

FRIDAY



FLASH


**EDMUNDS**  
 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

April 21, 2017

**Up Coming Events:**

April 22 - Earth Day  
 April 24 - 28: No School - Spring Break  
 May 1-5: Teacher Appreciation Week  
 May 8 - 12: SBAC Testing Week  
 May 26 - Step Up Day  
 June 1 - Mr. Gillard's Class: Sailing Field Trip  
 June 2 - Ms. Bonanni's Class: Sailing Field Trip  
 June 7 - K-5 Flower Assembly, 8:10 AM  
 June 9 - EES Field Day  
 June 13 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic (Rain Date, 6/14)  
 June 15 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Tribute 6:00 PM  
 June 16 - Half Day of School - 11:30 Dismissal  
 June 19 - Last Day of School - 11:30 Dismissal

**From the Principal's Desk**

My family is a blended family, with my two oldest children from my husband's first marriage. I came to know them when they were one and just turned three. I remember when it was time for Megan to have her 2nd birthday. Her dad said we had to get a present for her brother, Chris. I was surprised and said, "It's not his birthday." He said that he didn't want Chris' feelings to get hurt because she was getting presents and he wasn't. I then suggested that Chris could learn to be happy for his sister and to find pleasure in her pleasure and excitement. And so, that's what we focused on for Chris - teaching, and modeling how to be happy for his sister who was getting all the attention. He got into it. It really was delightful and sweet to see how excited he was once he knew his role.

Children are naturally self-centered. They also have a natural capacity for empathy and we can see it in very little children who can be incredibly kind and sweet to children smaller and younger than themselves. How their natural tendencies develop - both self-centeredness and empathy is based on which tendency works better for them and has been inadvertently reinforced. Attention we pay to what they want vs the needs of others or how they can help others is a good example of this. If more of their experiences focus on their wants and needs rather than the needs of others or how they are able to help in the home or with friends, their tendency towards being self-centered is reinforced.

As children become adolescents, they tend to become even more egocentric. Furthermore, they are far more likely to focus on what the group is doing and how they fit in. If they do not have a well-established ability to think about others and to be empathetic, they are far more likely to follow the crowd when they should either step away from other's poor choices or step in to stop what is going on when it is damaging to an individual.

I have seen a decided increase in the amount of self-centered thinking among our students. It points to the need to reinforce the importance of thinking about others as our children develop. It is never too late to reinforce and model empathy which can start with expressing gratitude for a simple act. Using a cross walk? A small wave of thanks to the motorist who stopped for you. Someone is holding the door for you? Look them in the eye and thank them. Shopping? A friendly greeting and thank you to the checkout clerk is an act of kindness. Each is a simple way to acknowledge and think about the feelings of others. Reinforcing, and actively teaching empathy is essential to developing it in children.

**Whole School Assembly**  
**May 3, 2017**  
**Green Up Day & Expectation Review**  
**Ms. Bellavance's Class Leading**

**ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES AT EES**

Superintendent Yaw Obeng, announced several changes to the school leadership for the 2017-18 school year; the complete announcement can be found by clicking [here](#).

**EVERYBODY MOVE YOUR BODY!**

Did you know that morning exercise can improve concentration throughout the day? During the Month of May Edmunds Elementary will be running a morning exercise program to give kids structured, supervised time to run or walk laps around the field before school. Students who participate and achieve certain milestones will be recognized at our weekly all school assemblies. We encourage all students, K-5, to come out and join us for a few laps (or even just one!) before school to get revved up for their day. **PARENTS:** If you are available to join a staff member in supervising children starting at 7:45 on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning, we would love your help (session ends when the bell rings at 8:05). Please contact Gail Rose if you would like to volunteer: [grosevt@gmail.com](mailto:grosevt@gmail.com).

**PTO NEWS**

**PTO LEADERS:** Leigh Fisher, Hollie Foley and Rachel Shelley  
**PTO CONTACT:** [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org)

**PTO PARENT NIGHT - MAY 4<sup>th</sup> 5:45 - 7:15 PM****Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development**

Please join us for a 90 minute training hosted by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (PCAVT). This Adult training provides participants with information and skills to help them understand the stages of healthy sexual development and common behaviors in children along with tips on how to talk with children and answering their questions. EES Cafeteria. **Babysitting available!!!** Please RSVP to Rachel at [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org) if you think you might attend.

**EDMUNDS GREEN UP DAY ON FRIDAY MAY 5TH**

Classes will be Greening Up! in and around the Edmunds campus to kick off Green Up Vermont day which is Saturday, May 6th. Ask your kids to show you what they learned at school about Greening Up and take them out on Saturday in your neighborhood!

**MAYFAIR - MAY 19TH**

Our biggest fundraiser of the year!

**MAYFAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAKE THE FAIR HAPPEN THIS YEAR!**

We need Food & Games volunteers to help make our annual Mayfair event run this year. Without these volunteers, Mayfair can't happen!

**FOOD LEADER(S) FOR MAYFAIR**

We are searching for two capable people to lead the **Food** portion of the Fair this year. It is small commitment, but amazing reward for you and the kids! Time is getting short to fill this essential roll in order for our plans to have Mayfair on Friday, May 19th. Please contact [Leigh Fisher](mailto:Leigh.Fisher@gmail.com) at [leigh.r.fisher@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.r.fisher@gmail.com) if you are able to help!

**GAMES LEADER(S) FOR MAYFAIR**

We are searching for two capable people to lead the **Games** portion of the Fair this year!! Small commitment, but a fun and rewarding experience for you and the kids! This event is a great way to get involved in our school and really make a difference!! Please contact [Leigh Fisher](mailto:Leigh.Fisher@gmail.com) at [leigh.r.fisher@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.r.fisher@gmail.com) if you are able to help!

**SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR MAYFAIR**

Edmunds Elementary will again hold our Mayfair Carnival. For parents unfamiliar with Mayfair, it's a long-standing tradition at EES with a BBQ, games, bouncy castle, Musical Cakes and more. The carnival also has a silent auction. All funds raised in the auction goes directly to the kids. It helps pay for special initiatives such as bringing local artists, speakers and performers to our school. It also funds scholarships for low-income students, field trips and educational materials and helps pay for much needed classroom supplies. If you own or work for a company or restaurant that would make a donation, or have any ideas for donations, please contact Stacey Kelleher at [staceyhk1568@yahoo.com](mailto:staceyhk1568@yahoo.com). In the past, Edmunds parents have been creative and come up with donations ranging from knitted hats to bike tune-ups to bike blended smoothies. All ideas are welcome to help make this fundraiser a success!