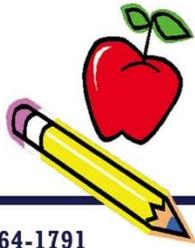




EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY



FLASH

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

Date and Volume Number

February 12, 2016

From the Principal's Desk

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind" Mahatma Gandhi -

I have long admired the thinking of Mahatma Gandhi as exemplified by that simple statement. The quote is on the back of my door and there have been times this year when a student or two and I have read that and discussed what it means. They find themselves meeting with me because they didn't see a different way of dealing with an issue.

We have noticed that many of our students who have felt somehow slighted by a classmate will often resort to retaliation. If one child says something with a mean edge to it, the recipient often responds with something harsher, and so it goes; ratcheting up and up, tempers rising, and often an occasional push or shove. It becomes a power struggle that neither wins and results in a trip to the office. Once here, the process is to help the student(s) to consider their alternatives. What were all the choices they had when someone says or does something mean?

We have been working on equipping students with alternatives to retaliation. Those choices may be as simple as telling the person that what they said or did isn't ok, or to ask them to stop. It may involve simply walking away. There are times when students may need to go ask for help from adults. It will also involve learning how to negotiate. Whatever the strategy, we emphasize the importance of maintaining a respectful approach regardless of the other's behavior. All children need to learn strategies to deal with behavior that isn't acceptable because they will encounter people who behave badly throughout their lives. They need to be helped to see that retaliation is a poor strategy that often results in the opposite of what they actually want.

This is one of our expectations in terms of teaching social skills. Arming children with constructive, positive responses to the destructive behavior of others empowers them to know that they have the ability to defend themselves in a way that generates an acceptable resolution to a problem. This is important in terms of not creating a belief that only others can solve their problems. We want to develop healthy, resourceful people who believe in their own ability to solve their own problems.

As a parent of four, there were times when the same kind of retaliation happened in my house. It was frustrating to listen to two sides of a story and have two pairs of eyes looking to me to judge a situation that I neither saw nor heard, both with the expectation of a decision on "their side". The good news is, that we don't have to be judge and jury. It is perfectly fine to focus instead, on discussing the choices that both had to learn, that they have the power to make their home a more peaceful place and they will become closer friends.

Up Coming Events:

Feb. 19 - Report Cards Sent Home
Feb. 22 thru Mar. 1 - Winter Break (Students Resume on Mar. 2nd).

Whole School Assembly
Feb. 17, 2016
Ms. Flynn's Class Presenting

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY!

February is **Love Your Library** month at EES and this year we are excited to offer a reading challenge to all of our students called "**Hit the Trail Reading!**" This year's theme will be hiking through Vermont with classes exploring each of our fourteen counties. From February 1st through the 17th, students will record the amount of time they spend reading outside of school and we will tally each classroom's total to see which class reads the most during the month. Progress will be recorded on the library bulletin board with each class having their own hiker trekking to the finish line! Your child will be bringing a letter home that gives more details about the race along with coupons to record their reading time. Please look over the letter and help your child to remember to fill out their coupons and return them to school. We are looking forward to a fun reading event and thank you for your support! - Kathy Neil, EES Librarian

Kathy Neil,
EES Librarian

PTO LEADERS: Marni Slavik, Hollie Foley & Clare Wool

PTO CONTACT: pto@eespto.org

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16: VERMONT COFFEE COMPANY ORDERS DUE

- EES makes \$6/bag!
- Flavors: Dark, Medium, Mild, Decaf, Uno, Dos, Tres
- Orders will be delivered Friday.
- Order forms at Front Office and EES PTO website (<http://eespto.org/fundraisers/Vermont-coffee-fundraiser/>).
- Checks payable to EES PTO, OR Pay via PayPal. Please note in PayPal "Purpose Box" number of bags and coffee choice.
- Contact Pam Moreau (802.999.4590 or pmoreaulawvt@gmail.com) with questions.

EES SCHOOL PLAY THE FRONTIER EXPRESS**UPDATE**

Frontier Express - Weeks 4 & 5 Schedule (2/15/16 - 2/18/16) * Indicates Pick-Up Time/Place

Ms. **Bonanni**'s: Room 311 (3rd Floor) - EMS **Stage** - Middle School Stage

Mr. **Styles**': Room 315 (3rd Floor) - EMS **Tech Ed** Room in EMS basement

For all **Elementary** School Locations - your child will be dismissed from the Main Street **front door entrance** at the horseshoe.

For EMS Stage or Tech Ed Room (**Middle School**) - your child will be dismissed from the **middle school gym lobby** by the back parking lot entrance doors.

Date/Time Cast Group Rehearsal Location & Person (scene or song):

Monday, 2/15

2:50-3:15 The Law - **Styles** w/ Ashley: (strong)

3:15-3:45 The Law - **Bonanni** w/ Don

3:45-4:30* The Law - **Stage** w/ Karen: (strong)

2:50-3:15 Longstreets - **Bonanni** w/ Don:

3:15-3:45* Longstreets - **Styles** w/ Ashley: (longstreet)

2:50-3:45* Rangers - **Stage** w/ Karen: (shiny)

Tuesday, 2/16

2:50-3:45* The Law - **Styles** w/ Ashley: (strong)

Wednesday, 2/17

1:50-3:30* The Law - Homesteaders - **Stage** w/ Karen: (strong, evening star)

1:50-3:15* Set Crew - **EMS Tech Ed Room** w/ Mickey

Thursday, 2/18

2:50-4:30* All Cast - Stage w/ Ashley & Don: (Costume Party & walk-thru)

