

SMITH TIMES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Volume 23, Number 11

The Principal's Corner

Greetings!



Thanks to Mrs. Carol McHugh, Mr. Dale Pecor, and Mrs. Judy Carpenter and their students—and our Music Teacher, Ms. Chelsea Rood—our

school's Veterans' Day Assembly was a moving tribute to all who have served our country. We were pleased that many parents and other community members were able to join us.

Many thanks to Mrs. Jennifer L'Ecuyer and her team of energetic P.T.O. volunteers for sponsoring our recent Book Fair. It was great to see students and families leaving the fair with lots of good fall and winter reading with them. The fair raised money for our school and classroom libraries, as well.

In last week's newsletter, we included an insert describing ways families can support great reading at home. We hope you found that information to be helpful.

This is a reminder that on Monday, November 17th, new district bus-riding procedures will be in effect. As of that date, all elementary school students who live less than .7 mile from school will have to pay to ride CCTA buses. All elementary school students who live at least .7 mile away from school will be provided with school identification badges with the CCTA logo affixed to them. These badges will allow students to ride CCTA buses without charge. However, without the badge, students will have to pay to ride CCTA buses. Please note there is a \$5.00 charge for lost identification badges.

We have been implementing the P.B.I.S. system this school year to recognize and reinforce positive student behavior adhering to our school rules of safety, respect, and responsibility. We're pleased

to report that behavior referrals for each of the first three months of this school year were lower than each of the corresponding months of the 2013-14 school year. In fact, the total number of office discipline referrals has dropped almost 23% from 133 to 103 during the months of August, September, and October when the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years are compared. We still have work to do to continue to reinforce positive student behavior in all settings and at all times throughout the school day and during after school program time, as well. Our school celebrations of extra recess, hat days, and dance parties have been fun ways to bring our learning community together to note the progress we're making.

Our neighborhood churches are hosting a delicious hot dinner on Thanksgiving Day to anyone who lives in the area. 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 21st 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.

Calendar of Events



11/14: 1st Trimester Marking Period Closes

11/17: New District Procedures for Riding CCTA Buses Take Effect

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

11/21: 1st 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



Mrs. Christine Tetrault's Kindergarten students learn many Math skills as they count up to the number of school days that have thus far been held during this school year. They look at numbers in terms of 10s and 1s and are practicing counting backwards, as well. They look forward to finishing their Math journals and bringing them home soon and then will begin new ones.

Mrs. Carolyn Pallutto's Grade 1 students read their first published stories of the year to parents and other visitors yesterday. They are preparing to now write fiction stories, noticing character traits and setting in the stories they read. In Math, they are working on adding strategies.

Mrs. Judy Carpenter and Mrs. Patty Kissell and their Grade 2 students are preparing for another visit to our friends and neighbors at the Heineberg Senior and Community Center next week.

Ms. Kim Brockway's Grade 4 students have been doing a great job learning class routines and creating class agreements. Their participation in both Morning Meetings and Closing Circles help build a sense of community in their classroom. In Math, they are working on multiplication and division models, building arrays, writing equations, skip counting, and writing and solving multiplication and division story problems.

Several Grades 3-5 classes visited the polls at the Miller Center on Election Day to learn about the voting process. They loved receiving "I Voted" stickers, and many students later returned to the polls later in the day as their parents came to vote.

BSD Automated Telephone Alert System - Test Phone Call



Please note that we will be sending a TEST phone call to parents/guardians on **Sunday, November 23rd at approximately 6 p.m.** If you receive the call at the number (s) you wish called for such things as school announcements, attendance calls and weather delays/closings, no action is needed. If you do NOT receive the call or receive the call at a number(s) that you do not wish called in these instances, contact your school administrative assistant with this information. Thank you for your participation.

Elementary School CCTA BUS ID Reminder

Beginning Monday, November 17, all elementary school students who live less than .7 miles from school will have to pay to ride CCTA busses.

All elementary students who live at least .7 miles away will be provided with school ID's with the CCTA logo affixed. This will allow them to ride CCTA without paying. Again, without the ID, they may not ride unless they pay.

Holiday Support



It's that time of year again! Starting November 1st, Chances for Christmas will be taking registrations for support with Holiday gifts. Please call [\(802\) 777-5130](tel:8027775130) to sign up. PLEASE note that our voice mailbox only holds 20 messages, so

please only leave one message!!! Your call will be returned, in the evening only. Do not leave more than one message, so other families have the opportunity to do the same. The volunteer who will be handling all of our phone calls works full time, so will only be able to access and return calls in the evening. Please be patient and know that calls will be returned in the order received.

In order to receive our gifts:

****You MUST NOT** be signed up elsewhere! This is extremely important as we have found that many families are trying to get assistance from our program when they are already receiving services elsewhere. You cannot sign up for our program if you have signed up elsewhere.

****You must provide us with an original social security card for yourself and each of your children.** Just having the SS# is not sufficient - we must have an original copy for each family member.

****You must provide us with a photo ID.**

**** You must provide a current piece of mail with address.**

Pick up dates for 2014 will be at the Champlain Mill during December:

*December 18th all day and in the morning on the

19th: Giving Tree families

*December 19th in the afternoon and all day on

the 20th: Families with appointments.

****Please note that once we have given you your appointment date and time, you MUST remember it. We will not give it to you again as time does not allow on our end. If you lose your time slot, you are welcome to come during walk-ins.**

*December 21st-22nd all day: Walk in families.

Lastly, we are in DESPERATE need of toys this year, so PLEASE, spread the word. The more gifts we receive, the more families we can serve - perhaps your own.

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)

Attention All Smith Families



Our Kids Only, Shopping Extravaganza is Mon, Dec 8th.

We need donated items ASAP! Please

bring your donations to the office. Items will be accepted for the sale until Friday, Dec 5th. We also need volunteers for the event on Dec 8th. 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!!

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) or phone (802-363-3451).