

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

January 27, 2017

Up Coming Events:

- Jan. 28 - Math Night! 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- Feb. 2 - Chinese, Korean & Vietnamese New Year
- Feb. 3 - PACK THE GUT! 7:00 PM
- Feb. 9 - Fine Arts Night (K-2) 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- Feb. 10 - Tu B'Sheval (New Year of the Trees Begins)
- Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day
- Feb. 16 - EES Community Dinner & Dance 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- Feb. 27 - Mar. 6 Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

From the Principal's Desk

Have you gone to a college hockey, soccer or a basketball game at UVM, St. Michael's or any other college for that matter? Have you ever gone to a professional sports or World Cup game? Now that I have your attention, what was your immediate assumption as you considered the question? Were you thinking about a men's game or a women's game? Do you find yourself surprised that I'd even ask the question? If you were one of the 20,000 individuals who Marched in Montpelier on the 21st, you know that the fight for equality is ongoing and sports serves as great barometer in just how long it takes to change attitudes and biases.

The truth is, that there is an implicit bias that men's sports are more entertaining and worth watching. That is readily evident in attendance at games. Sadly, that bias is just as prevalent among women as it is men. That bias is the same kind of bias that influences the makeup of Cabinets, board rooms, and management positions. It is an unconscious bias that researchers discovered in the way girls were treated in math classes vs boys. It is the same implicit bias that would have us think that the engineers and mathematicians at NASA were all white men. The reality is, that our implicit bias...those deep-seeded assumptions that go unquestioned, need to be questioned. That we have not seen or experienced something does not mean it can or should not exist. It means we need to open our thinking and our experiences.

The reality is, that perceptions about capabilities of men and women are formed early and through multiple means. Watching sports is fun for everyone, but if the only teams we ever watch are men's teams, our children get a message that men's athletics are superior to women's. If our children see men being powerful in sports and a half time show with women dancing in provocative clothes, the message is pretty strong about the roles of men and women. The media perpetuates stereotypes about gender roles but we adults, and role models, perpetuate the stereotypes if we do not seek out that which challenges them. How do those messages extend to other areas of society; to employment, wages, education, and positions of power? The fact is, that women do work and play hard and well, and their games are exciting and few are watching. The girls feel it but keep on playing hard. Now that's grit!

We want our girls and boys to understand that both genders are strong and capable. We want our girls to see this to open their minds to the possibilities open to them. We want our boys to be open to the idea that leadership and capability are based on one's actions, not one's gender.

**Whole School Assembly
February 1
Chittenden Solid Waste
Mr. Gillard's Class Leading**

(con't)

Friday, Feb. 3rd is a great opportunity to test assumptions about athletics when all Edmunds students, EMS and EES, have the opportunity to watch the UVM Women's Hockey team play UNH. This will be the sixth year students from the Edmunds Campus will be in attendance and the first year that EMS students are included. Students are free and adults are \$2. It's a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels. Attendance at the women's games is typically around 300. We'd like to see the women experience a full house with 4,000 fans. Edmunds families can make a big dent in that number.

We hope that your family will help PACK THE GUTT Feb. 3rd. The game starts at 7 p.m. We will be giving tickets out to Edmunds students (EMS and EES) between 6 and 6:45 in the ticket lobby. Hope to see you there!

EARLY DISMISSALS AND PICK UPS:

We are noticing that many parents and guardians are arriving at school on a daily basis, between 2:00 - 3:00, to pick up their student for dismissal. Sometimes, this is for doctors' appointments and other necessary reasons, but at other times, no reason is given. Calling a student means interrupting her/his teacher while they are providing instruction to the class. It also decreases the amount of time a child is receiving this instruction. Please limit requests for early dismissal to necessary reasons and not simply for the sake of convenience. We have been recording early dismissals and the reasons provided since late fall and is being reflected in your student's attendance/truancy record. Thank you very much.

DENTAL SCREENINGS:

A representative from the Vermont Department of Health visited our school to conduct one-minute dental screenings of students in Kindergarten and Grade 3 this week. About twenty-five students participated in this activity, which helps the department assess the dental health of children in Vermont. We would like to schedule another screening so that more children will be able to participate. If you have a child in Kindergarten or Grade 3 and do not want your child to participate in this dental screening, please contact Mr. Fleury at the school at 864-8457 or tfleury@bsdvt.org. A form about this was sent home to all parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten and Grade 3 about a week or so ago. If you indicated on that form that you do not wish to have your child screened, you do not need to contact the school again. We will honor your wishes. Otherwise, all students in these two grades will be screened.

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 **"Win the Race: Read!"** This year's race will have a Morgan Horse theme and our students will be reading and racing their way to the finish line! From February 1 through the 21st, 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 racetrack with each class having their own horse 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! Kathy Neil - EES Librarian

K-2 FINE ARTS NIGHT FEBRUARY 9TH, 6:00 PM -7:30 PM

Please join us for an evening of visual art and music brought to you by the Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders of Edmunds Elementary! The art show begins at 6:00 and is followed by a music performance in the middle school gymnasium at 6:30. We are still in need of a volunteer parent to run the sound board for this event. No experience required! Contact Betsy Nolan at enolan@bsdvt.org if you can help.

EES COMMUNITY DINNER & FAMILY DANCE:

This event is **Thursday, February 16th 5:30 pm-7:00 pm** and is open to all EES families. The evening features a free dinner to all who come, followed by a Community Dance of traditional folk dances from a variety of cultures. No experience necessary! This is great opportunity to sample the food served to our students through the Burlington School Foods Program and meet EES families through community dancing! This event is free and any and all donations will support the purchase of a new bass xylophone for the music room!

FROM THE COMMUNITY**PACK THE GUT ON FEBRUARY 3RD!**

This will be EES's sixth year supporting the UVM Women's Hockey Team - Friday, Feb. 3. Student tickets can be picked up between 6 and 6:45 in the ticket Lobby at the Gutterson Field House. Please don't wait till the last minute! We are expecting a crowd! In order to have an idea of how many tickets we'll need to have, we're sending home a form today with your student, and ask that they fill it out and return it to school by Wednesday. Tickets for students will be passed out in the ticket lobby at the Gutterson Field House. Parents can purchase tickets in the ticket window. They are \$2.

PTO NEWS

PTO LEADERS: Leigh Fisher, Hollie Foley and Rachel Shelley
PTO CONTACT: pto@eespto.org

HELP NEEDED:

Ms. Nolan needs some parent help with the Family Dance and Community dinner 2/16/17. More information [here](#).
Ms. Nolan needs a parent to help with the Sound Board for K-2 Fine arts night. If you can help please email her at enolan@bsdvt.org

COSTUME REQUEST FOR THE PLAY:

If you have any of the following items, can you please lend or donate them to the play?
--Black top hats
--Very small vests in grey
--Used black rainboots or flat, black, knee-length boots in woman's size 5-8
--3-4 boys black suits in size 10-14

PTO MEETING AND COFFEE HOUR FEBRUARY 1ST:

Immediately following Wednesday assembly.
Location TBD