



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY



FLASH

From the Principal's Desk

How often have we asked our children, "do you hear me?", had them nod their head, and then they do something that bears no relation to the directions just given. We shake our heads and wonder how it happens. Hearing is quite different from listening. We are designed to hear and a lot of our hearing is subconscious. Consider the amount of noise peepers make on a summer evening and the number of times we are actually conscious of the sound. I think I live in a quiet neighborhood until I actually listen and become aware of the distant sound of vehicles on the highway a mile or so away. My ability to hear didn't change. The sound was there constantly, but listening to it was an active decision.

Listening is the process of taking in sound and making sense of it in terms of how it relates to us. We have found that many students are very interested in talking but not so interested in listening. It's easy to see whether a child has been listening or hearing when it is their turn to talk. Some will join a conversation with a comment that is a repeat of the previous speaker's comments - just in their own words. Others will come out of left field with something that has nothing to do with anything anyone has been talking about. We see this a lot in kindergarten and first grade. As children get older, the left field comments are less likely to happen as children learn not to introduce off topic thoughts.

I have been in the cafeteria during lunch this year. Our lunches are huge with between 170 and 220 students and *it is loud*. So many students at the same table are talking. They want to be listened to so they talk over the other voices. It has made me dream about the possibility of having adults sitting with each table to help the children learn how to have a conversation at the table, where one person speaks at a time and others actively listen. The volume would diminish significantly, children would have more time to eat (they have plenty if they don't spend it all talking), and each would have an opportunity to be listened to as well as to speak. We've seen that when an adult is at a table, the children typically want to interact with that adult.

I would love to figure out a way to do this. I've seen it at other schools and it really does make a difference. The problem is that we simply don't have enough adults. Our lunches are 30 minutes. I would need an adult for every table and our largest lunch has 27 tables. The smaller lunch has 23. It would also be preferable to have the same person at each table to establish rapport with the students until the skills are well established. I'm sure our students would find it a far more civilized and peaceful way of having a meal and they would get to actually listen to each other.

If anyone has any ideas about how to make this happen, even for only the smaller lunch, I'm all ears!

Date and Volume Number

September 26, 2014

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 30 Picture Day

Oct. 2 Open House 5:45 -6:15- Dinner (free)
6:00 -7:00 - Open House (in classrooms)

Oct. 6-10 Walk and Roll Week

Oct. 9 PTO Kindergarten Pajama Story Hour 6-7pm

Oct. 15-18 Parent Teacher Conferences

Oct. 24 Multicultural Night

**Whole School Assembly,
Wednesday, Oct 1
8:10 - 8:30**

Open House - Oct. 2

The PTO is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner before the Open House beginning at 5:45. Come and join the EES Community with your family for dinner and then visit your student(s) classrooms and our faculty. Hope to see you Thursday!

Walk and Roll to School Week

EES is aiming at winning the state's contest for the most students walking and rolling to school. We've come very close. Is this our year? Carpooling, riding the bus, walking, scooters and bikes all are counted as environmentally preferred ways to get to school. Be part of the EES effort to help the environment and win the Carbon Cup for the State of Vermont!

Picture day

We will be doing a whole school picture on Tuesday, picture day, first thing in the morning on the stairs to the Cafeteria entrance. We will be instructing students to come to the cafeteria at 8:05 to get together with their classes. Please make sure your student is on time so that they may be included in the picture!

Note from Physical Education

Physical Education classes will begin to be inside starting next week. Due to an exciting new grant, all Burlington schools will be using The Presidential Youth Fitness Program. Our new online assessment tool will be FitnessGram. All K-5 classes will be learning new skills to increase their fitness levels. Fitness assessments will begin in October for all fourth and fifth graders. The health components that will be assessed are: Cardio-Respiratory Endurance, Flexibility, Muscular Endurance, and Strength. Please check out our fitness program at www.pyfp.org. Also, please contact Mrs. Sessions if you have any questions or concerns at tsession@bsdvt.org.

FROM THE PTO**PTO-SPONSORED OPEN HOUSE DINNER AND MEETING
OCTOBER 2- 5:45-6:15PM**

Parents and children, please 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.

**EDMUNDS "WALKS AND ROLLS" TO SCHOOL WEEK
OCTOBER 6**

October 8th is "International Walk to School Day", and Edmunds Elementary will celebrate with a week-long "Walk and Roll" to school on Monday, October 6. The classes (K-2, and 3-5) with the highest percentage of walkers/rollers for the week win bike-blended smoothies for their class. Please join in with other walkers and rollers as often as you can this week. Drivers, if you have time, park a block or two away from school and walk your child up to school. It counts toward the class tally. Don't forget to take a few moments to appreciate your crossing guards with a friendly greeting or a card signed by some kids in your neighborhood. Contact: Peggy O'Neill (peggyov5@gmail.com) with questions

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. Story time will be held in Mrs. Weidman's classroom. Please contact Marni Slavik (pto@eespto.org) with questions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMPUTER TRAINING

Help our students become familiar with using a laptop! Individual help is key in helping our students succeed. You would meet students in the 3rd Floor Media Center at EES. Please contact Kathy Neil (kneil@bsdvt.org) our librarian who will be thrilled to know you have a day to volunteer and help out our 2-5th grade students.

**HELP COORDINATE MULTICULTURAL NIGHT/ROCK
AROUND THE WORLD OCTOBER 24**

Multicultural night is a fun event designed to share our diverse cultural origins through food, music, and dance. If you would be willing to help coordinate this event, please contact Marni Slavik (pto@eespto.org).

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MORNING DROP-OFF
VOLUNTEERS**

Dear Edmunds Friends,

We are lucky to have a lot of amazing resources at Edmunds, but one thing we're not blessed with is an abundance of parking for visitors and for drop-off and pick-up time. We're the group of parent volunteers you see wearing brightly colored vests in the morning if you drop your child off in the horseshoe in front of the school. We're out every morning from now through the winter and into the warming days of spring to help make the morning drop-off go smoothly. We love being out there, seeing your kids, and saying hello to you, and we see ourselves as trying to achieve two primary goals:

- 1) To keep your child--and all Edmunds children--safe.
- 2) To keep traffic flowing in an orderly fashion.

You can do a lot to help us reach these aims by observing the following guidelines for morning drop-off:

When you pull into the horseshoe:

--Please pull up to the parent volunteer (in the brightly colored vest), watching for children in the crosswalk and surrounding area.

--Let the volunteer open your doors to let your child out. Please stay in your vehicle.

--Once your child is safely out of your vehicle, please exit the horseshoe by taking a right turn onto Main Street.

--Do not pass vehicles (including buses) waiting to discharge children.

--To help the parent volunteer, consider moving the infant and toddler seats of younger siblings to the driver side of the vehicle to facilitate easier drop-off.

If you need to park:

--There are two visitor parking spots and one handicapped spot on the inside of the horseshoe. DO NOT park in the handicapped spot unless you have an approved license plate or tag.

--If the visitor spots are full, you may park for free for 15 minutes on the south side of Main St. There are long-term meters on the north side of Main St.

If your child is meeting an Education Specialist:

--Please pull all the way over in the fire lane towards the fence out of the flow of traffic.

--Wait with your vehicle. Do not enter the school.

--Once the Education Specialist has greeted your child, carefully merge into the flow of traffic and exit the horseshoe by turning right onto Main Street.

If we all follow these simple rules, drop-off should be a smooth and pleasant transition for your child. Thank you for helping us keep your kids safe and sending them off on a positive note.

Many Thanks!

The Horseshoe Team