

# SMITH TIMES

Friday, June 8 2012

Volume 21, Number 37

## The Principal's Corner



We held our Appreciation Assembly on Tuesday morning to honor and thank all the staff members of our school community and say goodbye to

those moving on to retirement or other adventures. On Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, also at 8:30 a.m. in the gym, we will hold our Farewell Assembly as we say goodbye to our Grade 5 students and wish them well in middle school. We hope you will join us for that assembly, too. We also held a Volunteer Appreciation Reception last week to thank our many parent and community volunteers who so generously contribute time, talent, and treasure to our school. Certificates of appreciation will be mailed to these wonderful individuals in a few weeks.

Our Grade 4 teachers, Mrs. Nicole Bahrenburg, Mrs. Sally Hayes, and Mrs. Kelly Mancuso, and their students hosted Poetry Cafes last week. These were great opportunities for



student poets to read their works of literary art to parents, grandparents, and other community members in a cafe-type setting. We were delighted with the large turnout of people coming to see good teaching and learning in action. We look forward to even more such opportunities next year, as we continue to nurture the very best family-school relations we can. Our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and Family-School Partnership Team (FSPT) are major sources of

support for our school and are assisting a great deal in making sure such working relationships take place across school environments.

We thank our wonderful PTO for running a very successful Book Fair last Friday. Students picked up a lot of good summer reading at reasonable prices. Please help yourselves to the literary treasures which remain in the lobby. We want to see these books go to good homes.

The Burlington School District Food Service Department was awarded a Healthier U.S. School Challenge (HUSSC) bronze award for its “commitment to excellence in both nutrition and physical education to promote a healthier school environment for children.” We are pleased that through its policies and practices, the district has put a great deal of effort into preparing and promoting healthy meals and snacks. The summer lunch program (to which all students are invited) and our Full Bag Pantry on Friday afternoons help fulfill students' nutritional needs throughout the day and year. Our recycling and composting has also made for a “greener” school environment, as well.

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

A grand total of 301 postcards have been mailed and 172 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



6/8: Field Day (Raindate: 6/11)

6/8: Full Bag Pantry (2:00-3:00 p.m.) – Side Door of School

6/13: Farewell Assembly (8:30 a.m.) – Gym  
*Our opportunity to say good-bye to departing Grade 5 students as they move on to middle school. Our Kindergarten students participate in this ceremony, just as the Grade 5 students welcomed them to our school last fall.*

6/13: Last Student Day for the 2011-12 School Year. (School will be missed at 11:30 a.m.)

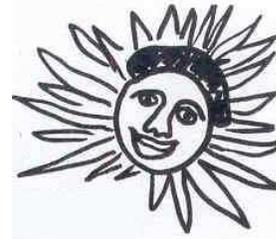
8/10: Student Placement Information and Welcome Letters from Teachers Mailed to Families

8/21: New Family Orientation Night (6:30-7:30 p.m.) – Gym

8/24, 8/27, and 8/28/12: Teacher Inservice Days

8/29/12: First Day of School for Students (8:10-2:45 p.m., except for Kindergarten, which will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m., with optional lunch provided afterwards.)

## SUMMER ART CAMP!



Mrs. DeVita will be offering a "drop-in" Summer Art Camp!\*

Students will create exciting art at C.P. Smith School on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings on select dates in June and July from 9:00-11:45 a.m.

Students need only bring a snack and their creativity!

Dates- 6/18, 6/20, 6/22, 6/25, 6/27, 6/29, 7/2 ?'s.... [cdevita@bsdvt.org](mailto:cdevita@bsdvt.org) / 872-8579

\*Students can come to one or all of the sessions. There is a fee associated with this camp.

Please pick up a sign-up form in the office or

## K- 1 Graders at play



## FREE FOOD THIS SUMMER! SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

WHO? Any child up to the age of 18  
WHAT? FREE LUNCH  
WHEN? Monday-Friday, 11:30 – Noon  
WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION!  
[www.burlingtonschoolfoodproject.org](http://www.burlingtonschoolfoodproject.org)



## Diversity: Our Gift and Our Future

So much about the important topics of diversity and equity have been in the news recently, as our school and our community as a whole engage in conversations about how to meet the needs of all our students in a growing and changing city. Sometimes, these conversations have become lively, as we bring our own beliefs, ideas, passions, and frustrations to them. Sometimes, these conversations have shed more heat than light, but that's initially OK, I think, as we experience “growing pains” within a community that is becoming more diverse in a number of ways. The staff members of Smith School have conducted a number of related discussions throughout this school year with representatives of the district’s Diversity and Equity Office as we seek to raise our individual and collective cultural competence. This work starts with individuals examining their own biases and exploring areas where institutional prejudice exists. It continues with our reaching out to remove barriers which exist for students of various colors, races, and backgrounds. While the focus begins with our own internal reflection, it must shift to creating a safe and supportive learning environment for all our children and a warm and welcoming climate for all Smith School family members. It's a journey which takes commitment, time, and energy, but we owe our students and their families no less. All Smith School staff members have received copies of Superintendent Collins' report, “Diversity: Our Gift and Our Future: A Plan for Closing the Achievement Gap in Burlington Schools.” Reading and reflecting on this report—and implementing its action steps—will become an important focus for us when we begin the next school year. We were pleased to hold a Family-School Roundtable discussion about diversity and equity a few weeks ago, and we will do so again in the fall . . .and throughout the year. Our work to make our school a safe, supportive, and successful environment for all our students will never end. (The moment it does is the moment we become too complacent.) We will continue to examine our school environment for barriers which exist and which must be removed. If we approach this work with openness and honesty and cool heads and warm hearts, we will make C.P. Smith School the best it can be for all our students as learners and as citizens of our growing and changing community.

Please help yourself to a copy of Superintendent Collins' report. Paper copies are available at our family resource kiosk in the lobby and are on-line, as well.