

FRIDAY



FLASH

GROW with DIGNITY



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

From the Principal's Desk

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone found the break restful and enjoyed family and friends.

This week, Burlington experienced an interesting day in our political process. There have been quite a few discussions regarding whether or not a politician should be able to come to the city, or use a particular venue. Thankfully, those who make decisions are well aware of our democratic process and the importance of allowing all positions to express their views. I think it is equally important that those expressing their views do so in a respectful manner, but unfortunately we have seen far too many instances of that ship sailing far into the horizon. We need to bring it about if I may use a sailing metaphor.

I have heard many comments that run contrary to the principles of the United States as expressed in the Constitution. One might wonder at those who are so willing to abandon the freedoms, rights and responsibilities that were established, although they seem to be mis-quoted when it suits an individual's purpose. There seems to be a great deal of ignorance in terms of the Constitution, the rights of individuals, and the political process. As an educator, I expect that we will experience more and more of this lack of understanding. No Child Left Behind or NCLB and the reauthorization known as ESEA do not include Social Studies, a requirement of learning that is tested. Social Studies include History, Civics, Sociology, and Geography. Many states virtually abandoned teaching the elements of Social Studies years ago because of the focus on testing and test scores.

Let me assure you, that Vermont is not a state that has abandoned Social Studies in our schools. In fact, I am very happy that the new Vermont English Language Arts Common Core Curriculum is melded with Science and Social Studies. Students read and write about both science and social studies throughout their education here at EES.

Democracy requires an educated populace. If our citizens are unaware of our history, or their rights, there can be serious consequences. History tells us what mistakes have been made, and if we paid attention, how to avoid them. The history behind a law is as important as a law because it helps us to understand the problem the law is intended to solve. Eliminating a law without understanding the origin can result in the return of the problem.

As citizens, our children need to learn their rights and responsibilities. They need to know how our government works so they are prepared to participate. They need to know why it is important to listen to all sides, regardless of agreement. Social studies provide the means to teach civil discourse and accepting the rights of others to a difference of opinion. It is something that we all must teach, educator and parent alike.

Date and Volume Number

January 8, 2016

Up Coming Events

- Jan. 18 MLK Day
- Jan. 29 EES at UVM Women's Hockey Game
- Jan. 30 Math Night

Whole School Assembly
Wednesday, Jan. 13
Mr. Palmer's 4th Grade Class will Lead!

Join us in our Fifth Annual Trip to UVM to cheer on the UVM Women's Hockey Team - Friday, January 29th

It's a great time for a great Friday night activity for the family. Put it on your calendar. All students are free. We can help with tickets for adults. More information to come.

ATTENTION 1ST & 2ND GRADE FAMILIES!

The EES 1st & 2nd grade chorus for the musical "The Frontier Express" is run through the Burlington Kids Afterschool Program. If your child is interested in participating in the 1st & 2nd grade chorus, please contact Priscilla for more information: praba@bsdvt.org, (802) 316-0195. "

LOST AND FOUND CLEAN UP!

It's time to clean up our Lost and Found area. Please take a moment next week to see if any of the items belong to you; any items remaining next Friday, January 15th, will be donated to our school's winter program or to our local GoodWill. The Lost and Found is located on the ramp heading to the cafeteria.

OUTGROWN WINTER GEAR?

Our children have so much fun playing outside in the snow or sledding on the hill, but if they don't have all the appropriate winter gear, they can't enjoy all the fun winter activities. Do you have any outgrown snow pants, coats, boots, hats, mittens or scarfs that you'd like to donate to the school? If so, please drop off the items to the school office and we'll sort it out from there!

PTO Leaders: Marni Slavik, Hollie Foley, and Clare Wool
PTO Contact: pto@eespto.org

EES SCHOOL PLAY FRONTIER EXPRESS UPCOMING DATES

Auditions start this week for this year's Very Merry Performance of the Frontier Express. Students should turn in their signed permission form to the front office if they haven't done so already. Please see the audition schedule below and note that some auditions are scheduled after school.

Frontier Express Cast Audition Schedule

Wednesday 1/6: 3rd graders *after school 1:50-2:50*

pm - Location: Library

Thursday 1/7: 4th graders from 11-12 **pm** during lunch and recess. Location: Library

Friday 1/8: 5th grade auditions *after school 2:50-3:50*

pm. Location: Library

Monday 1/11: 5th grade singing auditions and any remaining speaking roles *after school 2:50-3:30 pm*. Location: Library

Thursday 1/14 from 3-5 PM: All cast read-through. Location: Library

***Parents of Cast Members Required Meeting: Tuesday January 12 from 6-6:30 PM**

Location: EES Cafeteria

MATH NIGHT SATURDAY JANUARY 30th

You won't want to miss it! More information to come.

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for the current 2015-16 school year is on a rolling basis. Enrollment for the next school year, 2016-17, opens on January 4, 2016 and closes on February 19, 2016, with school placement notification sent out the week of April 4, 2016. If you have a child turning five on or before September 1, 2016, you need to register them for kindergarten now.

If there are more first choice registrations than there are spots, we will look at families' second choices. When a student doesn't receive their first choice school, a District employee will contact the family to discuss their options for schools. Applications received after February 19, 2016 will be considered based upon available space.

Beginning January 4, all forms can be found at our District Website, www.bsdyt.org, in any of our schools, or at our District Office at 150 Colchester Avenue. Families completing registration forms should bring a copy of their child's Birth Certificate or other proof of age, a copy of their immunization records and proof of residency.

Pre-k registration will also open on January 4, 2016. Visit www.bsdyt.org or call [\(802\) 864-8463](tel:8028648463) for more information.

Feel free to contact any schools if you would like to arrange a visit.

LIBRARY FACILITATES HOUR OF CODE

As part of National Computer Science week (December 7-13) students at Edmunds Elementary School participated in a worldwide event known as Hour of Code. Hour of Code was begun in 2013 by code.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding worldwide access to computer science. Their belief is that anyone can learn the basics of coding with the intention of taking out some of the mystery by making it fun and creative. Code.org makes tutorials available and offers choices for hour-long coding "events" that students and teachers can choose to do. Many of these events take place in school libraries, or with the support of the teacher librarian.

Here at EES, students in grades 1-5 participated in Hour of Code during their weekly library class with Mrs. Neil. Students first worked "unplugged" to write programs to direct each other on how to complete drawings on a grid or to make pretend robots move around the room. They then chose activities on code.org to put into practice the skills they learned. Students were very enthusiastic and successful in writing code for characters from a variety of popular games. Ask your child about their experience with coding. If you would like to try your hand at it, visit code.org and explore one of the many activities available.

