

SMITH TIMES

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The Principal's Corner

Greetings!

Welcome back from what I hope was a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday for all the members of your family.



If your child has outgrown her/his winter coat from last year, have you considered donating it to a family in need? We are accepting donations of winter coats in good condition to distribute to

children who don't have them. When we receive a coat, we wash it and give it to someone who can use it. Thank you for your generosity.

The Marine Corps League of Vermont is once again organizing a gift collection program for families in need during the holiday season. The toys are collected in big red barrels (such as the one in our main office) and then turned over to area agencies for distribution to families. Tax-exempt donations may also be sent to Toys for Kids at P.O. Box 4092, Burlington, VT 05406. Once again, we thank you for your donations to this worthy program.

Our school has available a free food table in the lobby on Friday afternoons for families in need of an emergency supply of food for the weekend. Parents and guardians are invited to take what they need from that table.

The Very Merry Theatre will be working with our school again this year to put on our own production. It will be "Aladdin," and it will be presented in February. (We will be holding an informational meeting for parents and guardians of potential play participants on December 10th at 5:30 p.m.) In March, we will hold our annual school concert as part of Music in our Schools

Month. It's great to support the fine arts in our school and in the community as a whole!

Local poet Ted Scheu will participate in a three-day residency next week. We will have an assembly for the whole school to welcome Mr. Scheu, and he will also work with each class on a particular writing focus. We are grateful to the P.T.O. for sponsoring this very special opportunity for our school.

Thanks 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



12/7: Kids Only Shopping Extravaganza

12/8, 12/10, and 12/11: Poet Ted Scheu Visits Our School

12/10: Parent/Guardian Meeting re: School Play (5:30 p.m.) -- Library

12/14: P.T.O. Meeting/Dinner (5:30-7:00 p.m.) -- Library

12/22: Annual School Sing-Along (2:00 p.m.) -- Gym

12/23 – 1/1: Holiday Vacation (No school)

1/4: First Day of School After Holiday Vacation

1/29: Annual Title I Meeting (8:00 a.m.) -- Library

News from Around the School



Mrs. Patty Kissell's Grade 2 students delighted their audience with their presentation of the play, "The Animals Give Thanks." It was a warm and entertaining way of remembering this holiday.

Mrs. Nicole Bahrenburg's, Mrs. Kelly Mancuso's, and Mr. Josh Safran's Grade 3 students amazed many parents, guardians, and others with their great engineering work as they created and displayed very sturdy bridges recently. The problem-solving and writing that went into this project was very rich.

Ms. Kim Brockway's and Mrs. Connie Guyette's Grade 4 students are discussing current events in Social Studies. They read and discuss what they read from the Scholastic News magazines they receive each week. In Math, they have finished units on Place Value and Rounding and Algorithms for Addition and Subtraction and are now studying Unit Conversions and Problem Solving with Metric Measurement. They very much enjoyed their fieldtrip to the Sailing Center as part of their study of watersheds, pollution, and map-making.



Bike Recycle Vermont

"Local non-profit, Bike Recycle Vermont, wants to improve upon the Burlington community by creating more empowered and connected residents. They offer discounted bikes to more easily and inexpensively get around Burlington as a vehicle for this change. Visit them at 664 Riverside Ave. or just give them a call at [\(802\) 264-9687](tel:8022649687) to see how it works."

Box Tops Update



We are 50% of the way to our goal of 6,000 Box Tops! We're making great progress, and would love to end the calendar year on a high note. Attached you will find a collection sheet to suit our short time at school this month.

The winner for November's prize drawing (for the Minion napkins) was Cailyn McDonald. Congratulations! Our next prize drawing will be held on December 22nd, which is the last day of school before break. All your child has to do to get their name entered is to turn in Box Tops anytime during the month of December. This month's prize is a weekly planner to start you off right in the New Year.

Box Tops can be turned in on the collection sheets, in bags or envelopes. There are collection bins in the classrooms and also one in the office. Whichever way you choose to turn them in, make sure your child's name is on there so they are entered into the prize drawing!

There is also a program through which parents and staff who are registered at www.boxtops4education.com can earn e-Box Tops for our school, to the tune of 5 per day, simply by entering a code. That's 50 cents per day, per person! It adds up quickly! Once you are registered on the Box Tops website, go to www.bjsboxtops.com, enter your information and the code CGM47TMCY7KP7L, and hit Submit. Come back and do it every day (the same code will continue to work) and watch the cash stack up for our school.

If you have any questions about the program, or would like to donate a prize or help with promotion, please contact Shy Lalumiere at shylmrl@hotmail.com



Burlington School Food Project Receives \$100,000 USDA Grant to Increase Local Foods in School Cafeterias

Burlington, Vermont – The Burlington School Food Project (BSFP) is pleased to announce that they are one of 74 projects spanning 39 states receiving support this year through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farm to School Program, an effort to better connect school cafeterias and students with local farmers.

The Burlington School Food Project will use the \$100,000 USDA grant funds to implement a center of the plate project that focuses on making local beef accessible to all of Burlington’s District Schools. “Knowing where your food comes from is one of the most important aspects of creating a sustainable food system. Burlington has been working in Farm to School for well over 10 years, and this grant will help us to move our program forward and allow us to create a model that can be replicated around our state,” says Doug Davis, Director of Food Service for the Burlington School Food Project. “Farm to School Programs work—for schools, for producers, and for communities,” said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

The implementation of these grant funds will be aided by BSFP community partners: The Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont, Intervale Community Farm and the Vermont Community Garden Network. Each organization is working to expand the District’s local food consumption through educational outreach, sustainable purchasing systems and product development.

The Burlington School Food Project is the largest Farm to School Program in Vermont. Widely recognized as a model program for the rest of the state and country, BSFP offers wholesome and nutritious meals daily to 4,000 students in the Burlington School District including breakfast, lunch and afterschool supper. More than one-third of foods purchased are sourced locally, and the Farm to School team runs a network of educational programming including a greenhouse, farm and orchard on three different school properties.