Smith Times

Friday, November 30, 2012 Volume 22, Number 14

The Principal's Corner

I hope all the members of your family enjoyed a safe and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday. We are so thankful as a school for all you do to make it a great place of learning and a great community gathering place, too.

Over the next few years, you will be hearing more about the Common Core Standards. Our district's Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Stephanie Phillips, has been working with teachers in all Burlington schools to learn about and implement these standards. Ms. Phillips has written the following about the Common Core Standards: *"The Common Core Standards Initiative (CCSSI) was a voluntary, state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors' Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. Working together, these groups developed English Language Arts Standards that define the knowledge and skills students must acquire in their K-12 education to graduate from high school prepared to succeed in post-secondary education and the workforce. In August 2010, with the approval of the Common Core Standards by the State Board of Education, Vermont joined 47 other states and the District of Columbia in committing to develop a common core of state standards for proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics for Grades K-12.* ***The standards are aligned with college and workforce expectations; clear, understandable, and consistent; include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills; build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards, are informed by standards in other top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and are evidence-based."*** The Burlington School District will be fully implementing the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts, and Mathematics for Grades K-12 by the 2014-15 school year. Standards in History/Social Sciences, Science, and Technology will be implemented for Grades 6-12. We will continue to update you with more information about the CCSS as the implementation process continues.

The Food Services Department of the Burlington School District has asked me to inform you that as of Monday, December 3, 2012, they will no longer be able to serve lunches to students whose account balances exceed $10.00. They have been trying to contact (via notes home and emails) families whose bills exceed this amount. Letters also went out to these families earlier this week. Thank you for your prompt payment of your children's lunch balances.

Please consult the Calendar of Events for other important activities related to our school community. You will notice several dates for our upcoming production of "Alice in Wonderland," which will be presented on February 14-16, 2013. We hope each of our Grades 3-5 students and their families will find some way to become involved in this wonderful annual event.

Thank you for all you do to make our school a community of respectful, responsible, and safe learners. A total of 188 postcards and other contacts (via telephone or email) have been made to recognize and reinforce positive student behavior.

Calendar of Events

11/30: Full Bag Pantry (2:30- 3:15 p.m.) Cart by side door of school.

12/3 – 12/7: Sign-ups for "Alice in Wonderland"

12/5: School Assembly with Artist Woody Jackson (1:45–2:40 p.m.) -- Gym

12/7 – 12/14: Permissions Slips for "Alice in Wonderland" Due

12/7: Full Bag Pantry (2:30-3:15 p.m.) Cart by side door of school

12/10: Kids Only Shopping Extravaganza (8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.)

12/10: PTO Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) -- Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

12/10: Parent Meeting Re: Annual School Play (9:00 a.m.) Franklin Square Community Center

12/12: Teacher Inservice in the Afternoon. School Dismissed at 11:30 a.m. **Student Lunches Served**

12/14: Celebrations Around the World Concert (1:15 p.m.) -- Gym

12/14: Full Bag Pantry (2:30-3:15 p.m.) Cart by side door of school

12/17 – 12/19: Tryouts for "Alice in Wonderland" (12:00-2:00 p.m.) -- Principal's Office

12/21: Music/Scripts for "Alice in Wonderland" Distributed to Cast Members

12/21: Full Bag Pantry (2:30-3:15 p.m.) Cart by side door of school.

12/24 – 1/1/13: School Vacation

1/2/13: School Resumes

1/2: Rehearsals for "Alice in Wonderland" Begin

Holiday Help

Holiday Gifts:

Salvation Army
64 Main St
Burlington, VT
802-864-9256

Sign up for toys Tues-Fri 10-1 through November 30

Need photo ID, Social Security or medical cards for kids, proofs of income and expenses (rent, utilities, etc)

Chances for Christmas
likely out of the Champlain Mill in Winooski
contact Kathy Eli 777-5130
Will need SS cards for kids, photo ID for adults

News from the Guidance Office

In the weeks between Thanksgiving break and Christmas break all students will be entering the emotional regulation unit of classroom guidance. This unit will help students to identify the emotional feelings of others as well as within themselves. Having this awareness helps them to build empathy. The focus within will be on physical signs within our body that let us know we are having strong feelings (heart beat, butterflies in the stomach, tense shoulders etc). Strong feelings are ones that interfere with learning and having fun. Students will also be practicing strategies to calm strong feelings. These strategies will include belly breathing, cognitive shifting (happy memory or words that help to calm us down), reading, drawing, as well as some self directed muscle relaxation. Developing these skills at an early age will help children become confident in their ability to manage strong feelings that can come from challenging situations

C.P. Smith PTO Greeting Card Fundraiser

C.P. Smith PTO will be holding a new fundraiser this year called Cardraising. We are working with a local fundraising company to take part in this fun and easy greeting card fundraiser. Do you order holiday photo cards every year through companies like Shutterfly or Costco? Try something new this year and order your holiday cards through Cardraising. There are thousands of quality designs to choose from or you can create your own style. Ordering is simple to do and everything is done online and orders will ship directly to your home. Through this fundraiser C.P. Smith PTO will receive 30% of the proceeds. The money we raise will go back into the school to support various activities including classroom mini-grants, school play, and four winds nature program, just to name a few. A flyer has gone home with instructions on how to access the website, from there you find our school and start placing your order, it's that simple. If you have any questions please contact Jennifer L'Ecuyer at jlecuyer7@gmail.com or 660-9669. Thank you for your support.

CP Smith PTO

ATTENTION ALL SMITH FAMILIES

Our **Kids Only Shopping Extravaganza** is scheduled for Monday Dec. 10th.
We need your donated items ASAP!! We cannot have this event if we don't receive enough items! Please bring your donations to your child's classroom, the front office, or contact me (Wendy Purvee). Items will be accepted for the sale until Friday December 7th. We also need volunteers to help set up on Sunday Dec. 9th, as well as to work the event on Monday Dec. 10th. Please contact me (Wendy Purvee) to sign up to help.

Burlington Parks and Recreation

Gingerbread House Making
Saturday December 8
2:00-4:00pm all ages
$35 resident/$45 Non-resident
(Fee covers one house)
Miller Community Recreation Center

Mother's Helpers
Saturday, December 8
1:00-4:00pm, Girls, Ages 9-11 $15.00
Schmanska Barn
You want to start babysitting for real, and you would like to be more confident. Come learn the basics of child development and safety.

Candy Cane Hunt
Saturday, December 8
1:00-3:00pm, all ages
$5.00 per child
Miller Community Recreation Center

Molly's Hot Chocolate & Movie
Saturday, December 15
2:00-4:00pm, Girls ages 6-8 $7.50
Schmanska Park Barn
Come for an afternoon of movies and hot chocolate with your friends at the barn. Bring a cozy sleeping bag.

Friday Night Game Night
Friday, December 21
6:00-8:00pm, Ages 5-11 $12.00
Miller Community Recreation Center

Holiday Cupcake Class
Saturday, December 22
1:00-3:00pm Ages 6-12 $20.00
Miller Community Recreation Center

Duct Tape Creations /Jewelry Making
Monday December 3rd
5:30-7:00-Duct Tape Creation
Ages 9-17 $20.00
7:00-8:30-Jewlery Making
Ages 9-17
$20.00
Miller Community Recreation Center

Please call Burlington Parks and Recreation to register at 864-0123 or on-line at *www.enjoyburlington.com*.