

SMITH TIMES

Friday, September 7, 2012

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The Principal's Corner

Our school year is off to a wonderful and delicious start! We have just finished our second week of school and had a great Ice-Cream Social as a school community last evening. It was good to see so many of you there. It's important for our school community to come together like that, and our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and Family-School Partnership Team (FSPT) will be planning a



number of other activities and events throughout the year. We thank the PTO for sponsoring our recent social and hope you will be able to attend the first monthly meeting of it on Monday night from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the school library. As parents/guardians, you are automatically considered members of the PTO, so we hope you will consider this to be one way in which you can get involved in the education of your children.

On Thursday, September 20th, we will host a Curriculum Night for parents and guardians. This is an opportunity for teachers to discuss their academic programs and classroom procedures. Since the classroom presentations are for parents and guardians, we request that children remain at home or be brought to the small gym (the end closest to the front door) where childcare will be provided. Teachers of Grades K-2 will present from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. and teachers of Grades 3-5 will present from 6:35 – 7:05 p.m. All teachers will be in their classrooms, and staff members will be on hand to direct you to them, if you wish. Specialist teachers (those teaching Physical Education, Library, Spanish, Guidance, Art, and Music) will also be present.

Our school has in place a range of protocols to use in cases of emergency. We have an emergency management plan which is reviewed by our School Safety Team, which meets weekly. Our procedures call for monthly practices of various drills, including on-site and off-site evacuations, as well

as lock-down drills, which are conducted with the helpful support of the Burlington Police Department. We are in the process of conducting on-site drills and will soon hold an off-site evacuation to Lyman Hunt Middle School, where we gather in their auditorium, take attendance, give directions, and return to our building.

We strive to keep in close contact with families at the classroom and school levels. If a child is referred to the office for a rule infraction, we will notify you by telephone call and/or mail of the incident and consequences. We also use a postcard system to notify families when their children are demonstrating respectful, responsible, and safe behavior and are being excellent learners. We see our discipline program as being educational in nature, teaching and reteaching the positive behaviors we expect. We also believe that if we want to see positive behaviors occur more frequently, we need to reinforce them when they do occur.

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.

School Photo Day

Wednesday, September 19th will be the day that our students will have their school photos taken by Ambient Photography. Please look for an order form to be sent home soon by your child's teacher. All children will be provided with a free group shot of the whole class.



Calendar of Events

9/10: PTO Meeting (6:30-8:00 p.m.) – Ellie B. McNamara Memorial Library

9/19: School Picture Day

9/20: Curriculum Night (6:00 – 6:30 p.m./ Grades K-2 and 6:35 – 7:05 p.m./Grades 3-5)

9/26: Yom Kippur (No School)

10/17: Parent-Teacher Conferences (School will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m.)

10/18: Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School)



10/19: No School

10/19 – 10/26: Book Fair

From Ms. Souliere:

A couple of PE announcements:

Please send sneakers to school everyday with your child(s). Classroom teachers can tell you what days are Physical Education Days. Sneakers are also safer to use at recess which is everyday for students. If you have any questions about what type of sneaker is acceptable for PE class please feel free to contact me. Generally, any sneaker that covers a child's foot and has a normal size sole is perfect support for them. High soled sneakers are not allowed.

All student's are expected to participate in PE twice a week. If a child is injured you must send in a written note or doctor's note to excuse them from PE class. You can give the note to our school nurse, Ms Armstrong or to Mrs. Desautels in the office. Thank You!



Supplemental Educational Services



Burlington High School,
Edmunds Middle School,
Hunt Middle School, C.P.

Smith Elementary, J.J. Flynn Elementary, Integrated Arts Academy at Wheeler, and Sustainability Academy at Barnes are required to provide Supplemental Educational Services- extra academic assistance/tutoring to improve eligible students' academic performance- free of charge.

An important feature of Supplemental Educational Services is that families can choose among different types of services, given by different providers at different locations. The Vermont Department of Education has approved a list of eligible providers. For more detail about these providers please visit this website: http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-SES_Vermont_Approved_Providers.pdf

If you wish to have your child receive tutoring from one of these approved providers, please complete the application for supplemental educational services. Access the application here: <http://bsdweb.bsdt.org/district/Curriculum/SES/SESApplication.pdf>

Only children who are eligible for free and reduced-price federal meals can participate. If you have not previously applied, here is the link: http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Child_Nutrition_FRL_Meal_Application.pdf

Only a limited number of spaces are available. As a result, not all students who apply will be able to participate. Remember that there is no obligation to enroll your child in Supplemental Educational Services. There will be a second enrollment opportunity in January 2013.

Application deadline: If you decide you want to enroll your child in the Supplemental Educational Services program this fall, you must return the signed application to the school's Main Office by **September 14, 2012**. Service providers will contact you in early October if your child has been selected to participate. We hope to begin programs the week of October 15, 2012.