FRIDAY





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

From the Principal's Desk

I was delighted that so many families shared our Fine Arts Night with us last night. We know that it can be difficult to come out at night after a long day at work, and especially a night as chilly as last night, but in the end, I think that all who attended found it delightful. The wonderful art and songs showed so much learning by all of our students. I marveled at the many lyrics that were learned by all of the classes and the enthusiasm with which the songs were sung. They showed equal delight in their artwork and the pride that they had in their work was readily evident. We are very fortunate to have such talented educators to inspire our children and we are very grateful for the fine work of Mrs. Joanna Elliot and Ms. Betsy Nolan.

We know that there will always be some families who cannot come because of work schedules or illness. As a working parent, I missed some performances over the years and it was always very disappointing. The good news is, that most of the artwork will be on display for a while. We've taken down the more breakable pieces and many children have taken their clay pieces home. The other pieces are still hanging, so those who were unable to join should be sure to come in and look for their children's work (grades K, 1 and 2). We also have videos of each grades performance which will be posted on the EES blog, so that if you were unable to see the concert in person, you will be able to enjoy it together with you child as often as you like.

I hope that you all recognize how important your effort in coming to a school performance is not only now, but in the future. We often do what was done for us as children. If our parents read to us, we are far more likely to read to our children. If our parents played with us, we play with our kids. If our parents went to parent teacher conferences, and school performances, we know that we should as well. If it never happened for you as a child, it may not seem so important and yet we know that it is. The children spend a great deal of time here at Edmunds. It is their home away from home. Sharing it with the most important people in their lives is really important to them. A child can try something for two minutes and they want to show us. "Watch me! Watch me!" Rewarding their efforts watching them as they do something for us reinforces their efforts creating children willing to try new things and strive to get better. Human expression through art is a form of communication that has been with us since the beginning of art forms. Our children sang songs from all over the world, expanding their knowledge of different countries and cultures. Art gives rise to imagination and what can be. As parents, sharing in our children's experience is a statement that this part of their life is important. Children understand

Date and Volume Number

February 10, 2017

Up Coming Events:

Feb. 10 - Tu B'Sheval (New Year of the Trees Begins)

Feb. 11 - Tu B'Sheval Ends

Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day

Feb. 16 - EES Community Dinner & Dance 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Feb. 27 - Mar. 6 Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

Whole School Assembly February 22, 2017 Kindness Week

Ms. McMorris' Class Presenting (No Assembly on 2/15 - Red Clover Day)

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the importance of a job when it prevents their parents from coming.

Some cultures have never experienced anything like this and really don't understand it until they experience it first hand. One of our older students insisted that she and her mother come to support her younger brother. Her mother, never having experienced a school concert in her home country, didn't recognize the importance of the event. Her daughter prevailed by declaring that she'd never do the dishes again if her mother didn't stay for the concert for her little brother! What I hope is that you can share the experience with those who were unable to attend. Talk about what you were able to see in the children as they performed and how it made you feel to see their pride and excitement and please let them know to look for the videos on our blog, and to come in to see the art displayed. If you noticed that one of your child's classmates did not attend last tonight, tuck that piece of information away and give them a call next time to invite them to come along with your family. We can create a community that is welcoming to all parents and families and sometimes that means giving them something that no one ever explained - a reason to attend.

FARM FRESH FOOD FOR HEALTHY KIDS

The Farm Fresh Food for Healthy Kids (F3HK) program offers limited-income families with children aged 2-12 a discounted membership to a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm. CSAs are run by farms that offer fresh produce to local members on a weekly basis. Families with children aged 2-12 years that have received SNAP or WIC benefits, have a child enrolled in Head Start, or meet similar income guidelines, may be eligible to take part in a research project being conducted by the University of Vermont Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information about this research project can be found in the information rack near the main office.

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EES COMMUNITY DINNER AND FAMILY DANCE

This event is **Thursday**, **February 16th 5:30 pm-7:00** pm and is open to all EES families. The evening features a free dinner to all who come, followed by a Community Dance of traditional folk dances from a variety of cultures. No experience necessary! 4th and 5th graders have been signing up for volunteer jobs for this event. Parents are invited to help out too! Sign-up here if you are available to help! This event is **free**; any and all donations will support the purchase of a new bass xylophone for the music room!

K-2 FINE ARTS NIGHT THANK YOUS!

Many thanks to all who came out to support our Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade artists and musicians at Fine Arts Night this week. The kids did a great job and had some fun in the proccess! Special Thanks to Zach Williamson who ran our sound board, Aoife Crainich, Kymoni Robbins and Darrius Miles who worked back stage, Janet Crainich who stayed well after the show was over to help with clean up, and Janet Gilbert who helped prepare the art show.

If any family has a video of the second grade performance and/or the finale, the music department would be very happy to have a copy. We had a storage program that cut off the end of the concert and we love to look at and share our work! Email Ms. Nolan at enal-work! Email Ms. Nolan at enal-work! Email Ms.

PTO NEWS

PTO LEADERS: Leigh Fisher, Hollie Foley and Rachel

Shelley PTO CONTACT: pto@eespto.org

SCREENAGERS SHOWING 2/15/17 5:30-7 BHS

Burlington PTO groups are hosting a free showing of the movie Screenagers on February 15th at 5:30 at the Burlington High School auditorium.

Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston saw that with her own kids and learned that the average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens. She wondered about the impact of all this time and about the friction occurring in homes and schools around negotiating screen time—friction she knew all too well.

In SCREENAGERS, as with her award-winning documentaries on mental health, Delaney takes a deeply personal approach as she probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including her own, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, SCREENAGERS reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance. Screenagers time is 1 hour, 10 minutes.

BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON EDUCATION FUNDING IN VERMONT

Saturday, February 11 - 9AM - 11AM Edmunds Middle School Cafeteria - 275 Main St.

The Burlington School District invites Legislators, School Board and community members to attend a conversation surrounding education funding in Vermont. Superintendent Obeng comments, "It's time for us to engage our leaders and community members to focus on the solutions, rather than debating the problems." The event will include a panel discussion with members of the local legislative delegation and the School Board to share the current state of our education system and ideas for how to move forward.

Community discussion will follow:

- --What questions do you have regarding education funding?
- --What can we do together as a community to address this challenge?
- --What are our actionable next steps?

Please join us for this important discussion.