



FRIDAY FLASH



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

January 11, 2013

From the Principal's Desk

We all have it - The mother bear or father bear mode. We're supposed to have it, and we're supposed to use it. And I completely understand when parents come in with their bear hat on. I've been there. I've also walked away from more than a few situations, doing a mental sigh of relief that I didn't actually put the bear hat on before talking to the person or organization I was "protecting my child" from. I distinctly remember several instances of picking up the phone loaded for bear, ready to do battle. Fortunately, my mother's training kicked in just in the nick of time and I would ask some simple questions about the situation at hand. I would then learn that my child's story wasn't *exactly* accurate. Sometimes I learned that my child's story wasn't remotely close to accurate. (Those were the times when I put the momma bear hat down, and picked up the "You're in so much trouble" parent hat.) I have to say that in all the time I raised my four children, there was only one time when I actually put that momma bear hat on and it was *after* the simple questions were answered. For the most part though, I remember a distinct feeling of relief wash over me as I hung up the phone or walked out of an office or classroom - relief that I didn't follow my initial impulse; relief and a bit of sheepishness that I didn't have more faith in the common sense of the people working with my children. I was also relieved that I hadn't told misinformation to others because then going back to correct the information would have been necessary.

Children will tell you what they heard, what they remember, and their interpretation of things. Sometimes they are very accurate. Sometimes they are not. Sometimes their interpretations are very funny and it's obvious that what they are saying couldn't be the case and they've gotten something wrong. But sometimes, what they say sounds just close enough to plausible and unreasonable that our radar goes up and with it, our indignation. That's when it's time to pick up the phone or stop in at school and ask a few simple questions. This serves three purposes. If what the child says is inaccurate, then you will be reassured. We can make sure that the child understands the correct information. Just as importantly, if what the child says is true, it may be a situation that needs to be fixed and alerting us is really important.

Being a momma or poppa bear is part of your job as parents. I appreciate that and know that is it important and necessary. I want everyone to know that we will always appreciate questions; that asking questions or letting us know that you have a concern is in the best interest of our school, and all of our children.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 21 No School Martin Luther King Day
EES Chorus Performance - ECHO Center 2 pm
- Jan. 26 Math Night at EES!
- Feb. 1 Duct Tape Parenting! You'll want to go to this!!
- Feb. 6 NAEP testing for 4th grade
- Feb. 7 Early Release - 11:30
- Feb. 9 EES to UVM Women's Hockey - 2:00

Whole School Assembly
Focus will be on Dr. Martin Luther King,
Lead by Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Sessions
students.

Duct Tape Parenting!

The Family School Partnership and the PTO are hosting an evening with parenting expert Vicki Hoefle.

Vicki will share tips from her new book *Duct Tape Parenting, A Less is More Approach to Raising Respectful, Responsible and Resilient Kids* (Bibliomotion 2012) Vicki loves to share her parenting tips and techniques along with humorous stories to help parents begin the journey to parenting from their best.

Vicki brings a new perspective to the job of parenting that is not only liberating and refreshing, but works to create long-term change and happiness in any family. Vicki will share the principles from her book and answer questions about raising kids in an atmosphere of respect, cooperation and support. Her presentations have been called "inspiring, informative, entertaining and life-changing." You won't want to miss it! Please RSVP to Claudia Renchy Morton at claudiarenchymorton@gmail.com by February 1, 2012. Free pizza and childcare will be available for those people who register.

5:45PM to 6:15PM pizza in the gym
6:15PM to 8:15PM conversation with Vicki Hoefle

NOTE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

I've been to Vickie's talks and I wished that I'd had access to her information when I was raising my family - **If there is any way you can go to this, do!** It is one of the most valuable, and empowering sessions you will get to help you as you raise your kids (and she's really funny while she's helping you!)

Hola padres y estudiantes,

If you are looking for a fun way to practice and build Spanish skills at home, I have a few resources to share that I have really enjoyed. The newest discovery is a website and/or app (free) called duolingo, which leads learners through a series of language challenges and is super user-friendly. You work your way up through different levels and can even challenge other users of the program. Spanishdict.com and studyspanish.com are websites where users can move through fun lessons and challenges and can create flashcard sets for themselves. Finally, "coffee break español" is a free podcast series that can be downloaded from the web or the itunes store that is a great audio program. Feel free to ask me if you ever want leads towards additional resources.

¡hasta pronto amigos!

Chase Rosenberg

PTO NEWS**IMPORTANT NOTE ON RACE EVENTS**

As you probably know by now, we hope that you have had a chance to visit the ***RACE: Are We So Different?*** exhibit at ECHO. If not, you still have a couple of weeks as it closes on January 27. There are a few more related events coming up that we hope you will consider attending, especially the ***MLK Day celebration on January 21 featuring our own Edmunds Elementary School Chorus***. You can also visit www.understandingrace.com for more information.

If you need help with the cost of admissions or transportation to these events, please contact Signe Daly at signe.daly@burlingtontelecom.net.

In December, we had our own conversation with Denise Dunbar on how to talk to kids about race. That was followed by our annual school event of Reading to End Racism. We hope to hear from more of you about how you would like to take these important conversations about race and diversity further for our community. Please contact Signe Daly at signe.daly@burlingtontelecom.net with your suggestions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Peggy O'Neill Vivanco and Signe Daly

Community Conversation Series, Saturday, January 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$2 admission ALL DAY to ECHO. This is the fourth and final Community Conversation Saturday, each with a full day of programs related to a different theme. The final theme will be around **Race and Identity**. This day will include a Workshop: Talking about Race with Your Family by Dr. Denise Dunbar; a performance by A2VT, an Africa to Vermont hip hop trio; a panel discussion on Asian American Identity; plus a very special pre-screening of two ECHO-produced Indigenous Expression Films followed by a panel discussion on Native American Identity and Culture. Check out the attached invitation and share it with your friends!

RSVP FOR MATH NIGHT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 5:00-7:00 PM - A GREAT TIME FOR ALL!

On Saturday, January 26th, the Edmunds Elementary PTO will sponsor the 5th Annual Family Math Night. Explore the wonders of math with your child/ren and let them show you what they are learning! A variety 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. Also there will be one Bridges game from each grade level. 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 child/ren. **RSVP by sending an email (peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net) including your child's name, grade level and number of people attending. A paper Math Night flyer will be sent home next week with your child.** 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: Students will enter the cafeteria and be given a Math Night ticket with 6 empty circles. As your child completes an activity at a table, you will write that table number in one of the empty circles. When your child has filled all of the circles, put the ticket into the bag at the prize table in order to enter to win a chance at one of the games that will be raffled off at the end of the night. Each student will leave with a take-home bag with games you can play at home.

We are also looking for donations of math related games (Uno, Chutes and Ladders, Yahtzee, Phase 10, Dominoes, Set, Sequence, Chess, etc.) for the raffle at the end of the night. In addition, let us know if you can bring some veggies and dip, and/or a dessert Please contact Kate Larson at 248-515-5412 or kate.larson@mac.com if you are able to contribute. Thanks and we hope to see you all there!

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY MEETING: JAN. 24

In response to parent concerns, the PTO will sponsor a meeting on school safety. The goal of this discussion will be to review the current safety status of the Edmunds Campus (EES and EMS), the safety of all of our schools in Burlington, and learn more about what other measures we need to take immediately and in the future. We have invited EES and EMS principals, Superintendent Collins, School Board Members, and other relevant administrators to the meeting. Childcare will be provided. We will try to video record the meeting for those who can't attend. The meeting will be from 4:30 to 5:30, location TBD.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration, Monday, January 21, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$2 admission ALL DAY to ECHO. A community-wide celebration will take place at ECHO with family-friendly programming celebrating Dr. King's legacy. Events include an exhibit walk through and discussion with the We All Belong Americorps team, presentation of the "I Have A Dream" musical by the Edmunds Elementary School Chorus, and a Cultural Diversity Puppet Show by Puppets in Education.

EES MUSICAL - PINOCCHIO - UPDATE

We have had a tremendous turn out for the school musical with 100 kids auditioning for roles over the last couple of days! The process of casting will be completed over the next couple of days.

Reminder to Parents: The ALL CAST read-through will be Monday January 14th after school. That includes all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade participants. Your child will meet in the hallway outside the cafeteria directly after school is dismissed. They will receive a snack and then be escorted to the rehearsal location, which will be on the stage of the Middle School Auditorium. The read-through should take approximately 1-1/2 hours. **Please plan to pick up your child at 4:30 pm from the Middle School Auditorium.** Children must have a signed permission form turned in **by the end of this week** in order to participate. We will send your child home after school on Monday if we have not received a signed permission form. Please see EES Drama site: <http://eespto.org/theater-program/> for forms, permission slips and parent handbook.

We are still in need of parent volunteers. Please visit the Sign-up Genius website at

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094AA8AC2FAA8-2013> to sign up.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the production team leaders:

Susie Moakley: cell: 355-0404
email: smoakley@burlingtontelecom.net

Joanne Beaubien: cell: 238-5141
email: joannebeaubien@gmail.com

Kirstin DiPietro Worden: cell: 343-5502
email: kkworden@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**Burlington School Board Approves a 5.3% Budget Increase Amid Cuts**

Burlington, Vermont - January 9, 2013 - The Burlington School Board has approved a \$62,766,794 budget for the 2013-14 school year. While the original budget that was presented to the community called for an approximate 4.5% budget increase, the Board listened to the community advocate for putting back in middle school Healthy Living teachers, the Community Outreach Coordinator positions, funding for Family School Partnerships and four paraeducator positions. The final budget that was approved also includes two additional English Language Learner teachers and an additional elementary classroom teacher to meet the needs of the increased enrollment as well as approximately \$100,000 in funding for various initiatives related to Diversity and Equity. Reductions were made in administration, teaching and paraeducators, and middle and high school athletics and co-curriculars.

While the final tax effect of this budget increase is not fully known because it depends upon legislative decisions yet to be made, it appears that the tax increase will be very similar to the expense increase. This is a result of many effects, including the increasing number of students in the District, changes in the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), changes in anticipated non-local revenues and the amortization of the FY 2012 deficit.

Alan Matson, Finance Chair who led the committee that developed the budget proposal, noted: "This budget reflects a set of board goals that emphasize the importance of a strategic vision for the District. This strategic vision emphasizes that we must keep our public school budgets affordable while at the same time preserving community values such as reasonable class sizes and opportunities for all students".

CONTACT: Jeanné Collins, Superintendent
[\(802\) 864-8474](tel:8028648474)
jcollins@bsdvt.org
www.bsdvt.org

Keith Pillsbury, Board Chair
[\(802\) 734-9344](tel:8027349344)
kpillsbury@bsdvt.org