

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

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## From the Principal's Desk

Several of the faculty and staff were reminiscing about memorable holiday gifts. Some were gifts that we had received and others were the gifts that we gave to our children and their reactions. Several talked about the fact that their children were given the much talked about toy with epic features and then watched as their children resorted to playing with the even more fascinating box the toy came in. One individual told of his neighbors; an elderly couple that would get a large, cardboard box and decorate it like a gingerbread house and bring it to them to play in. The kids in his family looked forward to it every year and played in it until it fell apart. The children of the house are now adults, starting to have children of their own. Recently, the elderly couple brought a box for the first grandchild, and the grown up children all had a crack at crawling in the door.

I'm sure many of us can remember scratching our heads as we watch our children devote more attention to the box than the actual gift. If you think about it, it says that children find more pleasure in those things that allow them to use their imagination and include others in their play. Wooden blocks, Lincoln Logs, Erector sets, tools and pieces of material, or blankets (for tents and forts) can provide hours of fun. Card and board games are also great as they are played with others, and develop all kinds of skills without the children even being aware of it. Counting, adding, subtracting, and strategizing are all skills that can be found in many card and board games. Do I move my piece forward, closer to the end, or do I move a different piece to send another player back to the beginning, blocking their chance to win? Games like Sorry, Monopoly, Scrabble, Boggle, Othello, Mastermind, Backgammon, Chess, and good old Checkers are all great and fun games that kids can play with their friends or with adults. Card games like Cribbage, Gin, Hearts, Setback or even Bridge all require math and strategy.

Technology has a lot to offer, but those things that encourage play with others do a great deal towards developing better social skills. Having a conversation while you play cards is always fun. Card games can slow everything down to relax and helps us reconnect with each other. There may be disagreements and the children will need to learn how to negotiate insuring that everyone understands the rules. And sometimes, there is a need to discuss how to behave when one loses a game. Those are life skills that are applied throughout adulthood. If games have not been part of your family's activities, and you want to introduce them, you are going to have to take the time to sit down and play with them. Giving them an alternative to technology for entertainment will help them grow socially and last throughout their lives.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Special Guest Performance by**  
**Pete Sutherland!**

## MUSIC NEWS

The **EES 4/5 CHORUS** Coolest Lunch event to support COTS next Wednesday, December 14th. All singers will eat during the 12:00lunch period. We will be leaving EES at 12:30 to walk down town; we will be back in time for dismissal at 1:50. 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.

**It's Recorder Time!!** Recorder order forms went home this week with all third grade students. Additional order forms are available from the music room if needed. All 3 and 3/4 classes will be working on recorder this year.

**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. Composition club will meet on Thursdays from 2:50-3:30 January 5th - March 16th. [Sign Up Here.](#)

## Fiddle Club

New this year EES Fiddle Club! Students and interested parents are invited to come explore the world of fiddling! Fiddle club will meet after school on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 January 3-February 14 and focuses on fiddle style violin music. The club will be facilitated by Mark Sustic and is sponsored by Young Traditions Vermont and EES. YTV is a community organization that strives to increase access to traditional music and dance. This club is free to EES students and parents. (Parents are not required to attend with students) Players must have their own instrument to participate. One year or more of violin/fiddle experience is suggested. This club will perform for the family dance/community dinner on February 16th. Sign up forms will be available from Ms. Nolan next week.

**PTO Leaders:** Leigh Fisher, Hollie Foley and Rachel Shelley

**PTO Contact:** [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org)

### **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 12<sup>th</sup>
- Show will be Thurs-Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>
- ***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](mailto: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.

### **Thanks For the Help!**

Thank you Jenny Sullivan for putting together our School Directory.

Thank you Cassy Gardner - For helping beautify our building by planting spruce trees in the urns outside of the school

### **No Frills Fundraiser**

The EES PTO is launching our annual appeal, with a goal this year of raising \$3000. Please take a few moments to make a donation so that all of our students can continue to benefit from the rich classroom activities, educational field trips, and fun community events that are sponsored by the PTO. 100% of your donation will go towards programs for our students. Link: <https://eespto.org/fundraisers/no-frills-fundraiser/>

Remember that your donation is fully tax-deductible. What's more, many local businesses will match your contribution, so be sure to ask your employer about this opportunity to raise even more funds for our school.

### **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](mailto:katelekstutis@gmail.com) if you are able to volunteer.

### **FROM THE COMMUNITY:**

### **HOLIDAY KIDS BIKE BONANZA (SPONSORED BY OLD SPOKES HOME)**

Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.oldspokeshome.com/entry/holiday-kids-bike-bonanza>
- By phone: [802.863-4475](tel:802.863.4475)
- Questions: contact Peggy O'Neill ([peggyov5@gmail.com](mailto:peggyov5@gmail.com); [802.999.4995](tel:802.999.4995))