NECAP Testing for Students in Grade 5

10/13: PTO Halloween Costume Drop and Shop Event (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) -- School Gym

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

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

10/19: No School

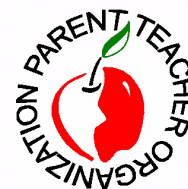
10/19 – 10/26: Book Fair

11/6: Early Release Day for Teacher Inservice (School will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m.)

11/15: Math Night

11/21, 11/22, and 11/23: Thanksgiving Recess (No School)

C.P. Smith PTO Meeting, October 8th, 6:30 - 8:00pm, Learning Center



AGENDA:

Introductions -- 5 minutes
Staff Member report --10 minutes

Helen Hossley, Burlington Friends of Education (BFOE): Program Introduction and Q&A -- 15 minutes

Principal's Report: To include discussion on NECAP testing, Q&A -- 45 minutes

PTO Business (as time allows):

- updates on current fundraisers
- discussion regarding upcoming events and fundraisers

If you are able please bring a non-perishable item for the C.P. Smith Food Pantry.

We hope to see you there.

C.P. Smith PTO



INNISBROOK Giftwrap Fundraiser

The CP Smith PTO Innisbrook gift wrap fundraiser will run from September 24th through October 9th, all proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support the CP Smith PTO and

the school community. Information regarding the fundraiser

as well as a permission slip will be sent home to families this week. In order for your child to participate in the fundraiser the signed permission slip will need to be sent back to the school. Once we have received the permission slip a fundraiser packet will go home with your child. This is always a fun fundraiser for our school and we hope that you will participate. If you have any questions please contact me

at jlecuyer7@gmail.com or 660-9669.

Thank you for your support.

Jennifer L'Ecuyer
C.P. Smith PTO



PTO Halloween Costume Drop and Shop

There is now a box in the lobby of CP Smith for costume donations for the costume sale, so take a look through your closets, basement and drawers for any gently used Halloween costumes and accessories that you are ready to part with. You can drop off costume donations any weekday between 7:30-5:30 up until Friday, October 12. Then come to the sale on **Saturday, October 13th between 10-12** to shop for costumes! All proceeds will benefit the CP Smith PTO. Contact Amy Livingston 802-355-4514 or amyliv22@gmail.com for more information.

NECAP Testing to Take Place Next Week

C.P. Smith School will be administering the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests next week to students in Grades 3-5. Students in Grades 3 and 4 take Reading and Math tests, and students in Grade 5 take Writing tests in addition to those in Reading and Math. Testing dates for these three grades will be Tuesday, October 9th, Wednesday, October 10th, and Thursday, October 11th, and Grade 5 will also test on Friday, October 12th. ***Please help your children prepare for these tests (and school in general) by making sure they get adequate rest each night and a good breakfast each morning. (It's a good time to point out that we offer a free breakfast program for all students each school day. Students need only ask for it at the kitchen window each morning between 7:45 and 8:10 a.m. and sit down and eat it in the cafeteria before heading to their classrooms.)***

Ms. Stephanie Phillips, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Burlington School District, and I are preparing a presentation about the NECAP tests, the Common Core Assessment (which will take its place in the future), and data about Smith School students' academic achievement. We will announce the date, time, and location of that meeting once we're ready to present. In the meantime, please find below information from Ms. Phillips about these assessments.

“Since 2005, Vermont students have been participating in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), a series of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science achievement tests, administered annually, which were developed in collaboration with the Rhode Island and New Hampshire Departments of Education. There are no native language versions of the NECAP assessments. The NECAP tests measure students' academic knowledge and skills relative to the Grade Expectations for Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities. Student scores are reported at four levels of academic achievement: Proficient with Distinction, Proficient, Partially Proficient, and Substantially Below Proficient. Reading and Math are assessed in Grades 3-8 and 11, Writing is assessed in Grades 5,8, and 11, and Science is assessed in Grades 4,8, and 11. The Reading, Math, and Writing tests are administered each year in October. The Science tests are administered in May. The fall of 2013 will be the last NECAP assessment in Reading, Writing, and Math, as Vermont and 46 other states move to the new Common Core Assessment in the spring of 2015. More information about the NECAP assessments can be found on the Vermont Department of Education website : http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/necap.html.”

C.P. Smith Students Walking and Biking to School

Wednesday October 3rd was International Walk to School Day. We had 189 students who walked or biked to school. It was a terrific turn out and we hope you continue walking or biking to school this year.



THE KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Epstein's Six Types of Involvement



Parenting:

Assist families in understanding child and adolescent development and in setting home conditions that support children as students at each grade level. Assist schools in understanding families.



Communicating:

Communicate with families about school programs and student progress through effective school-to-home and home-to-school communications.



Volunteering:

Improve recruitment, training, and schedules to involve families as volunteers and audiences at the school and in other locations to support students and school programs.



Learning at Home:

Involve families with their children in learning at home, including homework, other curriculum-related activities, and individual course and program decisions.



Decision Making:

Include families as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy through the PTA/PTO, school councils, committees, action teams, and other parent organizations.



Collaborating With the Community:

Coordinate community resources and services for students, families, and the school with businesses, agencies, and other groups, and provide services to the community.