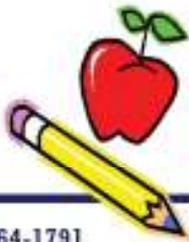


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

May 2, 2014

Upcoming Events:

May 13-15 Science NECAP

May 16 Mayfair

May 20 Musical Petting Zoo

June 5 Field Days

June 6 EES Chorus at Burlington Jazz Festival

June 11 Last day of school - Early Release 11:30am

From the Principal's Desk

I want to thank the parents who brought the lovely treats and coffee for the staff on Thursday before break and yesterday. They were very much appreciated by everyone. This time of year is always very hectic as we are trying to finish up the year, get those things in that need to be done before the students go home, and get things organized for next year. I don't think it would be a surprise to anyone that this year is especially stressful for the faculty with uncertainty and news reports so it is especially kind to let the faculty and staff know that they have the support of our families.

We are all concerned about the budget and how the next budget vote will impact the schools. I cannot focus on how we got where we are. I can only look towards the future and the impact of how people choose to view the situation. My best hope would be that voters are able to separate the needs of the students from any controversy involving adults. If people want to express concern, the most constructive way to do it is by communicating concerns directly with school board representatives. This can be done in person, on the phone, or through email or snail mail.

Voting down the budget as a means to make displeasure known will obviously give a message to adults, but will also result in negatively impacting students directly. In effect, kids will be the ones taking it on the chin for problems which they obviously didn't create and over which they have no control. The cuts are already deep. We are losing the kindergarten para educators, Spanish and a large amount of time from the library para, closing the library to students while Kathy Neil is teaching a class, making up for the loss of their positions will be difficult. We are also losing Kindergarten teacher Lindsay Zeigfinger, and will be getting a teacher from another school - the identity of whom will be unknown until after school is out for the summer. Each of these individuals provide a great deal of support and educational opportunity to our students. Their losses will be felt next year.

I'm concerned that everyone take the time to take a deep breath between now and the next vote. There are times when each of us has had to deal with bad financial news, and as upset as we may be, we move forward in the best way possible. This is one of those cases. If we were sold a furnace that failed, and the business that sold it to us was no longer around to get a refund, we'd still make the decision to replace the furnace because otherwise we, (and our pipes) would freeze. To me, this is one of those situations. We have to move forward in a way that serves the kids the best we can.

Whole School Assembly May 7
8:10 to 8:30
All are welcome

FINE ARTS NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported Fine Arts Night! The students worked hard preparing for the special event, and it showed. They sang and danced beautifully and their art work was excellent. The support of parents, families, and community is one of the great assets of Edmunds Elementary School. *Thank you* for helping to make the Spring Concert and Art Show a success!

-Mrs. Norland (Music) and Mrs. Lamont (Art)

PERSONAL SAFETY FOCUS OF GUIDANCE

Over the next couple of months classroom guidance lessons in all grades will focus on *personal safety*. In the younger grades we will go over the terms *comfortable*, *uncomfortable*, and *confusing* touches, emphasizing for each child, "my body belongs to me". The basic safety message for children is that if they are experiencing uncomfortable or confusing touches, they have the right to **"SAY NO, GET AWAY, and TELL AN ADULT THEY TRUST"**. It is very important that children also get this information from parents and guardians. For more information you can contact EES school counselor, Melissa Hathaway, or visit one of the following websites:

www.childluresprevention.com

www.dcf.vermont.gov/stepup/act_one_schools

Stay tuned to upcoming Friday Flashes for tips on talking to your child about sexual abuse prevention and personal safety.

PTO NEWS**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MAYFAIR FRIDAY MAY 16TH FROM 4-7 PM**

The Mayfair is coming! The Mayfair is coming! The Mayfair is on. This is one our school's most beloved events and a successful fundraiser with all donations going directly back to our school for students and teachers. There will be games, prizes, a jumpy castle, food and more! It takes many volunteers to run the Mayfair so we are asking families to please consider volunteering an hour of their time. Signing up is easy! Either fill out the form sent home with your child or go online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4BABA2EA13-mayfair> to sign up. Any questions or thoughts please email Courtney Asaro at courtneyasaro@gmail.com or call 233-1734. Thank you for supporting our school!

Cake bakers wanted for MayFair Musical Cakes game.
 Cake pans will be available next to the front office starting Friday, May 9th. Extravagant decorations welcomed. Nuts, however, are not welcomed. Please email Annie Howell to let her know of your interest/availability at annebhowell@gmail.com.

WALK AND ROLL TO SCHOOL WEEK/ WAY TO GO CHALLENGE WEEK OF MAY 12th-16th

Compete with other classes to see who has the most walkers and rollers at EES. Join other schools thru out Vermont to see who can have the smallest carbon footprint. Join Us Tuesday the 13th before school to decorate your helmet. If you walk or roll to school mark your house on the Map of Burlington!! Other fun walking and rolling activities to come!!! If you can help with the week long fun of walking and rolling please contact Rachel Shelley rachskye@gmail.com you are available to help. This is a great opportunity for grandparents as well. Thank you!

EES TOURS FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES

Tours will take place on Wednesday mornings at 8:05 am from the front entrance. Upcoming tour date: May 7. 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.

VSO MUSICAL PETTING ZOO TUESDAY, MAY 20

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help, we are all set for volunteers now.

Burlington School Board Votes Unanimously to Move Forward with Discussions with City Regarding CAO Support of School Finances in Effort to Improve Financial Management and Restore Public Trust

Burlington, Vermont - May 1, 2014 - The Burlington School Board on Tuesday evening voted unanimously to move forward with discussions with the City of Burlington to consider Mayor Miro Weinberger's offer of City oversight of Burlington School District finances in an effort to improve the District's financial management and restore the public's trust. The Mayor's offer, the details of which are under discussion, would make the City's Chief Administrative Officer Bob Rusten available to partner with the School District for a period of time to provide immediate additional financial oversight and management.

"The School Board sees this financial partnership with the City as an important step in the process of improving the School District's financial situation and regaining the public's trust in the District's ability to effectively manage school finances," said Patrick Halladay, School Board Chair. "We have come a long way in the past several weeks and continue to take steps every day to ensure an end to repeated budget deficits and unreliable budget information and the creation of reliable budgets going forward."

School Board Commissioners will meet with the City team, led by CAO Rusten, in the coming days to further consider the parameters of such a partnership. The City Council at its meeting this past Monday passed a resolution with a vote of 12-1 supporting the Mayor's offer of additional financial oversight to the School District.

"I appreciate that the School Board wants to move forward with these discussions," said Mayor Weinberger. "Burlingtonians should know that, over the last several weeks, the largely newly-constituted School Board has demonstrated strong leadership in tackling its years-old budget problems and in identifying and acting on the steps necessary to ensure the District moves forward with an effective administrative team."

CONTACT: Patrick Halladay, School Board Chair
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