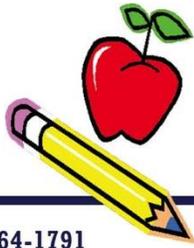


FRIDAY



FLASH

GROW with DIGNITY



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

From the Principal's Desk

Do you have someone in your life that is an inspiration; someone who seems to have an amazing amount of energy and is always doing something positive? I know that we see people like that from a distance, but to have an opportunity to know such an individual personally is a real inspiration. I had such a person in my life. At 82, her Facebook profile picture was with the piranha she'd just caught in the Amazon and other postings included pictures of herself with Snoop Dog. At 84 she traveled with me out west to see my kids and her nieces and nephews. I gave her my iPad to navigate. By the time the trip was over, she had one of her own. At 85, we traveled together to Iceland, fished for cod and she rode an Icelandic Horse. She was a retired surgeon, a graduate of Yale Medical School as one of four women in a class of 80 men. She served her communities for decades, volunteering countless hours, serving on boards as well as serving as an elected member of city councils and boards. I said goodbye to her this Wednesday.

In talking about what made Budget who she was, my cousin and I agreed that it was her insatiable curiosity. She was interested in everything. She grew up at a time where children were much more free to explore, and experiment. Most of us have heard the old adage, "curiosity killed the cat" but in fact, curiosity expands our intellect as we discover and experience new things. Brain based research has revealed that the more new things we experience, the more our brains develop.

Curiosity is key to seeking new experiences. Fortunately, children are innately curious. As adults, we need to be careful to foster curiosity. This can be challenging sometimes as we see our children do things where we know the outcome. Rescuing them from discovery isn't to their benefit unless real harm is possible. If we are telling them what will happen or just make them stop exploring, they begin to learn that exploration isn't ok. It stifles their natural curiosity.

Letting children see what will happen when they want to experiment is important to develop some critical thinking. If a child is never allowed to see what happens when they push a bowl too close to the edge of a table, they never learn that the bowl will eventually fall. If allowed to experiment, even with an empty bowl, the child will begin to discover a "tipping point". We see kindergarteners going through this process, as some have to learn about gravity as it relates to their lunch tray.

Curiosity demands space. It demands a reasonable amount of freedom and it demands encouragement. It means being allowed to make a mess with the expectation of cleaning it up. While their discovery may not be new to the world or you, it is new to them. They still "discovered" it themselves. Share in the excitement of their discovery by allowing them the pleasure of relating their new knowledge to you. Their new knowledge becomes their new competence.

Date and Volume Number

December 4, 2015

Up Coming Events

- 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. 9
Mr. Styles Class will Lead

Remember the First Grade PJ and Book Drive!

Please join our First Grade in our 3rd Annual Pajama and book drive!

Donations of new PJs and/or books will all be delivered to COTS and distributed to local families.

Collection of items is happening now, until December 11th. Drop off your PJs and books to room 115. Look for the box in the hallway!!

UVM Youth Hockey Day At the Gutterson Field House

The UVM Women's Ice Hockey Team is playing on Saturday at 4 pm. We have partnered with the team for five years, as they come to our school and we travel up to watch them. EES is scheduled to go to a game on Friday, January 29th but as a warm up, why not attend the game this Saturday. It is Youth Hockey day, so any youth hockey players 12 and under will receive free admission by e-mailing william.hurd@uvm.edu. They will have some extra tickets for EES students at the window, but it will be first come, first served. (Tickets are \$3 for children and \$5 for adults),

There will be a post-game kids conference after the game, where kids will be able to ask players on the team questions, which is always a nice experience for the kids to participate in.

PTO News for the Friday Flash

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 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>

JINGLE BELL WALK AND ROLL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Bundle up and walk, roll, bus or carpool on Wednesday, December 9th. Then, warm up with some hot chocolate outside the Main Street entrance, or in the back of the cafeteria (for those arriving early for breakfast). Please contact Rachel (rachskye@gmail.com) or Peggy (peggyov5@gmail.com) with questions.

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 are at the 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 HAPPENING 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.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Girl Scouts are having an informational meeting....

