Smith Times

Friday, February 17, 2012 Volume 21, Number 23

The Principal's Corner

Balloon Polyhedrons

What a great time everyone had at Math Night last night! We had a wide variety of learning stations ready to welcome many Math minds of all ages. The team of staff members and volunteers who put the event together (Mr. Alex Reutter, Ms. Karyn Vogel, Mrs. Sally Hayes, Ms. Amy Limoge, and Mr. Ned Strianese) succeeded in making it fun and educational. We thank the team for all their hard work and parents/guardians for supporting lots of great learning for their children.

We also conducted our annual Title I Parent Involvement Meeting at this time. It took the form of a station in the lobby at which parents/guardians were asked to sign in and read and review our C.P. Smith Home and School Compact and offer written feedback about it. Your feedback is always important to us, and our PTO and Family-School Partnership Team strive to be responsive to all our families and their needs, ideas, and concerns.

We have had a good response to our request for adult volunteers for our upcoming school play, "The Marvelous Land of Oz" and have received a number of financial contributions for it, as well. Our annual plays usually cost about $4,000.00 each, and our PTO has always been more than generous in providing financial support for them. It's a sign of a healthy school community when a wide range of people step forward with offers of help and support, and that is what we're seeing this year.

This is a reminder that registration for Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year is taking place now through March 16, 2012. If you have a child who will turn 5 years old before September 1, 2012, please enroll her/him as soon as possible. You may pick up the forms in the main office or find them online at the Burlington School District website.

The second of three marking periods closed today. Report cards will be distributed to students next Friday. Please ask your child for his or her report at that time. Results of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests recently arrived at the school, and these will also be sent home next Friday for the students in Grades 3-5 who took these tests last October. Please contact the school if you do not receive this information next Friday or if you have questions or concerns about it.

Our inservice this Wednesday afternoon was sponsored by the district's Diversity and Equity Office and helped us focus on ways to raise our individual and collective cultural competence, as we strive to serve all members of our school community and make it a safe and supportive environment for all.

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

A grand total of 252 postcards have been mailed and 164 other contacts made to families to recognize positive student behavior.

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

Calendar of Events

2/17: 2nd Marking Period Closes

2/17: Full Bag Pantry (2:00-3:00 p.m.) – Side Door of School

2/24: Report Cards/NECAP Results Distributed to Students

2/24: Full Bag Pantry (2:00-3:00 p.m.) – Side Door of School

2/27 – 3/5: Winter Vacation. (No School)

3/6: Teacher Inservice Sessions. (No School.)

3/6: Town Meeting Day. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Early voting began 2/15.

3/7: School Resumes for Students

3/15: Science Fair (6:00-7:00 p.m.)

4/4 and 4/5: School Play: "Marvelous Land of Oz." Volunteers Needed!

"Check Out" ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center with our ECHO Library Pass

ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center, at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, educates and delights people about the Ecology, Culture, History, and Opportunity for stewardship of the Lake Champlain Basin. ECHO is open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., year round. C. P. Smith School has again been granted an ECHO Library Pass. This pass may be borrowed from the library for a 3 day period, and allows holders admission price of $4 per person, rather than general admission prices ($9.50 for children ages 3-17; $12.50 adults). Discover a wonderful resource in our own Burlington backyard!

TOWN MEETING DAY 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, 2012

***Where to vote*:**

Ward 1: Mater Christi, 100 Mansfield Avenue

Ward 2: Integrated Arts Academy at H.O. Wheeler,6 Archibald St.

Ward 3: Sustainability Academy at Lawrence Barnes,123 North St.

Ward 4: St. Mark's Youth Center, 1271 North Ave.

Ward 5: Burlington Electric Department, 585 Pine St.

Ward 6: Edmunds Middle School Gym,S. Union & King Sts.

Ward 7: Robert Miller Community and Recreation Center, 130 Gosse Court

To register to vote in Burlington:

Deadline: Wednesday, February 29 – City Clerk's *Office open until 5:00 p.m.*

Absentee ballots:

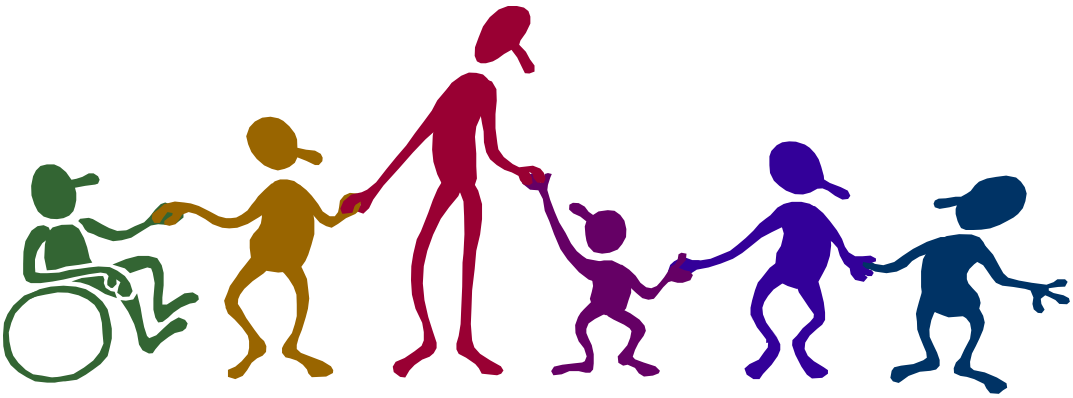
Deadline to request ballot mailed to you: Friday, March 2 until 4:30 p.m. – Call the City Clerk's Office at 865-7000.

Voting early:

Beginning Wednesday, February 15. Special hours on Saturday, March 3 – at the City Clerk's Office from 9 a.m. to noon and on Monday, March 5 until 7:30 p.m.

More information on the City website:

http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CT/Elections/Information/



News from the Guidance Office: (By Kate Guilmette)

During the first hundred days of school classroom guidance lessons have addressed such topics as, bullying, emotional regulation and conflict resolution. In the remaining days of school classroom guidance will cover diversity, personal and internet safety, healthy choices and career exploration. In keeping with district practice I plan to use age appropriate books that address the protected characteristics under harassment. The purpose of which is to bring appreciation and acceptance of the diverse world and people that surround us. We will acknowledge the differences among us and how these make us unique. And while there are differences there are just as many commonalities that unite us. For example, family composition can vary greatly but shared descriptors include love, working together and caring for one another.

Try Curiosity!

Do you have a curious young scientist at home? Interested in erupting your own volcano or creating your own bat habitat? Like tinkering with kitchen chemistry or gears, magnets or electricity? Join us for the fourth annual **C. P. Smith Family Science Fair** on Thursday, March 15, 2012 from 6:00-7:00 pm and share an evening of science excitement!

Look for registration forms coming home next week!