

# SMITH TIMES

**C.P. Smith Elementary School**  
**Burlington, Vermont**

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**APRIL 13, 2017**

## Celebrate Day in the Dirt 2017!



C.P. Smith is building a robust garden program with the goal of having every classroom involved with gardening. This year classrooms will plant crops

in the spring to be harvested in the fall. The students will be able to help in growing and work with kitchen staff to serve what is grown at lunch as well as have fresh produce available for families to take home.

**Join us Saturday April 29 from 9-12 when Day in the Dirt volunteers** will help with site clean-up and getting the site ready for the season and help build raised beds. **Additional materials needed:** shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, buckets, hammers, drill/screw gun. **Bagels, coffee and juice will be served!**

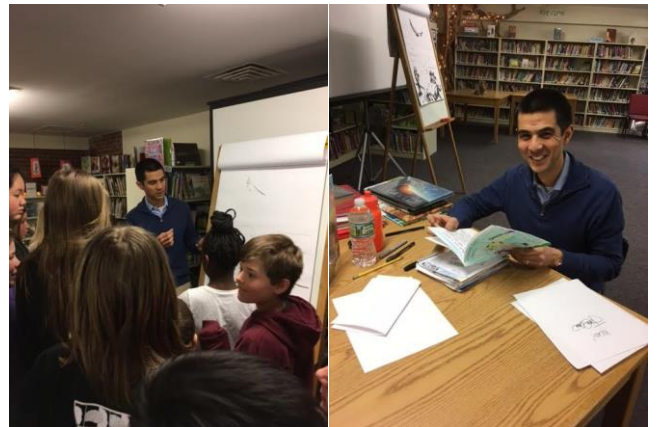
**Sign up by clicking here!** If the sign-up is full, come anyway! **The more hands, the better!**

## Book Author Visits C.P. Smith

Thank you to author **Jason Chin** who visited C.P. Smith to talk about his work in creating books and stories with support from the PTO.

Jason wrote **Redwoods, Coral Reefs, Island: A Story of the Galapagos**, and his newest **Grand Canyon** which he brought us another copy of as a gift.

He also read all Ms. Spinner's class books written by students on Chestnut Trees and referred to them as exceptional!



## Four Winds Science

Thanks to the PTO and parent volunteers, classes at C.P. Smith are gaining additional opportunities to learn science through the Four Winds Program. For example, as the following pictures show, guest teachers, **Mrs. Caputo and Mrs. Ahmann**, helped 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to learn all about how animals stay warm in the winter. They did an experiment to test how best to keep the water warm when placed in the freezer among other fun learning activities. **Thank you volunteers!**



Students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> will talk and learn about healthy relationships with peers and adults. This will be explored through lessons on safe spaces, self-esteem, understanding feelings, reading body language, decoding mixed messages, asking for help and establishing personal boundaries. For some lessons there will be a home sheet your child can share with you. This will let you know what we have been discussing in classroom guidance. You can use this to guide a conversation with your child at home.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns 864-8504 or [kguilmet@bsdvt.or](mailto:kguilmet@bsdvt.or).

### The School Calendar

The school district will **make up Snow Days** on **Friday, June 16 and Monday, June 19**. They are both half-days with **dismissal at 11:30 a.m.** **Next year's 2017-18 School District Calendar** is posted on the school's web page and can also be found by clicking [here](#). Remember: **April Vacation** is **April 24-28**. There is **no school** that week.

### News from the Guidance Office

From Kate Guilmette, School Counselor: After we return from the April break, I will begin teaching the personal safety curriculum in all K-5 classes. Burlington elementary schools have been using the same research based curricula to support the Act 1 state law. One element of this act requires all students to have access to **sexual abuse prevention education**. For more information on prevention please visit <http://dcf.vermont.gov/prevention> and select the link Child Sexual Abuse under the Child Abuse Prevention heading.

Students in grades K-2 will learn how all parts of their bodies are good and special. There will be a small focus on the anatomy with the purpose of teaching the differences between male and female body parts, respect and cultural boundaries about covering and not touching other people's private body parts (Care for Kids Program). There is a large focus on creating and establishing healthy relationships and routines for children.

### Friday Community Meeting

This Friday, April 14 we celebrate our **4/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Strings Players** who meet each week with music teacher **Patricia Fitzgerald** after school for lessons. All are invited to attend our 8:10 Friday meetings!



### SBAC Testing

**4<sup>th</sup> grade** state SBAC testing concludes this week with math. When we return from the April break, **5<sup>th</sup> graders** will do their state testing May 3-5 and May 10-12. **3<sup>rd</sup> grade** testing will be May 16-18 and May 23-25. Thank you parents for making sure students are here for these tests.



#### **C. P. SMITH CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- 4/12-14 4<sup>th</sup> Grade SBAC Math
- 4/24-4/28 Spring Vacation – NO School
- 4/29 Day in the Dirt-Gardens 9:00-12:00
- 5/1 School Resumes