

# FRIDAY



# FLASH



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

Date and Volume Number

## From the Principal's Desk

I think that it is important that parents stay informed about what is happening with the budget. There are two meetings next week, both beginning at 7 pm. The Finance Committee will be meeting Monday night in the Ira Allen Administrative building at 150 Colchester Ave. to review additional levels of cuts to the budget, at the board's request. Tuesday, the School Board is meeting at BHS at 7 pm. They will include information about the list of teachers who will be receiving notices that their positions could be part of a reduction in force or a R.I.F. There are some positions already identified in the original budget cuts, including the elementary Spanish teachers. The list is necessary as it meets the term of the teachers' contract and respects their need to make decisions regarding their own future. The list is significant to accommodate a "worst case" scenario in terms of a budget for next year. The R.I.F. list includes teachers across the district as well as teachers who work as coaches or content experts in the areas of math, literacy, social studies and technology. The list is based on seniority, with the teachers newest to each school on the list. This is very unfortunate, as the recruitment work done over the last several years has resulted in a cadre of very high quality teachers joining Burlington School District.

The disruption within any school from changes in personnel would be based upon the ability of more senior teachers whose positions have been eliminated being able to assume the positions of the less senior teachers. The process, known as bumping, allows a senior teacher whose position was eliminated to "bump" a teacher with less seniority out of their position. Should the bumped teacher be more senior than another teacher, it may be possible for them to bump a more junior person out of their position. The process is fairly typical although the need to use it has been rare.

Needless to say, the conversations among faculty during lunch includes concerns about the uncertainty that is faced as the school board makes decisions about the depth of the cuts to make and when the determination will be finalized. As a district, the least senior teachers will, in all probability go ahead and seek other positions in other districts. While certainly understandable, it will be very unfortunate to lose the very fine teachers we have been able to hire.

I am concerned that there are some whose decisions regarding school budgets and property taxes are made with a primary focus on the tax bill with far less understanding of what the funds provide. It would be like purchasing a car, and only looking at the price. That can result in the purchase of a Hugo when you needed and wanted a Caravan or Subaru wagon.

(cont'd)

March 21, 2014

### Upcoming Events

- Mar. 24 School Board Finance Committee Meeting, School District offices, 150 Colchester Ave. 7:00 pm
- Mar. 25 School Board Meeting, BHS Cafeteria, 7:00 pm.
- Mar. 24 -28 Parent Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 27 - Early Release 11:30am Bag Lunches
- Mar. 28 - No School
- Apr. 1 Reading to End Racism
- Apr. 4-10 Red Clover - reading books for the award
- Apr. 10 Spring PTO meeting - 6:30 Learning Center

**Wednesday Whole School Assembly**  
**All are welcome 8:10 - 8:25**

(Cont'd from the Principal's Desk)

Attendance at the School Board meeting on Tuesday will provide citizens with several proposed levels of cuts and the corresponding impact on students. The decision to vote the budget down is only part of the work of taxpayers. Helping the board to arrive at a budget that is acceptable and insures that the schools are able to continue the work that we do at as high a level as possible is critically important.

### Parent Teacher Conference - Schedule yours today!

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](http://ptcfast.com/schools/Edmunds_Elementary_School)

### TRAFFIC VOLUNTEERS DESERVE OUR THANKS!

I want to give a special shout out to our volunteers in the horseshoe every morning. Edmunds Elementary is the envy of the district when it comes to sanity in morning drop off courtesy of the volunteers who have been there every morning to open the doors and keep cars moving. This has been especially important during the CCTA strike as the number of cars has increased. To make things a little easier for them, please ask your children to be ready to get out of the car and move to the sidewalk quickly. Please, be sure to show these kind volunteers your thanks as you drive through.

**PAJAMA STORY HOUR HELD AT EES**

Kindergarteners and future Kindergarteners came together at PJ Story hour on Tuesday this week. Cookies, milk, stories and songs were the order of the day. We were happy to see so many faces - both children and adults. Our media library specialist, Kathy Neil picked out great books and PTO Co-Chair Marni Slavik and kindergarten teacher Danielle Weidmann, joined by Dr. Mathias read stories and sang songs with the children. It was a nice time for parents to visit and get to chat, and the kids to have some fun stories. The current kindergarteners also got to show a little of what they had learned, helping to lead the songs for the younger kids.

**EES TOURS FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES**

Do you know a neighbor or a friend who will have a Kindergartener next year? Encourage them to come tour Edmunds! Tours will take place on Wednesday mornings at 8:05 am from the front entrance. Upcoming tour dates: March 26 and April 2nd. Tour participants will have the opportunity to attend the whole school assembly and then take a guided tour from 8:30-9:00. To sign up for a tour, contact Monica Gragg at 864-1791.

**PTO NEWS****THANK YOU TO ALL WILLY WONKA MUSICAL VOLUNTEERS!**

The show was a spectacular success and loads of fun thanks to our long list of volunteers. It was amazing to see how it all came together! Thank you to EVERYONE who helped out- it would not have been possible without you.

Items left in the gym from last weekend's performance have been put in the middle school lost and found located in the middle school gym lobby. There are numerous water bottles, lunch boxes (some with food...yuck!), jackets, hats, mittens, and even a blue and white cooler full of drinks! If any of these are yours, please come and claim them before they get thrown out or donated.

**SIGN UP FOR EES STAGE CLUB BY MARCH 24!**

Stage Club is a place to bring your ideas to create original stage acts. Whether its singing, dancing, comedy or music, **teaching artist Trish Denton** will coach participants on how to be a powerful and expressive performer. Be prepared for loud voices, laughing and rockin' out. There will be 2 large group numbers. Dates: **Wednesday March 26, April 2,9,16, May 7, 14 @ 1:50-3:45 pm**. Dress rehearsal: **Sunday May 18 @ 10-2 pm**. School Teaser: **Wednesday May 21 @ assembly**. Show: **May 23 @ 6:30 pm**. Meet in front of the office on the 26<sup>th</sup>. In-school location for practices TBA.  
**Please SIGN-UP BY Monday March 24.**

**SPRING PTO MEETING APRIL 10 AT 6:30 PM**

Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Library. Please contact Marni Slavik at [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org) with any questions

**SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE**

As many of you know, the School Budget did not pass. The School Board is in the process of putting together a revised budget that will be put to a vote within the next three months. For more information please go to [www.bsdt.org](http://www.bsdt.org) or ask Marni Slavik.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SET UP MAYFAIR SILENT ON-LINE AUCTION**

Looking for a few volunteers to help with the Silent Auction. All templates from past years included. Fun job that can be done from home. Last year we raised over \$6000 to help our Edmunds community! Please contact Stephanie Mueller [smueller@vnrc.org](mailto:smueller@vnrc.org) or 399-7582 for more information.

**SPRING INTO READY, SET, RUN WITH RUNVERMONT**

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, a t-shirt, medal and finisher's certificate, participants receive monthly newsletters filled with activity ideas, citizenship challenges and tasty recipes. Participants are encouraged to participate in spring fun runs: Champ on Church May 10<sup>th</sup> & the Spring Festival of Fun June 9<sup>th</sup>. The program will be led from April 9<sup>th</sup> - June 4<sup>th</sup> on Wednesdays, from 1:50pm-3:00pm, with a final event on the evening of June 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 \$30 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 this week. Please email [Brandi.littlefield7@gmail.com](mailto:Brandi.littlefield7@gmail.com) with any questions. For further information, you can also go to their RunVermont's Website:

<http://www.runvermont.org/page.php?pid=19&pname=ready-set-run>

**FROM THE COMMUNITY**

*The dissemination of this material is intended to be of community service. The Burlington School District does not endorse or sponsor this organization.*

Upcoming weekend **SPANISH CLASSES** offered for adults and families. Express Fluency's next weekend program is April 5-6 in Burlington. Information is available at [www.ExpressFluency.com](http://www.ExpressFluency.com). Free intro class Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Please contact Elissa McLean at [802-275-2694](tel:802-275-2694) or [elissa@ExpressFluency.com](mailto:elissa@ExpressFluency.com) for more information.

Come enjoy a fun filled night with the **HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS** on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Patrick Gymnasium for a great display of basketball and an array of comedy that everyone will enjoy! To order BSD discounted tickets, call Brian Hill at [602.707.7009](tel:602.707.7009) or email him at [hill@harlemglobetrotters.com](mailto:hill@harlemglobetrotters.com).