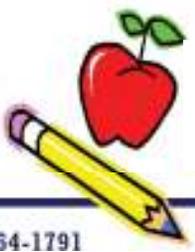




FRIDAY



FLASH

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

January 25, 2013

From the Principal's Desk

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 26 Math Night at EES!
- Feb. 6 NAEP testing for 4th grade
- Feb. 7 Early Release - 11:30
- Feb. 9 EES to UVM Women's Hockey - 2:00
- Feb. 11 Duct Tape Parenting! 5:45
- Feb. 15 EES PTO Dance - 7:00pm - 9:00pm

When I was a child, we were supposed to get \$20 for every A. Truth be told, I didn't earn very much. I was more interested in reading late into the night (a fact that my parents were unaware of because I was adept at making sure no light showed from under my door). I wasn't a bad student - pretty much B's with an occasional C and on rare occasion, a D. I'd get A's too, but I was pretty happy with B's. I knew that the expectation was that I would work hard and do my best. The one thing that always bugged me though was when my parents focused on the one C (or D) more than all the B's or the A. I remember the resentment I felt that they didn't appreciate the hard work that went into the A's and could only see the lowest grade. Why did that one grade count so much more than all the success?

There has been a real shift in understanding how to shape behavior and that is to focus on what we are looking for more than the mistakes that are made. Let's say you want to change a habit or behavior of your child. Take bed time - maybe someone had developed excellent stall tactics, extending the time it takes to get ready to an hour when it could be done in 15 minutes. You've tried taking away TV, video games and other things, but it's not working. How about trying a positive approach? Work together to make sure that they understand what you want them to do, decide on a reward - it doesn't have to cost - it can be an activity. Tell them they are in charge of how fast they can earn it through earning tokens or points. The goal must be reasonable and achievable and at first fairly easy to achieve. (The faster they feel success, the more they will be motivated to work harder.) A token could be earned for every 5 minutes they save on getting to bed. If they can't tell time, you can make a picture of a clock and show them where the hands look like for each token. They should be able to see their progress towards reaching the token goal for the reward. A token earned should never be taken away. If they slip up, remind them that tomorrow is another day and they'll do better. Remind them of what they have already earned. Finally, be sure to follow through with the incentive as soon after it is earned as possible. This is critically important. They need to trust the system.

This is a real change from the way many of us were raised, and I have to tell you that we see it working with children here at school. If it seems like it is time consuming, ask yourself how much time you are dealing with behaviors that are not improving. Changing tactics can't hurt and there's a lot of evidence that shows that this is a tactic that will work. If you try it and have great results, share it with others to help them!

Whole School Assembly
8:10-8:25

EES AT UVM WOMEN'S HOCKEY:
SATURDAY, 9 FEB AT 2PM

On Saturday, 9th Feb. at 2 pm, join EES at the University of Vermont's Gutterson Field House to cheer on the UVM Women's Hockey Team! The students have come to visit with classes here at EES and we want to support their efforts on the ice as a thank you! **EES students will receive free tickets, but you must complete the RSVP form that will be going out this week in the Friday Flash - and is due on Monday, 4th Feb.** We need an accurate count so we can have a ticket for your student. For non-EES students, tickets are available for \$5.00 each at the door. We have some additional tickets for families who may need some assistance in order to attend. Students must attend with an adult. Your child can go with another family if you are not able to attend. We will also work to help in finding a family/adult in your neighborhood who is willing to chaperone your child. Contact Peggy O'Neill (peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net) if you need an electronic copy of the Hockey RSVP form.

Calling all future Kindergarten Parents!
Please alert your friends with children who will be Kindergarten to come to one of our Kindergarten tours,
Feb. 7 at 1:15, Feb. 12 at 1:15, March 13 at 1:15
More tours throughout the Spring

Burlington Schools Safety Survey

Following the recent shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, Burlington Schools met with the Burlington Police and Fire Departments to revisit our safety protocols and conduct a security audit of our school facilities. We are assessing our physical plants and determining necessary changes. We are working to develop a plan for Board consideration. That is where we would appreciate your help. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey (link below) about the safety and security at your child's school. Your feedback will help us develop a list of recommendations and improvements in the current school year, along with budgeting for other changes going forward. The survey will remain open until February 1st. <http://research.zarca.com/k/RQsQPPWUsQUsPsPsP>

From the Health Office

With flu on the rise in Vermont, here are a few tips and additional resources that you may find useful:

- Get vaccinated. Vaccination is still the best protection against the flu. It is not too late to get vaccinated this season.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with a respiratory illness like flu, limit contact with others as much as possible to help prevent spreading illness. Stay home (or keep your child home) for at least 24 hours after fever is gone except to seek medical care or for other necessities. Fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- Conduct routine cleaning and disinfecting. Flu viruses are relatively fragile, so standard cleaning and disinfecting practices are sufficient to remove or kill them.
- The CDC has an excellent website dedicated to influenza. Please check it out at: www.cdc.gov/flu

Love Your Library!

February is **Love Your Library** month at EES and this year we are excited to offer a reading challenge to all of our students called "**Read: Around the World in 20 Days**". This year's theme will take our students around the world as they race to become Explorers Extraordinaire! Students will record the amount of time they spend reading outside of school and we will tally each classroom's total to see which class reads the most during the month. Progress will be recorded on the library bulletin board with each class having their own hot air balloon to move around the world visiting each continent along the way. Your child will be bringing a letter home next week that gives more details about the race along with coupons to record their reading time. Please look over the letter and help your child to remember to fill out the coupon and return it to school every day. We are looking forward to a fun reading event and thank you for your support!

Student Council

On Wednesday at the Whole School Assembly, there will be a raffle drawing to raise money for the Red Cross. You will be able to buy raffle tickets on Monday and Tuesday in the lunch room during your lunch. The cost is \$1 for five raffle tickets, or 25 cents for one raffle ticket. If your name gets picked from the raffle drawing, you will get a prize of some kind of outdoor equipment for your whole class, like a ball, a hula hoop, a jump rope, or a sled. BUT, we still need donations for these outdoor equipment raffle prizes. So, PLEASE bring in a new or gently used outdoor piece of equipment on Monday or Tuesday. You may bring donations to the Music Room.

5th ANNUAL MATH NIGHT IS THIS SATURDAY, JAN 26TH, 5:00-7:00 PM

It's not too late to RSVP for Math night. Send an email to smueller@vnrc.org if you would like to attend. We hope to see you there!

LOST AND FOUND: ITEMS ON DISPLAY OUTSIDE MATH NIGHT

We have lots of clothing, boots, shoes, lunch boxes, and miscellaneous items in our lost and found in the entryway of the first floor. **Items will be on display outside the cafeteria during Math Night.** Please be sure to check it out if your child is missing something (and even if you think they are not, you might be surprised at what you find). Please note that the Lost and Found includes items from Burlington Kids afterschool program. **Please remember to label your child's items.**

NO FRILLS FUNDRAISER

At the beginning of each year, our PTO asks Edmunds families for financial support. We call it our annual "NO FRILLS" fundraiser, and it directly benefits your child or children at our wonderful school. Our PTO works hard to create a school year filled with enrichment activities, field trips, and community-building events. **100% of your donation will go towards programs that enrich the lives of all our students and caring community.** MATH NIGHT, AUTHOR VISITS, TEACHER GRANTS, BCA CLAY STUDIO, WEDNESDAY MORNING ASSEMBLIES, WELCOME BBQ, SLEDS, MAYFAIR, WALK TO SCHOOL, READING-TO-END-RACISM, CLASSROOM MATERIALS
No gift amount is too small or too large. EVERY DOLLAR MATTERS!
 We are hoping for 100% family participation.

Families can send their donation to school with your student, drop it off at the office or pay with your credit card on-line at the PTO website, www.eespto.org. Your gift is tax deductible. The PTO is a Non-Profit 501c(3) organization. **Please email Clare Wool, PTO Treasurer, (clarewool@mac.com) if your employer will match your contribution.**

Please make your donation by Valentines Day - Thursday, February 14th. Checks made payable to EES PTO.

DPW UPDATE: MAIN ST. MID-BLOCK CROSSING, 4 FEB. 7-8 PM EES CAFETERIA

Guillermo Gomez, Public Works Engineer, will hold a public meeting to present their concept plan and seek input from the public. This meeting is critical so they can make sure everyone's questions are answered and any changes resulting from the meeting can be incorporated in the plans prior to the next submittal.

DUCT TAPE PARENTING! WITH VICKI HOEFLE, FEB 11th 5:45 - 8:00 PM

February 11, 2013

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. She 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! **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 8:00PM conversation with Vicki Hoefle

PINOCCHIO - UPDATES

We have gotten through our first week of play rehearsals and wanted to send you a few reminders. ***You and your child need to take responsibility for knowing their rehearsal schedule. Please review the schedule with your child and have a plan every day for their pick-up.*** After school, the production team checks in your child on the third floor in front of the library, gives them a snack, and instructs them to go to their rehearsal location. We take the list of students who have not checked in and cross-reference it with the absentee list from the day. We will call parents of those who do not check in with us, but we are not responsible for their whereabouts if they have left the school building instead of going to practice.

There is a 3-strikes-and-out rule for disruptive behavior and unexcused absences. We understand conflicts, illness, and other factors may lead to a child missing rehearsal but it's important to notify us.

The schedule will be sent out every two weeks and you can access it from the following places:

Distribution list email

Very Merry Theater website:

<http://www.verymerrytheatre.org/auditions-rehearsals.html>

EES PTO website: <http://eespto.org/theater-program/>

Hard copy on the PTO bulletin board on the wall to the left of the staff lounge on the second floor.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

BURLINGTON-WINOOSKI PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE CONVERSATION: 28 JAN. 12-1 PM EES RESOURCE ROOM

*Do you know that the Burlington-Winooski Partnership for Change is actively working to build better relationships with community members and to solicit insight about the future of our high school? We need your input! Join us for a Learning Conversation on **January 28 between 12:00-1:00 PM in the EES Resource Room.** This information will be used to help frame the ongoing work of the Partnership and to identify points of consensus regarding graduation requirements.*

If you are unable to attend, but are interested in being involved, please contact me or Jill Jacobelli jjacobel@bsdvt.org. Jill can link you up with another conversation happening in our community.

From the Community

UVM's Office of Student & Community Relations invites you to our Babysitter Mingler

A chance for parents and kids in need of babysitters to meet and mingle with UVM students who want to babysit!

Babysitter Mingler

Saturday, January 26

10 am - 12:00 noon

UVM Davis Student Center, 4th floor

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

UVM Students arrive at 10:00am for orientation.

Families arrive at 10:30am

Go to www.uvm.edu/~oscr

**A Community Learning Conversation:
What Do Our Graduates Need to Succeed?**

Sat. Feb 2 | 9:30am-1:00pm | Burlington High School

What skills and knowledge do our young people need to thrive in today's rapidly-changing world? Please join us for this, the first of an ongoing series of Community Learning Conversations. Together, we will look at some of the ways we are "remodeling" our educational system so that every young person in Winooski and Burlington receives a world-class education. Community dialogues brought us to this point, and your input is vital for moving us forward. We will leave the day with a treasure trove of information that will be mined by working groups moving forward. Join us as we express our specific hopes and dreams for the young people in our communities as they prepare for college, career and citizenship. □