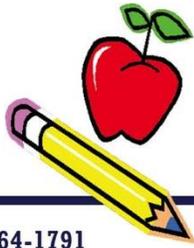


FRIDAY



FLASH

GROW with DIGNITY



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

January 15, 2016

From the Principal's Desk

Our assembly this week focused on remembering Dr. Martin Luther King. We have Monday off so it was important to recognize Dr. King. In some ways, it is unfortunate that our culture is so ready to simply morph a day intended to recognize an important national hero or commemoration into a three day weekend. It has a tendency to erase the very intent of the commemoration, which is why we teach what the special days are about.

I wanted to spend some time having the children consider Dr. King as a child, much as they are now. I showed them this picture and shared that, when he was young, he wanted to be a fireman, much like many of our students (and apparently Mr. Styles).



The information I was able to find about Dr. King as a child included that he was bullied but did not fight back because he believed in non-violence. The children learned that he worked hard in school, so hard that he skipped two grades in high school and entered Morehouse College at the age of 15.

I brought up some quotes that I felt were more accessible to children. There were several which were very relevant to children. **"The time is right to do what is right."** This can be related to working hard in school to learn as much as we can. We also talked about trying to remember what we learn so that we can use the information when it is needed.

"The ultimate judge of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of controversy and challenge." This quote relates directly to the lessons we teach in our social skills classes and our responsibility when we witness bullying. The students acknowledged that it is uncomfortable to challenge bullying; that it is not comfortable or convenient, but it is the right thing to do to speak up, speak out and give help.

"An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." This resonates with children when we point out that when we allow someone to be mean or unfair to one person, it is very possible for them to turn to another person and be mean or unfair to them, or even us.

Dr. King's words, **"I look to the day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character"** focused on race, but today can be expanded to talk about how whole groups of people being made to feel unwelcome in our country because of the character of a few people. In bringing this to a level that all of our students could understand, I asked them, "If I robbed a bank, and we are all members of the Edmunds Elementary Community, are you all bank robbers too?" "No!" they shouted. "If a person wore a purple shirt and did something bad, would all people wearing purple be bad?" They again shouted no. Making a connection to Dr. King's words to their own lives as elementary school students is important to helping them know that they too can do the right thing, even when it is hard,

Up Coming Events

- Jan. 18 MLK Day
- Jan. 29 EES at UVM Women's Hockey Game
- Jan. 30 Math Night

Whole School Assembly
Wednesday, Jan. 13
Mr. Palmer's 4th Grade Class will Lead!

"PACK THE GUT" EVENT!

Join us in our Fifth Annual Trip to UVM to cheer on the UVM Women's Hockey Team - Friday, January 29th.

It's a great time and a great Friday night activity for the family. In addition, all proceeds from this event go to the Meals on Wheels program. Put it on your calendar! All students are free. We can help with tickets for adults. More information to come.

Don't Forget! Kindergarten Registration is Open!

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ATTENTION 1ST & 2ND GRADE FAMILIES!

The EES 1st & 2nd grade chorus for the musical "The Frontier Express" is run through the Burlington Kids Afterschool Program. If your child is interested in participating in the 1st & 2nd grade chorus, please contact Priscilla for more information: praba@bsdvt.org, (802) 316-0195. "

OUTGROWN WINTER GEAR?

Our children have so much fun playing outside in the snow or sledding on the hill, but if they don't have all the appropriate winter gear, they can't enjoy all the fun winter activities. Do you have any outgrown snow pants, coats, boots, hats, mittens or scarfs that you'd like to donate to the school? If so, please drop off the items to the school office and we'll sort it out from there!

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

PTO Contact: pto@eespto.org

EES SCHOOL PLAY FRONTIER EXPRESS UPCOMING DATES

Auditions for this year's musical production of The Frontier Express were held last week and today, and your kids were great! We had 70 students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade audition for speaking and singing roles.

Please note, there have been a few changes to the schedule previously shown on the permission form:

--The EES Drama Parent Meeting will be rescheduled for a future date.

--The first rehearsal will be next week on Tuesday, January 19th after school in the EES Library on the 3rd floor. A more detailed bi-weekly schedule will be distributed shortly as soon as casting has been completed. Students will learn their role on Tuesday 1/19 at the full cast read through.

Revised Frontier Express Schedule:

--Tuesday 1/19 (2:50-4:30 pm) - EES Library: **ALL CAST (3rd/4th/5th graders)** read through. No set crew. (Dismissal will be from the front entrance of the building at horseshoe.)

--Tuesday 1/19 (2:50-4:30 pm): **1-2 Chorus** in Cafeteria (Burlington Kids Afterschool Program)

--Wednesday 1/20: Play Rehearsal TBA

--Thursday 1/21: Play Rehearsal TBA

SET CREW: Set crew meetings will begin Wednesday, January 27th from 1:50 pm - 3:15 pm in the EMS Tech Room in the EMS basement. Dismissal will be from the Middle School Gym Lobby.

Parents and guardians, please plan on picking up your student directly afterwards at the times listed. Please let us know if your student needs help with transportation home or to another after school program such as King Street Youth Center or the YMCA. Please contact Kirstin at 343-5502 or kkworden@gmail.com if you have any questions.

VERMONT COFFEE ORDERS DUE TUESDAY, JANUARY 19th

EES makes \$6/bag! Flavors: Dark, Medium, Mild, Decaf, Uno, Dos, Tres. Orders will be delivered Friday. 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) with questions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP PREPARE FOR ART NIGHT

Our first 2016 Art Night is coming on February 3, beginning at 5:45, for grades K, 1, and 2. Lots of help is needed to make it a success! Here are the ways that you could help:

- Right now **lots** of help is needed matting and labeling artwork, which is all on a cart by my windows. Supplies, instructions, and artwork are all ready for whenever you have time, anytime. If I don't have a class, you can work in the art room, otherwise the materials are portable and can be taken to the staff room.
- I will be spending a couple of weekend days in the art room mounting artwork on display papers to hang in the hallways, If you would like to join me, your help would be marvelous!
- On the afternoon of the event, help will be needed displaying up sculptures and labels in the cafeteria, as well as signage.

Thank you! -Joanna Elliott (jelliott@bsdvt.org)

RSVP FOR MATH NIGHT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 30th

5:00-7:00 PM The Edmunds Elementary PTO is sponsoring the 8th Annual Family Math Night. Explore the wonders of math with your children and let them show you what they are learning. A variety of activities, math centers and home learning activities will be available for children of all ages, such as graphing, chess, games using dice and playing cards and many other fun activities. Prizes, desserts and drinks too! We will have National Honor Society students from BHS to help facilitate games so that parents can fully enjoy the night with their children. **RSVP by sending an email to Rachel Shelley (rachskye@gmail.com) including your child's name, grade level and number of people attending. A paper Math Night flyer is being sent home with your child this week.**

For those of you new to Math Night, here is how the night will work.

5:00-5:30 pm: Pizza and drinks will be served in the lower gym.

5:30-7:00 pm: Math night begins. Games in the upper gym/cafeteria. Each student will go home with a packet full of games you can play at home.

We are also looking for donations of new or gently used -- with all the pieces--math related games (Uno, Chutes and Ladders, Yahtzee, Phase 10, Dominoes, Set, Sequence, Chess, etc) for the raffle at the end of the night; and veggies and dip to serve along with the pizza, as well as desserts too. Please contact Rachel Shelley (rachskye@gmail.com) if you are able to contribute. We hope to see you all there! For the baked goods, consider a math themed treat. For example, # shaped cookies, muffins or cupcakes with #s on them, or even dice brownies cut into squares and use white icing to make the dots. Thank you for your donation!

