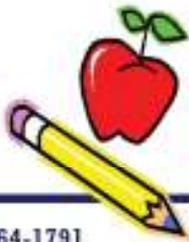


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

April 18, 2014

## Upcoming Events:

Apr. 21-25 No School - Spring Break

May 13-15 Science NECAP

May 16 Mayfair

May 20 Musical Petting Zoo

June 5 Field Days

June 6 EES Chorus at Burlington Jazz Festival

June 11 Last day of school - Early Release 11:30am

## From the Principal's Desk

I was delighted that so many families shared our Fine Arts Night with us last night. I know that there will always be some families who cannot come because of work schedules or illness. I know as a working parent that I missed some performances over the years and it was always very disappointing to me. I can promise everyone that I will never, ever allow a performance to start earlier than advertised. I once hurried out of work, drove 45 minutes to see my kids play in their jazz band. I arrived with a few minutes to spare only to find them packing up their instruments. The director decided to start playing 30 minutes earlier. Needless to say, I was very disappointed.

There are those parents whose own parents never attended any school events. We often do what was done for us as children. If our parents read to us, we far more likely to read to our children. If our parents played with us, we play with our kids. If our parents went to parent teacher conferences, and school performances, we know that we should as well, so if it was never a priority growing up, it may not occur to some parents that attending school events is important or valuable. As I write this, I do so knowing that there are many who will not read this, and so there's a strong possibility that the words will not reach those I especially hope to reach.

The children spend a great deal of time here at Edmunds. It is their home away from home. Sharing it with the most important people in their lives is really important to them. A child can try something for two minutes and they want to show us. "Watch me! Watch me!" Rewarding their efforts watching them as they do something for us reinforces their efforts creating children willing to try new things and strive to get better.

Over the course of the school year, they will study Music for 2,625 minutes or 43 hours and 75 minutes. They study Art for 1,575 minutes or 26 hours and next year it will be more. Both activities are part of our overall curriculum. Human expression through art is a form of communication that has been with us since the beginning of art forms. For example, last night's song by the third and fourth grade chorus "One Nation" was a strong social comment about the commonality that we can find among us all despite our differences. Art gives rise to imagination and what can be.

As parents, sharing in our children's experience is a statement that this part of their life is important. Children understand the importance of a job when it prevents their parents from coming. It is confusing and disappointing to them when they cannot see a real obstacle or any effort to overcome it. Family involvement in school is known to

Whole School Assembly April 30

8:10 to 8:30

All are welcome

increase student achievement and that in turn sets students up for greater success in life. I have no doubt that the majority of you reading this were at last night's concert. What I hope is that you can share the experience with those who may not have attended. Talk about what you were able to see in the children as they performed and how it made you feel to see their pride and excitement. Consider reaching out to ask a family to join your family next time. We can create a community that is welcoming to all parents and families and sometimes that means giving them something that no one ever explained - a reason to attend.

THANKS TO ALL FOR SUPPORTING FINE ARTS NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported Fine Arts Night! The students worked hard preparing for the special event, and it showed. They sang and danced beautifully and their art work was excellent. The support of parents, families, and community is one of the great assets of Edmunds Elementary School. *Thank you* for helping to make the Spring Concert and Art Show a success!

-Mrs. Norland (Music) and Mrs. Lamont (Art)

**PERSONAL SAFETY TOPIC FOR GUIDANCE**

Over the next couple of months classroom guidance lessons in all grades will focus on *personal safety*. In the younger grades we will go over the terms *comfortable, uncomfortable, and confusing* touches, emphasizing for each child, "my body belongs to me". The basic safety message for children is that if they are experiencing uncomfortable or confusing touches, they have the right to **"SAY NO, GET AWAY, and TELL AN ADULT THEY TRUST"**. It is very important that children also get this information from parents and guardians. For more information you can contact EES school counselor, Melissa Hathaway, or visit one of the following websites:

[www.childluresprevention.com](http://www.childluresprevention.com)

[www.dcf.vermont.gov/stepup/act\\_one\\_schools](http://www.dcf.vermont.gov/stepup/act_one_schools)

Stay tuned to upcoming Friday Flashes for tips on talking to your child about sexual abuse prevention and personal safety.

**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!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MAYFAIR FRIDAY MAY 16TH FROM 4-7 PM**

The Mayfair is coming! The Mayfair is coming! The Mayfair is on.

This is one our school's most beloved events and a successful fundraiser with all donations going directly back to our school for students and teachers. There will be games, prizes, a jumpy castle, food and more! It takes many volunteers to run the Mayfair so we are asking families to please consider volunteering an hour of their time. Signing up is easy! Either fill out the form sent home with your child or go online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4BABAA2EA13-mayfair> to sign up. Any questions or thoughts please email Courtney Asaro at [courtneyasaro@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyasaro@gmail.com) or call 233-1734. Thank you for supporting our school!



Sometimes, we get a little silly at EES. Who can identify these two faculty members?