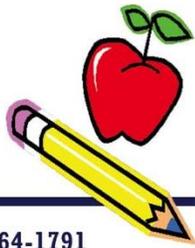




**EDMUNDS**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# FRIDAY



# FLASH

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

**Date and Volume Number**

## From the Principal's Desk

When my grandson was an infant and too young to speak, he was able to use sign language to tell his parents what he needed. He could tell them that he wanted more; that he was hungry, and even "please" and "thank you". For someone who wasn't 12 months old yet, that covered a lot of his needs. Some of you may have taught your children to do the same thing.

Imagine how frustrating it must be to be hungry and not be able to tell anyone, or having people guess why you are crying, and guess wrong repeatedly. I think most of us know the cry of a very angry baby - the cry when their chin begins to quiver or when they cry so hard they grow silent until their next deep breath. As they learn to speak, there are less instances of that level of anger and frustration.

The need to have the ability to communicate doesn't end when we start to learn to speak. Often, children lack the vocabulary to express exactly what they mean. They may know the names of objects, and colors and each other, but many don't know a lot of words to express their emotions. It isn't just the words they lack. It can also be how to communicate displeasure effectively without the use of anger, sarcasm, insults or yelling.

Tone of voice is very important in communication. I once had a student who was very angry with a school principal for some remarks that he made at an assembly in front of the entire school. The administrator was brand new to the region and the school. His remarks were judgmental of a student who had died just days before. My student was furious and ready to march into the principal's office to tell him exactly what she thought of what he did. While I certainly understood her outrage (and frankly agreed with her) I cautioned her that he would not be able to hear anything but her tone if she approached him in anger. All he would hear would be a disrespectful student. Her message would be lost and in all likelihood, she would suffer a suspension. I felt her message was important and urged her to wait until she calmed down and go to the principal to speak in a more civil tone. She was a bright young lady who had the capacity to articulate her point very well.

Many of our students have important things to say but they have not yet learned how to articulate their thoughts. Between vocabulary, and tone, they are more likely to say things that are equally hurtful back because they will mirror what is being said to them and how it is being said. Providing them with language and modeling a calmer approach to expressing their feelings is

March 25, 2016

## Up Coming Events:

Mar. 25 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - No school

April 7 - Fine Arts Night Grades 3, 4 & 5 - 5:30

April 8 - Skate Night - Leddy Park - 6 - 8 pm

Apr. 18-22 - Spring Break - No School

**Whole School Assembly**  
**March 30, 2016**  
**School Bee Celebration!**

(Cont'd)

a good means of helping them develop skills to get their ideas and feelings across to a listener. Even if they are in a situation where the other party is escalated, they could provide a path towards calm by not mirroring the tone of the other individual. That, in turn, often results in the other person mirroring their tone, and the situation can calm down. Both benefit. This takes practice, and modeling.

## TREE TAPPED--CHECK IT OUT!

In Four Winds this month, our classes are learning all about sugaring! Kids are learning how to identify a sugar maple before it has leaves and why we tap trees in the spring, as part of our year-long unit on life cycles. With Champlain College's permission, we tapped a nearby sugar maple so the kids could taste fresh sap. It's in front of Durick Hall, the yellow public safety building near the corner of S. Willard and Main. Feel free to check it out with your child if you are passing by.



**PTO LEADERS:** Marni Slavik, Hollie Foley & Clare Wool

**PTO CONTACT:** [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org)

### **FRONTIER EXPRESS: THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all parents and families who helped out in the many ways to make this a memorable and fantastic production!

### **LOOKING FOR A NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR SKATE NIGHT ON FRIDAY APRIL 8 FROM 6-8PM**

Skate night is a fun night at Leddy ice arena with free skate rentals, pizza, and ice skating for all! Looking for a new volunteer coordinator to help manage food, drinks, and advertising for this event. Please contact Marni at [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org) if you can help.

### **READY SET RUN! IS NOW MINI MILERS**

It's back... previously Ready, Set, Run is returning, with a new name! Welcome Mini Milers!!

Your child will learn about and practice fitness, the value of proper nutrition, citizenship, and goal setting all while having fun and being safe. Groups meet weekly for an hour. In addition to mileage incentives (including a medal), a t-shirt and finisher's certificate, participants receive monthly e-newsletters filled with activity ideas, citizenship challenges and tasty recipes. Participants are encouraged to participate in other upcoming Run Vermont events. The program will be led from **April 6th to June 1st** on Wednesdays, from 1:50pm-3:00pm, with a final event in June. If your child currently attends the Burlington Kids After School Program, we will filter them back to their leaders at the end of the program. There is a \$35 fee for participation; however, if your child receives free or reduced lunches, the fee is waived. In addition, if the fee is a hardship, please connect with us as we want your child to participate and will seek accommodations. Flyers will be going home with your children soon. Please email Brandi at [Brandi.littlefield7@gmail.com](mailto:Brandi.littlefield7@gmail.com) with any questions. Feel free to also check in with Kirsten McNeil, Leigh Fisher or Marni Slavik.

For further information, you can also go to RunVermont's website: <https://www.runvermont.org/youth/ready-set-run/> (registration is already available online).

## **From the Community**

### **HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS COMING TO VERMONT!**

The world famous Harlem Globetrotters will be playing in Burlington, VT at the Patrick Gymnasium at UVM on Thursday, April 7, 2016 @ 7pm. Employees, students, and everyone with Burlington School District (family/friends) can take advantage of an exclusive discount and save up to \$6.50 off each ticket! To take advantage of this discount or for any questions, please contact Derek Gensburg at [602-707-7037](tel:602-707-7037) or [Gensburg@harlemglobetrotters.com](mailto:Gensburg@harlemglobetrotters.com). An order form will be available in your school office. Tickets are limited based on availability, so please order early while tickets are available."

