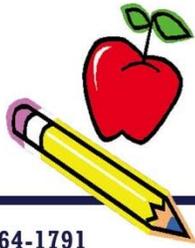


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

December 19, 2014

## From the Principal's Desk

I was driving to a conference Thursday and was listening to VPR on the way. The news was on and I was musing about the announcement that Sony decided not to show the movie called "The Interview". I wondered when it might occur to Hollywood that some of their ideas are really ill advised. The next VPR story was about a police department made up of volunteers in Mosul, Iraq. The reporter was giving the backstory and I was half listening until I heard the voice of the police chief who was being interviewed. All of a sudden I was drawn in by something familiar - a way of speaking that I've heard in conversations with some of our EES parents. That familiarity made the speaker seem closer, and his story more important. He was the chief of police and told of how his city was finding a way to defend the community from insurgents. The Mosul police force was made up of volunteers. He spoke about the diversity of his force, made up of Shites and Suni's, Christians, Kurds, and other ethnic groups and they all worked well together. They were not officially recognized by Bagdad because of the distrust the leadership in Bagdad had of such a diverse group working together. The chief of police was very hopeful though, looking forward to training by the U.S. within a week or so.

Once the story finished, I reflected on how my response to the story changed as the voice of the Iraqi man reminded me of parents in our own school. It made the world seem a smaller place. Hearing that familiar accent connected things happening half way around the world and made me consider more closely how difficult it must be to make a decision about whether to stay or leave an area torn by violence, knowing that you will be leaving all that you know. That story combined with the tragic news from Pakistan made me consider the safety that we have here.

That we offer security and a safe place to our children and families is something of immense value that we take for granted. I know that nothing is guaranteed even in our world as is born out all too often in our own news, but we are in a far safer place than many around the world. Our safety can be better insured over time by working together to provide greater equity and justice for all. Martin Luther King once said, "True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that the edifices which produces beggars needs restructuring".

I took away from the VPR story gratitude that we have families that are safer than they would in their homeland. I gained greater empathy for those struggling in distant lands, as they are the families and friends of our friends in our community. It brings home the words, "Let there be Peace on Earth, and let it begin with me."

## Upcoming Events:

- 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. 24 Family Math Night - Games and fun
- Jan. 30 EES to UVM Women's Hockey Game 7:00 pm

**Whole School Assembly**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 7**  
**8:10 - 8:30**

**THANK YOU: HOLIDAY GIFT CARD DRIVE**

Thank you to all who brought in holiday gift cards. Your contributions are much appreciated!

**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.

*Happy Holidays*  
*We wish you all a safe and*  
*restful break.*

**FROM THE PTO****PERMISSION SLIPS AND 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 December 19 and return to Monica Gragg. Chorus (grades 1-2) meets once a week on Mondays from 2:50-4:15. Chorus run through Burlington Kids after school program (registration due January 5) beginning January 12. Contact Priscilla Raba ([praba@bsdvt.org](mailto:praba@bsdvt.org)) for registration packet. 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](mailto:kkworden@gmail.com)) or Clare Wool ([clarewool@mac.com](mailto: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](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E094AA8AC2FAA8-20151)

**SUPPORT FUND FOR SHELLEY SPINNER NOW UNTIL JANUARY 1**

"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>

**PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE DISCUSSION WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21**

[More information to follow.](#)

**MATH AND GAME NIGHT SATURDAY, JANUARY 24**

[More information to follow.](#)

**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](mailto:pto@eespto.org)).

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

**FROM THE COMMUNITY:****STATE OF VERMONT FIFTH GRADERS SKI FREE**

Skiing and riding are magical sports and that can change lives, supporting healthier decisions and bonding experiences that can last a lifetime. There is no better time to fall in love with snow-covered mountains than during the final years of care-free adolescence. To help our youth get to the hills, we offer participating fifth graders up to 88 free days of skiing and riding at Vermont's alpine and Nordic resorts. Passport holders receive a booklet containing coupons for free alpine lift tickets or cross-country trail passes at each resort. (You'll get three coupons for alpine resorts, and either one or three coupons for Nordic centers, depending on the resort). For more information contact <http://skivermont.com/fifth-grade-passport>.

(THIS IS OFFERED THROUGH THE STATE OF VT AND IS NOT A PTO-SPONSORED ACTIVITY).