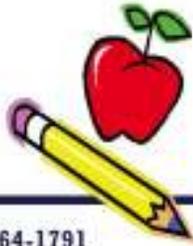


FRIDAY



FLASH



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

March 20, 2015

From the Principal's Desk

Principal Dr. Mathias is out of the building this week, so music teacher Christina Norland (currently in an Educational Leadership graduate program) is the author of this week's "From the Principal's Desk" column.

"It's time we stop talking about test scores and start focusing on the act of teaching."

This powerful statement by Vermont's Secretary of Education, Rebecca Holcombe, is the email signature line of a friend of mine who is a master teacher. It points to what decades of research have told us—that *the most important* determinant of student growth is the quality of teaching the child receives. Secretary Holcombe has begun to shift the educational focus in Vermont to that which will improve student achievement most—quality teaching.

This week opened the testing window for the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) in Vermont. Did you read Secretary Holcombe's memorandum posted yesterday, accessible through the EES and BSD web pages? It is entitled, "Smarter Balanced Assessment: Another Measure of Learning," and conveys Holcombe's down-to-Earth perspective on the test. She asks that we keep it in proper perspective (don't stress about the test), she asks that we understand that the ultimate purpose of education cannot be addressed by a test (because it is a *process*), and she reminds us that schools are communities of people built on relationships (the value of which cannot be measured).

I have heard Secretary Holcombe speak to the fact that great teachers are often found among other great teachers. I know that when I joined the Edmunds Elementary professional community, my teaching rose to a new level. I learned from my fellow teachers and staff members through meetings, trainings, conversations, and that simple but powerful method—observation. Supported and encouraged by others who clearly took their practice seriously, I was inspired to do the same. Being respected in a community begets growth, which brings increased respect, which leads to further growth, and the cycle continues. It is easy to see why Secretary Holcombe's observation is true—great teachers spur their colleagues on to greater teaching! Just yesterday, I had a conversation with another Edmunds teacher about the impact of the respect amongst teachers at EES on our ability to grow as educators. Parents, you factor in, too! Many Thursdays, parents make our community stronger by providing snacks in the staff room. This outward appreciation helps support the teachers, staff members, and whole school community, and ultimately reaches our students.

Cont'd on next column

Up Coming Events

- Mar. 23-27 Parent Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 25 Everybody Wins Celebration
- Mar. 26 Early Dismissal 11:30 Bag lunches
- Mar. 27 No students today
- Apr. 10 Skate Night - Leddy Park
- Apr. 16 Arts Night - Art Show and Concerts

**Whole School Assembly
Wednesday, Mar. 25
Mrs. FitzPatrick's 3rd Grade**

Secretary Holcombe concludes her memo, "Let's support our schools as they work on what really matters: teaching well and broadly so that all our children are able to build a strong civic, cultural and economic future for our state." Yes, let's continue to build respectful, appreciative relationships within our school community, so we can continually improve the quality of our teaching for the sake of our children, and a brighter world.

Save the date for **Fine Arts Night!** Every April, we celebrate our students' artistic gifts with an evening of visual and musical art.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP!

Parent/Teacher Conference Scheduling

Electronic scheduling for our March parent/teacher conferences is now available. Please click on the following link to access the teachers' conference schedules. If you cannot access the link directly, please cut and paste the link into an Internet browser: http://ptcfast.com/schools/Edmunds_Elementary_School

If you need assistance, please contact Mrs. Monica Gragg at 864-1791. If needed, please see the web documentation related to scheduling your EES conferences at PTC Fast: <http://tinyurl.com/helpforconferences>

DONOR'S CHOOSE OPPORTUNITY AT EES

Mrs. Fagan has put a project on the Donors Choose web site. It is called Windows to the Past. "I'm hoping to fund an iPad for our class to use to research historical buildings in Burlington. We'd use the iPad for recording interviews, photographs and videos of tours as well as final projects to share with others. Please take a look at the project. The link is www.donorschoose.org/lfagan The project is eligible for matching funds until 3-22. Use the code SPARK. It would be great if you could share the site with others who might be interested in helping us too. Thanks so much!"

Everybody Wins Lunchtime Open House

Family members of EW students, along with EES staff, are invited to a lunchtime Open House on Tuesday, March 24 and Wednesday, March 25 (whichever day is your child's reading day) from 12:00-1:00. Come meet your child's mentor and see Everybody Wins in action! For more information contact Valerie Hamlin at

Valerie.ewvt@gmail.com.

FROM THE PTO**THANK YOU: EES MUSICAL NARNIA VOLUNTEERS!**

Thank you to the MANY parent volunteers that helped to make our school musical such an amazing performance. Whether you helped in a small or large way, the play would not have been possible without you. A special thanks to Kirstin DiPietro Worden, Clare Wool, and Korinna Hillemann who coordinated the production.

PTO MEETING THURSDAY APRIL 9, 6:30-7:30PM

All are welcome and childcare will be provided. Please join us on the third floor library/resource room. Looking for 1-2 people to help serve as co-leaders next year. Contact Marni Slavik (pto@eespto.org) with questions.

SKATE NIGHT FRIDAY APRIL 10 FROM 6-8PM AT LEDDY ARENA

Join us for pizza and ice skating! Please let Annie Howell know if you can help pass out food, set up, or clean up (annehowell@gmail.com).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SET UP ART SHOW THURSDAY, APRIL 16

4 people needed to help set up the art show from 3:30-4:30pm, Thursday April 16th for the EES Fine Arts evening. Art show begins at 5:30pm. Contact art teacher Anne Lamont (alamont@bsdvt.org) if you can help.

LOOKING FOR VSO PETTING ZOO VOLUNTEER

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra has a great program in which they bring instruments for Kindergarten and first grade students to try. Our previous volunteer coordinator, Carolyn Hanson, would like to train a new volunteer in coordinating this event. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Carolyn (carolynhanson21@gmail.com) or Marni (pto@eespto.org).

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER FOOD COORDINATOR FOR MAYFAIR ON MAY 15

Mayfair is our end-of-the-year carnival with food and games for the entire EES community. We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate the food. Please contact Leigh Fisher (leigh.r.fisher@gmail.com) if you can help.

PTO EMAIL UPDATES

The PTO sends out weekly email updates. If you would like to be added to the PTO email list, please contact Marni Slavik at EES PTO (pto@eespto.org). For more information about PTO events visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

The dissemination of this material is intended to be of community service. BSD does not endorse or sponsor this organization.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

The world famous Harlem Globetrotters will be playing at the Patrick Gym in Burlington, VT on Wednesday, March 25th at 7 pm. Everyone associated with the Burlington School District can take advantage of an exclusive discount and save up to \$6.00 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. Tickets are limited based on availability, so please order early while tickets are available.

The FUN Group**Social Activity Group for Elementary School Age Children with Intellectual/Developmental Delay -**

Structured activities and social bonding designed for elementary school age children with intellectual/developmental delay. Each meeting will last 2 hours, beginning with a greet, then a 45 minute art or physical activity designed specifically for developmental level of the kids, followed by a shared snack and social time. Activities include fun such as a dance class, swimming, art workshop, clay studio workshop, sing along/music time, a dance party, gym class, old fashioned playground games, yoga, and field trips. **Where:** Activities will meet at different locales in the northern Vermont region. Current activities are planned for Shelburne, Winooski, Richmond, South End Burlington, Old North End Burlington. The goal is to accommodate families from the whole region, within an hour or so radius of Burlington, and to visit cultural centers within the same radius. We are a small community, so I would like to make activities accessible for a large geographical range.

Sections: Each section will consist of five (5) sessions held over 3 months. Session dates, activities and locations are flexible and will vary until confirmed. Estimated goal - 4 sections annually. **Fee:** Estimated cost for participants \$25 per section.

RSVP Shoshannahmamma@aol.com, or 310-1861

Lake Adventure Camps - in Burlington and Vergennes - ages 4-16

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is proud to partner with Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront to announce its inaugural Lake Adventure Camps this 2015 Summer. Each program offers hands-on experiential adventures for young explorers to discover our region's rich maritime heritage and environment. Participants will work with the Museum's team of summer counselors, professional archaeologists, ecologists, divers, and mariners while learning new skills in and out of the water. Join us on ROV expeditions, snorkeling archaeology, and lake ecology canoe ventures. Welcome aboard! Info & Registration: www.lcmm.org