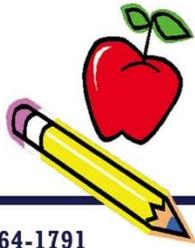




EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY



FLASH

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

Date and Volume Number

January 22, 2016

From the Principal's Desk

I've been receiving mail from students recently. The third grade has been working on writing persuasive pieces and a spontaneous petition arrived from some 4th graders. I've enjoyed reading their petitions for the various improvements that they have seen, or they feel should be made here at EES, and/or privileges they would like to have. The students could choose to whom they wrote and what they were asking for. Perhaps some parents are receiving similar letters.

I've received a request for a pool to be built so that everyone could swim. I've always been a strong supporter of swimming lessons so I definitely could see the value in the request. Imagine if we could actually have a requirement that all learned to swim before leaving grade school!

Although I could see the usefulness of a pool, I explained that we don't have the land to build on even though it looks like there is plenty. The city controls how much green space is required and we are already at our limit. I also thought that children had good access to swimming in Burlington as we have the Y and the lake with many organizations teaching swimming.

Another letter asked for a skating rink on the field in the winter. Now there's a request that I would definitely love. There had been a time when there was a skating rink up on the field, and there were skates for students to use. Unfortunately, no one knows where the equipment went and even if a rink could be put together, there is no room for the skates.

A request for multipurpose goal for the field arrived with the signatures of the entire third grade classroom. It's a valid request, as the students do love to play games like soccer. I can look into how much it would cost. It would have to be something that could be moved without too much difficulty, because we use the field for other things at different times of the year.

Other requests include permission to chew gum, have Specials (P.E., Music, Art, and Library) with their friends, and sit wherever they want in the cafeteria. Most of those require a level of personal responsibility by the vast majority of students and we're not there yet.

I appreciate that all of these essays are well written. The students provide several reasons and support the request with how it will benefit the school community or their classmates. They also anticipate my objections and have solutions for each. I appreciate their thinking and the quality of the work they do. The work that they are doing today is not only teaching them to write, it is teaching them how to approach an issue in a civilized manner. They are forced to think the issue through and take another's point of view to formulate their persuasion. These are skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Up Coming Events:

Jan. 29 EES at UVM Women's Hockey Game
Jan. 30 Math Night

Whole School Assembly
Wednesday, Jan. 27
Mr. Gillard's 5th Grade Class Will Lead!

MEALS ON WHEELS AND PACK THE GUT

Join us in our Fifth Annual Trip to UVM to cheer on the UVM Women's Hockey Team - Friday, January 29th. Plan on coming to the arena at 6:30 as there is usually a crowd.

The event is a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels, a non-profit program that brings prepared meals to the elderly and shut-ins. The program also provides contact with those who would otherwise be isolated, and spend many days alone.

As EES students go to the game for free, I have asked that they bring in a donation from their piggy banks, their pockets, and perhaps under the sofa cushions so that they can help out too. Please help remind your student about this effort. So far, we have \$20 raised.

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.

Math Night is Saturday Night, Jan. 30

This is a great event for the whole family. Learn new games and how your family can playfully reinforce math skills without anyone even mentioning the word MATH!

Don't Forget! Kindergarten Registration is Open!

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 & Clare Wool
PTO Contact: pto@eespto.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!

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3: WINTER WALK DAY

Celebrate winter, the great outdoors, and walking by participating with our school!

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:

- 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)

