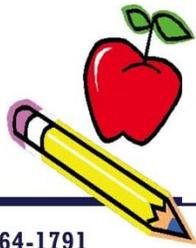


FRIDAY



FLASH

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

Date and Volume Number



December 18, 2015

Up Coming Events

- Dec. 23 Winter break begins
- Jan. 4 Back to school!
- Jan. 6 EES Chorus Performance
- Jan. 18 MLK Day

From the Principal's Desk

This past Sunday, I went to the VT Stage Company's fundraising event. It was a delightful evening of storytelling. The stories were not familiar, having been written recently by Vermont authors. Despite the size of the crowd, you could have heard a pin drop as people listened intently. The room was dark, with soft lights near the storyteller. It was warm and cozy as a cold rain fell outdoors. There was a song between each story and as I listened, I was struck at how different the experience was from watching a movie. I thought about how story telling has been so much a part of human community over thousands of years. The warm dark room that we were in was somewhat reminiscent of the cabin in the woods on a winter's night, or gathering around a campfire. When you think about it, storytelling goes back to the beginning of time as a human activity, especially when people were forced closer to the fire for warmth and survival. Hearing tales with heroics or humor kept spirits up and a community close. I realized that evening, that there's nothing quite like listening to a good story together.

Some of you may have had that experience of sitting around a campfire while someone told ghost stories. Remember how engrossed you got while the yarn was spun? The first incursion of technology was very similar to a family story telling time. Those families that lacked a good storyteller could gather around the radio to hear serial stories like "the Green Hornet" or "The Shadow". My father listened to them as a child and he shared them with us. Whether each of our imaginings was the same was not important, but the sharing of the story gave us something in common and our engagement came from our own minds, as we created the pictures that the words elicited.

Our rush to embrace technology over the past several decades has resulted in losses. Today, stories are primarily from television. They take little imagination. The work is done for us, and the same level of attention is simply not required. The experience of watching television does not provide the same kind of connection that listening to a story provides. Even the ability to convey appreciation for a story well told is lost.

As we find ourselves in the darkest part of the year, it is a great opportunity to resurrect story telling at home. Whether from a book, your own imagination or a story from your memory, carving out time for a good story telling session with your family, may surprise you in the impact it has on you and your family. Gathering together with some hot chocolate and cookies, and sharing a good story or two can be the start of a wonderful tradition that you and your children may look forward to for years to come.

Whole School Assembly
Wednesday, January 6
EES Chorus

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 drive will end on Monday, December 21.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM OUR FIRST GRADE



PTO NEWS FOR THE FRIDAY FLASH

PTO Leaders: Marni Slavik, Hollie Foley, and Clare Wool

PTO Contact: pto@eespto.org

SIGN UP FOR EES SCHOOL PLAY "THE FRONTIER EXPRESS"

BE A PART OF THIS FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE! Students in Grades 1 and 2 may sign up to be part of the chorus which is coordinated through Burlington Kids after school program. Please fill out Burlington Kids paperwork. Chorus practice will take place on Tuesdays. Students in Grades 3-5 should fill out a permission slip and return to the office before winter break. 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>

For more information please see the Drama page on the EES PTO website (<http://eespto.org>) or email Clare Wool at clarewool@me.com

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.

HOLIDAY GIFT CARD DRIVE UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

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 Monday, December 21. 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

