

SMITH TIMES

Friday, December 13, 2013

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The Principal's Corner

Our grade-level PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) meet each Wednesday afternoon from 2:00-3:30 p.m. during the early dismissal time. I learn a lot as I travel from team to team during that time and want to share with you some of the work that takes place. Teams review student assessment data from the tests they administer at the classroom or district levels or from the NECAP tests given to students in Grades 3-5. They refine their curricula and their teaching based on this data and discuss the resources they need in order to support the learning of all their students. One of the special things about PLCs is that they allow teachers to meet with each other and not work in isolation. They still have their own planning time (which is also valuable), but PLCs allow teachers to talk and problem-solve with each other, forming "think tanks", if you will.

Our school play, "Frankenstein," which will be presented in February. Auditions will begin very soon, and rehearsals for the play will begin right after we come back from vacation in January and will be held after school **on Mondays and Fridays from 3:00-4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Rehearsals will take place in two 45-minute blocks, but play participants may remain for the full 90-minute rehearsal periods and will be supervised throughout those times.**

Depending on the part a student gets, s/he may not be called to rehearsal each day. Rehearsal schedules will be communicated to families in advance. The Very Merry Theater will be sponsoring the play through the Burlington Kids Afterschool Program (B.K.A.S.P.), **but students do not have to be enrolled in that program in order to participate in the play. Play participants may show up at rehearsal time and not participate in the B.K.A.S.P. at all. Supervision for all play participants during each full 90-minute rehearsal session (as described above) will be provided, unless parents/guardians wish to drop off and/or pick up their children at the beginning and end of their specific rehearsal blocks. Parents/guardians of play participants—whether in the cast or on the crew—will be asked to provide emergency contact information for their**

children. It is not a registration for program activities other than the play, and there is no charge for the afternoon supervision or snacks provided. Play participation (cast or crew) will be open to students in all grades. *For more information about the play, please contact either Mrs. Dacia Ostlund or Mr. Eli Phillips at the school at 864-8479.*



Our school is once again collecting donations of new toys as part of the Toys for Kids program, which collects new, unwrapped toys for children who need them. If you wish to donate, please place items in the bin for this purpose in the main office.

A total of 135 postcards have been mailed on behalf of students who are respectful, responsible, and safe learners. We seek ways to recognize positive student behavior in order to reinforce it.

Thank you for all you do to make our school a community of respectful, responsible, and safe learners.

Calendar of Events



12/13: Celebrations Around the World Performance (1:30-2:30 p.m.)

12/20: Last Day of School Before Holiday Vacation

1/2/14: Students Return to School from Vacation

1/20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)