



# FRIDAY FLASH



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

February 8, 2013

## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 4 Whole School Assembly
- Sept. 6 PTO BBQ 5:30
- Sept. 9 Picture Day
- Sept. 10 PTO Meeting - 7-8 pm, childcare available
- Sept. 11 Whole School Assembly and Walk and Roll
- Sept. 18 Whole School Assembly
- Sept. 20 EES Family Skate Night 5:30 - 7:30

## From the Principal's Desk

What a great week! It was so wonderful to see all the students streaming into our building on Wednesday. Whether new to Edmunds or returning for their sixth year, it felt so festive, especially with the welcoming committee that was provided by Champlain College students as they cheered the kids on for their first day of school. We appreciate the willingness of so many college students to come so early in the morning. They were here by 7:30 AM, which is a time that many college students avoid.

I want to thank those who lent a hand on Green Up day. The campus and school looked nicer for all because of your efforts!

Edmunds is a place with many traditions and community is a large part of what makes this place feel happy and healthy and each one of us is part of that community - whether you are a parent, a grandparent, guardian, aunt, uncle, teacher or student, you are all a part of our whole.

I know that you received a HUGE amount of paper on Wednesday (sorry about that) and some of it needed to be returned quickly, but the rest is information for you. The Student Handbook is a resource that you will want to keep handy. It will answer a lot of your questions. There is a table of contents to help you find information and we have put the document up on our website at [ees.bsdtv.org](http://ees.bsdtv.org) for those who prefer to access information that way.

The Friday Flash is an important communication link between home and school as are the individual classroom newsletters. In order to make it as informative as possible, the format is the same with an upcoming calendar of events on the front page, the Whole School Assembly program, school news, followed by PTO news. Burlington community news may be at the end but the district policy required that that information is first approved by the Superintendent's office.

The Whole School Assembly has become part of the EES tradition and the public is welcome. It begins immediately at 8:10 and is over by 8:30. This is a chance for us all to be together and share what we have learned. You will see when your child's class is bringing something they have learned to share with our community. There may be guests providing students with something to think about and there will always be singing! Please join us any Wednesday, whether or not your child's class is involved in doing a presentation!

I hope to see everyone at our annual BBQ this coming Friday, September 6 from 5:30 to 6:30.

Whole School Assembly – September 3  
Building a Safe, Respectful and Responsible  
Community! - Part 1

## Burlington Kids After School Starts!

Session 1 brochures were sent home yesterday. We are excited to offer some really great activities this session. Sign up sheets are due back Friday, September 6. If you need a registration packet, financial aid information, or have questions, please contact Travis ([thathawa@bsdvt.org](mailto:thathawa@bsdvt.org)) or Priscilla ([praba@bsdvt.org](mailto:praba@bsdvt.org)) or by phone: 316-0195. Looking forward to another great year with Burlington Kids!

## Old Magazines Needed

The first grade is going to do a project with old magazines that we can cut up. Please drop off your old magazines in the bin outside of Mrs. Quinn's classroom. When the bin is full, we will be done collecting magazines. Thanks for your help with this!

The EES First Grade

## ALERT NOW

I know that you have already experienced Alert Now, the system that enables us to provide you with messages concerning school via telephone. The vast majority of our families have indicated that they value the system. There are a few important things that you should know about how we will use Alert Now. **We will not send out an Alert Now message during the day unless there is a situation at school that requires informing you immediately. All emergency numbers that you have provided will be called.** If you find that you missed a call from the school in the middle of the day, please listen to the phone message. The message will have the information and instructions you need.

If there is an emergency, we will be using the phones to be in contact with emergency services personnel. It will make it more difficult to be in contact with the people who help us in an emergency if our phone lines are busy with parents seeking information. In order to be part of helping out, I'd like to suggest that you connect with another parent who you can call to check in with should your message be garbled (you'll be able to use the Edmunds Directory to set up that contact). Our Central Office for the Burlington School District would also be aware of the situation so that may be another source to call.

Alert Now is also used for school closure (snow days). Those calls go out between 6:00 and 6:15 am. We use the system to communicate about school events and more unusual but important situations such as the call about peanut allergies that went out before school started. We make sure that the messages are short. My goal is no longer than 60 seconds. I schedule them for 7:15 pm in an attempt to avoid the dinner hour but be early enough so as not to interrupt bedtime routines. As before the system will leave messages on your answering machine so **if you miss a call, listen to the message instead of calling the school because there will be no one answering the phone in the evening.**

The true value in the system is that it helps more parents access Edmunds Elementary School programs, events and information. We know that to be true because the attendance at school events increases dramatically when we use Alert Now

I know that some find the calls a little annoying and to those people I apologize for any inconvenience. I hope to get to the place where we are able to text messages to those who would prefer it. We are able to target classrooms specifically to minimize the impact and use it for major events or special circumstances.

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## PTO

### GREEN-UP DAY, ICE CREAM SOCIAL, AND WELCOME COFFEE: THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of those in the Edmunds community who helped to clean up our school and help the teachers in their classrooms on Green-Up day. A special thank you to Peggy O'Neill for organizing these efforts. Thank you to Nancy Westbrook for putting together the ice cream social, and her scooping volunteers who served many ice cream eaters! Thank you to Signe Daly for organizing the Welcome Coffee. It was wonderful to see so many Edmunds' family members stop by.

### EDMUNDS COMMUNITY BBQ - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 - 5-7 PM

Please join us for the annual Edmunds Community BBQ, sponsored by the EES PTO, on the upper playing field. This is for our students, parents, families, and EES faculty and staff. **FREE!!** Burgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs and drinks will be provided. ***EES Families with last names from A - L: Please bring salad or side dish to share; Last names from M - Z: Please bring dessert to share.*** We are still looking for some volunteers for set up 4:30-5 pm and clean up 7-7:30 pm. Please contact Lisa Cannon (lcannon2010@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping with this event.

### MORNING DROP-OFF PROTOCOL

As many of you already know, or are now experiencing for the first time, the morning drop-off can be a hectic and busy time. To help make the Main Street horseshoe drop-off go as smooth as possible, there is a volunteer parent every morning who will open the car door and help your child out. ***There are a couple of basic guideline that REALLY help the process be as safe and smooth as possible.***

1. Parents should stay in the car, if possible, and let the volunteers help out the child.
2. Please be patient and wait for the car in front of you to be unloaded.
3. Please do not pass a car that is being unloaded, kids are often getting out from both sides and it is very dangerous to pass.
4. It is a right turn only on Main Street in the morning.
5. There are two school buses that do a drop-off each morning, and it is illegal to pass a school bus if its flashing stop sign is displayed. If the bus driver takes down your license number, you will be mailed a ticket.
6. There is no parking in the fire lanes (\$75 ticket).
7. If you do not wish to do the drop-off circle, you may park on Main St. Parking spaces are available on both sides of Main St. The North side of Main St. has metered spaces, and the South side of Main St. has free 15 min. spaces during drop-off and pick-up.

If you would like to volunteer for the morning drop-off, contact Dave Jenemann (David.Jenemann@uvm.edu)

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOUR WINDS PROGRAM

Interested in being involved in your child's classroom in a meaningful way? Four Winds is a hands-on natural science program that is available to every class at Edmunds. It is run entirely by parent-volunteers and no science experience is necessary, just your curiosity and a willingness to learn. Volunteers attend a 2-hr training 8 times a year approximately once a month on Friday mornings during the school year and learn how to teach a one-hour workshop in the classroom. The workshop is then scheduled directly with your child's teacher at a mutually convenient time during the day. If you have a flexible schedule, this is a great way to be involved in your child's class.

The first training is scheduled for Friday, September 13 from 8:05-10:15 in the art room. Two or more volunteers are needed for each classroom in order for that class to participate. Nearly every class at Edmunds has been able to participate during the past three years and we hope to have enough volunteers to offer it to all again this year. You can learn more about the Four Winds program for this year (<http://www.fwni.org/eco.html>). Our theme this year is ecosystems. We will be comparing a variety of ecosystems and examining the plants and animals that inhabit each. If you have questions about the program or are just curious about how it works, please contact our Four Winds coordinator Carolyn Hanson ([carolynhanson21@gmail.com](mailto:carolynhanson21@gmail.com)) or 860-6638.

**EES SKATE NIGHT: LEDDY RINK,  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 -- 5:30-7:30 PM**

Please join us for a free night ice skating at the Leddy ice rink. Free skate rentals and pizza. Contact coordinator Pam Shea ([pj\\_shea@yahoo.com](mailto:pj_shea@yahoo.com)) with questions.

**FIRST PTO MEETING -  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 - 7-8 PM**

Please join us and childcare is provided! Edmunds Elementary, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Library Resource room. We will provide more information next week about topics to cover, and would love to hear about new ideas for the coming year. Please email Stephanie Mueller ([smueller@vnrc.org](mailto:smueller@vnrc.org)) or Marni Slavik ([marnislavik@yahoo.com](mailto:marnislavik@yahoo.com)) if there are specific topics of interest to you.

**WALK AND ROLL KICK-OFF -  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

Let's kick off the school year with walkers and rollers showing our EES pride as we walk or roll to school! Look for monthly themed walk and roll to school days the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Help Edmunds become a Gold Partner in the Vermont Safe Routes to School program! Contact Rachel Shelley ([rachskye@gmail.com](mailto:rachskye@gmail.com)) with any questions.

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Please join us for a free night ice skating at the Leddy ice rink. Free skate rentals and pizza. Contact coordinator Pam Shea ([pj\\_shea@yahoo.com](mailto:pj_shea@yahoo.com)) with questions.

**PTO EMAIL UPDATES**

The PTO sends out weekly email updates. If you would like to be added to the PTO email list, please contact Marni Slavik ([marnislavik@yahoo.com](mailto:marnislavik@yahoo.com)).

For more information about PTO events visit:

<http://eespto.org/> or

<https://www.facebook.com/eespto>

**School Meals**

The Burlington School Food Project offers whole, fresh, and local meals to 4,000 Burlington students daily. More than one third of foods are straight from Vermont farms including milk, fruits, vegetables, and local meats. For more information about school meals, contact Doug Davis [802 864 8416](tel:8028648416).

All students in grades K-5 and morning Pre-School receive breakfast in the classroom at no cost, although students may bring in food from home if they prefer. Students also receive an extra serving of fruits or vegetables in the classroom daily at no cost.

Afternoon Pre-School and K-5 students receive school lunch for \$2.25. **Many families are eligible to receive lunch at NO COST, please fill out a meal application as soon as possible, remember, a new application must be filled out every year.**

Your child can bring a cold lunch from home if they prefer. Milk is available to purchase for \$0.50. Students enrolled in After School programs may receive After School Supper. This meal is served at no cost to all students in the cafeteria at the end of the school day.

Parents are encouraged to join us for lunch. The cost for an adult lunch is \$3.75.

Please check with the school nurse and your child's classroom teacher if you have specific dietary restrictions or food concerns. If you have questions about sending snacks for special occasions to your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher. Your child will bring home a monthly menu. Please review the menu with your child each week to help her/him choose meals for the week.



Thanks to our great Green Up Crew!!