

FRIDAY



FLASH



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

Date and Volume Number

From the Principal's Desk

September 12, 2014

The last assembly we had was about the expectation "be respectful". The term respectful encompasses a lot of ideas. It includes kindness, inclusion, compassion, concern, empathy, consideration, and simple politeness. All of those concepts and many more encompass the term "respect". How to convey all of these ideas takes time and it is frequently done through teachable moments. The one area of respect that I have found a need to teach is that of concern or consideration - thinking about others before ourselves.

I was talking to a first grader who had been playing outdoors and knocked a classmate down, requiring an ice pack for his friend. The two boys stood in front of me, one holding an icepack against a big lump and the other looking up with trepidation, fearful of what kind of trouble he was in. We talked about being safe, and why people needed to be safe. His answers were interesting. When I asked him why he should be safe, he answered, "so I won't get in trouble". In an attempt to get him to begin to think about the impact of his actions on his classmate, I said that I didn't see any concern for his friend. I asked him, "Where is your concern?" He looked up at me with a puzzled expression. He began to pat his front pant pockets and then his back pockets as if he were looking for spare change. The adults who were in the room turned their backs and I saw their shoulders shaking as they silently laughed. Nope, he had no idea where his concern was so he was searching for it in his pockets!

I changed my question to help him to understand that I wanted to know whether he was at all worried about the injury he had given to his friend. When reminded that he needed to think about that, he focused his attention on his friend, and finally realized that he needed to let his friend know that he was sorry. Indeed, once he saw the harm he had caused, he really was sorry.

This week, anyone who watched the news saw the story about the football player who knocked out his girlfriend. While the abuse was horrific, I found his obvious lack of concern about the woman equally as disturbing. It begs the question, how can someone be so callous.

We know that six year olds need to be reminded to think of others. Their brains are not yet developed to think of others. Being compassionate is something that needs to be modeled and taught. When we find our small friends doing something that hurts another, whether it is a physical injury to another or damage to someone's belongings, it is important to focus not on the fact that the erring child is in trouble, but the harm they have caused to someone else. Helping them to learn to focus outside their own interests is going to be important to helping them to become caring, considerate and compassionate citizens.

Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 12 Welcome Back BBQ 5:30pm - 7:00pm
- Sept. 25 Open House 5:45 -6:15- Dinner (free)
6:00 -7:00 - Open House (in classrooms)
- Sept. 30 Picture Day
- Oct. 2 PTO Kindergarten Pajama Story Hour

**Whole School Assembly,
Wednesday, Sept. 17
8:10 - 8:30
PBis - BE RESPONSIBLE**

TONIGHT EDMUNDS WELCOME BBQ - SEPTEMBER 12 - 5:30-7 PM

Please join us on the upper playing field! FREE!! Burgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided.

*PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE:

EES Families with last names from A - L: Please bring salad or side dish to share.

EES Families with last names from M - Z: Please bring dessert to share.

Hope to see you all there!

BURLINGTON KIDS

Session 1 starts on Monday September 15! Student activity schedules are being sent home and emailed today, Friday September 12. We are excited for new activities like "Leadership"- learning how to sail, "Lego Robotics"- build sumo robots, and favorites like "Clay Studio at the BCA" and "Kids in the Kitchen". If you would like more info, contact Priscilla at [\(802\) 316-0195](tel:8023160195), or praba@bsdvt.org.

We look forward to seeing you next week!

THANK YOU MORNING TRAFFIC CIRCLE VOLUNTEERS!

Several parent volunteers help out with the traffic circle in the morning. They serve an important role in keeping the traffic flow and our children safe. Please be courteous to our volunteers during this busy time!

FROM THE PTO**PTO-SPONSORED OPEN HOUSE DINNER AND MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25- 5:45-6:15PM**

Join the EES community for a free full spaghetti dinner and brief introductory meeting before the Open House. This is a fun and easy way to start the night with your families. The Open House is from 6-7PM, which is a chance to meet the wonderful teachers and see your children's classrooms.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH FUNDRAISER FOR
THE FOUR WINDS PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 27:**

Four Winds program costs thousands of dollars to run every year and this is the ONLY fundraiser that is specifically attached to the Four Winds program. Location: Williston Rest Area (Northbound AND Southbound). Need volunteers to man the stations for a two hour slot AND people to make baked goods or donate drinks/sodas. If you've never done it, it's a lot of fun, and you need not have any skills other than your enthusiasm for the Four Winds program and how our school's children directly benefit from a parent led hands on program that brings real life science into the classroom. To sign up for a slot for the Northbound OR Southbound Rest area, please click on the link here: (or paste the URL if the link is not viable)

(www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080845AAA829A31-come/). Please note that when you volunteer for a slot, please plan to be there 15 minutes BEFORE your time starts and 15 minutes AFTER your time ends to be sure that there will be someone at the table at all times. To sign up for a slot to donate baked goods, drinks, and other things, please click on the link here:

(www.signupgenius.com/go/5080845AAA829A31-baked). Please note that you should only grab one slot per category. For example, if you are providing 2 dozen cookies, put your name down for one slot, and then approximate the quantity in the comments section. Thanks! Contact: Gina MacKinnon (862-0424 or gina.mackinnon@comcast.net)

KINDERGARTEN PAJAMA STORY HOUR OCTOBER 9 AT 6-7PM

Bring your Kindergarteners dressed and ready for bed for a story hour with milk and cookies. More information to follow.

PTO EMAIL UPDATES

The PTO sends out weekly email updates. If you would like to be added to the PTO email list, please contact Marni Slavik at EES PTO (pto@eespto.org).

For more information about PTO events visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>.

HELPING SHELLEY SPINNER

A meal train/support website has been created for Shelley Spinner. If you would like to participate in this effort, please email Marni Slavik at pto@eespto.org.

FROM THE COMMUNITY**COMMUNITY BARBEQUE AND OPEN HOUSE**

Thursday, September 18, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

The Burlington Police Department, Mayor Miro Weinberger, and community partners invite you to Food + Fun at Battery Park & Burlington Police Headquarters

**Open Streets BTV - Sunday, September 21st from
9am - 2pm**

Bike, stroll, roll, dance and skate along more than two miles of car-free streets in the Old North End as a celebration of one of our largest public spaces!

Enjoy fun and healthy activities for everyone along the route.

The event is free, and there will be activities for all ages - from chair massages and acro yoga to a bounce house and bike-powered smoothies!

Updates:

facebook.com/openstreetsbtv
burlingtonvt.gov/openstreetsbtv

Parking is FREE in public garages!

Contact:

Katelin Brewer-Colie
Complete Streets Project
Manager, Local Motion
802-861-2700
katelin@localmotion.org