

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

December 12, 2014

From the Principal's Desk

Several of the faculty and staff were reminiscing about memorable holiday gifts. Some were gifts that we had received and others were the gifts that we gave to our children and their reactions. Several talked about the fact that their children were given the much talked about toy with epic features and then watched as their children resorted to playing with the even more fascinating box the toy came in. One individual told of his neighbors; an elderly couple that would get a large, cardboard box and decorate it like a gingerbread house and bring it to them to play in. The kids in his family looked forward to it every year and played in it until it fell apart. The children of the house are now adults, starting to have children of their own. Recently, the elderly couple brought a box for the first grandchild, and the grown up children all had a crack at crawling in the door.

I'm sure many of us can remember scratching our heads as we watch our children devote more attention to the box than the actual gift. If you think about it, it says that children find more pleasure in those things that allow them to use their imagination and include others in their play. Wooden blocks, Lincoln Logs, Erector sets, tools and pieces of material or blankets (for tents and forts) can provide hours of fun. Card and board games are also great as they are played with others, and develop all kinds of skills without the children even being aware of it. Counting, adding, subtracting, and strategizing are all skills that can be found in many card and board games. Do I move my piece forward, closer to the end, or do I move a different piece to send another player back to the beginning, blocking their chance to win? Games like Sorry, Monopoly, Scrabble, Boggle, Othello, Mastermind, Backgammon, Chess, and good old Checkers are all great and fun games that kids can play with their friends or with adults. Card games like Cribbage, Gin, Hearts, Setback or even Bridge all require math and strategy.

Technology has a lot to offer, but those things that encourage play with others do a great deal towards developing better social skills. Having a conversation while you play cards is always fun. Card games can slow everything down to relax and helps us reconnect with each other. There may be disagreements and the children will need to learn how to negotiate insuring that everyone understands the rules. And sometimes, there is a need to discuss how to behave when one loses a game. Those are life skills that are applied throughout adulthood. If games have not been part of your families activities, and you want to introduce them, you are going to have to take the time to sit down and play with them. Giving them an alternative to technology for entertainment will help them grow socially and last throughout their lives.

Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 17 EES Chorus at Burlington Square Mall 11:00am
- Dec. 19 Jingle Bell Walk and Roll to School
- Dec. 19 Winter Break Begins
- Jan. 5 Return from Winter Break
- Jan. 6-9 Auditions for Narnia
- Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Day - No School
- Jan. 30 EES to UVM Women's Hockey Game 7:00 pm

Whole School Assembly
Wednesday, Dec. 17
8:10 - 8:30

LEARNING TO GIVE STARTS EARLY - PJ DRIVE BY FIRST GRADE - PLEASE JOIN US!

Our First Grade Team would like to request your help in keeping children warm this winter. We are doing our second annual Pajama and Book Drive to benefit local children and families in need. We will be collecting new PJs of all sizes and new books in Ms. Nutting and Mrs. Goldsmith's classroom, room 211. We will collect pjs and books until Friday, December 19th. Thank you so much for your support of our community.

CHANGE TO MORNING BREAKFAST EXPECTATIONS:

Students who eat breakfast in the Edmunds cafeteria in the morning must enter through the courtyard door. This is the door between the elementary school and middle school, with a staircase leading to it. This courtyard door leads directly into the cafeteria. Students must not enter through the Main Street door, as there is no supervision for children in the hallways in the morning. Breakfast is available 7:45-8:00 a.m.

SNOW CLOTHES ARE NEEDED

We are in need of snow pants, coats, mittens and boots of all sizes. If you have some that have been outgrown and would be willing to bring them in, we'd sincerely appreciate it.

FROM THE PTO**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EES MUSICAL NARNIA**

Open to all students in grades 1-5. Parents and students in grades 3-5 must fill out permission slip by Wednesday, December 17 and return to Monica Gragg. Chorus (grades 1-2) meets once a week on Mondays from 2:50-4:15. Chorus runs through Burlington Kids after school program beginning January 12. Students in grades 3-5 can participate in character roles, general cast, or crew. Auditions for grades 3-5 are on January 6,7,8,9 during lunch/recess. No rehearsals on Fridays. All day rehearsal for cast and crew on Sunday, March 8. Performances March 12-14.

Looking for parent volunteers for many different roles.

Contact Kirstin DiPietro Worden (kkworden@gmail.com) or Clare Wool (clarewool@mac.com) if you can offer your valuable support. To sign-up via Sign-up genius, click the link: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E094AA8AC2FAA8-20151

ADULT COAT OFFERING; SEEKING DONATIONS OF ADULT WINTER COATS

Rack in front lobby will contain adult winter coats for anyone in need. Please take what you need; you don't need to give to get. If you are able to contribute coats, please bring on a hanger and leave on rack.

SEEKING DONATIONS OF CHILDRENS' WATERPROOF MITTENS AND SNOWPANTS

Childrens' size small (size 4-6) waterproof mittens or gloves and snowpants (size small or medium, 4-8) would be much appreciated. Please drop off to Monica Gragg in front office.

SUPPORT FUND FOR SHELLEY SPINNER NOW UNTIL JANUARY 1ST

"Contributing to this fund will provide Shelley and her family with a bit of financial peace and will allow them to focus on what is most important: Shelley's recovery and family quality time." If you would like to donate, please go to the link below.

<http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/support-fund-for-shelley-spinner/247918>

NOW UNTIL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17: HOLIDAY GIFT CARD DRIVE

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 17. Thank you EES community for your aenerosity durina the holiday season.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19: JINGLE BELL WALK AND ROLL TO SCHOOL

*Note date change due to weather on December 10. Make an extra effort to walk, scoot, bike, or bus to school on this day! Hot chocolate will be passed out by parent volunteers to celebrate our walk and roll efforts on a chilly day.

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 at EES PTO (pto@eespto.org).

For more information about PTO events visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>.

SCHOOL BOARD INVITES COMMUNITY TO FY16 BUDGET WORK SESSIONS**IMPORTANT NOTICE - Please Plan to Attend**

The Board is hosting two budget work sessions designed to provide community members an opportunity to talk with each other about the standards and values that they believe should be reflected in the school budget. Each participant will be asked to complete a brief worksheet that will be collected at the end of the session. The product of these work sessions will help guide the budget development process.

Wednesday, December 17 or Thursday, December 18, 2014
from 7-9PM (attend one session only)
Burlington High School Cafeteria, 52 Institute Road

Please RSVP by sending an email to superintendent@bsdvt.org or by calling (802) 865-5332, and indicate if you will need childcare and/or translation services.

THANK YOU PTO FOR THE NEW SLEDS