

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, November 7, 2014

Volume 23, Number 10

## The Principal's Corner

Greetings!

Our annual Book Fair was held this week and was—as always—a great success. Many thanks to Mrs. Jennifer L'Ecuyer and the many other parent volunteers for their successful coordination of this effort through our wonderful P.T.O. group. Students left the fair with some great fall and winter reading, and the school and classroom libraries also earned some much-needed revenue, too. Speaking of the P.T.O., the monthly meeting of it will be held on Monday evening from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the library. We hope you will be able to join us for it.

Our Grade 5 teachers, Mrs. Carol McHugh and Mr. Dale Pecor, and their students will be sponsoring the annual Veterans' Day Assembly for our school community. The assembly will be held on Veterans' Day, which is November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m. in the gym. We hope you will be able to join us for this gathering for all who have served our country. Please feel free to invite on our behalf any veterans whom you may know.

Our neighborhood churches are hosting a delicious hot dinner on Thanksgiving Day to anyone who lives in the area. Each hot, cooked dinner consists of turkey, stuffing, vegetables, cranberries, potatoes, dessert, and a roll. There are two ways to enjoy this delicious meal: you may go to the North Avenue Alliance Church at 901 North Avenue on Thanksgiving Day between the hours of 12:00 and 2:00 p.m., and it will be served to you. However, if you prefer that the meals be delivered to your home between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, please call St. Mark's Church at 864-7686 or 862-3616, or me at the school at 864-8479, and let us know you many meals you are requesting, as well as your address and telephone number.

We hope you and other community members will be able to join us for breakfast on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 a.m. (It's free of charge!) It's also a way of keeping our school connected to our families and the community as a whole.

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.

## Wreath Fundraiser



Once again this year we are selling wreaths as a PTO fundraiser. Mark's Vermont Christmas Wreath Company has generously provided this opportunity for our school. The fundraiser will run from Friday, October 31st until Tuesday, November 18th. If you would like to buy a

beautiful holiday wreath or garland, please contact Sue Chayer via email ([suechayer98@gmail.com](mailto:suechayer98@gmail.com)) or phone (802-363-3451).

## Calendar of Events



**11/10:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner  
(5:30-7:00 p.m.) -- Library

**11/11:** Veterans' Day Assembly (8:30 a.m.)  
-- Gym. *Please join us!*

**11/14:** 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester Marking Period Closes

**11/21:** Community Connection  
(8:00-9:00 a.m.) Cafeteria and Lobby.  
*Come join us for breakfast!*

**11/21:** 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester Report Cards Distributed to Students

**11/26 – 11/28:** Thanksgiving Holiday

**11/27:** Thanksgiving Day Meals at North Avenue Alliance Church. Home deliveries available, too.

**12/8:** Student Extravaganza Sale  
(Sponsored by the P.T.O.)

## News from Around the School



Students in Mrs. Christine Tetrault's Kindergarten class are enjoying reading their big books with each other. They listen for rhyming words and count the number of syllables in words, as well. Students in this class (and also Mrs. Lynn Slack's class) meet in small groups to learn all they can about letters, sounds, their names, building sentences, writing words, and building on the concepts learned during classroom literacy time.

Mrs. Judy Carpenter and Mrs. Patty Kissell and their Grade 2 students visited our community friends at the Heineberg Senior Center recently. They will visit again later this month to connect with them and let them know what they are learning in school. They enjoy their visits to the H.S.C. very much!

Ms. Kim Brockway's Grade 4 students had a good time reading to the Grade 1 students in Ms. Kerrin Flanagan's class recently.

Students in Mrs. Carol McHugh's and Mr. Dale Pecor's Grade 5 classes are participating in the StarBase Program through the Vermont Air National Guard, if they did not do so last year. They are also busily preparing our annual Veterans' Day Assembly, which will be held next week. This assembly blends knowledge of what this national holiday is about with a tribute to all who have served our country. We hope you will be able to join us for it. (Please refer to the Calendar of Events for more information.)

## Attention All Smith Families



Our Kids Only,  
Shopping Extravaganza  
is Mon, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>.

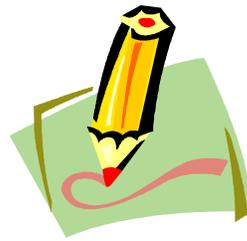
We need donated items  
ASAP! Please bring  
your donations to the

office. Items will be accepted for the sale until Friday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. We also need volunteers for the event on Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. Please see the sign-up sheet in the office or contact one of us.

Nadeen St-Pierre 860-5126  
Karen Ruben 315-369-8966

Thanks so much for your help!!

## From the School Nurse



Greetings,

There have been an unusual number of sick children here at the C.P. Smith community over this past month. Typically, February is the busy month but this year has been different.

I would like to start with a reminder that **children with fever should stay home until they have been fever free for 24 hours - without the use of Tylenol or Advil.**

Children with a simple cold, with runny nose and light congestion, are welcome to come to school.

Students with diarrhea, vomiting or with non-stop cough should rest at home. Scientific studies show that increased sleep at the onset of illness reduces the severity of the illness.

We all understand that for many parents, a sick child means a day off of work and that this is challenging for families. But if we look at this through a different lens, would you want your child exposed to a sick child and thus end up with time away from school? Or to have the child's teacher out with illness because a sick child didn't stay at home?

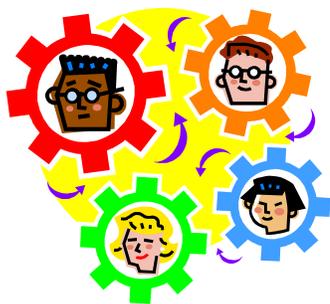
If students are out a lot and appear on the truancy list, it's smart to have a written note from the MD indicating that the child was seen at the office and the doctor required the absence from school. If the doctor's note simply indicates that the child was seen at the office, it will not support the absence as medically excused.

We want all our students to be in school every day. Let's help them get enough sleep at home (8 - 10 hours), activity throughout the day (limited screen time), lots of plain water and good food--like we offer in our cafeteria.

On another note, if families are finding it hard to make it through a weekend, we have a Full Bag Pantry here at school and we can help you out with a variety of food for you. Please simply call.

Be well!

## News from the Guidance Office



The Bullying Prevention Unit is underway! Over the summer all Burlington Elementary School Counselors received a curriculum to use district-wide. It is a research based program from the Committee for Children's Second Step

programming. Bullying has always been a part of the guidance program but this year is the first year we will all be using the same program. Our hope is that when students receive the same education there will be less incidents of bullying as they progress in their school career in Burlington. The lessons are designed for each grade level to be developmentally appropriate. The program focuses on three R's, **R**ecognizing bullying behavior, **R**eporting to a trusted adult and **R**efusing bullying behavior.

Being able to recognize bullying behavior is crucial in preventing and stopping it. Bullying by definition has the following three elements: the behavior is meant to be hurtful ("on purpose"), it is repeated ("it keeps happening") and is one-sided (the target is unable to stop it without help). If you would like to have further conversations at home there are resources for families to use at home in order to reinforce your child's knowledge and competence in preventing bullying. Please contact me and we can work together to get you linked up with the program home links.

## Holiday Sign Ups



The Salvation Army in Burlington is going to be starting their Holiday sign ups on November 3rd, and it will run Monday through Fridays 9-12. The following are needed for families to

qualify (The Salvation Army can be reached at 864-6991. Ask for Marty.)

- o Social Security cards for all members of the household/family
- o Proof of all income including food stamps
- o Proof of address (like a piece of mail)

## Student Council is Back



We are bringing back C.P.Smith School Student Council! Mr. Pecor and Mrs. Guilmette will facilitate student council activities for the 2014-2015 school year. Being a student council representative will give student role models the chance to practice their leadership skills and strengthen self-esteem. Student

council reps are expected to exemplify our school rules of being safe, respectful and responsible. Starting the week of November 10<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Guilmette will be talking with classes about student council and what students will need to do to try out. All students will be expected to make a poster and answer the question: what can I do to help my school and local community? Permission slips are due to Mrs. Guilmette by Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Students will present their poster and answer to the big question during guidance class the week of November 17<sup>th</sup>. All eligible student names will be put into a drawing to be selected on Tuesday, November 25

## Shrek the Musical at BHS

Ogres! The 3 Bears! Dancing Rats! The Dragon! Lord Farquaard! Princess Fiona! All will come alive right here in Burlington on November 20, 21 & 22<sup>nd</sup>.

With a cast of over 60 BHS students singing and dancing on stage, the whole family will enjoy the 26<sup>th</sup> annual BHS Musical. There is a special Children's Matinee on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm and audience members can meet the cast in costume following the performance!

Tickets for general seating are on sale prior to the show. Prices are \$8.00 for students and \$12.00 for adults. Please contact Lynn Bessette at [lynn.bessette@uvm.org](mailto:lynn.bessette@uvm.org) or Jessica Lane at [Jessica@smithlane.org](mailto:Jessica@smithlane.org) or any cast member to purchase tickets prior to November 19<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can also be purchased at the door prior to each performance.

### **Shrek the Musical, BHS Auditorium.**

Thursday Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, Opening Night curtain at 7:00 p.m.

Friday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, curtain at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, SPECIAL CHILDREN'S MATINEE, curtain at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, FINAL PERFORMANCE, curtain at 7:00 p.m.

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

C.P. Smith School  
Thomas L. Fleury, Principal

## Book Picks



### Read-aloud favorites

#### ■ *Ebblibustia: A True Story from Colombia*

What if the library came to your neighborhood on the back of a donkey? This is Jeanette Winter's true story of a Colombian schoolteacher's traveling library, which brought books to children in remote villages. (Also available in Spanish.)



#### ■ *Dragons Love Tacos*



When a little boy discovers that dragons like to eat tacos, he decides to host a taco party for them. But if a fire-breathing dragon accidentally gets a bite of spicy salsa, look out. A silly story by Adam Rubin about a dragon party that turns into a disaster.

#### ■ *Just a Second*

In just 1 second, a hummingbird flaps its wings 100 times and the earth travels 187 miles. Steve Jenkins' beautiful art book will help your child think about time in fascinating ways. She'll also discover different methods of measuring time.

#### ■ *Bedtime Is Canceled*

Maggie and her father write their parents an official-looking note: "Bedtime is canceled." Somewhere the note blows out the window, lands in a newspaper office, and ends up in a headline. Soon, bedtime really is canceled, and exhausted children quickly discover the importance of sleep. A nice read-aloud by Cece Mump.



## Storytime

Want to spend time with your youngster, build her reading skills, and help her learn to love books? You can do all three when you read aloud to her. Here are some suggestions.

### Read regularly

Try to read to your child every day. You might aim for 10–15 minutes of bedtime reading for a peaceful end to the day. Bring along a book, and read to her during a sibling's sports practice. Or curl up together with a book when you get home from work.

### Take turns choosing books

Your youngster may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn for new titles and variety (nonfiction, poetry).

### Let her participate

Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, she can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in words she



knows. Go slowly so she has time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. She'll enjoy read-aloud time more if she plays an active role.

### Be playful

You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a mouse or a deep, booming voice for a horse). Or substitute your youngster's name for the main character's name, and use family members' names for other characters. Note: You don't have to be an expert reader — your child will love it when you read aloud because it's you.♥

## Writing that makes sense

When a child first learns to write, his stories may not always make sense to others. Help his writing flow logically with these two ideas.

1. Let him read his stories to you. Ask questions to encourage him to add information: "What did you do with your friends at recess?" or to clear up a confusing part: "Who said, 'Let's go home' — you, or your brother?"

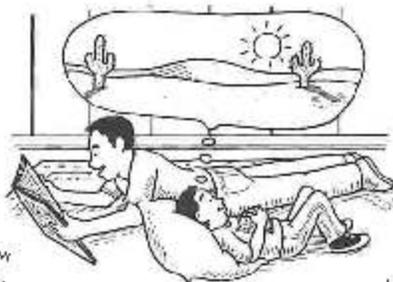
2. Even if he isn't writing sentences yet, he can tell you stories. He might describe the new class pet or something funny that happened at lunch. He'll practice relating events in a logical order, and you can help when he puts his thoughts and ideas down on paper.♥



## Read between the lines

Learning to infer, or “read between the lines,” is one key to good reading comprehension. Consider these tips for helping your youngster make inferences when he reads.

**Describe the setting.** Pick a book, and read a few sentences to your child (without him looking). Leave out words that name the setting. Example: “Sand stretched in all directions... caacri dotted the landscape.” Can he infer where the story is set? If he isn’t sure, give him a hint. (“Where do you see lots of sand and caacri?”)



**Look for lessons.** Fables are great for reading between the lines. Read one by Aesop, and help your youngster figure out the lesson. For instance, “The Tortoise and the Hare” teaches that even if you’re slow, you can win if you just keep going. Have him point out parts that he used to make his inference. (“The tortoise never stopped, and he took one good step after another.”)

**Use prompts.** Questions that start with “Why do you think...?” or “How do you know...?” can encourage your child to infer. You might ask why he thinks a character behaved the way he did or how he knows it’s going to snow; together, look for clues in the book that may help him answer the questions. ▼

### Fun with Words

#### Wordplay

Use these activities to build your child’s phonological awareness—her ability to hear sounds in words.

- Choose a three-letter word, such as cap. Have your youngster sit at the table with her fingers. Effortlessly mixing sounds from the alphabet to make new words (lap, rap, nap, zap, top, zap). How many can she think of?



- Pick a long word, and tell her to clap once as she says each syllable. For *mozzarella*, she would clap four times: *moz-zar-el-la*.

- Ask your child to say a word without the first sound. Example: “Can you say sit without the s?” (Answer: *it*.)

- Think of a word, and give your youngster a “sound” clue to figure it out. For instance, “I’m thinking of a word for something that you chew. The word has an sh sound in the middle.” (Answer: *chew*.) ▼

#### OUR PURPOSE

To provide use parents with practical ways to promote their children’s reading, writing, and language skills.

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## All kinds of words

A large vocabulary can turn your child into a better reader and writer. Try these everyday ways to help her learn new words.

**Keep your ears open.** When you and your youngster go places, point out words that people use. Maybe a waiter describes an entrée on the menu; talk about *lookers*. Encourage your child to figure out what they mean by the way they’re used.

**Go beyond nouns.** Help your youngster add verbs and adjectives to her vocabulary. Sports and games offer opportunities to use action words. Let your child hear you comment on the softball that *zooms* to the catcher who *springs*. When she sends thank-you notes or greeting cards, suggest descriptive words (a *polite* dot-stitch, a *jaw-dropping* birthday). ▼



### Parent to Parent

#### Build, read, and write!

My son James loves to play with blocks. At our parent-teacher conference last month, his teacher suggested that we use blocks to form extra reading and writing practice.

We found books a sour thing he would make, such as roses, seascapers, and mountains, and I put them with his blocks for inspiration. At first, I thought he’d just look at the pictures, but he has started pointing

out facts that he reads, like how moans kept enemies away from castles. I also encouraged James to write signs to go with his buildings. When he made an airport, for example, he wrote

“Tickets,” “Bags,” and “Taxi” on slips of paper and taped them to the blocks.

I’ve noticed that James’s buildings are more creative and I’m happy that his reading and writing while he plays. ▼

