

FRIDAY



FLASH

**EDMUNDS**
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

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September 5, 2014

From the Principal's Desk

The first day of school was a big day for a lot of children. Whether they were entering school for the very first time, or they were moving up to a higher grade, they are growing up. As they head off to school, chattering away with their peers, we may assume that they will be able to communicate their needs, but the ability to talk, doesn't necessarily equate to the ability to express ones needs in a social setting with people outside one's family.

I learned this when my son was in kindergarten and he came home frustrated and upset on many occasions. He finally told me that there was a climbing rope in the classroom that the students could climb up but he never got a turn. It turned out that his classmates were asking him if they could go ahead of him in line. He always said yes. Somehow he'd gotten the idea that being polite meant that he had to allow the students to go ahead of him. Perhaps he'd heard people say "you first" or "after you". He didn't have the social skills he needed to politely refuse. I told him that when a student asked to go ahead of him, it was all right to say "no"; that the other students could also wait their turn. The very next day, he came home from kindergarten as pleased as punch with himself. He said that a classmate had asked if he could get in front of him in line and he told the boy "No thank you". He was finally able to climb the rope.

I'm sure that many have asked their children to "use their words". Teaching children the words they need to express their feelings goes a long way in helping a child to be successful. Words like "frustrated" or "confused", "I don't understand", all help students to let their teacher know what is needed. There remains the issue of how to communicate effectively and respectfully with peers. Some come very well equipped with those skills while others have very limited skills with which to navigate complicated social settings such as they encounter in school. Some may know the words, but are hesitant to use them. All need to be taught so that they have a voice when they need it.

We know that students are best served when they know how to navigate socially and what is expected of them. We spend time over the first month in particular working on skills that help children with communicating and negotiating with each other. In order to insure that there is consistency for the students throughout the school, all faculty and staff are using the same expectations and language around the school. We are teaching social skills throughout the year using Second Step Curriculum which teaches skills for learning (focusing, listening, watching, still bodies), empathy, emotional regulation and problem solving. We also use PBiS, Positive Behavior intervention Supports to teach expectations

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. 3**8:10 - 8:30****PBiS - RESPECT**

The main concept of PBiS is that behaviors, and social skills need to be taught, just as we teach reading, writing and math. We do not assume that everyone arrives at school with the same knowledge. Instead, we teach the skills and expectations for each area of the building and aspect of the children's school day. It is not rule based, but is based on the concepts of being Safe, Respectful, and Responsible - what does being safe look like, sound like, feel like in the cafeteria, the playground or the restroom? What is being respectful in the hallway (voices off so as not to disturb learning in the classrooms). Behavior gains a context and rationale that students can understand far better than a seemingly arbitrary list of rules.

We know that some parents of students in the early grades who are curious about academic work and homework. We want to reassure all that this will come, but our first work is to insure that all students are able to access learning. This requires that everyone is cooperating and respectful of the learning of all. The long-term dividends of the work we do in the first weeks of school in developing social and emotional skills are reflected in the climate of our school and the overall success of our students. This philosophy is born out through the research where it has been found that social and emotional skills have a far greater impact on the success of an adult than intellect. The groundwork is being laid for a lifetime of skills in working with others right here in elementary school.

BURLINGTON KIDS

Welcome Back! We are excited about new activities for session 1 in afterschool. From Lego Robotics, to Global Games, Young Writers and The Science Behind Art, get your sign up forms in to save your spot! Session 1 activities begin Monday September 15. Contact Priscilla with any questions (802) 316-0195, praba@bsdvt.org

FROM THE PTO**EDMUNDS COMMUNITY BBQ - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 - 5:30-7 PM**

Please join us for the annual Edmunds Community BBQ, sponsored by the EES PTO, on the upper playing field. This is for our students, parents, families, and EES faculty and staff. FREE!! Burgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. We are looking for some volunteers for set up (4:30-5:30 pm), grilling (5:30-6:30 pm) and clean up (7-7:30 pm). Please use the sign-up genius link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4CAAFAF28A57-volunteers>Volunteers for EES Back to School BBQ or contact Nancy Westbrook (nswestbrook@yahoo.com or 802-578-6441) if you are interested in helping with this event.

***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.

PTO-SPONSORED OPEN HOUSE DINNER SEPTEMBER 25- 5:45-6:15PM

Join the EES community for a free spaghetti dinner 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.

SEEKING ROOM PARENTS: NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Opportunities in the following classrooms: Ziegfinger, Flaherty/Palmer, Palmer, Bonanni, and Styles. If you are interested in being a room parent or have questions about what a room parent does, contact Hollie Foley (holliesfoley@yahoo.com or [802-318-2596](tel:802-318-2596)). Please include your name, classroom teacher, and the best way to contact you.

MORNING TRAFFIC CIRCLE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Helping with drop-off at the traffic circle is an easy and fun way to help out our community in the morning! Choose one morning a week 8:00 am - 8:15 am. Contact: Dave Jenemann (David.Jenemann@uvm.edu).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOUR WINDS PROGRAM

Four Winds is a hands-on natural science program that is available to every class at Edmunds run entirely by parent-volunteers and no science experience is necessary. The first workshop is Friday, September 12 from 8:15-10:15 am in the lower gym. Please contact Four Winds coordinator Carolyn Hanson (carolynhanson21@gmail.com) or 860-6638 with questions or if you would like to volunteer.

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.

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>

FROM THE COMMUNITY**BURLINGTON SCHOOL FOOD PROJECT**

The Burlington School Food Project is looking for several part-time/sub positions. They would be at any/all schools and would run up to 4 hours per day. Duties include food preparation, service and clean-up. No experience necessary for these positions.

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](https://www.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](tel:802-861-2700)
katelin@localmotion.org