



**EDMUNDS**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# FRIDAY



# FLASH

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

January 30, 2015

## From the Principal's Desk

When you walk, do you look around, or do you look down at the ground? I'm asking because I was watching the students as they were walking into the building and the vast majority of heads were down looking at the floor or the heels of the person in front of them. I watched as the crowd of children plow up the stairs, all the heads looking down until no one could move further because the hallway was full. Then, when they could no longer move, they finally looked up.

Everyone walks looking down at least some of the time. That's perfectly natural. I remember once taking my dog for a walk on a rural road in Lyndonville. I was looking down daydreaming; not paying any attention. I walked on that road just about every day. My dog began to bark. I told her to be quiet and she'd stop for a few seconds but start up again. It wasn't typical for her. I scolded her and she kept up her intermittent barking as we strolled along. She started pulling back on the leash. I finally glanced up. There it was; a moose no more than 50 feet in front of me. I stopped dead in my tracks, told Data to sit and we watched as she ambled across the road into the woods. Thank goodness she didn't have a calf! I apologized to Data, telling her she did a good job.

Now normally, I did look around on that road because the views are actually beautiful. I just happened to be in the place where the trees blocked the view and were not particularly interesting. Most of us have typical paths that we take, whether to work or school. When we're familiar with our paths, we might not pay attention to our surroundings. I know there are many times when I've walked in a direction I've gone many times before and I'll notice something I've never seen before.

Being aware of our surroundings can keep us from running into things, like a moose. While it is true that running into a moose is not the first thing that one thinks of when wandering around Burlington, there are things that we do need to be aware of for our own safety. Children need to learn to look around and be aware of their surroundings. They need to know how to get home in order to know where they live. Many children who are driven around have no idea how to get to their houses when others drive them. That is because they never have to be aware because we are being aware for them.

I remember my mother teaching me how to walk in the city when I was a child, how to look up and how not to draw attention to myself. These are lessons that I had to teach VT high school seniors in NY City who thought it ok to use rural Vermont behavior and got into some tense situations as a result. We live in a very safe place, but that doesn't mean that we don't still need to teach our children to be aware of their surroundings, and the people around us.

## Upcoming Events:

Jan. 30 EES to UVM Women's Hockey Game

Feb. 1-17 Library Reading Race

Feb. 4 Walk and Roll

Feb. 5 Author visit

Feb. 16 Parent Night - Burlington Budget and Personal Safety & Healthy Relationships

Feb. 17 Book Swap

Feb. 20 Report Cards go home

Start of winter break

Mar. 4 Return from Winter Break

**Whole School Assembly**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 4**  
**8:10 - 8:30**

## UVM WOMEN'S GAME -

The UVM Women will be playing Northeastern University on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> and EES is going to be going in force! This is our 4<sup>th</sup> year and let me tell you, the girls really look forward to our voices in the stands. It is best to get to the door by around 6:30 as we have a large crowd. We sit in the Student Section as a group. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

## PARENTS OF 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> GRADERS

Please check your student's backpack for information about Dr Green's upcoming presentations. Dr. Green will be speaking to the students in March. She will talk with 4<sup>th</sup> graders about puberty and 5<sup>th</sup> graders about reproduction and HIV/AIDS. Information about the presentations will be sent home with the students on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have questions after reviewing the information you can contact the school nurses at 864-8450.

## PERSONAL SAFETY AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

We are hosting a parent night, Mon. Feb. 16 6:30 - 8 pm where Johanna Straavaldsen from Prevent Child Abuse Vermont will be speaking with parents/ caregiver about:

- ◇ Sexual abuse prevention education for home
- ◇ K- 5<sup>th</sup> early sexual abuse education curricula taught by your child's School Counselor-Care For Kids (K-2<sup>nd</sup>) and We Care Elementary (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)

We hope you will join and learn more about these topics.

**BURLINGTON KIDS NEEDS YOUR VOICE**

Burlington Kids Afterschool is planning for our next session of activities, and we want YOUR input! What would you like to see offered at afterschool? Might there be an activity you or someone you know would like to facilitate? Please let us know! Email Priscilla at [praba@bsdvt.org](mailto:praba@bsdvt.org) or drop a note in the afterschool mailbox, with all your ideas! Thank you

**Book Swap!**

Do you have any gently used children's books collecting dust around your house? Would you like to find a new home for them? The EES Library is planning a book swap on Thursday, February 19th and we could use your donations! Here's how you can help:

- Send in a gently used children's book either on your child's grade level or up to two grade levels higher.
- Limit up to 5 books per child to donate. This will help build our supply of books for students to choose from.
- Please no magazines, textbooks, Golden Books, board books, comic books, coloring books or sticker books.

Every child, regardless if they bring in a book or not, can take home a book to keep on Book Swap day. We will allow students to choose a book of their liking to keep for their own personal reading!

The Library will be accepting donations of your gently used books from Monday February 2nd through Monday February 16. Send in your donations with your children who can drop them off at the library when they come for class. Thank you for your help in making our Book Swap a success!

**FROM THE PTO**

PTO leaders: Marni Slavik, Stephanie Mueller, and Clare Wool  
PTO Contact: ([pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org))

Please contact us if you have any questions!

**THANK YOU MATH NIGHT VOLUNTEERS!**

Over 200 people attended the fun 7th annual Math Night! Thank you to Sandy Flemer and Stephanie Mueller for coordinating the event. Special thanks to teachers Sean Palmer, Christina Norland, Heather McMorris and Amy Saks Pavese for attending and helping with the games. We'd also like to thank Rachel Shelley, the entire Gentchos family, Leigh Fisher, Jenny Sullivan, Deirdre Mahon, and Kristen Sample, not to mention many others who helped, brought games or made a dessert.

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

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4: WINTER WALK AND ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY**

Bundle up and join other students from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine to walk or roll to school!

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5: AUTHOR KATE MESSNER TO VISIT EES**

Our 3rd, 4th and 5th 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.

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 16<sup>th</sup> 5:45-8:00PM: PARENT NIGHT EES GYM-CAFÉ: DOUBLE FEATURE: BURLINGTON BUDGET AND PERSONAL SAFETY FOR OUR CHILDREN**

*Howard Smith, Interim Superintendent*, will discuss the Burlington School District budget for next year FROM 5:45 to 6:30. *Speaker Johanna Straavaldsen from Prevent Child Abuse Vermont* will be speaking with parents/ caregiver about: Sexual abuse prevention education for home, and K-5<sup>th</sup> early sexual abuse education curricula taught by your child's School Counselor (Care For Kids (K-2<sup>nd</sup>) and We Care Elementary (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)). Childcare will be provided. For information on the parent night contact EES School Counselor, Melissa Hathaway at [mhathawa@bsdvt.org](mailto:mhathawa@bsdvt.org) or (802) 540-0137.

**AFTER SCHOOL PRIVATE TUTORING AVAILABLE**

EES third grade teacher, Lori Palmer would like to offer private tutoring services (all subject areas), on Mondays and Tuesdays and one Thursday session after 4:00, for elementary age students in the Edmunds community. One hour sessions between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00 PM are available. Sessions would occur at the Fletcher Library or another convenient community location. Please contact Lori if you have further interest at [lpalmer@bsdvt.org](mailto:lpalmer@bsdvt.org)