

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

December 2, 2016

From the Principal's Desk

I'm a believer in the power of art influencing society. Art doesn't have to be something worthy of the Louvre or the Metropolitan Museum of Art to have an impact. Star Trek introduced some ideas that seemed far out in 1966, and yet many of the technologies portrayed on the show have come to be. The communicator became a mobile phone that we all have. Talking to a computer is now "Hey Siri!" Dr. McCoy's medical scanners are now seen in Ultra Sounds, MRI's, arthroscopic surgery, reducing recovery from weeks to a few days for many procedures. Social change was suggested in Star Trek in the height of the Civil Rights Movement in 1966 with a crew comprised of multiple races, ethnicities and changed. Next Generation StarTrek included individuals with different abilities (Jordy is blind). Women were given important roles within the ranks of the officers. Other social issues have been introduced such as economic security and equity; where people had evolved to work out of a sense of interest, where each had what they needed, no need to acquire massive amounts of wealth or belongings. (We're a long way from that, but one can dream.)

We have all witnessed a tumultuous year with the election and the inclusion of some disturbing human interactions. Research across the nation has indicated that there has been an increase of racist, misogynist, xenophobic, and homophobic actions within schools, as some feel empowered to act out their biases, resulting of the language and behaviors exhibited over the course of the last year. The increase in intolerance has been disturbing to say the least. We have been proactive here at EES and throughout the Burlington School District to insure that students feel safe and welcome. We remain watchful to insure that the climate here remains safe, inclusive and welcoming for our children and our families. We hope that anyone who hears of anything that fails to meet that standard will alert us immediately.

We need to remember that our society has seen a lot of gains in terms of inclusion over the past several decades. The arguments against so many social changes involving inclusion have been the same - from the dangers of women voting, to the dangers of desegregation, to the dangers of same sex marriage, of immigrants, and religions. The fact that those predictions never came to being doesn't stop their use against next group of "others".

This fall, I have found some hope for changing attitudes in an unexpected corner. The use of art or storytelling, is found in advertising. The messaging of advertisements is done in an artful way (before you scoff - think Superbowl Ads!).

Up Coming Events:

- Dec. 14 - EES Chorus to COTS event on Church St.
- Dec. 21 - EES Chorus performs for COTS Candlelight Vigil - City Hall Steps, 5:30
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 2 - Holiday Break (No school)
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
- Dec. 25 - Hanukkah Begins

Whole School Assembly
December 7th
Traditional Morning Meeting
Misses Flaherty/Goldsmith Class Leading

(Con't)

This fall in particular, I've noticed a marked increase in the inclusion of minorities, mixed race couples, same sex couples, ethnicities, and individuals with disabilities in advertisements this fall. Gender stereotypes are crossed regularly, with men nurturing infants and children, and women portrayed in roles of power or authority. The advertisers are mainstream corporate giants. I think that this change, and the tolerance for it, is a barometer for the level of growth throughout our society. It is a quiet activism that repeatedly points to inclusion as the norm for our society. It would be a good idea to write to the companies we see doing this to let them know we appreciate the message of inclusion.

MUSIC NEWS:

The **EES 4/5 CHORUS** will be supporting COTS (Committee on Temporary Shelter) this December in two upcoming events. The Coolest Lunch next Wednesday, December 14th is a COTS fundraiser that has local restaurants serve lunch outside, the proceeds go to COTS. Our singers will be leaving EES at 12:30 to doing some secular caroling to brighten the diner's experience; we will be back in time for dismissal at 1:50. On Wednesday, December 21st at 5:30 the EES chorus will be singing on the steps of city hall as a part of the COTS Candlelight vigil. Singers should arrive at 5:00 for a quick warm-up, the event will be over by 6:00. **Chorus will be on break due to the school play rehearsals from January 4-March 16th. Our first rehearsal of the 2017 year will be March 23rd.**

IT'S RECORDER TIME!!

Recorder order forms will be going home next week with all third grade students. Additional order forms are available from the music room if needed.

MUSIC COMPOSITION CLUB:

Composition Club is a music technology club for students in grades 3-5 that invites interested students to write music using music notation software and music looping software. Some students will be able to post their work for feedback from professional composers at music-comp.org and submit work for the Opus contest which may result in student work being played by professional musicians. Composition club will meet on Thursdays from 2:50-3:30 January 5th - March 16th. [Sign Up Here](#). The Burlington Schools have been members of music-comp, an online mentoring program for young composers, for many years. It is a wonderfully rich program that supports the development of young musicians through the use of technology and mentoring. Please consider participating in their online auction which features many local products and gifts. [Check it out here](#).

PTO Leaders: Leigh Fisher, Hollie Foley and Rachel Shelley

PTO Contact: pto@eespto.org

EDMUNDS MERCHANDISE SALE:

Now thru through **Monday, December 5th** - Edmunds T-shirts, sweatpants, pom pom hats and adult sized PJs available - send into school the paper version that went home last week attention EES PTO!

SPRING PLAY INFORMATION!!!!

Monday DECEMBER 5 FROM 5:45-6:15PM: KICK-OFF PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION MEETING FOR EES SCHOOL PLAY - *All parents of students interested in participating in this year's school musical should attend this meeting!*

- Open to all students in grades 1-5: chorus (grades 1-2); many roles for grades 3-5 in cast and stage crew.
- Auditions for grades 3-5: Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday, January 3rd, 4th & 5th during lunch/recess.
- Grades 1-2 chorus meets one day per week (**WILL NOT BE RUN BY BURLINGTON KIDS AFTER SCHOOL MORE INFO TO COME**) starting week of January 16th.
- Tuesday, January 10th Cast read through followed by Cast & Crew Parent meeting at 5:00.
- Wednesday, January 11th regular rehearsals on a Monday-Thursday cycle begin
- Full run through Sunday, March 12th
- Show will be Thurs-Saturday March 16th-18th
- *Looking for Parent Volunteers for the many roles that make the annual school musical possible. Volunteer opportunities will be discussed at meeting.*
- Contact: Andrea Juneau (andreamaryjuneau@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping

EES COMMUNITY HOLIDAY GIFTS PROJECT:

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 (Amazon, book store, grocery store, department store, etc.) to donate anonymously. This year Ms. Hathaway (EES School Counselor) and Tyler Sessions (P.E. Teacher) are working to connect EES families in need of some extra financial support with gifts and gift cards for the holidays. This year we are reaching out to the EES community to help provide gift cards to families in need. 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 the 19th of December. Thank you EES community for your generosity during this holiday season.

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED:

EES parent/guardian volunteers needed to lead potential Kindergarten families on tours of our amazing school. The time commitment for this will be an hour (+/-) twice a month (January-end of March). Times and days of tours are flexible. You will be trained in what to say and the highlights to point out when giving a tour. Looking for 4-6 people to share the responsibility. Please email katelekstutis@gmail.com if you are able to volunteer.

FROM THE COMMUNITY:**HOLIDAY KIDS BIKE BONANZA (SPONSORED BY OLD SPOKES HOME)**

Friday, December 16th, 5:30-8:30 pm at Sustainability Academy (123 North Street)

- All are welcome
- Bikes for children ages 3-8
- Free bikes and gear for income-eligible families
- Bikes priced from \$20 - \$100
- Bike and helmet decorating station for all children!

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO RESERVE A BIKE FOR YOUR KID

- On-line: <http://www.oldspeakeshome.com/entry/holiday-kids-bike-bonanza>
- By phone: [802.863-4475](tel:802.863.4475)
- Questions: contact Peggy O'Neill (peggyov5@gmail.com; [802.999.4995](tel:802.999.4995))