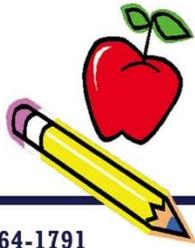




EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY



FLASH

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

Date and Volume Number

February 5, 2016

From the EES Staff

We all have it - The mother bear or father bear mode. We're supposed to have it, and we're supposed to use it. I completely understand when parents come in with their bear hat on. I've been there. I've also walked away from more than a few situations, doing a mental sigh of relief that I didn't actually put the bear hat on before talking to the person or organization I was "protecting my child" from.

The expression "loaded for bear" is from hunting which differentiates the shot needed for a bear vs a smaller creature. There's another expression from hunting, which is "ready, shoot, aim", which refers to what I found myself in, a momma bear mode about something that I was told happened at school. I distinctly remember several instances of picking up the phone loaded for bear, ready to do battle. Fortunately, my mother's training kicked in just in the nick of time and I would ask some simple questions about the situation at hand. I would then learn that my child's story wasn't *exactly* accurate. Sometimes, I learned that my child's story wasn't remotely close to accurate. (Those were the times when I put the momma bear hat down, and picked up the "You're in so much trouble" parent hat.) I have to say, that in all the time I raised my four children, there was only one time when I actually put that momma bear hat on and it was *after* the simple questions were answered. For the most part though, I remember a distinct feeling of relief wash over me as I hung up the phone or walked out of an office or classroom - relief that I didn't follow my initial impulse; relief and a bit of sheepishness that I didn't have more faith in the common sense of the people working with my children. I was also relieved that I hadn't told misinformation to others, because then going back to correct the information would have been necessary.

Children will tell you what they heard, what they remember, and their interpretation of things. Sometimes they are very accurate. Sometimes they are not. Sometimes their interpretations are very funny and it's obvious that what they are saying couldn't be the case and they've gotten something wrong. But sometimes, what they say sounds just close enough to plausible, and unreasonable that our radar goes up and with it, our indignation. That's when it's time to pick up the phone or stop in at school and ask a few simple questions. This serves three purposes. If what the child says is inaccurate, then you will be reassured. We can make sure that the child understands the correct information. Just as importantly, if what the child says is true, it may be a situation that needs to be fixed and alerting us is really important.

Being a momma or poppa bear is part of your job as parents. I appreciate that and know that is it important and necessary. I want everyone to know that we will always appreciate questions; that asking questions or letting us know that you have a concern is in the best interest of our school, and all of our children.

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. 10, 2016

Miss O'Brien's class will be presenting with additional performances by students!

FINE ARTS CONCERT A BIG SUCCESS!

Congratulations to all the Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students who participated in Wednesday's Fine Arts Night Concert! All the musicians did a great job singing and playing instruments. Many thanks to the family and friends who made up our audience and to the teachers who came out to support the arts at our school. Special thanks to Aoife Crainich for working back stage and the rest of the Crainich family for their help with clean-up at the end of the night! Links to videos of the performance will be available through the Friday Flash next week.

AMAZING ART WORK ON EXHIBIT!

Thank you so much to the many parent volunteers who offered dozens of hours of help with displaying student work for the K-2 Arts Night on Wednesday. Your generous assistance has truly beautified our hallways! If you missed the Arts Night, please come visit the art exhibit during school hours in the first floor hallway through the end of the month. - Joanna Elliott

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

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3: WINTER WALK DAY

Celebrate winter, the great outdoors, and walking by participating with our school!

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS:

Over the last few weeks the School Office has collected a number of Lost and Found items. If you have recently lost a cell phone, a watch, keys, toys, sunglasses and other small items, please come to the office to identify and claim!

PTO LEADERS: Marni Slavik, Hollie Foley, & Clare Wool

PTO CONTACT: pto@eespto.org

THANK YOU MATH NIGHT VOLUNTEERS!

Grace Charron, Kate Lekstutis, Leigh Fisher, Nancy Westbrook, Amy Lilly, Marni Slavik, Steph Mueller, Annie Howell, Lisa Brighenti and Dave Jenemann. A big THANK YOU to all the families who donated games for our prize table and desserts and veggies for our bellies! Math night wouldn't be possible without the Parents who donate their time to make something great for our community.

