

FRIDAY



FLASH

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

Date and Volume Number



From the Principal's Desk

December 11, 2015

Up Coming Events

We are all used to political rhetoric getting a little nutty. Normally, it doesn't impact our students, but when it gets too extreme, it can frighten children. When that happens, I have to take a stand.

Students in Burlington have expressed concern about their own safety as a result of the rhetoric of presidential candidates, governors and legislators. It is unacceptable that children would be made to feel unsafe because of their religion or their ethnicity. Whether the source of comments students are hearing are news reports of statements from political candidates, governors or legislators, or from local citizens who support those positions, the fact that students are being made to feel unsafe and unwelcome is wrong.

That we are seeing increasing levels of violence in our country cannot be denied. It would be completely inaccurate to attribute that violence to one religious group, ethnicity or ideology. Within days of the San Bernardino attack, there was an attack on a Planned Parenthood office in Colorado. This summer, nine were killed in a church in Charleston, SC. Violence has been perpetrated against people in Mosques, Synagogues, Churches, schools, universities and office buildings. The common link between the attackers is not their religion, their ethnicity or their race. It is their extreme and absolute beliefs that include an inability to tolerate difference in opinion or otherness. History is rife with the damage that extremists have done to humanity, the most horrific of which has been genocide.

This community has been welcoming refugees from all over the world, many of whom are Muslims. They come from countries in Europe, Asia, Africa as well as the Middle East. The individuals who have had the courage to seek a better life for their children have worked hard to be here. It is far from easy to immigrate to a new country, a new language, a new culture.

Extreme responses to violence are at the least, damaging, and at the worst, dangerous. Failure to respond to extreme positions can be catastrophic as the holocaust proved.

We need to help all members of our community to feel welcomed and supported. How? We can check in with our families and insure that we are reaching out to them, especially now. A simple hello, a smile and the question, "How are you?" can be so reassuring to an individual concerned about what others may be thinking about them. We need to reach out and reassure our neighbors. If we are present when a comment that questions the right of any group to be here is made, we can challenge the comment. We need to be courageous.

If these things seem difficult, we need to think about how we would feel if our child was being made to feel unsafe. What would we hope our friends and neighbors would do?

- Dec. 9 Jingle Bell Walk and Roll
- Dec. 11 PJ and Books Donation Deadline
- Dec. 15 Vermont Coffee Orders Due
- Dec. 16 Gift Card drive deadline for contributions
- Dec. 23 Winter break begins

Whole School Assembly
Wednesday, Dec. 16
Winter Sing a Long

Third Grade Seeking Support in their Food Drive

The third grade team is holding a holiday food drive. We are collecting non-perishable food items for donation to the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf. We are hoping that all students can bring in at least one (more than one would be great!) food item to school. The following items make excellent choices: canned fish, canned beef, canned vegetables, canned soups, canned fruits, boxed meals, pasta, rice, shelf-stable juice. Students can leave the food item in a yellow donation box located on each floor of the school. Thanks for your help in making this a successful event for our community!

--The Third Grade Team

NEWS FROM OUR MUSIC TEACHER, BETSY NOLAN

New EES music Web Page:

I am working to maintain a webpage with resources for students and parents about the music program at EES.

Click [Here](#) to check it out.

Students Perform Week:

December 14-18 is students perform week. This is an opportunity for students to share music learning that happens outside of the classroom. Details and expectations can be found on the Music WEB page. The next student's perform week will be February 1-5.

Chorus Performance:

The 4th and 5th grade chorus will have two performances on Wednesday, January 6th in the EES cafeteria. The first will be at the Wednesday morning assembly from 8:15-8:30 and the second will be at 5:30pm. All EES families are invited to attend.

Community Enrichment Opportunities:

-The Flynn Theater offers classes in dance, music and theater and their winter/spring registration is open now. For more information click [here](#).

-The Vermont Youth Orchestra Chorus accepts students in grades 3-12. Mid year auditions are happening by appointment throughout December. For more information click [here](#).

Music-comp Online Auction

Music-comp is an online mentoring program for student composers. EES is a member of this great organization. They have an annual Bidding for Good online auction featuring some fantastic items to bid on including ski tickets to Mad River or Jay Peak, gourmet coffee and chocolate, music lessons, gift cards, tickets to the Vermont Symphony or Middlebury Opera Company and so much more! It's a great way to shop for the holidays and support Music-COMP at the same time. [Browse the 100+ items in our catalog and bid now.](#)

Teens, Juniors, & Sprouts

Celebrating the talents of a vibrant community of theater loving young people from around the state! We rehearse toward performances that elevate students' skills as actors and theatrical interpreters. The **Junior Company (grades 3-8)** and **Sprouts Company (grades K-3)** explore theater from start to finish, presenting original plays devised, staged, and performed in our studios. **AUDITION ON JAN 16!**

Detailed audition info will be posted soon. Email flynnarts@flynncenter.org for a timeslot

BIKE RECYCLE VERMONT

"Local non-profit, Bike Recycle Vermont, wants to improve upon the Burlington community by creating more empowered and connected residents. They offers discounted bikes to more easily and inexpensively get around Burlington as a vehicle for this change. Visit them at 664 Riverside Ave. or just give them a call at [\(802\) 264-9687](tel:8022649687) to see how it works."

PTO NEWS FOR THE FRIDAY FLASH

PTO Leaders: Marni Slavik, Hollie Foley, and Clare Wool
PTO Contact: pto@eespto.org

VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPLIES FOR SCHOOL PLAY "THE FRONTIER EXPRESS"

The Sign-up Genius is live and ready for parents to sign up for volunteer spots for the play. Please go to: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094aa8ac2faa8-20151>
The costume coordinator is looking for donations of boys size 8-14 suit jackets of any color or design. Please send to Front Office if you have any to donate.

THANK YOU: JINGLE BELL WALK AND ROLL!

Thank you to our volunteers who handed out delicious hot cocoa to our walk and rollers!

VERMONT COFFEE ORDERS DUE TUESDAY DECEMBER 15

Give the gift of coffee! EES makes \$6/bag! Flavors: Dark, Medium, Mild, Decaf, Uno, Dos, Tres. Orders will be delivered Friday. Order forms at Front Office and EES PTO website (<http://eespto.org/fundraisers/Vermont-coffee-fundraiser/>). Checks payable to EES PTO, OR Pay via PayPal; Please note in PayPal "Purpose Box" number of bags and coffee choice. Contact Pam Moreau (802.999.4590 or pmoreaulawvt@gmail.com) with questions.

HOLIDAY GIFT CARD DRIVE NOW UNTIL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

During this holiday season, if you are looking for an opportunity to give to a family in the EES community, consider purchasing a gift card (grocery store, gas card, department store, etc.) to donate anonymously. Every year Ms. Hathaway (EES School Counselor) identifies families in need and works behind the scenes to solicit gifts and gift cards for the holidays. The gift cards can be sent to school in an envelope where they will be collected by the class teachers and given to Ms. Hathaway. In order to reach families before the December break, please send in gift cards no later than Wednesday, December 16. Thank you EES community for your generosity during the holiday season.

SEASON OF GIVING: EES PTO WEBSITE DONATIONS

In the spirit of the giving season, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to EES PTO by going to the website: <http://eespto.org>. Click the "Donate" button on the right side of the page. Donations go toward teacher supplies, field trips, community events, and other student enrichment activities.

