

SMITH TIMES

Friday, December 21, 2012

Volume 22, Number 17

The Principal's Corner

It seems like the whole world has changed since I wrote my column for last week's newsletter. The tragic and senseless events at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut affected our lives forever. Any violent crime is a sad thing, but those involving children are particularly painful to read and hear about.

We hold a regular district School Safety Team once a month, and it happened that December's meeting took place this Monday, the first day back to school after the tragedy in Connecticut. Of course, the recent event at the Sandy Hook Elementary School was the major item on our agenda. Superintendent Collins reported that she had recorded an AlertNow telephone message to all families and had also written a letter which was distributed to parents/guardians via their children on Monday afternoon. Over the weekend, she had sent an email to all employees of the school district and included information from Dr. Dylan McNamara, our School Psychologist, about how to respond to students' questions and concerns in age-appropriate ways. He included suggested scripts to use when talking to students and to focus on our desire to keep all children safe and not to dwell on the specific events that had occurred on Friday in Connecticut. Teachers did a wonderful job providing a safe and supportive environment in which children could learn without fear. Ms. Kate Guilmette, our School Counselor, provided additional support to children who needed it. The district is investigating a number of safety procedures to implement at all its schools, and at Smith School, we have moved our temporary Art Room out of the main lobby area and are locking classroom doors as much as possible during the day. Superintendent Collins has made it a requirement that all staff members wear identification badges throughout the workday and asked building administrators to have staff members question adults in the building whom they do not recognize whenever they see someone not wearing a Visitor's Badge. We will continue to leave all school doors locked throughout the day except for one of our front doors. District and building safety procedures and practices will continue to be reviewed and revised on a regular basis.

Our Grade 3 teachers, Mrs. Nicole Bahrenburg and Mrs. Kelly Mancuso, and their students raised more than \$1,000 through their one-mile run called the "Sandy Stride," to raise money for the American Red Cross for the victims of Superstorm Sandy. They had hoped to raise \$400.00, and thanks to the generosity of our school community, they far exceeded their goal. We thank you for your most thoughtful support of this community service project.

The Grade 5 class of Ms. Sarah Minkler visited the Heineberg Senior Center on Wednesday to sing holiday songs at lunch time with our friends and neighbors there.

We were pleased to have an overflow audience for last week's Celebrations Around the World Concert and hoped everyone had as good a time watching the show as students did performing in it. We thank Mr. Joseph Garofalo, our Music Teacher, for his magnificent work in pulling it all together.

Please place Wednesday, January 16th on your calendar for your family to join us for our annual International Celebration, a night to celebrate a diversity of music, art, dance, and of course, food. The event is free of charge and sponsored by our school's Family-School Partnership Team. After the first of the year, we will be asking people to sign up for the dinner so we know how many are coming and to invite families to bring a nut-free dessert item to share if they wish. (Last year we were fortunate to have desserts representing many different countries throughout the world.)

Please consult the Calendar of Events for other important activities related to our school community.

Thank you for all you do to make our school a community of respectful, responsible, and safe learners. A total of 245 postcards and other contacts (via telephone or email) have been made to recognize and reinforce positive student behavior.

May a safe and enjoyable holiday season be yours!

Calendar of Events



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 (These are held during lunch/recess
periods.)

1/12: Family Open Gym Time
(10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

1/14: PTO Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) -- Ellie
B. McNamara Memorial Library

1/16: International Celebration (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
-- Gym

1/17: Evening Story Hour (6:30-7:30 p.m.) --
Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

1/18: Second Trimester Ends

1/19: Family Open Gym Time
(10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

1/21: Martin Luther King Day (No School)

1/24: Evening Story Hour (6:30-7:30 p.m.) --
Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

1/25: Second Trimester Report Cards
Distributed to Students

1/26: Family Open Gym Time
(10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

1/31: Evening Story Hour (6:30-7:30 p.m.) --
Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

2/2: Family Open Gym Time
(10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

2/7: Evening Story Hour (6:30-7:30 p.m.) --
Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

2/14 -2/16: Performances for “Alice In
Wonderland”

Sandy Stride Walk

The third grade
team completed
their one mile
“Sandy Stride”
walk/run on

Wednesday. Third graders raised money for the
American Red Cross to help Superstorm Sandy
victims. A representative from the American Red
Cross came to Smith to accept the donation and
thank us for our contribution and hard work.
Thanks to the support and generosity of our C.P.
Smith community; the third grade team raised
\$1080.53!!



All Points Bulletin:



The School Musical is in need
of **guitarists, percussionists
and bass and horn players.** If
you know anyone who fits that
description and would possibly enjoy playing in
the musical, they would need to attend the
following:

Tech/Dress rehearsals:

Sunday, February 10, 2013,
11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, February 11, 2013,
3:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 13, 2013,
3:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Performances:

Thursday, February 14, 2013,
12:30 p.m. (during school)

Friday, February 15, 2013,
7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 16, 2013,
4:00 p.m.

If interested, please contact Shireen Hart
at shirin@shirin.com or 999-9170.