



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY



FLASH

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

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From the Principal's Desk

I never really thought about these games in terms of the lessons we learned from them, but as I look back, I realize there is a wealth of knowledge within each game; knowledge in terms of social interaction, coordination, math skills, and language development. We have noticed that our students are having more difficulty in organizing their own games without the need for adult intervention. I realize that the games and skills that older children would pass on to younger children are no longer passed on. Children are having a harder time learning the social norms of play, including how to initiate a game without adult intervention.

Students are taking longer to learn certain math skills; those skills were reinforced by the games I used to play when I was in school. Hopscotch is a game that not only teaches how to count quickly, but helps children better understand before and after, higher and lower numbers, and counting backwards. It enhances coordination and balance. If you have room on your driveway, and some sidewalk chalk, you can show your children how to draw a game of hopscotch. Stones are thrown into each square sequentially and the hopper jumps around the square with a stone. The students can pick up their stone on their way back to the beginning, still standing on one foot. An added advantage is that the game helps improve balance.

Jumping rope is another great game. The aerobic game is great for burning up excess energy from sitting in class, and getting more oxygen to brains. The short poems and rhymes that are sung introduce vocabulary while increasing an awareness of sounds. Being able to hear the difference between sounds is critical to reading, as students must be able to distinguish a B from a D or C. The repetitive nature of counting helps reinforce the sequence of numbers. When playing with friends, the rope turners are counting right along with the jumper, reinforcing a skill. Days of jump rope can really help with number sense.

There are many rhymes that involved counting while jumping. We are searching the internet to help find jump rope chants because we've forgotten them, but we will be helping students to learn the chants and to enjoy jump rope. Not only is it great for reinforcing children with the sequence of numbers, but the rhythm helps them to learn to count more confidently and quickly. It's also great aerobic exercise.

This week UVM athletes taught our students a bit more about how to make losing ok. It was a twist on Rock, Paper, Scissors - the game we often use to pick who gets to do something first, or pick a team. The game was played with a large group. Everyone in the room paired up, and all played the game three times, best two out of three.

Up Coming Events

- Nov. 13 End of Marking Period
- Nov. 10 PTO Meeting
- Nov. 20 Report Cards go home.
- Nov. 25-27 Thanksgiving break

Whole School Assembly
Wednesday, Nov. 11

If you don't know the rules, a flat hand represents paper, a fist represents a rock and two fingers represent scissors. You both hide your hand, count to three and then show your choice. A rock beats scissors, paper beats rock and scissors beats paper. It's a draw if you both show the same hand. The twist to the game was that after three games, the person who lost becomes the cheerleader for the winner. The two challenge another team, with the two winners playing until a winner is established and a new larger team is formed with even more cheerleaders. Each person who wins gains more cheerleaders until there are just two players, each with a group cheering them on. The children loved this game, playing it repeatedly. No one worried about losing because they became part of a new team. That was a huge shift in thinking for the students.

We have been thinking that the only way for students to learn is through academic instruction in the classroom as part of education "reform". Some states have abandoned recess and play altogether which is really unfortunate and not appropriate developmentally nor is it appropriate according to brain based research. There is a lot of value in play and children can learn a great deal to reinforce their academic skills and as important, if not more, social and emotional skills.

PAVING NEAR THE EAST DOOR ON TUESDAY

Tuesday we will be closing off the area between the Main St. side of the building to the stairs as a paver prepares the small area next to the East Door for paving. This will be a short-term inconvenience. The stairs will be accessible, but there will be a narrow walkway between the dump truck and the bank for pedestrians to walk. Ideally, we would just block that alley from the Main Street end to the stairs. Students will need to access the field and their waiting area through the playground on Tuesday.

Burlington Kids Developing Social Responsibility & Care

Burlington Kids community service activity, "Helping Hands" is having a **food drive**, and we would greatly appreciate your support!

Please bring non-perishable food items to be donated by Wednesday, November 18.

There are boxes for donations in the teacher's room for staff members, and in the cafeteria under the table by the Burlington Kids bulletin board for students. Help your child select a food item to bring in and contribute.

Helping Hands will be delivering donations to the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf on Thursday, November 19, along with the money raised at the bake sale.

Help the group reach their goal of 100 cans!

PTO News for the Friday Flash

PTO Leaders: Marni Slavik, Hollie Foley, and Clare Wool

PTO Contact: pto@eespto.org

PTO MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 FROM 6-7 PM

Janet Bellavance and Heather McMorris will present on "The Use of Technology in the Classroom." All are welcome; childcare will be provided. Location: 3rd floor computer lab and library.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

MOVIE SHOWING: MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED, NOVEMBER 12 at 6:30 PM

Sponsored through Partnership for Change: no cost. Location: Winooski School Performing Arts Center.
<http://vtiff.org/events/most-likely-to-succeed-3/>

WANT TO TRY HOCKEY?

The Burlington Parks and Recreation Department and the Burlington Area Hockey Association (BAHA) is holding a free **Hockey night at Leddy (Paquette) Arena this Saturday, November 7th 5:45-7pm**. In an effort to make hockey more accessible to all youth players, BAHA has received grants from the Heinz Corporation, which is sponsoring Youth Hockey across the country. The grant also includes sets of ice hockey equipment if cost is prohibitive. Please email BAHA president Christopher Micciche at Micciche@sover.net to inquire about equipment and playing hockey here in Burlington. Your fellow EES friends and BAHA players, Sayre Fisher, Annabelle Lekstutis, Mason Asaro, and Ty Spellman would love to see you play for BAHA!!

Any Carpenters in the House?

The space behind the elevator on the 2nd and 3rd floors will provided us with much needed storage space on both floors. The spaces are wonderful, however they lack shelves. I do not have the budget to pay to build shelves, but I do have enough to purchase the materials, if there were some people with the skills to build the shelves. If anyone is willing and able to consider helping with this, please call Shelley Mathias or Trish Palmer at 802-864-1791.

