



**EDMUNDS**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# FRIDAY FLASH



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

January 16, 2015

## From the Principal's Desk

The process of writing this column is one that helps me to center my thoughts and give pause and time for reflection. Given the pace of life and things in a school with 350+/1 students and their families and over 60 faculty/staff, taking deliberate time to quietly think about something is not just a luxury, it's a necessity. (Mrs. Hathaway would probably remind me right now that this is what mindfulness is all about - being in this moment - here - now). Today I wanted to say something about Dr. King and MLK day, but wasn't sure what so I spent some time reading quotes from Dr. King. Brainyquotes.com has pages of them and they are worth reading. Some, I was familiar with. Some took my breath away. For example, "War is a poor chisel to carve out tomorrow." "A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men purchases its own spiritual death on the installment plan". (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

We have a three day weekend, with Monday off for Martin Luther King Day. I was 15 when Dr. King was assassinated. I remember, of all the assassinations that occurred during my life, that he was one that I cried for. I cried because, as a teenager, his words resonated with me. I saw in Dr. King the hope for a better future through securing justice and equality for those who were repressed. I saw in him a leader who could help people transcend the impact of generations of distrust, guilt, hate, and injustice to a place of justice, hope, and love. I saw him bring people together because his demands for justice and courageous action by all were coupled with hope, love and forgiveness.

Dr. King was demanding. He wasn't about to let those who were silent off the hook. Perhaps the very timing of his leadership was what helped his words resonate even more as our society struggled with the reality of the impact of the silence on 6 million Jews, as well as the disabled, mentally ill, homosexuals and others in Europe.

This country has several days over the course of the year that celebrate events and lives of individuals. Schools work to give our children some context to those days, but we as parents must also work to bring to life the reason that our society chose to remember. The danger in three day weekends is that the meaning behind the observance is lost in the opportunity a long weekend presents. The celebration becomes a fun family weekend where we forget about why we have Monday off. An awareness of why we celebrate these days from a historical perspective is really important. It is said that we study history so as not to repeat it but if we as parents leave the study or remembrance of the significance of historical events up to schools, we will forget it. I would encourage all to take some time over the weekend to talk with your children about Dr. King, the Civil Rights Movement and why it was and still is so important.

## Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Day - No School
- Jan. 24 Family Math Night - Games and fun
- Jan. 30 EES to UVM Women's Hockey Game
- Feb. 5 Author Kate Messner to visit

**Whole School Assembly**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 21**  
**8:10 - 8:30**

**PLEASE LET THE PTO KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING MATH NIGHT JAN. 24 SO THAT THEY CAN PLAN FOR FOOD BY FILLING OUT AND RETURNING THE MATH NIGHT FORM!**

## KINDERGARTEN TOURS AT EDMUNDS ELEMENTARY

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| January 22, 9:45am  | February 2, 9:45am |
| February 6, noon    | February 3, 4:15pm |
| February 16, 4:15pm |                    |

Call Monica at 864-1791 to let us know that you are coming.

## UVM Women's Hockey Game Friday, Jan. 30, 7PM

**Come to the Gutterson Field House at 6:30 to get tickets and enjoy the game at 7.**

This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> year and the team is looking forward to our support! It's been a ton of fun for everyone. EES students are free. This is a very affordable event for parents and siblings. Families needing assistance will be able to get support as well. Look for the form to let us know whether your family will be attending in next week's Friday Flash, but put it on your calendar today! We have a lot of people from EES who attend which is why we ask that you come around 6:30 to get your tickets.

## AUTHOR VISIT

We are also excited to be welcoming author Kate Messner to our school on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. Our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes will attend a presentation by Kate where she will share with them her research, editing and writing skills and how they can apply them to their own writing. She will also be talking with them about her new book, *All the Answers*, which is about a girl who discovers a magical pencil that can answer any question. As a part of Ms. Messner's visit, students will have the unique opportunity to purchase personalized autographed copies of this soon to be released title through Phoenix Books. A form was sent home last week to order the book. If your student needs another one, please ask them to get one from the desk at the library.

**FROM THE PTO****RSVP FOR MATH NIGHT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 24th,  
5:00-7:00 PM**

Join the Edmunds PTO for the 8th annual math night. Activities include bingo, chess, games using dice and playing cards and many other fun activities. Every family will take home a game of Yahtzee. Pizza, prizes, desserts and drinks.

**RSVP to Stephanie Mueller ([smueller@vnrc.org](mailto:smueller@vnrc.org)) and include your child's name, grade level and number of people attending.**

**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.

**DONATIONS:** Please bring in new or gently used -- with all the pieces--math related games (Uno, Rumikub, Racko, Chutes and Ladders, Phase 10, Dominoes, Set, Sequence, Chess, etc. Please no Yahtzee as every family will be going home with that game.) for the raffle at the end of the night. Veggies, dip and dessert donations are also needed.

**VOLUNTEERS:** We need people to help set up (from 2-4 on the 24th), help clean up, and hand out pizza. Please contact Stephanie Mueller ([smueller@vnrc.org](mailto:smueller@vnrc.org)) if you can help.

**EES INVITED TO UVM GIRLS' HOCKEY GAME FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 30 - come by 6:30 for tickets**

Exciting night for us as we visit the UVM campus to watch the women play against Northeastern University at 7 pm. All EES students are free. Tickets for adults are \$5 and siblings are \$3. Families needing assistance will be able to get some support.

**VERMONT COFFEE FUNDRAISER DUE TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 3**

EES makes \$6/bag! Coffee will be delivered on Friday, February 6. 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; [pmoreaulawvt@gmail.com](mailto:pmoreaulawvt@gmail.com)) with questions

**EES MUSICAL NARNIA UPDATE**

For rehearsal schedules and updated information, please check the EES PTO's Web site drama page. <http://eespto.org/theater-program/>. Please contact Kirstin at 343-5502 or [kkworden@gmail.com](mailto:kkworden@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**NARNIA SET BUILDER'S PARENT MEETING JANUARY 21<sup>st</sup>  
AT 7:00PM**

Location: 23 Kingsland Terrace. Contact: Dave Jenemann ([david.jenemann@uvm.edu](mailto:david.jenemann@uvm.edu)).

**NARNIA COSTUMES TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH AT 7:30  
PM**

If you are interested in helping with the costumes for the play, please come to Korinna Hillemann's house at 334 South Union Street. No sewing experience necessary. We are looking for donations of used dark colored suites sizes 8-14, and old, colorful petticoats (They can be returned if necessary). We are also in need of your old bike helmets-you will not get them back. Contact Jen @ [jenadrian@comcast.net](mailto:jenadrian@comcast.net) if you are willing to part ways with them.

**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](mailto:pto@eespto.org)).

For more information about PTO events visit:

<http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>.

**FROM THE COMMUNITY:****SEEKING SCHOOL BOARD COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES**

On March 3, 2015, the people of Burlington will be able to vote for ALL seats on the Burlington School Board. Due to redistricting, the current fourteen (14) school board seats will be reduced to twelve (12) seats. All voters will be able to cast one vote for their Ward (1-8) and one vote for their District (East, Central, North, South).

Interested in Running for School Board Commissioner?

- Determine which Ward or District you represent
- Visit <http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CT/Elections> to print out the Consent of Candidate for your Ward or District
- Collect a minimum of 30 signatures from voters registered in the Ward or District you represent
- Turn in your completed Consent of Candidate with signatures to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 149 Church Street in Burlington by 5:00pm on Monday, January 26 to ensure your name is on the official ballot