

# FRIDAY



# FLASH

GROW WITH DIGNITY



**EDMUNDS**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

## From the Principal's Desk

When you think about the word, "evolution" you probably are thinking about science and what you may remember about Darwin and his theories on the evolution of the species. You remember...the survival of the fittest and how different species of animals evolved over time to have specific characteristics. Of course, that's just one example of evolution. There are all kinds of ways to evolve - babies evolve into toddlers who evolve into elementary school children and so on. I'm on a hockey team called Evolution. I wasn't there when the name was suggested, but knowing how the team came together and learned to play, it made sense. We had evolved from a group of players with different levels of skills, different backgrounds, different lifestyles, into a team.

I was thinking about how the group I was playing with evolved so that they were so effective in working together to have a good time. I thought it was a great example of what our children could shoot for when they went out to play together. First of all, this is just a group of people who play - no referee, no one telling anybody what to do. They arrange the teams by simply dropping a glove in a pile in the middle of the ice, and dividing the pile equally. People pick up their glove and go put on the colored piney for that team. When a rule is broken, all the players simply follow the right procedure and we just keep playing. And this is hockey - a sport that is notorious for fighting at the professional level (unfortunately). With this group, there is no arguing. There are no negative remarks and people leave the ice friends. Not all sports teams do this. Anyone who's played in adult league sports has seen the team that doesn't function that well. Some sports teams argue with the other team, are unpleasant to their opponents, are critical of each other, and make it unpleasant. This is a highly skilled group, the hockey is exciting and very fast paced and there's a lot of laughing and pure enjoyment of the game.

The thing about the groups I play with is that they have figured out a really important lesson - playing and having fun is much better than being picky about whether someone got a call on a rule precisely right. Using every minute to play is far better than spending half the time arguing about whether a team is fair, or who someone should have passed to. These are concepts that our students need help evolving to. We know that it takes time to figure this out, but recess is best when everyone just graciously plays, and gives a little when there is a question, just so that the game can go on. That's great evidence of "evolution".

January 31, 2014

### Upcoming Events

Feb. 5 Whole School Assembly

Feb. 15 Math Night 5-7 pm

Feb. 14 End of Marking Period

Feb. 22 Report Cards go home

Feb. 24-Mar 4 Winter Vacation

**Whole School Assembly**  
**All are welcome 8:10 - 8:25**

### Notes from our Nurses!

Flu season is definitely here. The nurses are encouraging all to have children wash hands more frequently. Parents, you would be well advised to have children wash their hands when they get home before they start touching things!

### 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 for the Gold!**". This year's theme will be the Winter Olympics being held in Sochi, Russia. From February 1 through the 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 downhill skier racing to the finish line! Your child will be bringing a letter home 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. We are looking forward to a fun reading event and thank you for your support!

### BSD Automated Telephone Alert System

#### TEST PHONE CALL

Please note that we will be sending a TEST phone call to parents/guardians on **Thursday, February 6th at approximately 6 p.m.** If you receive the call at the number(s) you wish called for such things as school announcements, attendance calls and weather delays/closings, no action is needed. If you do NOT receive the call or receive the call at a number(s) that you do not wish called in these instances, contact your school administrative assistant with this information. Thank you for your participation.

**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE PIN CONTEST WINNER**

Alexandra Baggott, a fifth grader in Mrs. Bonanni's classroom, has won the Ronald McDonald Pin Contest.

This is the 30th year for the Volunteer pin design. Alexandra and her family will attend a Volunteer Recognition dinner recognizing the volunteers by giving them a pin. Alexandra will also be recognized for her achievement.

**LANDSCAPING PROJECT VOLUNTEERS**

We are looking for volunteers to help lead with the ongoing landscaping project at Edmunds. We have 5 beautiful designs but we have not settled on a final design. We have some money, but we'll need to raise more. We see this as a project that can help visitors and Burlingtonians alike enjoy nature right in the middle of the city. It can be a place where the students can experience science first hand, and where food can be grown and shared. The vision for the project includes:

- An amphitheater
- Raised beds for each classroom
- Outdoor classroom
- Various ecosystems of native vegetation
- Fruit trees and bushes.
- An ecological place in the middle of the city that helps reduce some of the run off to Lake Champlain.

We believe that the project is achievable if we break it down into smaller parts. If the many talents of the people in our community are brought together, we will be able to realize an exciting vision. We need you if you have expertise in any of the following areas: landscape design, soil conservation, marketing, grant writing, organization and scheduling, if you are good at finding deals or equipment, we need you. If you are good at pulling other people into the project, boy do we need you! If you know that we need your expertise in an area that we have not even thought of, please, come and tell us how you can help in our quest. If you are interested, please email [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org). You can also email [smathias@bsdvt.org](mailto:smathias@bsdvt.org).

**From the PTO****VOLUNTEERS FOR K AND 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE DENTAL SCREENING**

JoAnne Limanek, the school nurse, is looking for a volunteer to help with the dental survey on Friday, February 7th from either 9 - 10:30 or 10:30 - 12:00 (or the whole 3 hours). The volunteer would be mainly escorting 3rd and K students from their class to the art room where the survey will take place.

If you are available to help, please email Joanne Limanek directly at: [jlimanek@bsdvt.org](mailto:jlimanek@bsdvt.org)

**MATH NIGHT -SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH,****5-7 PM - Let us know if your family is coming!**

EES PTO will sponsor the 6th Annual Family Math Night. Explore the wonders of math with your children and let them show you what they are learning. A variety of activities, math centers and home learning activities will be available for children of all ages, such as graphing, chess, games using dice and playing cards and many other fun activities. Prizes, desserts and drinks too! We will have National Honor Society students from BHS to help facilitate games so that parents can fully enjoy the night with their children. **Help us to plan for food by letting us know if you are coming (RSVP). We've attached a paper for you to let us know if you are coming.** For those of you new to Math Night, here is how the night will work.

**5:30 - 5:30 pm:** Pizza and drinks in the lower gym.

**5:30 - 7:00 pm:** Math night begins. Games in the upper gym/cafeteria. Each student will go home with a packet full of games you can play at home.

*We are also looking for donations of new or gently used -- with all the pieces--math related games (Uno, Chutes and Ladders, Yahtzee, Connect 4, Phase 10, Dominoes, Set, Sequence, Othello, Stratego, Chess, etc) for the raffle at the end of the night; and veggies and dip to serve along with the pizza, as well as desserts too.*

Please contact Stephanie Mueller, [smueller@vnrc.org](mailto:smueller@vnrc.org), if you are able to contribute. We hope to see you all there! For the baked goods, consider a math themed treat. For example, cookies shaped like numbers, muffins or cupcakes with numbers on them, or even dice brownies cut into squares and use white icing to make the dots. Thank you for your donation!

**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!\*\*\*

**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](mailto:pto@eespto.org)). For more information about PTO events visit:<http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>