

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

February 17, 2017

**Up Coming Events:**

Feb. 24 - Reports Go Home  
 Feb. 27 - Mar. 6 - Winter Break - No School for Students  
 March 7 - Town Meeting Day  
 March 7 - In-service Day - No School for Students  
 March 12 - Daylight Savings Time Begins  
 March 13 - Holi (Festival of Color)  
 March 17 - St. Patrick's Day  
 March 30 & 31 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

**From the Principal's Desk**

This week is the end of the marking period. Report cards will be sent home next Friday. Now before you open that manila envelope, I'd like to give you some food for thought. What was your experience when you received your report card and did it help? I remember it well. I remember whipping our report cards out of the envelopes to see what we got before we got home. Back then we were still on the A,B,C,D, and F scale. F for Failure was not part of my landscape, but there were occasional D's and C's which my parents didn't think much of. Unfortunately, the entire conversation focused on the one low grade, ignoring all the B's and A's.

My parents were good people and a product of their own experiences. I know my mother would have been in huge trouble had she brought home anything less than an A. Her report card grades were numeric and she was under a great deal of pressure to get high 90's. Anything in the low 90% was unacceptable to her mother. While my mother was honestly brilliant, that's still a lot of pressure for a child.

We have changed the way we address expectations in school to focus on what we want to see rather than what we don't want to see. The same should hold true in our conversations regarding grades in report cards. If my parents had spent more time focusing on the A's and B's in my report card, perhaps they would have helped me to see what I was doing differently in those subjects. Simply liking a subject was not a reason for a higher grade. It was the fact that I was actually doing the work in the class, and trying harder. That created a situation where I was more successful, which made me feel better about myself, which made me try harder, which resulted in earning better grades.

As you review your child's report card with them, spend more time on the areas in which they seem to be doing better. Ask them about the subject and what they think they did to earn the grade or the comments the teacher made. Ask them to think about how their work in that subject differs from their work in the subject that they may not do as well in. In the language you use, avoid referring to the grade as something "given" to the student. Teachers do not "give" grades. Students "earn" grades.

In your conversations, help your student to make the connection between their effort, their perseverance and their commitment to working for their own improvement. Most of all, help them to remember that they are not in school to earn good grades. They are here to equip themselves with the tools necessary for adulthood, and the more tools in their toolbox, the better.

**Whole School Assembly**  
**February 22, 2017**  
**Kindness Week - Count on Me**  
**Miss McMorris' Class Presenting**

**THANK YOU!**

We've had several wonderful gatherings for our community over the last three weeks. While it would be easy to hunker down in the cold, many of you have come out to enjoy Math Night, Pack the Gutt, and last night's Family Dance. These activities have been a great antidote to Cabin Fever that can occur during this dark time of year. I'm so glad that the snow missed each evening so many could attend. It is only through the work of so many volunteers that these events could happen. We thank the PTO, UVM, Ms. Nolan, Mark Sustic and Young Traditions Vermont, Doug Davis, Dawn Hathaway and Nora Griffin for their efforts.

**N.A.E.P. TESTING FOR GRADE 4 STUDENTS**

Edmunds Elementary School will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (N.A.E.P.) on Monday, February 20, 2017. Information about this test was sent last month to all parents and guardians of Grade 4 students. The N.A.E.P. test is administered by the U.S. Department of Education in schools across the country. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents/guardians, policymakers, and the public. Although there is no need to study for the N.A.E.P. test, we ask parents and guardians of students in Grade 4 to encourage their children to do their best. Information about the test is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/parents/2012469.pdf>. Please contact Mr. Fleury at the school ([tfleury@bsdvt.org](mailto:tfleury@bsdvt.org)) or 864-8457 if you have any questions about our school's administration of this test.

**THANK YOU FOR A GREAT COMMUNITY DINNER AND FAMILY DANCE!!**

Many thanks to all the families who came out to our Community Dinner last night! A fun time was had by all and we raised \$575 toward purchasing a new bass xylophone for the music room.

**Special thanks to:**

- Doug Davis and Sarah Huener and their team from the Burlington School Food Project for providing such a wonderful meal.
- Mark Sustic and Young Traditions Vermont for supporting our Fiddle Club.
- The Vermont Nepali Heritage Group and their young dance troupe for sharing Nepali dance with us.
- All the parents and students who helped with set-up, clean-up, hosting and waiting tables.

**STUDENT'S PERFORM WEEK:**

Next week is student's perform week in the music room!

*Students Perform Week* is a chance for any student to share a prepared song or instrumental piece for their class.

Successful performances have these qualities :

1. PREPARED: They have been practiced ahead of time and show effort.
2. TIMELY: 1-3 minutes is usually perfect.
3. APPROPRIATE: Song must use school appropriate lyrics and themes.

**PARENT FORUM, MARCH 23, 6:00 - 7:30 PM:**

Join Jackie Corbally, Opiate Policy Coordinator and Laura Nugent, Student Support Director, for a discussion on "Substance Abuse and Addiction - Impact on Child Development and Education". Sustainability Academy, 123 North Street, Burlington.

**PTO NEWS**

**PTO LEADERS:** Leigh Fisher, Hollie Foley and Rachel Shelley  
**PTO CONTACT:** [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org)

**VERMONT COFFEE COMPANY ORDERS DUE TUESDAY February 21st!**

EES makes \$6/bag! This month orders will be delivered Friday, **February 24th**. 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](mailto:pmoreaulawvt@gmail.com)) with questions.

**THANK YOU!!! EES COMMUNITY DINNER AND FAMILY DANCE**

What a Fun time! Thank you Ms. Nolan and the Burlington school food project for organizing such a wonderful night for our community to get together. Thank you to all the fourth and fifth graders who pitched in to help. Lastly, thank you to all the families who joined in and made it so successful!

**CRAYOLA COLORCYCLE RECYCLING PROGRAM!**

We are excited to tell you about a very special program we are coordinating at our school in conjunction with Crayola. It's called Crayola ColorCycle - an amazing new program devised to turn used markers into energy. Please help support our efforts by sending your kids in with any used markers you may have around the house - even non-Crayola brands. The drop-off box will be located next to the Box Top Collection box in front of the office for your child to deposit the markers. Letters are going home this week with more information. Any question please contact Meloney Kirkpatrick [mjkillpartrick@gmail.com](mailto:mjkillpartrick@gmail.com)

**SHREK PERFORMANCE BAKE SALES:**

Every year during the intermission of each performance we hold a bake sale to help cover costs of the annual musical. In order to make this fundraiser successful, we ask for donations of food, baked goods, and drinks for the Friday night and Saturday afternoon performances. We welcome participation from all families whether or not you have children in the musical. Your contribution makes a big difference to our school and offers a popular intermission destination for the audience!

Please use the link to sign up to help at one of the bake sales or to donate food or beverages. Please indicate in comments if your item is gluten, nut, dairy free or vegan. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

You may drop the item off at the bake sale tables at your child's 'call time' or prior to the show at EMS Gym. Please remember to label all plates/containers with your name and include information on ingredients/allergens (nuts, dairy, etc.).

Sign up: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b44acab2ba57-shrek/>

Questions? [lisa.brighenti@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.brighenti@gmail.com); [aliciamcunningham@gmail.com](mailto:aliciamcunningham@gmail.com)

**SHREK PLAY BILL COVER ART CONTEST:**

Open to Grades 3-5

Due: Friday February 24th

Look for more information with your child this week.