

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, November 21, 2014

Volume 23, Number 12

## The Principal's Corner

Greetings!

The first trimester of the school year has closed, and students will be bringing home their report cards today. If you do not receive a report card, please contact the school after checking with your child. If you have questions or concerns about the report card, please contact your child's teacher.

Although school will be in session next Monday and Tuesday, this will be our last newsletter until we return from our Thanksgiving Holiday. May this holiday be filled with much peace and joy for your family and friends, and be a safe one, too. One of the things for which I am most thankful is to be a part of a school community with so many wonderful and talented children, parents/guardians, and teachers.

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 are so thankful to Mrs. Beatrice Gerrish of Ridgewood Drive, who knitted many beautiful (and warm!) hats and mittens for our students. We are so thankful for our kind and generous neighbors!

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.

## New Colors – C.P. Smith T-Shirts For Sale



Once again we have some fabulous new Smith T-shirts for sale. New Colors for this year! Blue shirts with a lime green logo! Sizing for Youth, Adults and new fitted Women's shirts.

\$13 each for these high quality shirts. Show your school spirit! Great as gifts for the whole family! See samples in school lobby. Get an order form from the PTO bulletin board, Tina in the office or in your kids folder. ORDERS DUE BY 12/5! Delivery the week before break.

## Calendar of Events



**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.)

**12/8:** P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.) -- Library

**12/16:** Celebrations Around the World Assembly (1:30 p.m.) -- Gym

**12/22 – 1/2:** Holiday Vacation

**1/5:** School Resumes After Holiday Vacation

## 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.

## News from Around the School



Mrs. Christine Tetrault's Kindergarten students have begun Writer's Workshop. Each student has a folder and has an opportunity to be a writer and artist and create

stories on topics of their choice. So far, topics have included apples, flowers, pets, friends, family, and adventure stories about dragons and princesses. Mrs. Tetrault's class is now on Twitter, too!

Mrs. Carolyn Pallutto's Grade 1 students are focusing hard on blends in Spelling. In Science, they are doing a lot of inquiry work with magnets. Students collect information in their Science notebooks. Students recently read to a well-attended gathering of parents and guardians the wonderful stories they have written. They are becoming talented writers and readers!

Ms. Kim Brockway's Grade 4 students are building reading stamina, increasing each day the amount of time they are reading. They are practicing reading with expression and paying attention to punctuation. They are busily writing in their writer's notebooks, too.

We are setting up our Student Council for the 2014-15 school year. We will have more information about that soon.

## 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



# Burlington School District December 2014 Lunch Menu



Vermont Milk Choices  
1% White  
Fat Free White  
Fat Free Cheddar



Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

**INCLUDED WITH EVERY LUNCH**

Milk, Fresh Fruit and Salad Bar, Homemade Soup  
There is an ever-changing assortment of fruit, vegetables, whole grains, beans, homemade salads, meat, cheese and dairy selections. Vegetarian options are available every day.

Please note that this menu is subject to change.

1	Spicy Baked Chicken Roasted Broccoli Dinner Roll	2	Pizza Tuesday Cheese, Pepperoni or Veggie Caesar Salad	3	Shepherd's Pie Pasta Dinner Roll	4	Chicken Fajita Refried Beans All the Toppings!	5	Hot Dog Beef or Vegetarian Baked Beans Classic Colelaw	
8	Chicken Parmesan Sandwich Steamed Broccoli	9	Pizza Tuesday Cheese, Pepperoni or Veggie Caesar Salad	10	Sloppy Joes On a Bun Beef or Vegetarian Honey Glazed Carrots	11	Zesty Orange Chicken Rice Pilaf Veggie Egg Roll Sesame Broccoli	12	Cheesy Baked Ziti Beef or Vegetarian Roasted Potatoes	
15	Chicken Nuggets Baked Potato Bar With All the Toppings!	16	Pizza Tuesday Cheese, Pepperoni or Veggie Caesar Salad	17	Holiday Muesli Roasted Turkey & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Roasted Squash Cranberry Sauce Dinner Roll Fruit Juice Pops	18	Cheesy Breadsticks Marinara Sauce Steamed Broccoli	19	Burger Day! Beef or Vegetarian Cheese Available Steak "Fries"	

**BURLINGTON  
SCHOOL FOOD  
PROJECT**



**I ♥  
Winter  
Break!**

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# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

## CONNECTION<sup>SM</sup>

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



### SHORT NOTES

#### Ask for help early

If your child is having trouble with a subject, you don't have to wait until parent-teacher conferences to bring up your concerns. Call or email the teacher for ideas. He may recommend an after-school reading group or new study strategies to try at home, for example.

#### Snail mail

Your mailbox is full of learning opportunities! Let your youngster check the mail and sort it into piles (bills, catalogs, invitations). For a math challenge, have her gather coupons and add up how much you'd save if you used them all. Or she could read a power company brochure to learn how your family can use less electricity.

### DID YOU KNOW?

One of the most common places for kids to find drugs is in a household medicine cabinet. Keep prescription and over-the-counter medications in a locked up, and talk to your child about what to do if a friend offers him medicine. Explain that it's dangerous to use a drug that his doctor didn't prescribe and that he doesn't need.

#### Worth quoting

"If you have good thoughts, they will shine out of your face like sunbeams," Ronald Dahl

### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** How do you tell which end of the worm is the head?

**A:** Tickle the middle and see which end laughs.



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## A plan for homework

Experts agree: Children tend to rise to their parents' expectations. And the expectations you set for your youngster about homework can motivate her to work hard. Consider this advice.

#### Create a "home office"

Setting aside a special workspace in your house shows your child that homework is a priority. Help her pick a place that's away from distractions, such as her bedroom or a corner of the family room, and stock it with school supplies. Then when she's working, let her hear you talk to younger siblings: "Your sister is doing homework, so play quietly."

#### Make time

Will your youngster do homework right after school or later in the evening? Some kids work better if they have a snack and take a break after being in school all day. Others do best if they start right away—while they're still in "school mode." You might have your child try both to see



which works best. Once she decides, she should pencil in "homework" on a calendar or planner so she expects to do it at a certain time each day.

#### Encourage independence

When your child does homework, stay nearby and do your own thing (read a book, prepare dinner). That way you're available if she needs you, but you're showing that you expect her to do her homework herself. **Tip:** If she asks for help, find out what she has already tried, and offer suggestions for figuring it out on her own. ("Maybe you could look at yesterday's assignment.")♥

## Let's collaborate

Working well with others is a skill your youngster needs for school and his future career. Try these ideas at home:

- Team up to make family decisions (like where to go on a day trip). Share your ideas, and try to agree on the answer. Ask, "Does everyone agree?" and if not, explain your reasoning. ("I know you like the national park, but it's far. Going to the state park means more time there and less time in the car.")
- Encourage your youngster to collaborate with friends when they visit. Would they like to build a city with toy buildings and cars? They might work together to draw a blueprint. To organize a neighborhood kickball tournament, they could divvy up teams and make a bracket.♥



## Empathy: The bullying antidote

What causes children to bully others? There's no one answer, but empathy—the ability to understand and share another person's feelings—can help prevent bullying. Guide your child to develop empathy with these suggestions.

**Use your imagination.** Kids love to pretend. Encourage your youngster to imagine he is a new student in school, for instance. Ask him to



say what that person may be feeling (“I don’t know anyone, so I’m a little nervous”) and how he’d like to be treated. (“I hope someone will talk to me.”)

**Connect with others.** It’s easier to feel empathetic toward someone you’re familiar with. Suggest that your youngster get to know his classmates. He could

invite a student he doesn’t know well to play with him at recess or to read a book together in the library. This can make your child less likely to bully others—and more apt to step in if someone else bullies his classmates. ♥

### ACTIVITY CORNER



### Making connections

There are no wrong answers in these games—as long as you can defend your choices! Play together, and your child will practice thinking deeply and strategically.



**1. Creative categories.** Choose a category (foods, places), and take turns naming something that fits. The catch? Each answer has to relate to the one before it. For instance, *cream* is related to *cream cheese* (carrot cake has cream cheese frosting), and *cream cheese* is related to *bagel* (bagels taste good with cream cheese). Keep going until someone is stumped.

**2. Degrees of separation.** Name two famous people who don’t seem connected (Benjamin Franklin, Dr. Seuss). The next player has to link them—in six moves or less. Example: Franklin links to George Washington (both were founding fathers), Washington links to Abraham Lincoln (both were presidents), Lincoln links to Dr. Seuss (he and the Cat in the Hat both were tall hats). ♥

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### Q & A Be a parent volunteer

**Q:** I've always wanted to volunteer in my daughter's school, but I work during the day. Is there a way I can still help out?

**A:** Absolutely. Any kind of help you provide will make a difference. Contact the teacher—she may be able to send home projects for you to work on in the evenings. For instance, she might give you materials to make geography games or ask you to create a list of kid-friendly poetry websites.

Also, consider volunteering with an after-school activity like chess club or Odyssey of the Mind, or at an evening event, such as a science fair or school carnival. Call the school office or visit the website to find out about activities and opportunities.

Finally, if you're able to take a few hours off, look at the school calendar and plan ahead. Maybe you could take a shift at a book fair or chaperone a field trip. ♥



### PARENT TO PARENT Find teachable moments

At back-to-school night, my son's teacher talked about how she uses “teachable moments” so kids learn something from unexpected events.

For example, during a recent thunderstorm, the class counted the seconds between the lightning and thunder. Then they divided the number of seconds by 5 to figure out how many miles away the storm was.

I decided to be on the lookout for teachable moments, too. Last week, I called home while I was on a business trip—that led to a conversation about time zones around the world and when the sun would set where I was and at home. And yesterday, my son spotted a hot air balloon in the sky. We wondered whether it would drift in the same direction as the wind—and it did.

We are both learning new things, and now we look for teachable moments when we're out together. ♥





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FOR THIS YEAR!**

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TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #/EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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Youth Medium	
Women's Small	
Women's Medium	
Women's Large	
Adult Medium	
Adult Large	
Adult XL	
Adult XXL	

*New Heathered  
Tailored Women's Fit!*

Donate a T-shirt  
to a student

Quantity

**TOTAL:**  x \$13 = \$

[Don't forget to add the donated T-shirt if you can.]

Make checks payable to: CP Smith PTO  
**ORDERS DUE TO THE FRONT OFFICE BY 12/5!! DON'T MISS OUT!**