

THE HOWLER

Winter 2014

Ed Smith PTO Newsletter

Ed Smith Vision:

*To be the most improved school in the district-
where EVERY child learns and grows*



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Families,

Hopefully the snow days have ended! I think the students are even tired of the schedule changes. I appreciate everyone's flexibility as we have become quite good at juggling our schedules this winter. Spring is certainly eagerly awaited and Ed Smith will be a busy place once again.

Looking forward we have many events planned and occurring at Ed Smith. In the classrooms we are partaking in Instructional Rounds observing the instruction and providing feedback and professional development. Teachers are also taking part as well. By focusing on instruction we will become the most improved school in the district.

The Science Fair is rapidly approaching in March. Thank you to the volunteers running the Science Fair Mini Academies after school. This has been very successful and we plan to continue this mini-academy earlier in the year next year based on the positive feedback. Our Mini-Academies will begin again this semester with some new offerings. Thanks again to our volunteer instructors and Virginia Felleman for coordinating the mini-academies. Our new offerings will be posted on the list serve soon.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the volunteers at Ed Smith School by asking our volunteers to attend a SCSD Volunteer luncheon on March 20th at Lemoyne College at 11:30 a.m. If you would like to attend- please send your name and address to our secretary Emily Crain. Invitations and RSVP's will be sent by the district in the mail soon.

Our Middle School Musical returns this month. The students and staff are preparing for another impressive show on March 20 & 21 at 7 p.m. There will also be shows on those days at 9:15 a.m. for the students, parents are welcome to attend.

As a reminder, there will be half day on Wednesday, March 19th due to a Superintendent's Conference Day. Dismissal will begin at 11:20 a.m.

Finally, Ed Smith will participate in a district site review on March 26th & 27th. Parents are welcome to be on the interview team like last year. If you are interested, please contact me. Your feedback and participation throughout the year is one of the many reasons Ed Smith will be the most improved school in the district.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Mr. Barber

Mini Academies

SPRING MINI ACADEMIES WILL BEGIN IN MID-MARCH.
SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

ANIMATION

**AROUND THE WORLD:
EXPERIENCING A SLICE OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN**

ART OF QUILT MAKING

EXPLORING SCIENCE

WEAVING

YOGA.

COMPLETE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.
ANY QUESTIONS OR INTEREST IN TEACHING,
PLEASES CONTACT: VFELLEMAN@GMAIL.COM

ICE FLYING

When I strap blades to my feet
and jump out on the ice

I am flying
over the moon and past the sun
with the cloudy earth far below

There is no denying
Ice skating with my friends
is quite a bit of fun!

By Jeremiah Lubin

Grade 4

BOXTOPS Gwen Riley- Zuckerbraun

Hello fellow boxtop clippers:

A big thank you goes out to all the teachers and families that handed in their boxtops in February. The middle of February was our deadline for sending in our boxtops in order to receive our yearly check to the PTO. I'm happy to report that not only did we reach our goal but we surpassed it! Mrs. Clausen's class was our February certificate and prize winner with a whopping 541 boxtops! Mrs. Sweeney's class is in the lead for the end of the year ice

cream or pizza party with 1,243 boxtops so far. Keep sending them in since our contest goes until June and we continue collecting boxtops all year. (You can even drop them off in the summer if you are inclined) You can go to www.btfe.com if you want to see where you can find boxtops and what they look like. You just clip them out from products you already buy and send them in an envelope or baggie with your child's teachers name on the envelope or baggie. Each one counts as ten cents for our school and as you can see they do add up. Thanks again for all your help in raising money for our school! Keep on clipping!

SAY YES AFTER SCHOOL Marie Pampinella

Ed Smith After School Program is in full swing. This year we are reinventing it. We want to grow this to be something that stands out in after school programs. To echo our Vision to be the Best School. We have plans in the works, many in their infancy and will take time, but we will get there. Remember we are here for your child and welcome any support as well from you.

Thus, our program. The program runs Monday - Thursday's from 3-5. Along with academics on Mondays (ELA) and Wednesdays (Math) with a focus on your child's needs, we also have various Enrichment Activities (Arts) on Tuesday's and Thursdays. All of the activities we now have K-5 are full and we have a waiting list. We are always adding as we hire teachers. So if your child hasn't yet started, no worries we are working on getting everyone in and will let you know a start date as soon as we can. We also could use some more 7th and 8th grade students. So have them get an application and turn it in.

In addition to our February 27th Showcase. We are working towards a culminating Showcase at the end of the program and even have some big ideas for that. I know patience is a virtue they say, things take time so if all doesn't come to fruition this year at least we are working towards these goals.

Please visit the After School website <https://sites.google.com/site/edsmithas/> where you will find a Parent Blog, Program Details, Calendar, Pictures and staff introductions. Remember this is always a work in progress. Check for updates. In the meantime, we are so looking forward for this to be a wonderful experience for your child and don't hesitate to say hello when you see me.

CARNIVAL Jasmine Prior

Ed Smith Carnival is coming soon! Our first attempt at a Friday Night Carnival will be an awesome event with a little, or a lot of your help! Please contact Jasmine Pryor @ jasmnienicolepryor@gmail.com for more information. The carnival will be on **Friday, June 6th from 5-7pm**

Ways you can help the carnival:

- Join the committee Meetings are usually monthly until we get closer to the event where we will meet more often as necessary.
- Be a volunteer on the night of the carnival - volunteers are the core of the carnival. Shifts at a booth are for 1 hour which allows you to still enjoy the carnival
- with your family for a portion of the event. Volunteers are also needed for set-up and clean-up of the event if the timing is more convenient.
- Donate \$ to help fund the event. The carnival is fueled primarily by donations. Any amount can help in the purchase of games, food, prizes, and entertainment.
- Sponsor a booth - If you have a business you would like to promote consider sponsoring a booth. Game, food, and activity booths will be available for sponsorship. Ranges for the booth are as follows: Games (\$150), Food (\$100), Activities (\$50).

Thanks and hope to see you all at the Great Ed Smith Carnival!

BOWLATHON Syracuse Peace Council

It's Strike for Peace Bowlathon time!

SUNDAY, MARCH 30
SESSION A: 2-4 PM
SESSION B: 4:30-6:30 PM
BOWL MOR LANES
201 HIGHLAND AVE
E. SYRACUSE 13057

Registration due Friday, March 14 - lanes are only guaranteed to teams that pre-register. (If you must be a little late with your registration, contact Amelia by the 14th)

Organize a team of 4-5 people for the Syracuse Peace Council's annual Strike for Peace Fundraising Bowlathon! \$15/person, \$10 kids 12 and under.

Download the registration form at www.peacecouncil.net/bowl. To help with getting pledges we have on-line pledging, where people can donate in the name of particular bowlers or particular teams. (If you're interested in being listed, contact Amelia). You can also download pledge

forms. Anyone raising \$50 or more in pledges will get the choice of a free t-shirt, No Fracking sign or peace frisbee. Teams raising \$75 or more as a group will be listed in the coveted *Pledgers Hall of Fame.* Costumes and clever team names are encouraged (try to top last year's prize winning names - "The Bowlshevik Revolution" and "Two Row or Not Two Row"). Prizes are awarded for team spirit, best team name, best costumes and more.

Great skill in bowling is not required. Bumper lanes are available. Individuals welcome - we'll put you on a team. Please contact in Amelia advance - we can only guarantee you a space on a team if you do that.

For more info, contact Amelia (Amelia@peacecouncil.net or 315-472-5478).

BOAT RACES Mrs. Crossley

Last year Ed Smith was well represented at Fowler High School for the Sink or Swim Cardboard boat races winning 2 awards and finishing with the second fastest time in the races. Middle School students who are interested in building and racing a boat this year should complete and return the attached form to Ms. Crossley in room B18 to participate in the STEM Club and the Sink or Swim boat race at Fowler High School on April 16th! This is a great opportunity for students to apply their skills in science, technology, engineering, and math in an exciting and fun competition. For more information visit Ms. Crossley's website at <https://sites.google.com/site/mscrossleytechnologyeducation/stem-club> or contact her through email at rcrossley@scsd.us.

SnackSafely.com Betsey Bayardi

I guess at this point, I am not the only parent who has tried to stage a nut, egg, gluten, dye and dairy free birthday party to accommodate the food sensitivities of my children and their friends. So, I thought that maybe families would benefit from what I have learned as the mother of two nut allergic children. I find myself dreading Halloween and Valentines day, for the dangers and disappointments these holidays bring. Identifying safe snacks can be daunting, as manufacturers are not required to label snacks that are processed on the same line as allergen containing products. My family learned this the hard way during a reaction to marshmallows which were produced on the same line as the filling for NutterButter cookie filling which did not volunteer a "may contain" warning.

I know that many of our classrooms are nut free and we have many Ed Smith families with other food related concerns. I wanted to share a resource with everyone that has been so helpful to us. The Website snacksafely.com publishes an 8 page list of commonly available products free from peanuts, tree nuts and eggs. They work directly with manufacturers to identify items that would not be cross contaminated by these allergens. There are safe candies, pretzels, crackers and cookies on the list to choose from. The site has other stories and resources related to allergy, anaphylaxis, food safety and labeling practices.

Join STEM Club!

Participate in the “Sink or Swim” boat race at Fowler High School on April 16th.

Meetings will be held in room B18 before school on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 7am-7:50am. Transportation will not be provided by Ed Smith. The first meeting will be held on **Wednesday February 26th**.

Information about the event is on the back of this flyer. You must be in good academic standing with no referrals in order to compete. If you are interested in participating you must complete the form below and return it to Ms. Crossley by **Monday February 24th**.

If you have any questions you can ask Ms. Crossley in room B18 or send an E-Mail to Rcrossley@scsd.us.



Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian E-Mail: _____ Phone #: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please Support Seussical, Jr. at Ed Smith

This spring the Ed Smith Middle School will present the whimsical musical *Seussical, Jr.* The student cast and crew are busy learning their parts, choreographing scenes, constructing and painting sets, making costumes and designing props.

The students are excited and energetic but they need your support to make this production as high quality as possible.

How you can help

Option One: Contribute to the playbill with an "ad" of congratulations or a short good luck wish. Show the support of your family, your neighborhood, your business; the cast and crew love this special recognition. You supply the text; our program designer will design it for you. Prices are as follows:

Full-page ad	\$75	Quarter-page ad	\$25
Half-page ad	\$50	Good luck wish	\$10

E-mail your text to Melissa Hyman at hymeliss@yahoo.com;
mail checks to Marie Koch at address below.

Option Two: Be a *Seussical, Jr.* sponsor

Benefactor	\$51 or more	Friend	\$16-\$30
Patron	\$31-\$50	Donor	up to \$15

Please fill out the bottom portion of this form and return it by February 28, 2014.

Thank you for your support!

Name _____

Amount _____

Donation Level (circle one): Benefactor Patron Friend Donor

Make all checks payable to **Ed Smith K-8 School** memo: donation for musical

Send checks for ads and sponsorships to:

Marie Koch (Seussical)

Edward Smith K-8 School

1106 Lancaster Ave.

Syracuse, NY 12310

Ed Smith K-8 Vision:

To be the most improved school in the district
Where EVERY child learns & grows

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Title IX and Section 504 Statement:

The Syracuse City School District hereby advises students, parents, employees, and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities, including vocation education opportunities, without regard to age, gender, race, color, religion, marital status, sexual preference, national origin, or disability. Questions regarding this Title IX and Section 504 Statement may be referred to the building principal or District 504 Compliance Officer at:

Syracuse City School District

Attention: District 504 Compliance Officer

1025 Erie Blvd. West

Syracuse, NY 13204 (315) 435-4212

Ed Smith PTO Newsletter

Editors: Betsey Bayardi & Julie Forget

Please submit stories, ads and photos to:

edsmithhowler@gmail.com

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Important School Telephone Numbers

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Transportation Hotline 472-2111 x5576

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