

SMITH TIMES

Friday, February 8, 2008

Volume 17, Number 15

Dear C.P. Smith Families,

Happy 100 Days of School! Our kindergarten classes had a fantastic time celebrating our 100th day of school with parades, special snacks, and of course the 100 Day projects.

We had an exciting day at Smith last Friday! In the morning we had the Burlington High School Jazz Band perform for us in an all school assembly. It was particularly exciting because two of the members, Casey Green and Kevin Slack, were former Smith students. Of course Kevin is also Mrs. Slack's son and I believe there was a Carruth in the group as well. The Jazz Band is currently in Moss Point, Mississippi, our sister city, performing in a variety of Mardi Gras events. We hope their visit inspires our elementary children to get involved in music.

In the afternoon we had our annual Chinese New Year Parade. Third graders marched through the halls banging drums and chanting Gung Hay Fat Choy! We loved the colorful dragon and the beautiful masks! Great job third graders!

At our PTO meeting this week we began the conversation about the future of PTO. At this time we are looking for someone who is interested in becoming president for next year. Helen Hossley, who has been in the position for several years, will be stepping down. Thank you to those who volunteered to serve in the other roles. Right now we only need to fill the president's job. We know this is a big job and also big shoes to fill, but Helen is very willing to train the next person and she will be around next year to offer advice and guidance. Please call me if you are interested! It's a wonderful way to be involved in the school and we really do have fun!

LORIE CARRUTH

School Budget News

On March 4 voters will vote on a budget of \$45,724.107. The proposed budget includes an increase of 90 equalized pupils, which will bring in significant revenue, along with an increase in state funding which will offset increased expenditures needed to maintain the district's current academic programs; account for increased energy, labor, special education, and health care costs; continue after-school programs, middle school outreach, and ESOL programs at risk due to reduced federal funding although program enrollment is increasing; support preventative maintenance and a facility capital needs audit; provide new elementary school planning and elementary programming including foreign languages. Burlington School District equalized tax rates continue to be the lowest in Chittenden County. Remember in Burlington you can vote early by going to city hall, or you can easily request an absentee ballot. More information is available at <http://bsdvt.org/board/budget> 08-09.

Parent Advisory Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs:

Please join Karen Prouty, District Parent Advisory Group facilitator, for continued discussion and sharing from our January 23 meeting. This is an opportunity to meet other parents in the district. Come network! The meeting will be at Champlain Elementary School on Thursday, February 21 from 6:00-7:00. Please RSVP to Barbara at 864-8477.

WET SOCKS

Please send your child with an extra pair of socks in their backpack. Some children arrive at school with wet socks and feet and need a dry pair to put on. Thanks!



IMPORTANT DATES

February 15 Winter Wonderland Dance 6:00-9:00
Tapestry of Nations Celebration
February 21 International Pot Luck 5:30 pm
February 22 Report cards go home
February 25- March 4 No School – Winter Break

Thank you

We want to thank Ann Arcovich and her team of volunteers for the wonderful Book Fair this week! Thank you Mrs. Walters for your efforts as well!