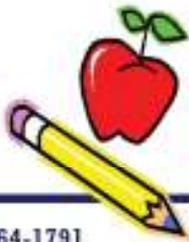


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

January 17, 2013

## From the Principal's Desk

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind",  
Mahatma Gandhi,

We have noticed that many of our students who have felt somehow slighted by a classmate will often resort to retaliation. If one child says something with a mean edge to it, the recipient often responds with something harsher, and so it goes; ratcheting up and up, tempers rising, and often an occasional push or shove. It becomes a power struggle that neither wins and results in a trip to the office. Once here, the process is to help the student(s) to consider their alternatives. What were all the choices they had when someone says or does something mean?

We have been working on equipping students with alternatives to retaliation. Those choices may be as simple as telling the person that what they said or did isn't ok, or to ask them to stop. It may involve simply walking away. There are times when students may need to go ask for help from adults. It will also involve learning how to negotiate.

Whatever the strategy, we emphasize the importance of maintaining a respectful approach regardless of the other's behavior. All children need to learn strategies to deal with behavior that isn't acceptable because they will encounter people who behave badly throughout their lives. They need to be helped to see that retaliation is a poor strategy that often results in the opposite of what they actually want.

This is one of our expectations in terms of teaching social skills. Arming children with constructive, positive responses to the disrespectful behavior of others empowers them to know that they have the ability to defend themselves in a way that generates an acceptable resolution to a problem. This is important in terms of not creating a belief that only others can solve their problems. We want to develop healthy, resourceful people who believe in their own ability to solve their own problems.

As a parent of four, there were times when the same kind of retaliation happened in my house. It was frustrating to listen to two sides of a story and have two pairs of eyes looking to me to judge a situation that I neither saw nor heard, both with the expectation of a decision on "their side". The good news is that we don't have to be judge and jury. It is perfectly fine to focus instead on discussing the by teaching children to negotiate through speaking respectfully to each other, practicing some patience and compromising. Helping children to see that they both win when they can come to a mutually agreed upon decision. They will learn that they have the power to make their home a more peaceful place and they will become closer friends.

## Upcoming Events

Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Day - no school  
Jan. 22 Whole School Assembly  
Feb. 15 Math Night

**Whole School Assembly**  
**Mrs. Ross' class will be presenting in honor**  
**of Dr. Martin Luther King**

## Vermont 2014 Oral Health Survey For Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

*How many Vermont children have protective dental sealants on their molars?*

*Do Vermonters have difficulty finding dental care for their children?*

*Do our kids have more or less untreated decay (cavities) than other states?*

*How many kids have never had a cavity?*

These are some of the questions that our school will be helping the 2014 Vermont Oral Health Survey to answer. Erica Brown, a dental hygienist, will take a quick look into the mouths of our Kindergarten and third graders to count the number of sealants and fillings, and check for any decay. This screening is for *all* students, *even those that have a regular dentist*. It will show what Vermont is doing well, and what we need to improve. This helps the Vermont Department of Health to plan future programs to keep children healthy and ready to learn. Only 22 schools statewide have been given an opportunity to participate. We hope you will allow your child to participate in the screening.

Our school dental screening date is February 7, 2014. A permission form and letter containing additional information will be sent home on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Contact the school nurses at 864-8450 if you have any questions.

## WHEN IS YOUR CHILD TO SICK TO COME TO SCHOOL?

Before returning to school, your child should be:

- Fever free (temperature less than 100.4 F or 38 C) for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
- Free from diarrhea and vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Coughs should be easily controlled by a drink of water and not excessive. Cough drops may not be used at school.

Call our school nurse if you have any questions.

## From the PTO

### PTO MEETING AND PARENT NIGHT THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 6:00-8:00PM

*What does research show will help our kids make healthy lifestyle choices now and into their teenage years? Come find out, with BHS's Student Assistance Program Counselor, Margo Austin. Margo has worked with adolescents and families in the school setting for 20 years. She is a licensed alcohol and drug counselor who provides education, prevention and early intervention services to help young people make healthy lifestyle choices. Evening will include a PTO-sponsored dinner and brief meeting. All are welcome to attend; childcare provided. Please RSVP to [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org) if you plan to attend. If you have any questions, contact PTO leaders Marni Slavik, Stephanie Mueller, and Clare Wool at [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org).*

### WILLY WONKA SCHOOL MUSICAL UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

*See next page for Rehearsal schedule*

#### **January 21 7:00-8:00 pm: Costume meeting**

- Please join us if you are interested in helping with the costumes for the play!
- Where: Korinna Hillemann's house, located at 334 South Union Street on the corner of Spruce and S. Union
- No experience necessary. All skill levels welcome!

#### **Sign up: Parent Volunteers**

- Please choose how you will support this year's school musical.
- <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094AA8AC2FAA8-2013>
- You can also access the link through the PTO website ([eespto.org](http://eespto.org)).

### UVM GAMES THIS WEEKEND

If you're looking for something to do this weekend, the UVM Women's Basketball Team is trying to pack the Patrick Gym for their game at 1:00 this Saturday. Team members came to EES on Thursday, visited with our students during lunch and gave out coupons, each good for 2 free tickets. Lots of students made sure they got enough coupons for their entire family! (Cost conscious aren't they!) Why not take the family and cheer the ladies on? It should be a good time.

### EES SCHOOL APPAREL IS HERE!



Check out our CLASSIC WARM school apparel for your child.

Every FRIDAY the PTO will be selling these items in the front office.

Stop by before or after school....what a BIRTHDAY present!

Order forms are available at the FRONT OFFICE.

Checks made out to EES PTO or cash is accepted.

Contact: Clare Wool ([clarewool@mac.com](mailto:clarewool@mac.com))

\*\*\*POM POM HATS are due in FEBRUARY 10th!\*\*\*

### MATH NIGHT: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Save the date! More information to follow.