

SMITH TIMES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Volume 24, Number 14

The Principal's Corner



Greetings!

Congratulations to students Halimo and Abdille Ibrahim, who along with their parents, recently became United States citizens at a ceremony at the courthouse.

Congratulations, too, to Lilly Caputo and Veronica Lindstrom, students in Ms. Brockway's and Mrs. Guyette's Grade 4 classroom, for being among the winners across the city in the Burlington Electric Department's annual Energy Efficiency School Calendar. All winners were honored last evening at a ceremony at the B.E.D. offices.

With deepest thanks to the P.T.O., we have been honored to host local poet Ted Scheu as part of a residency at our school this week. The P.T.O. also sponsored the annual Kids Only Shopping Extravaganza on Monday, which raised much-needed funds (for projects such as Mr. Scheu's visit and others) and was a whole lot of fun, too.

We were pleased to have so many people attend our recent Family Game Night. Many thanks to Mrs. Christine Harvey, our Math Interventionist, who coordinated this event and to the many parent and community volunteers who served as very helpful volunteers. I enjoyed learning some great Othello strategies from Elliot and Quinn Fontaine.

Teachers met in grade-level teams recently to review student Literacy performance data and set goals for supporting all students not meeting or nearly meeting standards. These conversations were rich and student-centered, as we strive to meet the needs of all learners. I participate in daily walk-throughs to see our teachers' great work—especially in this important subject area—in action.

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 monthly Community Connection Breakfast will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, December 18th. This is the time when community members are invited for breakfast and a tour of the school and hear about the great things happening here at Smith. Please pass on the word about these gatherings to your friends and neighbors.

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



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

12/18: Community Connection Breakfast
(8:00 a.m.) -- Principal's Office

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