

# FRIDAY



# FLASH

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

Date and Volume Number

February 14, 2014

## Upcoming Events

Feb. 14 End of Marking Period

Feb. 19 Whole School Assembly

Feb. 20 Black History Month Celebration - 1;30

Feb. 22 Report Cards go home

Feb. 24-Mar 4 Winter Vacation



## From the Principal's Desk

I know that everyone is up for a vacation but I do want to remind all of you to please remember to vote on Town Meeting Day.

Rather than spending a lot of your reading time on this column, I've included an information page that the Superintendent has put together for voters.

The budget is very tight and we are doing the most we can with the resources we have. While the Governor continues to state that enrollments are going down, Burlington's enrollments have continued to increase.

The thing that you may or not be aware of is that the increase in our tax rate is largely due to actions by the Governor and the VT State Legislature. There is not a school district in the state that is not facing large increases in property tax rates for the very same reason. It is unfortunate that we have a system that is not more transparent to the voters so that all know that while the Governor scolds School Boards for their budgets, his and the legislatures actions have been responsible for roughly 6% of the increase in tax rates before the budget was even developed. This forced us to do things that we would certainly rather not do, such as cut Spanish.

Please take the time to read through the information that is on the attached flyer, and Please remember to vote on March 4<sup>th</sup>!

**Whole School Assembly**  
**All are welcome 8:10 - 8:25**

## Edmunds Elementary to Celebrate Black History

The fourth graders in Laurie Mack's class have been studying the history of Black Americans. The students have been learning about the courage and strength of individuals throughout the history of the United States. The course of study will culminate in a celebration on Feb. 20 where the whole school is invited to a special performance as well as soul food for lunch on Thursday, Feb. 20. Ms. Mack has worked to get two special groups to come and perform at EES.

**Plattsburgh State Gospel Choir:** The choir actively performs on their campus, in the community, and throughout the region averaging 20 appearances each year. Within the past three years, the choir has performed in Albany, Arkansas, Boston, Chicago, Montreal, New York City, Toronto, and Tokyo. In February 2005 and 2006, they sang at the Flynn Center in Burlington, Vermont for their annual Gospelfest. In October of 2005, the choir completed a successful Chicago tour where the choir appeared on national television and various community/church venues.

We are also fortunate to have **The Middlebury College Dance Company** join in the celebration. They will perform a piece that has movement inspired by the African Diaspora. The content will not be broken down into segments but a 15 minute long dance. The piece is an excerpt of the concert they will be performing in Middlebury on the 21-22.

**Happy National Children's Dental Health Month!**

Did you know that more than 51 million school hours are lost each year due to dental disease? Poor oral health can lead to painful infections, malnutrition, sleep deprivation, and lifelong health problems. The good news is that tooth decay is preventable.

Dental hygienist Erica Brown is our school's Tooth Tutor, and her job is to help assure that every child has a dentist and regular care in order to be healthy and succeed in school. Need help with finding a dentist, transportation, or paying for care? Erica can help, with referrals to our school-based dental clinic, and answers to your dental questions. She can also provide referrals to private dentists. Erica works with our school nurses, and can be reached at 316-0013, or [ebrown@bsdvt.org](mailto:ebrown@bsdvt.org).

**TREADMILL - Clothes rack or Equipment?**

Do you have a treadmill gathering dust? Are you tired of using it for a clothes hanger? How about donating it to the Edmunds Elementary Special Ed Department? It would be used to help develop a walking program for some of our students. So take a stroll over to your computer and contact Lindsay Foote at [lfoote@bsdvt.org](mailto:lfoote@bsdvt.org) if you would like to know more information.

**BOX TOP FOR EDUCATION**

Please send your Box Tops for Education in to the bin outside the main office prior to February break. The next submission deadline is the end of February.

We've earned over \$164 so far this year. We hope to break the Edmunds Elementary record we set last year of \$233. Thank you!

**PTO NEWS****KINDERGARTEN COFFEE CHAT- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 8:30-9:00 AM**

How is Kindergarten going? All parents and guardians are invited for coffee immediately following the whole school assembly. The coffee table will be set up in the hallway outside of the EES Gym. Questions? Contact Marni Slavik at [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org)

**EES TOURS FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES**

Do you know a neighbor or a friend who will have a Kindergartener next year? Encourage them to come tour Edmunds! Tours will take place on Wednesday mornings at 8:05 am from the front entrance. Upcoming tour dates: Feb 19, Mar 5, 12, 19, and 26. Tour participants will have the opportunity to attend the whole school assembly and then take a guided tour from 8:30-9:00. To sign up for a tour, contact Monica Gragg at 864-1791.

**WILLY WONKA SCHOOL MUSICAL SCHEDULE AND IMPORTANT DATES**

Costume Party: Wednesday 2/19 1:50-4:00 pm:

- In the EMS Gym for all Cast and Set Crew.
- The costume party is an opportunity for the costume designer to work with the various costume coordinators to assess the status of each groups' costumes.
- If your child's costume is not completed by the party it is okay. The costume coordinators will be present to take inventory of the costumes and note what still needs to be done.
- It is also an opportunity to take photographs of the cast groups and set crew for the playbill.
- We are going to have roughly 100 kids in the gym and need all the help we can get to manage the crowd.
- If you can come and help out at any point during the party, please do.
- Please contact Clare ([clarewool@mac.com](mailto:clarewool@mac.com)) or Kirstin ([kkworden@gmail.com](mailto:kkworden@gmail.com)) if you can help out.

5 th Grade Rehearsal Tuesday 3/4:

- In the EES Library from 11:00 am -1:30 pm with Don.
- Please eat lunch before coming to this rehearsal.
- Dismissal will be from the front door of EES.
- Looking for at least one or two parent volunteers to attend this rehearsal.
- Please contact Clare ([clarewool@mac.com](mailto:clarewool@mac.com)) or Kirstin ([kkworden@gmail.com](mailto:kkworden@gmail.com)) if you can help out.

**HAVE A GREAT BREAK!! Don't forget to support the bake sale in EMS Gym on Election Day (Tuesday 3/4). All proceeds benefit the EES Drama Program.**

**PTO EMAIL UPDATES**

The PTO sends out weekly email updates. If you would like to be added to the PTO email list, please email the EES PTO ([pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org)). For more information about PTO events visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>.