

Dear C.P. Smith Families,

On Thursday this week we had the 11th annual Chinese New Year Parade brought to us by 3rd grade. The 3rd grade has been studying World Cultures with a focus on China and this event is the culmination of the unit. The instruction in this unit integrates art, music, reading and writing into the curriculum. The parade featured colorful dragons, waves of ribbons, masks and the banging of gongs, as everyone chants "Gung Hay Fat Choy!" Welcome to the Year of the Tiger! This year's event is particularly poignant and meaningful because it's Sue Clark's last year with us. We thank Mrs. Clark for bringing this great tradition to Smith. Students come back years later and tell us how much they remember this unit. We hope to keep it going next year!

This week we conducted our last Lockdown drill for the year. You'll recall that we practice Lockdowns twice a year. Students and staff at Smith do an exemplary job of following Lockdown procedures and we had another successful drill. Children are asked to follow three directions during Lockdown:

1. Be quiet
2. Listen to directions
3. Hide

We would use this drill if there was danger of some kind in the building. We thank the Burlington Police for their ongoing efforts in School Safety.

On our Early Release Day this week the elementary teachers from throughout the district spent the afternoon at a workshop entitled, "The Continuum of Literacy Learning: A Guide to Teaching." The workshop is based on the work of Irene Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell. The continuum provides a bridge between our new Benchmark Assessment (Fountas & Pinnell) and instructional planning. The workshop helps answer the question, "What's next?" after the assessment. The presenters were Reading Coaches Maureen Garber and Barbara Hubbard. This workshop is just one example of the exceptional professional development that is ongoing for our teachers in Burlington.

Lorie Carruth

Important Dates:

February 9 PTO meeting @ 6:30 pm
 February 10 Hundredth Day of School!
 February 22-March 2 Winter Break

****IMPORTANT REMINDER****

If you come in the building anytime before 2:30 you MUST sign-in in the office and get a visitors pass.

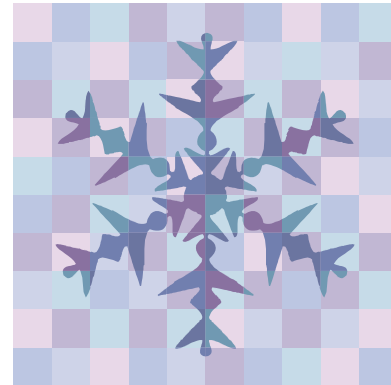
Opportunity for Burlington Parents

Louise Dietzel will be presenting at Edmunds Elementary School on Tuesday, March 16th from 6:30-8:30. The topic is Creating Safety and Peace in Our Changing world. Look for more information soon

****Be sure to keep up with latest CP Smith PTO news on their website: www.cpsmithpto.org****

News from the Guidance Office:

Your children have been working hard at becoming peaceful problem solvers. We have just finished our unit on conflict resolution in all grades. As in years past I used a curriculum called Kelso's Choice with students in grades K-2. It encourages children to distinguish between small problems and BIG problems. I stressed the idea that everyone has the power to solve small problems and to keep the conflict from escalating. There are nine choices that children can choose from to solve small problems. Bullying or conflicts that involve an individual being hurt physically always require a trusted adult's intervention. Children in grades 3-5 used personal examples to dissect causes of conflict escalation. They also role-played (practiced) peaceful ways to de-escalate a conflict. Practicing these skills will help children appropriately manage the conflicts they will encounter over their lifetime. This week we began a Diversity Unit. In some classes this began with children reflecting upon their own cultural heritage and traditions. While the younger students explored ways that people can be both different and the same simultaneously. In the weeks ahead we will discuss prejudice, stereotypes, racism and discrimination. I often ask students to share the main points from classroom guidance with you at home, so be sure ask them about it. As always, if you have any questions about how to continue conversations at home feel free to call me 864-8504.



*Do you struggle to find a babysitter when you need one?
 Are you looking for a sitter who has a flexible schedule,
 babysitting experience, and lives close by?
 If so come to the...*

5th Semi-Annual Babysitting Mingler!

Fun Kids activities & a chance to meet and mingle with UVM students who want to be your babysitters!

When: Saturday, February 6th, 10:30am-12:00pm

Where: University Heights North Residence Hall
 70 University Heights Rd

To RSVP: Email [Alicia Taylor@uvm.edu](mailto:Alicia.Taylor@uvm.edu) or call 656-9405

*Kids are welcome and encouraged to come! Please let us know how many will be attending when you RSVP

*Directions to Mingler location can be provided upon RSVP

The dissemination of this material is intended to be for community service. The Burlington School District does not endorse or sponsor this organization

Reading to End Racism— A Call for “Readers”

On Friday, March 5th, 2010, C. P. Smith Elementary School will join in a community initiative called **Reading to End Racism** to support the District-wide goal of promoting and valuing diversity in the Burlington Public Schools. This project creates an opportunity for all students to listen to new literature, hear personal stories and join age-appropriate discussions to explore and explain racism.



Classroom presentations are led by volunteer readers who are solicited throughout the community, all of whom are committed to the

elimination of racism. These readers are powerful role models for students, and in the past have included police officers, elected officials, educators, artists, business professionals, parents and school board members. All classes at C. P. Smith will participate in this one-day presentation, with book readings, personal stories and discussions on ways students can help end racism. Results from Boulder Valley School District in Boulder, Colorado where thousands of students were offered Reading to End Racism show over 85% of students surveyed believed they had an increased understanding of racism after participating.



If you are interested in being a volunteer reader, please RSVP to school counselor Kate Guilmette (864-8504) or school librarian Shannon Walters (864-2228) by February 12, 2010. If you are a new volunteer reader, there will be a Reading to End Racism training and dialogue on Wednesday evening, February 17th from 6:30-8:00 pm.