

FRIDAY



FLASH

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

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

June 7, 2013

## From the Principal's Desk

### STAY SMART this summer!

Summer learning loss is an issue faced by students across the country and our kids are no different. The amount of loss that a child experiences is directly related to the amount of practice in reading, writing and math they have over the summer. Children who keep reading and writing and who play games that use math maintain their skills. The good news is that it is easy to practice all skills doing fun, interesting things. We would like to see all of our students spend at least 15 minutes 3 -4 days a week reading, writing and doing math. Remember, this is simply to maintain their current level of skill, not to necessarily build on it.

On the last day of school, children entering 1 - 5 grade next year will go home with a STAY SMART bag. We hope that this bag will be entertaining and educational for your child this summer.

One of the items in the bag will be a STAY SMART Booklet. This booklet is filled with lots of activities your child can play/do all while keeping his/her reading, writing, math, and art skills sharp. There are many activities in the book that your child can do on his own; others he/she might need your help. Your child can check off as many activities as she likes, and bring the booklet back in September for a popsicle. We will also have the booklet and a list of educational Web sites and free apps on the Edmunds Web site.

This Stay Smart bag was put together by the Family School Partnership team: Co-chairs Heather McMorris & Claudia Renchy Morton. Committee members: Shelley Mathias, Kyle Dodson, Kristin Flynn, Mary Neil, Mary Ross and Clare Wool. Thank you Family School Partnership team members!

Special thanks to parents Annie Howell and Leslie Halperin for their help in brainstorming and editing Stay Smart! We want extend a special thanks to Kelliher Samets Volk and specifically Brian Culum and Tamara Jones for their design and production assistance! We also want to thank our amazing Vista Volunteers Morgan Ford and Laura Kingston. Other companies were generous in donating or reducing the cost of the supplies in the bag. They include Bonita Pioneer, Kinkos FedEx, Branders.com and WB Mason.

There will also be a packet of information in the bag that is for you as parents with some information about websites, iPad/Smart phone APPS, directions for games and more to help your children.

And when the inevitable happens at some point this summer, and you hear "there's nothing to do" or "I'm bored", tell them to go to their Stay Smart Bag and look up an activity that they have not tried yet!

## Upcoming Events

June 10	Field day (Rain date)
June 12	Kindergarten play
June 13	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Tribute - 6:30 pm
June 14	Step Up
June 14	Last Day of School 11:30 dismissal, bag lunch
July 8	Lake Monster Game! 7 pm
Aug. 27	3:00 - 3:30 Open House; 3:30 Ice Cream Social
Aug. 28	First day of School!

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY  
Wednesday – June 12  
Goodbyes to our friends leaving EES

### Fifth Grade Student's Last Day is June 13th

Fifth graders will have a ceremony acknowledging their time at EES on Thursday evening, June 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30. Thursday will be their last day at EES! All other students have a half day on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. School is out at 11:30 on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Classroom Placement and Step Up

The last day of school is Step Up Day for our students. Step Up Day provides the students with an opportunity to meet their new teacher and classmates for next year. Your child's classroom placement will also be included on their report card. The faculty and staff at EES spend a great deal of time working on creating classrooms that are balanced and provide as rich a level of diversity in all areas as possible and includes as much information as we can gather for each student.

In the fall, each classroom will be creating their own community within the Edmunds Elementary Community. It is a process that is deliberate and intended to make each child feel a part of developing their classroom culture and climate. This is done through Responsive Classroom. If parents would like to know more about the philosophy and purpose, go to:

<https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/about-responsive-classroom>

### EES - VERMONT LAKE MONSTER GAME: JULY 8TH

The Vermont Lake Monsters sponsor games where an organization such as Center City Little League or a school such as ours is involved in pregame activities and promoted throughout the game. **Monday, July the 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm will be Edmunds Elementary first-ever game night!** There will be involvement from the students before the game and between innings. Also, **EES singers will sing the National Anthem at the start of the game!** See you at the game!

FINAL PTO MEETING NOTES: 30 MAY, 2013

In attendance:

Kristine Flynn, Elaine Prescott, Kara Quinn, Mary Ross, Kathy Neil, Leslie Halperin, Nancy Westbrook, Misa Lindberg, Clare Wool, Janet Bellevance, Penny Stearns, Shelley Mathias, Peggy O'Neill-Vivanco, Signe Daly

Here are the main points discussed:

1. The PTO "bubble structure" proposal of decentralizing the PTO leadership, having PTO facilitators for the many subcommittees for main EES PTO events.
  - teachers were enthusiastic and approving of this idea
  - most of the 'bubbles' have leaders signed up for next year, but there is room to add more folks to the leadership and certainly much room to help with these events
  - the subcommittee leaders are responsible for these events and in coordinating with the PTO facilitator/s
  - support is available from past leaders - forms, electronic files, meetings
  - leaders are highly encouraged to get new parents involved, and to train to lead events in the future
  - events that fail to get leadership may not occur
  - new events are always welcome as long as they meet the school's mission and are inclusive and accessible to all (short approval form needed)
2. Welcoming EES Families
  - beginning of the year events (BBQ, Open House, Ice Cream Social) were discussed with lots of important input from teachers on scheduling
  - coordination with ELL teachers/families is essential
  - creating a culture of welcoming others is needed (ie greeting folks you don't know, stepping outside your social circle to welcome new families) - BBQ, K-Lunches and welcome/greeters for all events are needed
3. Family engagement - more volunteers
  - create a visual of who volunteers on what projects/events
  - show pride in connection with all families
  - how to better help transport kids/families to events
  - do we need a 'hired' person to help with this? A former BSD position was "Family Involvement Coordinator."
4. Four Winds Proposal
  - Needs confirmation to be part of PTO (similar to currently structure, but more formally part of communications piece)
  - Still run by coordinator for 4 Winds volunteers
  - Still responsible for own fundraising with annual stipend from PTO funds
  - Needs teachers review - in person - to make sure it fits the district science curriculum
  - Request by teachers to have the curricula match science curriculum of class
  - Request for coordination (vision/ curriculum) be coordinated

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING, ESPECIALLY THE GREAT SHOWING OF TEACHERS. AS ALWAYS, THEIR INPUT IS ESSENTIAL.

Please let us know if you have questions or comments.

Thank you and have a great summer,  
Peggy O'Neill-Vivanco and Signe Daly

FIELD DAY POSTPONED TO MONDAY, 10 JUNE.VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Due to heavy rain in the forecast, Tyler Sessions has reschedule Field Day to Monday, 10 June in the athletic field. Depending on the weather, Tyler will make the call on Sunday morning if we need to cancel it on Monday. If we do not have field day on Monday, unfortunately, we will not have field day this year. So hopefully things will turn around and be warm and sunny on Monday. *We need some more volunteers for Monday!* There will be two sessions: *K-2 will go from 8:30-11 am and 3-5 grades will go from 11:45-2:15 pm. Tyler is keeping an eye on the weather and will make a call on Thursday.* Please contact Peggy O'Neill: [peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net), if you can help during either session!

PTO CONFIRMATION OF LEADERSHIP AND PROPOSALS

Everyone, please complete the survey monkey (electronic confirmation of leadership positions and proposals for school year 2013-14) by June 5<sup>th</sup> midnight. Click on any of the following links - all three are the same:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XNTB9Y3>

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8YXNPW3>

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8YXNPW3>

PLEASE COMPLETE THE PARENT SURVEY: SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The Edmunds community has made a commitment to walking and rolling to school, and the PTO has worked to identify safety issues, and conducted biking and walking safety presentations to achieve this new level. Edmunds is close to reaching Gold Status - we are going for it next year!

*We need your help to move to Gold Status. Safe Routes to Schools has created a survey for our school to gauge issues/concerns about the walk/ride to school for our children. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey:*

<http://www.saferoutesdata.org/surveyformparent.cfm?key=613210>

Congratulations to our Runner-Up, Moretown Elementary School with 76.5% and our *2nd Runner Up, Edmunds Elementary School with 73.8% of students clean commuting! EES had the largest overall number of clean commuting students!* The clean commuters at the thirteen participating Way to Go Schools collectively represented 1450 students who opted to arrive and depart by something other than their family car. To see the results in detail visit: [http://saferoutes.vermont.gov/whats\\_happening/press\\_room](http://saferoutes.vermont.gov/whats_happening/press_room) or <http://www.waytogovt.org/awards/>