



FRIDAY



FLASH

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

January 4, 2013

From the Principal's Desk

CHANGE IN SAFETY PROCEDURES

Today, along with the Friday Flash, please take some time to read the letter from Superintendent Collins about the District's response to safety. I am happy to say that we are moving forward in making EES more secure than it has been. To that end, only two doors will be unlocked for morning drop off - the Main St. entrance and the door in front of the cafeteria. The Main St. entrance is accessible for all, and has a better walk-off area for snow. Doors will be installed between the lobby and the hallway as well as an intercom that reaches the office. All entrances have a camera and we have monitors in the office to see who is coming and going.

Those children who are being dropped off at the back of the school should be told to go to the Main St. or cafeteria entrance. There is a safe walkway to both doors away from traffic. The back door to the cafeteria door will not be opened for them. While this is a safety issue, it is also an issue of protecting the cafeteria from water as we need to use it as a gymnasium first thing in the morning and we can't when the floor is wet.

Please remember to come to the office to sign in on the Visitor's log and get a Visitor's name tag when you come to visit a classroom or to go to the cafeteria to have lunch with your child. You do not need to sign in for Whole School Assemblies as that is a public event, but if you remain at school after the assembly, please go to the office and sign in and get the Visitor Name Tag.

These changes may seem a little inconvenient now, but I think we all can agree that they are in the best interest of our school.

Additional measures will be taken regarding access to the building so please stay tuned for that information.

WINTER WONDERLAND!

We are great believers in getting the students outside to play every day. We do not go outside if it is 0 degrees including wind chill, but anything above that, the children are outside. We can't let the students without snow pants or boots in the snow. They still go outside but have to play on the plowed pavement. It's not fun and it is still cold. They want to be able to sled and play in the snow with their friends.

I'm a bit of a nut about protecting feet, hands and faces, whole bodies for that matter, from cold. Maybe it has something to do with the frostbite I've gotten on my feet, face, and ears. Not only is frostbite painful, frostbite scars can be miserable. Every time you get the spots cold again,

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 3,4,7,8 Play Auditions
- Jan. 21 No School Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 26 Math Night at EES!
- Feb. 6 NEP testing for 4th grade
- Feb. 7 Early Release - 11:30
- Feb. 9 EES to UVM Women's Hockey - 2:00

**NO Whole School Assembly -
This coming Wednesday, Jan. 9th,
students will spend in their classrooms
meeting their UVM hockey player - no
assembly in the cafeteria.**

(Winter Wonderland Cont'd)

the spots ache, swell, burn, and itch for days. Not pleasant!

We have students who have come here from all over, warm climates as well as cold so the knowledge of what works and what doesn't is really uneven, so this column is about what works to keep kids warm. There may be some tips that winter veterans may use too.

Good boots are really important to protect children's feet. Snow boots should be insulated and waterproof. Look for a tie at the top to help keep snow out. Students should wear sneakers inside instead of their boots. Wearing boots all day makes the boots wet inside from condensation and sweat. Boots that are damp or wet inside are not warm. Check your children's boots every night. They will often be wet inside and you wouldn't know without sticking your hand in them. If you store the boots upside down over a heater so that the warm air can get up in them, they should be dry by morning. If the boots have a removable liner, pull the liner out and dry it and the boot shell. (Remember to allow time to put them back together in the morning.) Teach your children to do this as a nightly chore and they can learn to protect their own feet!

Gloves and mittens need to be thick! They need to be water repellent on the outside. The little stretchy knit gloves do not keep kids hands warm at all. Mittens are warmer than gloves. Look for the mittens and gloves with the water repellent cloth exterior. Thinsulate is a pretty good insulator and you'll see a tag saying that on gloves and mittens and at reasonable prices. Check to see if the gloves and mittens are dry on the inside. They may need to be dried every night.

Kids' heads are well protected with hoods if they don't have a hat, but if there is no hood on their coat, they need hats! The wind whips across our playground and it's really cold. Their ears need the protection as well as their head.

Winter Wonderland (Cont'd)

Snow pants and coats that have an elastic cuffs at the sleeves and leg bottoms are helpful in keeping out the snow. Bib snow pants are great for the younger children in keeping snow out of their clothes. If they've outgrown their coat or snow pants, be careful not to purchase more than one size larger than they need now (knowing that we all want to get two years out of the clothes). The warmth of winter clothes depends upon the heat of bodies warming up the air space under the coat. If there is too much space, your child's body can't warm up the space as well and the coat isn't as warm as it should be. Layers of clothes are also really important for creating warm air space. Make sure that your child has a sweater or sweat shirt to wear in addition to their coat.

The Salvation Army can give vouchers to families to get the needed clothing. The vouchers are good for any Salvation Army store. We've heard that the Essex Salvation Army store has quite a bit to choose from. And there is also Good Will on the Shelburne Rd. in South Burlington which is very reasonable. I believe both can be reached by CCTA buses.

NEW CALL FOR GOOD USED WINTER GEAR

We are seeing that some of our students still need snow pants, coats, boots and good mittens and gloves. If your child has outgrown some of these things and you have the old ones that you don't need, we could really use them. We know that we've already asked, and many of you brought things in, but perhaps a few children have outgrown things again. Jamie Charleson in the nurse's office is collecting anything you might have.

SLEDS AND FLYING SAUCERS

We have gotten inquiries about bringing personal sleds and we would ask that children not bring them. There is no space to store them. If you would like to contribute to the school supply, we would gladly take some more so that they can all be kept together and used by all the students.

FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM FOR EES STUDENTS

EES is participating in Reading is an Investment, a program that promotes the importance of reading and teaching young children basic personal financial concepts. We are joining 125 other Vermont elementary schools in offering the program this year in an effort to increase the financial literacy of youth statewide. Reading is an Investment is a program developed by the Vermont State Treasurer's Office. This is our third year of participation in the program. The Reading is an Investment program takes a two-pronged approach to promoting financial literacy: library instruction and personal reading. As a part of this program, our library received three new hardback books to help teach money concepts to our children. This year the titles are: *The Pickle Patch Bathtub*, by Frances Kennedy; *Isabel's Car Wash*, by Sheila Bair; and *Stock Market Pie*, by J.M. Seymour.

Financial Literacy (Cont'd)

Students are also encouraged to participate in a personal financial literacy reading program. Students are challenged to read at least three books from the recommended money reading list that highlights books that focus on basic financial concepts and complete personal reading requirements on their own. A completed reading log can be returned to the library where it will be sent to the Treasurer's Office for entry in a statewide drawing for one of ten \$250 accounts in the Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan — Vermont's official 529 college savings plan. More than 2,200 students completed reading logs and entered the drawing last year for the college savings accounts!

Students will be receiving reading logs and a book list in the next few weeks as we begin our study of saving, investing and goal setting. Please look for them and ask your children what they are learning about being financially responsible! If you have any questions regarding this program or would like more information, please contact Kathy Neil, EES Librarian. Thank you!

PTO NEWS**BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET HEARINGS**

Public comment hearing is scheduled for Monday, *January 7th, at 7 p.m. at BHS*. A public comment on January 8th at 7 p.m. at BHS will also be held prior to final budget decisions. For detail on the 2012-2013 Budget, visit <http://www.boarddocs.com/vt/bsdvt/Board.nsf/Public> School Board/Meeting Agendas, on the left side. **Stay informed.**

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY MEETING: TBD

We have heard from many parents, as well as school administrators who are interested in participating in a conversation about school safety following the horrific events in Connecticut. Signe and Peggy are working on organizing a roundtable discussion. We will be in touch with the date and time as this comes together.

Visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>

RSVP FOR MATH NIGHT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 5:00-7:00 PM - A GREAT TIME FOR ALL!!

On Saturday, January 26th, the Edmunds Elementary PTO will sponsor the 5th Annual Family Math Night. Explore the wonders of math with your child/ren and let them show you what they are learning! A variety 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. Also there will be one Bridges game from each grade level. 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 child/ren. **RSVP by sending an email (peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net) including your child's name, grade level and number of people attending. A paper Math Night flyer will be sent home next week with your child. (CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE!)**

For those of you new to Math Night, here is how the night will work.

5:00 - 5:30 pm: Pizza and drinks will be served in the lower gym.

5:30 - 7:00 pm: Students will enter the cafeteria and be given a Math Night ticket with 6 empty circles. As your child completes an activity at a table, you will write that table number in one of the empty circles. When your child has filled all of the circles, put the ticket into the bag at the prize table in order to enter to win a chance at one of the games that will be raffled off at the end of the night. Each student will leave with a take-home bag with games you can play at home.

We are also looking for donations of math related games (Uno, Chutes and Ladders, Yahtzee, Phase 10, Dominoes, Set, Sequence, Chess, etc.) for the raffle at the end of the night. In addition, let us know if you can bring some veggies and dip, and/or a dessert. Please contact Peggy O'Neill at 860-1704 or peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net if you are able to contribute. We hope to see you all there!

SPRING MUSICAL: PINOCCHIO. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This year's EES Drama performance is *Pinocchio*. Please see EES Drama site: <http://eespto.org/theater-program/> for forms, permission slips and parent handbook. *We need approximately 40 parent volunteers for the play to be as successful as it has been in the past. Please visit the SignUp Genius link to volunteer: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094AA8AC2FAA8-2013>*

**The dates and times for the three spring performances are: Thursday, March 14, in-school performance; Friday, March 15, 7:00 pm performance; and Saturday, March 16, a 4:00 matinee.*

THANK YOU EES COMMUNITY

Thanks to all who were able to donate gift cards to the **EES Holiday Gifts Project**. Melissa Hathaway has graciously received and delivered your generous contributions. We have a fantastic community at Edmunds. Thank you for being a part of it. Happy New Year.

From the Community

Energy Assistance Program in Vermont

The Energy Assistance Program helps lower-income Vermonters afford electricity for their homes. At this time, energy assistance is only available for Green Mountain Power customers. This program goes into effect on December 15th, 2012. **If you are eligible, you'll get a 25% discount off the monthly charge for the first 600 kilowatt hours of energy used. This could save you up to \$300 a year!**

If your application is received by *March 15th, 2013*, you may also be eligible for a one-time forgiveness of any past due balance you have (*on the day they receive your application*).

To be eligible, you must:

1. Be a residential customer of Green Mountain Power; and
2. Have a total gross household income at or below [150% of the federal poverty level](#).

To get the assistance,

1. Complete the application form. To get one, call [1-800-775-0516](tel:1-800-775-0516) and leave a message asking that an application form be sent to you.
2. Attach a copy of your most recent electric bill. (If you send an original bill, it will not be returned to you.)
3. Return your completed application to:

*DCF - Economic Services Division
Application & Document Processing Center
103 South Main Street,
Waterbury VT 05671-1500*

More questions?

- Call the Economic Services Division at [1-800-775-0516](tel:1-800-775-0516)
- Vermonters aged 60 and older may also call Vermont's Senior Helpline at [1-800-642-5119](tel:1-800-642-5119)