



FRIDAY



FLASH

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

December 7, 2012

From the Principal's Desk

December is an exciting time of year for the majority of children here at EES and around the country. Whether they celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanza, they look forward to the event with increasing enthusiasm. The vision of sugar plumbs have evolved pretty dramatically, but the idea of some shiny toy or pleasure dancing through their heads is still very much a reality.

It becomes a challenge for us too. We want to surprise and delight our children and that can be a real challenge. They are easy to satisfy as toddlers, but the older they get, the more the awareness of the world around them, what others have. There were times in my family, where finances were tight as we raised four children. Wanting to provide a memorable Christmas was going to be a challenge - that is until I walked down the cereal aisle in the grocery store. I never allowed sugary cereal in our house, so that Christmas, I wrapped up Frosted Flakes, Capt'n Crunch, Sugar Pops and Lucky Charms - one for each child. You should have heard the screams of delight when they tore open the wrappers! They're all adults now, they still talk about it.

There is another element to the season that helps children be more appreciative of what they receive and that is providing an opportunity for them to give. Children are equally excited with giving when they have the opportunity. They delight in thinking about what they can do, working at gathering the items, and then watching the reaction of the recipient. They also are extremely empathetic and caring. I believe humans are born caring and loving and we only need to foster those traits through nurturing and reinforcing them.

There are different types of giving; one where the child is able to see the reaction of the recipient, and the other where the child is able to take the quiet satisfaction of knowing that someone out there was helped by their generosity. Both help nurture the child's sense of caring for others. It takes time for children to pick presents out for others and often we find ourselves having to help our kids by asking them if they think that Grandma will like sitting on the floor to play with the toy they just picked out for her. Reminding them who they are selecting a present for will be necessary, but as they get a little older, they will put some real thought in what they are doing.

There are two opportunities to help in developing the quiet satisfaction from helping others in this newsletter - the 4th Grade Food Shelf Drive, and the UVM Catamount Rally for Warmth drive on Dec. 16. Supporting your child's desire to participate by letting them be actively involved in planning and making the decisions about what to give. Finally, we can help them to think about the pleasure others will get in their gift.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 7 Reading to End Racism
- Dec. 12 Early Release Day—11:30 am
- Dec. 19 EES Chorus to the University Mall!
- Dec. 24 Start of Winter Break—no school
- Jan. 2 Back to school
- Jan. 3,4,7,8 Play Auditions
- Jan. 21 No School Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 26 Math Night at EES!

**Whole School Assembly - Ms. Flynn's
4th grade EES Food Shelf Campaign**

**Save the Date!!! Sat., Feb. 9th, 2:00 PM
EES goes to the UVM Women's Hockey Game**

FOOD SHELF DRIVE KICKED OFF AT EES

Ms. Flynn's 4th grade class is spearheading a EES food drive by collecting non-perishable food for the Burlington Food Shelf. The class has distributed collection boxes on each floor with one outside the main office. The class is asking that all donate one or two cans or boxes of food for our friends and neighbors in our community. The following items are the most common: peanut butter, canned fish, canned fruits and veggies, all cereals, soup, boxed meals, pasta and sauce. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

EES CHORUS PERFORMANCE:

**UNIVERSITY MALL JC PENNEY COURT ON
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 1 P.M.**

The EES Chorus will perform at the University Mall JCPenney Court on Wednesday, December 19 at 1 p.m. Please come, if you're able, and support the 4th and 5th grade super-singers of Edmunds! Young children will enjoy the show, too. All are welcome at this free, "light holiday" mini concert.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE FOOD SERVICE

Our food service asks all to please be sure to check your balances on your children's lunch accounts on a regular basis. The children are no longer going to be allowed to charge because balances have been growing and are difficult to collect. Children will be given a yogurt and a piece of fruit for lunch if they do not have money in their account. If you are having a difficult time, please consider filling out a lunch subsidy form. Mrs. Gragg has them in the office. For more information about paying for lunch go to: <http://www.burlingtonschoolfoodproject.org>

SKATE WITH CATAMOUNTS AND SPREAD WARMTH

Our friends at UVM wanted to be sure that we knew about a special chance to skate with the UVM Men's Hockey Team on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 16 from 4-5 at UVM's Gutterson Field House. It's free for everyone. Let's help the athletes in their efforts to collect new or handmade hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves for the Rally for Warmth collection sponsored by the UPS Store in Essex. Let's share the warmth we enjoy at EES with others while skating with the CATS!

PTO News**VERMONT COFFEE MAKES A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT**

Make someone happy with a holiday gift of Vermont Coffee! The PTO raised almost \$400 with our October coffee fundraiser. Each \$12 bag sold means \$5.40 goes to the EES PTO. Order forms can be found at the front office and PTO website under fundraising or order online:

(<http://eespto.org/fundraisers/vermont-coffee-fundraiser/>).

Orders are due Friday, December 7. Thank you! For more information contact Pam Moreau at 999-4590 or moreaubuck@burlingtontelecom.net.

SPRING MUSICAL: PINOCCHIO. PARENT INFO MEETING**12 DEC. 7 PM**

Parents of children interested in performing in this year's Spring Musical, *Pinocchio*, are invited to attend the **Parent Information Night meeting on Wednesday, December 12, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the Library Resource Room.** Very Merry Theater and EES Drama Director Don Wright, along with members of this year's Production Team, will be there to provide a logistical overview of the show, including information on important winter/spring dates prior to the performances*, play permission slips, adult volunteer opportunities, and children's auditions. Bring your questions and calendars! Please see attached forms.

We need approximately 40 parent volunteers for the play to be as successful as it has been in the past. On the attached form, please indicate how you can help. The dates and times for the three spring performances are: Thursday, March 14, in-school performance; Friday, March 15, 7:00 pm performance; and Saturday, March 16, a 4:00 matinee.

EES PTO VOLUNTEER SURVEY

The links below are to identical short volunteer surveys that we hope you take a few minutes to complete. Just click on one of them. We're simply trying to get names of interested folks for upcoming events and activities, *as well as names of anyone interested in leading the PTO next year.*

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/27KQWV6>

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7NJZTZ9>

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2V3MYZN>

We would like to have the surveys completed by December 12th. Let us know if you have questions. Thank you, Peggy and Signe

EES COMMUNITY HOLIDAY GIFTS PROJECT

During this holiday season, if you are looking of 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. 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 Tuesday, 18th December. Thank you, EES community, for your generosity during this holiday season.

LOST AND FOUND

We have lots of clothing, boots, shoes, lunch boxes and miscellaneous items in our lost and found in the entryway of the first floor. Please be sure to check it out if your child is missing something (and even if you think they are not, you might be surprised at what you find). Any items not claimed by the December break, will find a new home.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING EES RACE DISCUSSION

Thank you for attending our community dinner and discussion: "How to Talk to Kids About Race". We hope that you enjoyed both the food and the conversation, and that you left with new thoughts and ideas.

We continue to encourage folks to visit the "Race: Are We So Different?" exhibit at ECHO, and we're also working with some teachers on next steps. Please give us your ideas for further conversations on race. Thank you again for being part of this important discussion.

SAVE THE DATE: MATH NIGHT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 5:00-7:00 PM

The 5th Annual EES Family Math Night will be on Saturday, January 26th from 5:00 to 7:00. We serve pizza from 5:00 to 5:30 and games from 5:30 to 7:00. Stay tuned for more information and an R.S.V.P. Please contact Peggy (peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net) if you are interested in helping out with the event. You need not be a math wiz to help!

