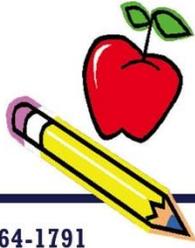


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

February 19, 2016

From the Principal's Desk

As most are aware, the time to vote on the school district's budget is Tuesday, March 1. The impact of the legislature's Act 46 on school budgets throughout the state resulted in significant cuts in investment. Burlington's district has been impacted much the same as so many others. While the legislature voted to remove the punitive cap on school investment, the change was too late for any change in the budget. The implications of the BSD school budget are based upon enrollment. The impact on Edmunds Elementary is that we will be losing one classroom teacher because we have one grade that is quite small and we can serve that grade with two classrooms rather than three. The faculty and I will be working together to determine how to best use our resources, including people. We are fortunate in that we will be able to maintain standard student/teacher ratios in all of our classrooms, with the lower ratios in the lower grades matching those that have been established by the district. Our largest grades do not exceed 23 students at this point and we don't anticipate a change in that.

The district has worked hard to recapture the trust of the community in terms of getting finances under control after some pretty rocky years. We are moving into a new era where we will be able to consistently provide the community with reliable information, which should make the passage of budgets easier. For those concerned about the depth of the cuts the district is making, especially in the high school, it is important to communicate with your legislators. The school district responded to the constraints that were imposed by the legislators which included a cap on investment simultaneous with increased legislated demands on schools such as dual enrollment (high school students being able to enroll in college courses and get credit in both college and high school), and ten hours of preschool for all 3 and 4 year olds. It is disappointing that the legislature would take an action such as imposing a cap or costs without a full understanding of the actual impact on communities. The number of unfunded mandates on school districts made by the legislature over the years added substantially to the costs of districts and resulted in higher property taxes without additional funding from the state. I would contend that the legislature would do well to impose a moratorium on any new mandates. It would be equally useful to review all the laws to reduce the amount of administrative costs that have been imposed that are not achieving the intended goals.

In the meantime, it is important to vote on March 1st. If you are concerned about the level of cuts throughout the district, please let your School Board commissioner know. Should you be unsure of who the representative is for your ward, go to the BSD website and refer to the School Board pages.

Up Coming Events:

- Feb. 19 - Report Cards Sent Home
- Feb. 22 - Mar. 1: Winter Break (Students Resume 3/2)
- Mar. 17 - EES Musical - The Frontier Express (In-school performance)
- Mar. 18 - EES Musical - The Frontier Express (Evening Performance)
- Mar. 19 - EES Musical - The Frontier Express (Matinee)
- Mar. 24 - ½ day for students; parent/teacher conferences
- Mar. 25 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - No school

Whole School Assembly
March 2, 2016
Miss Nutting/Goldsmith 's Class Presenting

PTO LEADERS: Marni Slavik, Hollie Foley & Clare Wool

PTO CONTACT: pto@eespto.org

Burlington Youth Lacrosse 2016 Spring Season

Burlington Youth Lacrosse season begins in early April and runs through June. It is for grades 3-8 and has girls and boys teams for the following grades: 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8. The teams will practice two days a week with games on the weekends. Practice and games will be at Leddy Fields. BYL is also holding 2 Pre-Season lacrosse clinics on March 12 and 19 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the Edge in Williston. For details, you can visit the **Parks and Rec website** for information about online registration, equipment for the season and the Spring Clinics at enjoyburlington.com or call Parks and Rec at 684-0123. You can also visit the BYL website at btvyouthlacrosse.com.

Adapted Bikes for Students & Adults with Disabilities:

Please join the **Vermont Friends of AMBUCS (American Business Clubs)** to raise funds to purchase **Adapted Bikes for Students and Adults with Disabilities!** Many of our Burlington students with disabilities have received adapted bikes in past years- this is our annual event to raise funds so that more kids can learn to ride a bike!

Get a Ticket for the March 5th Calcutta **fundraiser** to benefit **VT Friends of AMBUCS**, a non-for profit 501c3 organization that helps people with disabilities acquire adapted bicycles specifically outfitted for their needs.

Tickets are \$50 which include appetizers and dinner for 2, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, DJ, Cash Bar, and a Calcutta Ball. Chance to win \$1000.00! You do not need to be present to win!

Where: St John's Club - 9 Central Avenue, Burlington

When: March 5th, 2016, 6-11pm

Tickets: 50\$ per Calcutta ball

If you want to Purchase a Calcutta Ball, or receive more information about this event, please email Karen Downey,OT,at kdowney@bsdvt.org. Our Burlington School District Occupational and Physical Therapists have been involved with the Vermont Friends of AMBUCS and have provided adapted bikes for many of our students.

