

FRIDAY



FLASH


**EDMUNDS**  
 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

April 5, 2013

## From the Principal's Desk

I think it is fair to say that many have shared the desire to have a garden area for our students; a place that can be used to teach children about growing plants, and where food comes from, and how composting is part of the cycle of growth and much more. It would be great to have our children be able to go outside and have a meaningful learning experience.

On another front, it is difficult not to notice the condition of the bank between the school and playground. The aesthetics of the grounds along the side of the building definitely need improvement, and more than that, the amount of mud that comes into the school is a direct result of the erosion that is happening along the bank as the students play on it. What I wasn't aware of was the impact of the erosion on the lake.

Today I was able to meet with a small group of community members who have expressed an interest in moving the vision of improving the Edmunds grounds with gardens, an outdoor classroom and amphitheater a reality. It was great to have some people join us from the state and the city who came with expertise in civil engineering, environmental design, and the problems of storm water runoff as it impacts Lake Champlain. When I was thinking of this project, it never occurred to me that it would also be beneficial to the lake. The educational value in terms of conservation and sustainability is far reaching. Our teachers would have so much more to work with in terms of creating authentic learning opportunities for our students, right in our own back yard!

The more we spoke, the more it became apparent that this project would benefit far more than just the Edmunds Elementary Community. The Burlington Rotary recognized the EES campus as the gateway to the city and for that reason chose to devote their efforts to beautifying it over the past several years. They couldn't be more right. Visitors to the region use our playground on a daily basis, as families give their children a break from sight seeing activities to play. Imagine if their visit can include not only a playground, but could meander through pathways, gardens, and see information about the plants, learn how the fruits and vegetables growing on the grounds are used to feed

### Upcoming Events

Apr. 12 Carnival! Whole school assembly 2:10pm  
 Apr. 16 Art Show and Concert 5:45pm-7:45pm  
 Apr. 22-26 Spring break - no school

### WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY APRIL 10 – ALL WELCOME

students as well as educate them. We can, with some vision, planning, and elbow grease, create a green oasis right in the middle of the city.

There are some obvious questions that you all probably have. One is the question of cost. We have to finalize the design before we will know the costs but we have some preliminary funds as seed money. We have also identified some grant opportunities from the state and federal government because of the existence of a current erosion problem. This is a project that lends itself into parts that provide affordable options for people to contribute. So, a family could donate one of the high bush blueberry bushes, or a tree. There will come some days when we will need workers to help with the construction.

I will be keeping you posted on the progress and if you are at all interested in working with the planning group, please be sure to contact me at [smathias@bsdvt.org](mailto:smathias@bsdvt.org). This is going to be a great project, making EES a richer environment for everyone.

### EES ART SHOW AND CONCERT APRIL 16

Mark your calendars! The EES Spring Concert and Art Show will take place on Tuesday evening, April 16. Student artwork will be on display in the cafeteria 5:45-6:15. Students will be performing between 6:30 and 7:45 in the middle school gym. All students are expected to be present. Children should arrive in their teacher's classroom at 6:15, all dressed and ready to go. They should dress up, if possible, for the event--it's a great chance to wear button-down shirts, nice pants, dresses, skirts. Shoes must be chosen for safety walking up and down the risers - preferably not heels, snow boots, or flip-flops. All are welcome! We hope to see you there!

**Calling all future Kindergarten Parents!**

Please alert your friends with children who will be kindergarteners to come to one of our Kindergarten tours.

We hope to have as many kindergarten students registered as possible by the end of this school year. Help us to reach out into the community and bring our kindergarten students to us so that they and their moms and dads can participate in our Kindergarten Orientation in May!

Kindergarten tours are as follows:

- Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 8:20 - 9:20 am
- Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup> - 8:20 - 9:20 am
- Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> - 1:15 - 2:15 pm

RSVP's are helpful. Call 802-864-8473 extension #1

**VSO Musical Petting Zoo - Volunteers Needed**

VSO musical petting zoo is coming to Edmunds on Friday May 24 and 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. The schedule is as follows:

- 8:15-9:25 Bessette/Spinner
- 9:20-10:30 Case/Nutting
- 10:25-11:30 Quinn/Weishaar

We need 8 volunteers for each show. You can volunteer for just your child or grandchild's class, or if possible it is really helpful to have volunteers who are able to do more than one show. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carolyn Hanson at [carolynhanson21@gmail.com](mailto:carolynhanson21@gmail.com) or Rachel Shelly at [rachskye@gmail.com](mailto:rachskye@gmail.com). Thank you!

**EES PTO NEEDS YOU! WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW LEADERSHIP**

**BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES (about 4 hours/week for each of us):**

- \*Gather volunteers to chair subcommittees (Mayfair; fundraising, dances, skate night, community dinners, math night, room parents, school play, clothes swap, etc);
- \*Help create a welcoming community for all families;
- \*Facilitate meetings (agenda, minutes) and initiate votes, when needed;
- \*Facilitate discussions and events when new situations arise (school safety, sexual abuse, race);
- Meet regularly with principal;
- \*Maintain communication with parents (email blast, Friday Flash, website, Facebook);

\*Maintain communication with faculty, staff, school board, Superintendent;

\*Work with faculty and staff to reach out to all parents (translators, rides to events, etc.);

\*Attend meetings with fellow PTO leadership at EES and other schools;

\*Support the PTO mission;

\*Be open and inclusive to all families, staff and faculty.

**SPECIAL INITIATIVES taken on by Signe and Peggy (supporting EES, but not part of basic PTO duties):**

\*Participating in Partnership for Change meetings and discussions;

\*Attending School Board meetings to advocate for EES needs;

\*Attending DPW meetings to make the Main Street crossing safer;

\*Working with partner institutions on Green Up, improving EES green-scape.

**PERKS:**

\*Getting to know the amazing faculty and staff who help educate our children;

\*Being an active part by our diverse community;

\*Working with so many families who volunteer - large and small - to support our school;

\*Being called to the principal's office - for great meetings;

\*Deepening friendships with fellow PTO leaders;

\*Free Parking - for your stroller and/or bike

Contact Signe ([signe.daly@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:signe.daly@burlingtontelecom.net)) or Peggy ([peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net); 999-4995) with any questions.

**PTO MEETING AND COMMUNITY SOUP DINNER: 9 APRIL, 5:45 - 8:00 PM**

Join us for an EES community dinner with soup and bread on *Tuesday, 9 April at 5:45 pm in the EES cafeteria.*

5:45 - 6:15 pm Soup and Salads (in the EES cafeteria)

6:15 - 8:00 pm Edmunds' vision with Dr. Mathias. Please bring your ideas to share. (in the third floor Resource Room).

Childcare will be provided after the meal in the Library.

RSVP to Peggy O'Neill ([peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net)) with the number of adults and children who will be joining us for dinner.

**MAYFAIR: SILENT AUCTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The annual EES silent auction (done in conjunction with the Mayfair) raises thousands of dollars each year to support enrichment and school-wide activities for all EES students.

In order to keep these funds available for our kids **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

A team of go-getters is needed to assist with auction preparation and coordination activities.

\* Do you have time to contact local businesses to solicit donations?

\* Could you help send thank you letters or enter items into our online auction system?

\* Maybe you could pick up donated items or help get them organized for pickup at the Mayfair?

Contact Warren Cornwall at [cornwallw@gmail.com](mailto:cornwallw@gmail.com) or 540-2536 as soon as possible if you can help with this important activity.

If you have any questions or suggestions about Mayfair please contact Pam Shea ([pj\\_shea@yahoo.com](mailto:pj_shea@yahoo.com)) or Courtney Asaro ([courtneymasaro@gmail.com](mailto:courtneymasaro@gmail.com)).

***PARENTS, YOU CAN HELP CREATE LASTING MAYFAIR MEMORIES FOR YOUR KIDS.***

Right now, in order to move forward, we need co-chairs for the **Mayfair Silent Auction** and for **Food/Drinks**. We can provide you with everything you need to get started and will also coordinate your staffing for the day of the event (Friday, May 17).

For more information, contact Pam Shea ([pj\\_shea@yahoo.com](mailto:pj_shea@yahoo.com), 861-2720) or Courtney Asaro ([courtneymasaro@gmail.com](mailto:courtneymasaro@gmail.com)).

"Mayfair is a long-standing tradition. My favorite Mayfair memory is of when I was 9. I remember eating a mess of brownies from the bake sale then doing flips in the bouncy castle with my friends...over and over...and over. What fun!"  
-Pam, EES parent (Student at Mayfair 1975)

**Notices From the Community - the following events are not sponsored by the Burlington School District or the EES PTO****CHILDREN: IS THERE AN APP FOR THAT? MONDAY, 15 APRIL 6:30 - 8:30 PM EMS GYM**

This is a free community event on how to raise happy, successful kids in the digital world. Light dinner provided from 6 - 6:30 pm. No pre-registration, all are welcome. Sponsored by Burlington Partnership for a Healthy Community as part of their new YouParent Program. For more info: Contact Mariah Sanderson: 324-3867 or [Mariah@burlingtonpartnership.org](mailto:Mariah@burlingtonpartnership.org).

**EDMUNDS MIDDLE SCHOOL: FOOLS FEST, 6 APRIL, FLYNN SPACE 7 PM**

Saturday, April 6, 7-11:30 p.m.

FlynnSpace

Gather for an adults-only evening of gypsy jazz, a theater revue featuring talented teens who once graced the stages of Burlington's elementary and middle schools, and some great dancing music and merriment in a fabulous nightclub setting. Appetizers and desserts provided, with a cash bar.

*Proceeds benefit the Edmunds Middle School Drama Program's efforts to produce several plays a year and provide scholarships and costumes for any EMS kids who want to participate.*

Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. To purchase tickets, email [beth.morgan@yahoo.com](mailto:beth.morgan@yahoo.com) or call 802-238-8911.





March 22, 2013

RE: School Calendar for 2013-14

Dear Parents:

Burlington School District administration has been examining ways to increase student achievement. Using the Vermont Agency of Education recommendations for restructuring our schools, it is clear that students would benefit from teachers spending regular, ongoing, dedicated time to review student data and adjust instruction accordingly.

We are examining all options of when this work can occur, and have successfully piloted an early release day, with child-care options, at Hunt Middle School and the Sustainability Academy. For example, at SA the student day is extended by 15 minutes four days a week, and students are dismissed one hour early on Wednesdays, with child-care options for that hour in the school. In this way, there is no net loss of instructional time, and, if parents wish, children are still supervised during the early release. Teachers then have a two-hour uninterrupted block of time to work in teams and review student data, instructional methods and adjust and align instruction.

We are exploring whether this option of a one hour release once a week can work across the district as a whole. We are also looking at how to accommodate child-care and after-school programming needs so that parents would continue to have full coverage for their children in the mid-to-late afternoons.

When we have addressed all these possible scheduling issues and determine the best option with coverage for all students, we will bring more information to you.

Sincerely,

Jeanné Collins

Superintendent

JEANNÉ COLLINS ~ SUPERINTENDENT  
150 COLCHESTER AVE. ~ BURLINGTON VT 05401  
PHONE: 802-865-5332 ~ FAX: 802-864-8501 ~ WEBSITE: [WWW.BSDVT.ORG](http://WWW.BSDVT.ORG)