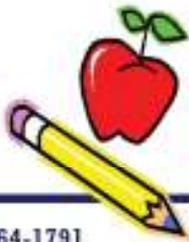


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

January 3, 2013

Upcoming Events

Jan. 8 Whole School Assembly

Jan. 15 Whole School Assembly

Jan. 20 Martin Luther King - no school

Whole School Assembly - Welcome Back

From the Principal's Desk

Recipe for winter

Ahlahpah! That's Inupiaq for "It's cold". When it's really cold, you would hear that as a form of greeting in the northwest region of Alaska, north of the Arctic Circle. Whether meeting someone walking down the street, or someone entering a building, it was frequently heard. The amount of expression behind it corresponded directly with just how cold it really was. Today, I heard it over and over again in English. Funny how the weather becomes a greeting and the major topic of conversation, isn't it.

I lived in the Arctic in 1977-78 as a VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America). I flew around a region the size of Ohio with 11 villages, setting up accounting systems for village and tribal governments and training the village and tribal administrators in how to use the systems so they could get the funds that all municipalities get. I did other things too but that was the job description. It was a great experience.

When I moved to Vermont, I thought that the state was a great compromise between living in the Arctic and living in Connecticut. It was just as cold here some of the time, but you could drive away and get to some civilization. If you look at Kotzebue, Alaska on a map, you'll see that driving away was not an option! Flying was the only practical way out.

Sometimes it was actually too cold to fly. The planes wouldn't fly when it hit -40°. That meant being stuck wherever you were until they could fly again. I got stuck in the village of Deering, having flown in, sitting in the passenger seat of a bush plane next to the pilot, and watching the thermometer on the windshield hit -42°. It was a little scary because eight commercial bush planes disappeared that year when it was really cold. I was sitting in the same model. They were built for the Caribbean. They never found a trace of them even though the weather was clear. It's always clear when it's that cold. The temperature dropped to -55° and the wind chill was -126°. I got bored so I decided to go outside to see what it felt like. AHLAPAH!!! I was dressed for the Arctic, fur ruff shielding my face from the sting of blowing snow and balaclava covering all but my eyes. The cold still had an impact. My tears froze across my eyes in a thin film, which washed away by blinking. Teardrops froze my eyelashes together. The loudest thing was the wind and the squeaky crunching of our footsteps on the snow. The sled dogs were silent, curled up with their tails covering their faces, and the smoke from oil stoves quickly dissipated with the wind. The white expanse across the land and sea stretched to the horizon, with the crystal blue cloudless sky above. It was powerful - a place so wild,

Baby, It's Cold Outside!

All students stay inside when it goes to 0°F wind chill, including when they arrive! They need a scarf or neck gaiter to be able to cover their face. Make sure to dry the inside of boots every night and keep them in a warm place. Have them dress a few minutes earlier and let the air warm up between their layers of clothes before they go outside. This will help keep them warmer.

barren and free, and a place where humans had adapted and lived for over 10,000 years.

As cold as it is, we know what we can and do adapt. The weather is a timeless topic of conversation and the more extreme, the more we talk about it. Maybe it's our way of noting our relationship with Mother Nature.

It is supposed to be colder tonight. If it's clear this Friday night, the stars are going to be incredible. If you're up for a small adventure, get everyone bundled up and go to a place without a lot of streetlights and look at the stars. Dorset Park, behind the arena or Overlook Park on Spear St. will both be good. There is only a gibbous moon (small sliver) so that will make the stars even more visible. There is something really awe-inspiring about seeing nature when things are extreme. And maybe, if we're really lucky, we'll get to see the northern lights! (Then go have some hot chocolate!)

Willy Wonka Auditions for grades 3-5 - Tues-Thurs January 7, 8, 9th, during School

UVM Games this weekend

If you're looking for something to do this weekend, the UVM Women's Hockey team is playing Syracuse University on Saturday and Sunday. Both games start at 2:00.

BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT FY15 SCHOOL BUDGET

The BSD School Board created a budget proposal earlier this month and sought public input on the proposed budget on December 16 and 19. Per law, the Finance Committee will review the final recommendations from the Superintendent and Administrators on January 7th. The Budget will be presented to the Town Council on January 13th which is a public meeting. The School Board will receive the budget for a final vote on January 14th which is also a public meeting at BHS. The Budget is published in the town report in preparation for a vote by the town on Town Meeting Day on March 4. On behalf of EES students and families, EES PTO leaders attended the public forum on December 19 and have serious concerns about the proposed budget. **THE SUGGESTED CUTS WILL ELIMINATE SPANISH FROM ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**

We ask for your support in signing a petition regarding the elimination of Spanish. Please look for PTO leaders Marni Slavik, Stephanie Mueller, or Clare Wool to co-sign a letter on Thursday, Friday, or Monday (Jan 2, 3, 6) before or after school. You may also sign an online petition at the following link: <http://www.change.org/petitions/bsd-school-board-reconsider-fy15-school-budget-to-prevent-the-elimination-of-spanish>. Please feel free to send any additional comments to Alan Matson, the chair of the School Board (Mailing address: 792 S. Prospect St.; Phone #: 860-7437; email: amatson@bsdvt.org). Additional budget information can be found at: www.bsdvt.org under "Budget" tab.

WILLY WONKA SCHOOL MUSICAL**Information for your schedules:**

- **Grades 1-2** - meet on Fridays beginning Jan. 10. (see Burlington Kids after school program brochure).
- **Grades 3-5** No Friday rehearsals
- **All Students** - Full run through Sunday, March 9th.
- **All Students** - Shows will be Thurs-Sat. March 13-15th.

More information at <http://eespto.org/theater-program/>.

Looking for (2) Parent Volunteers to Chair our team of volunteer parents. Contact: Clare Wool (clarewool@mac.com) if you are interested in helping out.

The sign-up genius is ready for people to use and secure their volunteer positions. If you attended the informational meeting on Tuesday, December 3, please follow-up by choosing how you will support this year's school musical. Click on the link below to identify what will work best with your schedule. You can also access the link through the PTO website (eespto.org). <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094AA8AC2FAA8-2013>

PTO EMAIL UPDATES

The PTO sends out weekly email updates. If you would like to be added to the PTO email list, please email the EES PTO (pto@eespto.org). For more information about PTO events visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>.

PTO MEETING AND PARENT NIGHT THURS., JANUARY 30**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.

This evening will include a PTO-sponsored dinner and brief meeting. All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, contact PTO leaders Marni Slavik, Stephanie Mueller, and Clare Wool at pto@eespto.org.

Burlington School District Seeking Community Help to Stop Vandalism at J.J. Flynn School

Burlington, Vermont - January 2, 2014 - We are looking for any information regarding vandalism that has occurred at J.J. Flynn Elementary School. Over the last four weeks, J.J. Flynn Elementary School has been vandalized about five times, including both graffiti and broken windows. These incidents occur at night, after the school is closed down and empty. Pictures indicate two suspects. One suspect appears to be wearing a white bandanna around his leg and a skull face mask with a red, white and dark colored backpack. The second is wearing what appears to be a grey hooded jacket and dark colored backpack. If you have any information on who the suspects might be, please contact Office Brian Di Franco at the Burlington Police Department: [\(802\) 540-2235](tel:8025402235).