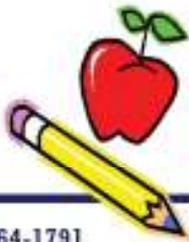


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

299 Main St, Burlington, VT 05401 • 864-1791

April 11, 2014

## Upcoming Events:

Apr. 15 - Art classes to BCA Clay Studio -follow Thurs. scheduled

Apr. 17 - Fine Arts Night!

Apr. 21-25 No School - Spring Break

May 13-15 Science NECAP

May 17 Mayfair

## From the Principal's Desk

We had some fun this week with a very simple thing - a rope. I don't know about your experiences on the playground in the spring, but mine included jump rope and a lot of it. It's a great activity that can be done alone or with friends. There are lots of rhymes and songs that help keep the rhythm and also reinforce counting. Ms. Mack mentioned that she learned to count by jumping rope when she was a little girl, including counting by twos and fives.

I showed the students a Youtube video of children jumping rope to help all to understand that this is not a "girls" sport but can be enjoyed by anyone. The stunts that the kids did were pretty cool! They showed a lot of imagination and athleticism, from cartwheels to handstands. There was also a lot of teamwork as the jumpers traded places with the rope turners and each other.

Over the years, it can get pretty tedious doing the same things at recess every day, so freshening things up a bit with some rope is a simple, but effective way to liven up the day. I'd like to thank Clare Wool and the PTO for jumping on the bandwagon (pun intended) by going to get a lot of rope and making jump ropes for each classroom.

I told the students that the best jump rope can actually be found at the hardware store. It's sold by the foot and is on spools. The rope is softer than the plastic pre-made jump ropes. The ends need to be melted so it doesn't fray, but the store may have a cutter with a hot blade or you can do it with a lighter or even a kitchen match.

Old games that you played as a child have a lot of value. There were at least a dozen kids in my neighborhood and we played a lot of games together. Besides jump rope, we played Kick the Can, and Pig or Donkey - using a basketball hoop you had to try to match the shot of the person before you and if you missed, you got a letter towards the word "Pig" or "Donkey" until the word was spelled. We played Capture the Flag, created obstacle courses, played badminton, rode bikes, and flew the kites we made. We'd pack picnics and built forts and tree houses, and built dams in the brook. We climbed trees all the time. There was a lot of pretend as we played in the forts. We made up elaborate stories that would continue for days.

Think back to what you did outside as a child. Forgot the rules? No problem - Wikipedia has them! The more the kids can be outside, playing games with their friends, the more creative, they will be and the better problem solving and people skills they will have as adults, so send them outside! And don't worry about scrapes, cuts, and bruises. I remember counting mine, considering them badges of courage.

Whole School Assembly April 16

8:10 to 8:30

All are welcome

COME TO FINE ARTS NIGHT!

**All Edmunds Elementary students will perform, and all students will have art on display Thursday, April 17!**  
Both concerts are in the Edmunds Middle School Gym.

5:45-7 p.m. Art Show in Cafeteria

6-6:30 p.m. Kindergarten-2nd Grade Concert

7-7:40 p.m. 3rd-5th Grade Concert

**1st Graders are invited to bring a bandana and/or cowboy hat on Thursday morning.**

Each child adds to the whole. Their classmates depend upon their presence as do we and for that reason they are expected to be present at Fine Arts Night. If your child cannot come because your family will be out of town (or some other reason), please contact Mrs. Norland at [cnorland@bsdvt.org](mailto:cnorland@bsdvt.org), to let her know. Thank you!

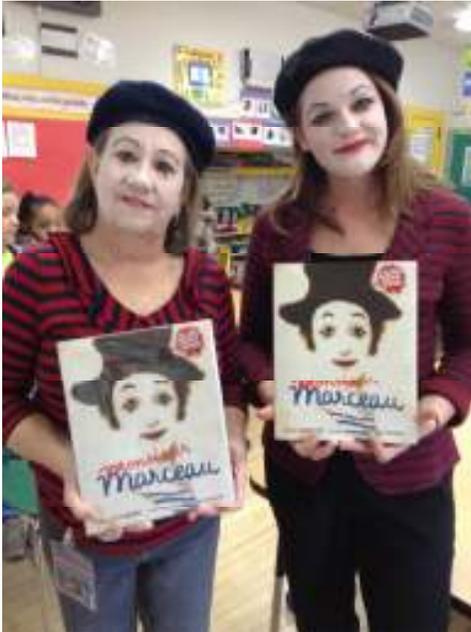
Christina Norland (Music) and Anne Lamont (Art)

BOOKS FOR SOMALIA ORPHANAGE

Fardowsa Yusuf presented the need for children's books for a Somalia Orphanage at the PTO meeting this past Thursday night. The PTO had requested that people bring books to the meeting which many did. We are still collecting them so if you have some you'd like to donate, please bring them to the office. Fardowsa and Signe Daly are working together to make sure that the books get to the orphanage.

**RED CLOVER WEEK**

The students enjoyed reading 10 Red Clover books over the week. Hats off to Kathy Neil for her amazing organization of the five day event. Kudos also to the faculty for their imaginative activities to help the students connect with the books. It is a great thing when children from Kindergarten to fifth grade can work together.



Mrs. Prescott and Ms Soderquist embracing mime!

**PTO NEWS****EES TOURS FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES**

Do you know a neighbor or a friend who will have a Kindergartener next year? Encourage them to come tour Edmunds! Tours will take place on Wednesday mornings at 8:05 am from the front entrance. Upcoming tour date: April 16 and April 30th. Tour participants will have the opportunity to attend the whole school assembly and then take a guided tour from 8:30-9:00. To sign up for a tour, contact Monica Gragg at 864-1791.

**DONATIONS FOR MAYFAIR SILENT AUCTION**

Please help raise money for the EES PTO by donating your special talents or items to the Mayfair Silent Auction. Last year we set a record, raising nearly \$5,000 for the PTO. Our goal this year is to break the \$5,000 barrier and continue to support the great activities at Edmunds. You can help. Get creative and support the school. Do you have a business that could donate a gift certificate or an item? Do you have a special talent? People have donated bike repair services, beautiful knit hats, or home-made meals. Do you have a vacation house and would donate a weekend stay there? Do you have a boat and would offer a trip on Lake Champlain or a sailing lesson? Please contact Stephanie Mueller at [smueller@vnrc.org](mailto:smueller@vnrc.org) or 864-6708. Thanks!

**VSO MUSICAL PETTING ZOO TUESDAY, MAY 20**

Attention music lovers- we need your help! The musical petting zoo is a hands-on experience for kids in kindergarten and first grade to learn about the instruments that are part of an orchestra and get a chance to try to play them. We need parent volunteers to help hold the instruments and sanitize them between students. You don't need any musical background to volunteer. The schedule is as follows:

8:15-9:25 Nutting-Goldsmith/Spinner

9:20-10:30 Weidman/Quinn

10:25-11:30 Weishaar/Ziegfinger

We need 8 volunteers for each workshop. You can volunteer for just your child's class at the above timeslot. Or if possible, it is really helpful to have volunteers who are able to stay for more than one. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carolyn Hanson at [carolynhanson21@gmail.com](mailto:carolynhanson21@gmail.com) with your child's name and class, and what time slot(s) you are available to help. This is a great opportunity for grandparents as well. Thank you!

**Burlington School District Announces First Audit Findings**

On Tuesday, April 8, the Burlington School Board received its first audit designed to highlight the finances of the School District separate from the City. Prior to this year, the School District's audit had been part of the City's audit whereas this year the audit was done separately, similar to the way Burlington Electric's audit is handled. This audit is an important step in working to have more transparency into the District's finances and financial controls. The audit was for the FY13 fiscal year which ended June 30, 2013 and was completed by Melanson Heath & Company, PC.

The audit was unqualified with no material weakness. What an unqualified letter means is that in the professional opinion of the auditor the District is appropriately representing its finances through its financial statements.

One of the findings of the audit was to highlight the School District's recent deficits. The audit combined the deficits of FY12 and FY13 because the FY12 deficit by Vermont education funding guidelines was not retired until FY14, after the time period this audit covered. Additionally, the realized deficit of FY13 is being retired within the FY15 budget. Thus both deficits identified within this audit have been discussed and responded to by the Board.

The audit did identify two areas of significant deficiency. The first acknowledged the ongoing deficit issue the District has been facing. The District remains concerned about recurring deficits in FY14 and potentially FY15 and has initiated a separate review into those deficits in order to determine the root cause of the deficits and take appropriate corrective actions. The second area acknowledges concerns over control of disbursements and provides guidance in actions the District and Board can take to shore up disbursements, part of the District's overall commitment to transparency in gaining a better understanding of how to solidify its financial fundamentals.

Patrick Halladay, Board Chair, commented: "This audit is an important first step in helping us understand the financial challenges the District faces. The good news is that there are no material weaknesses. As we move forward, the deficiencies will inform the direction the District's financial cure plan assumes. Our goal is to understand our budget better and use this knowledge to design smarter programs with sustainable funding and financial controls."

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