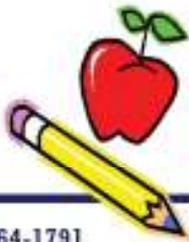


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

December 13, 2013

From the Principal's Desk

I want to thank all those who came to Multicultural Night and shared their culture. It was a delightful evening to be sure. The colors and textures of all the cultures were exciting to have a chance to see and experience. The food was wonderful - one of the best pot lucks you'll ever go to! Dancing with Jeh Kulu was a hit as well. If you missed it this year, remember to put it on your calendar for next year.

The timing of the event provided an opportunity to honor Nelson Mandela. We had not had a chance to do so because of the timing of his death so we took some time to do so during the evening. While we were doing that, I realized that the students did not know who Nelson Mandela was and I thought it was important that they did.

Our Whole School Assembly this week was used to teach them about Mr. Mandela and his contribution to his country and the world; that his stature was as important as Lincoln, Ghandi, and Dr. King. They learned that he came from a royal family and was the first in his family to attend school and college. They learned a little about apartheid and were reminded that our nation had similar practices at one time. They learned that Mr. Mandela was sentenced to life in prison and while there, worked tirelessly to end the injustice in South Africa. I shared some of the wonderful words of Mr. Mandela; words that I found to be relevant to our children in their dealings with each other.

Some might think that children are not ready for information that is in the news, but they can accept explanations that are age appropriate. They understood the injustice of apartheid and how important it was to change. They understood the concept of working with an enemy so he becomes your partner. This was demonstrated the next day when a second grade class was reading a book together and saw the connection between the characters and Mr. Mandela's words about working with your enemy so he becomes your partner.

If you think about your own recollections of world events, you will probably be able to remember things that happened when you were quite young. While I know that I'm dating myself, I remember being home sick from first grade when Alan Shepard was the first American in space. The Civil Rights movement was being fought intensively throughout all my years in school. My family talked about what was happening in Connecticut, throughout the nation and around the world. Children are a part of our society, and while we can certainly filter the amount of information we provide, leaving the most upsetting out, providing them with a sense is important in helping them sort out their world. Helping them to see that people can and do make a difference in the world is also a very important lesson.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 18 Whole School Assembly - EES Chorus

Dec. 18 EES Chorus performance:
Church St Mall 11:00-11:25

Dec. 23-Jan 1 - Winter Break

**Whole School Assembly - Dec. 18
EES Chorus!**

Please send children with clothes for cold temperatures! Thursday they were outside with a wind chill of 12F. They need the fresh air, and they need to be dressed with snow pants, boots, hats, warm mittens and a warm coat. Snowpants are for the cold as well as snow!

EES Wins State Wide "Way to Go Challenge"!

Edmunds Elementary was recognized as the winner of the Way to Go Challenge for the level of participation by our students in walking, rolling, carpooling and riding public transportation to school. The school reached a level of 54% participation which was the highest in the state of Vermont. We want to thank the PTO, and especially Rachel Shelley and Peggy O'Neil for really organizing and promoting this very important effort of getting our children to be more environmentally conscious in getting to school.





The First Grade Team would like to thank all of those families that donated new pajamas to our Scholastic Pajama Drive. We are donating 31 pairs of pajamas locally to COTS. Thank you all for helping another child to stay warm this winter!

From the PTO

SIGN UP FOR WILLY WONKA VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

The sign-up genius is ready for people to use and secure their volunteer positions. If you attended the informational meeting on Tuesday, December 3, please follow-up by choosing how you will support this year's school musical. Click on the link below to identify what will work best with your schedule. You can also access the link through the PTO website (eespto.org). <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094AA8AC2FAA8-2013>

Auditions will take place Tues-Thurs January 7,8,9th. Grades 1-2 chorus will meet on Fridays (see Burlington Kids after school program brochure). No rehearsals for Grades 3-5 cast on Fridays Jan-March. Full run through Sunday, March 9th. Show will be Thurs-Saturday March 13-15th. **Looking for (2) Parent Volunteers to Chair our team of volunteer parents.** Contact: Clare Wool (clarewool@mac.com) if you are interested in helping out.

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 of some extra support and work 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 **Friday, December 20**. Thank you EES community for your generosity during the holiday season.

THANK YOU: MULTICULTURAL NIGHT VOLUNTEERS

Multicultural night was a huge success with a large attendance, a plentiful potluck, many fun and interactive tables representing diverse cultures, and a spectacular performance by Jeh Kulu! A special thanks to our coordinators, Laura Feters and Svea Closser, and families that put together tables. If you couldn't make it this year, you certainly won't want to miss it next year!

DECEMBER 16th & 19th 7PM @ BHS: MEETINGS FOR BSD 2014-2015 BUDGET

The Board created a budget proposal earlier this month and is seeking public input on the proposed budget. Per law, the budget will be finalized in early January for a March vote on Town Meeting Day. "What we do know is that the increase in cost of our current program as it carries over to next year, as well as covering our deficit of last year, means that we need to reduce programs or change the way we do things to meet the financial target set by the Board," according to superintendent Jeanne Collins. Additional budget information can be found at: www.bsdrv.org and <http://collinsj.wordpress.com/>

PTO EMAIL UPDATES

The PTO sends out weekly email updates. If you would like to be added to the PTO email list, please email the EES PTO (pto@eespto.org). For more information about PTO events visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>.

JINGLE BELL WALK CONCLUDING WITH HOT CHOCOLATE:

