

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

From the Principal's Desk

A few parents have expressed interest and concern regarding the use of the field for Champlain's graduation because of the impact on students. The size of the tent necessitated that erection begin on Thursday, resulting in the field being unavailable for PE or recess for two days. Champlain College asked the City Council to do this. It was agreed upon two years ago and included a sum of money that is shared between Edmunds Elementary and Edmunds Middle Schools. EES benefited as the grounds crew for Champlain spruced up our grounds, fixing some areas that were pretty unattractive. Perhaps more importantly, we have a relationship with Champlain College that is healthy and growing. Champlain College students volunteer at EES on a regular basis. While some are Education majors, others are studying business, computer science, psychology and communication. They have taken on mentoring and tutoring roles and build relationships with our students.

I will admit that my initial reaction to the field being used was one of concern (ok - that's a gentle way of saying what I was feeling). My mind immediately flew to all the change that it forced. Whenever there is a change in a routine, it is human nature to immediately think about the inconvenience it causes us, but in the long run, change in routine is an opportunity. It makes us smarter. Change is the beginning of a problem solving process. First we examine what we have lost and how this impacts us. Is it critical? Can we live without it? What could replace it and still satisfy us? What is reasonable or even possible to substitute? As adults, we encounter this process on an almost daily basis. We adapt and move on. Children are more challenged by the need to adapt but it is a skill that all of them will need to develop.

While children do thrive on stability, occasional changes in their lives are an opportunity for us to demonstrate how to react and adapt starting with our emotional response. Getting really upset about a change before really taking time to consider the ramifications genuinely makes it harder to think it through. Remaining calm provides us with more brain power to actually examine change thoroughly and creatively.

Each of us had to adapt in our own way to the change in our routine at EES because of the tent. Teachers had to figure out a different recess routine - outdoors was still possible, the space had changed. Some students had to adapt by changing their typical activity for recess and any students who had PE on Thursday or Friday had PE outside but in a different space. All in all, it worked out fine. Best thing was that the students were able to see the interesting process of erecting the huge tent, which many enjoyed.

May 10, 2013
Upcoming Events

- May 6-17 Walk and Roll to School Weeks
- May 13-15 NECAP Science Test - 4th grade
- May 15 Early Release - bag lunches, 11:30 dismissal
- May 16 Kindergarten Get Acquainted Day
- May 17 MAYFAIR
- May 23 EES Talent Show (during school)
- May 24 EES Talent Show evening performance
- June 7 Field Day
- June 13 5th Grade Tribute - 6:30 pm
- June 14 Last Day of School 11:30 dismissal, bag lunch

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday – May 8

All the Colors of Us – Student Assembly

ALL THE COLORS OF US

For the past several weeks a peer leadership group called "All the Colors of Us" have been organizing an assembly for May 22. These 4th and 5th grade students will be talking about differences in our school and inclusion. They have also organized a spirit day on Friday May 24 to celebrate how we are all unique. On that day you can dress in your favorite color of the rainbow, or dress all in rainbow colors. The group chose the rainbow as our symbol to represent how differences make the world a better place. (Students: Ewan, Isaac, Grace, Chloe, and Ibrahim)

EES - VERMONT LAKE MONSTER GAME: JULY 8TH

The Vermont Lake Monsters baseball team is working hard to become an active and integral part of our community. Throughout the season they 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 8th 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, **we are making plans for the EES Chorus to sing the National Anthem at the start of the game!** More on that to follow from Ms. Norland.

On Monday, May 13th, your child will receive an information packet with which you can purchase tickets for the July 8th game. **The tickets are general admission and cost \$6 each, with \$3 going directly to Edmunds Elementary to support the parent-led 4 Winds Science program.** The sale period will last 2 weeks, and we will have a table at Mayfair where you can purchase tickets, and return forms and money. (cont'd on back)

Lake Monster Game (cont'd.)

The goal of the event is to provide an opportunity for our school community to get together over the summer, to support our parent-led 4 Winds Science program, and for the Lake Monsters to demonstrate their commitment to the community. We encourage you to join this fun event by purchasing tickets for your family, and selling tickets to relatives and friends. If for some reason you can't make the July 8th game, the Lake Monsters will gladly exchange the ticket for another date, so there is no risk of a conflict popping up later and the tickets going to waste. Please look for the information with your students on Monday and look for Paul Hobbs at Mayfair and at the ballgame!

Opportunity to Lead the Fans in the Star Spangled Banner at Lake Monster Game

3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders: Here's your chance to be a star! Sing the National Anthem to open the Burlington Lake Monsters home game on Monday, July 8. A special EES chorus will kick off the night singing the Star-Spangled Banner. All third, fourth, and fifth graders are welcome to join this special-occasion chorus. They will sing at 7:00, and the game will start at 7:05. For more information, families of 3rd through 5th graders should check the information and intention slip sent home by Mrs. Norland. Forms are due by next Friday May 17

Student Council Leading Efforts to Help Humane Society

The Student Council is looking for donations for the Humane Society. We're collecting items they need--not money. If you want to help, please bring in an item or two from the list below by Monday, May 13. We hope that you will donate some items. Thank you for helping the animals!

Items Needed: Wet cat and dog food, Procollar and Bite Not plastic collars for cats and dogs, XL and XXL Kongs, CD players, FURminator cat brushes, Cat wand toys, Airtight food containers, Peanut butter, Durable dog toys, Buster Cubes, Busy Balls, Catnip, Cat toys, Frontline Plus, Dish soap, 45 gallon lawn and leaf bags, and Drawstring kitchen trash bags.

WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL WEEKS: 6 - 17 MAY

Get Ready to Walk-n-Roll! TWO WEEKS of promoting walking and biking to school will take place May 6-17. Check out the daily participation that is tallied and tracked on the PTO bulletin board. Join our kids and families from around the block and around the globe as we walk and bicycle to school and reduce our carbon footprint. The classes with the most walk and roll participants will get bike-blended smoothies and a golden shoe for the classroom. There will be one prize for grades K-2 and one for 3-5.

4th Graders to Take Science NECAP

Our 4th graders will be taking the science portion of the NECAP (New England Common Assessment) on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. A portion of the exam is an actual experiment and the students are required to respond to questions regarding their observations and the write about the process. They will also be tested on their general science knowledge to date.

BSD Food Service Makes Payment On-Line Easier

If you like making payments for your child's lunch on line, the Burlington School District Food Service has made what they feel is an improvement in your ability to do that. They have changed to a new on-line site which they found very user friendly.

<https://www.myschoolbucks.com/>



myschoolbucks.com

- View Current Balances
- Receive low balance email alerts
- Add money to your student accounts
- Set It & Forget It... automatic payments
- Register for your FREE account today!

A service of Heartland Payment Systems, Inc.

From the PTOMAYFAIR: SILENT AUCTION BIDDING HAS BEGUN

Win a bike-blended smoothie party for 20, and support Edmunds Elementary School. That's just one of the terrific items featured in this year's Edmunds Elementary Mayfair Silent Auction, online at www.32auctions.com/mayfair. There are more than 75 items, with more added every day, including things from the Montshire Museum, Mirabelles, City Market, A Single Pebble, SoYo and many others. **Bidding has already begun, and the auction ends May 16 at 4 p.m.** Remember - the silent auction is only online this year. There will be no chance to bid at the Mayfair event. So sign up to bid soon, and bid generously! All the proceeds go to Edmunds Elementary PTO. See the auction and register at <http://www.32auctions.com/mayfair> And spread the word about the auction with friends, family and co-workers. Anyone can bid.

MAYFAIR 2013-- THE GREAT MAYFAIR SIGN-UP HAS BEGUN!

It takes a whole lot of volunteers to make Mayfair memories.

We need folks to run games, paint faces, sell tickets and food, run the basket raffle, donate cakes, and other foods, and so much more! There is something for everyone.

Check out volunteer opportunities and sign up at:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0E48A5AC2BA31-mayfair1

Enter the access code "ees2013" when prompted. Alternatively, you may contact Pam Shea at pj_shea@yahoo.com or 861-2720. Thanks for your help!

Last year, my young neighbor, George, was at the Mayfair. I was running a game and he was the only one to get all the bean bags in. He was so proud, he went around and told everyone. He is now a Kindergartener here at Edmunds. - Nicole, EES mom
- MAYFAIR MEMORIES. WILL YOU HELP MAKE SOME THIS YEAR?

VERMONT COFFEE: ORDERS DUE ON MONDAY, 13 MAY

Calling all Vermont Coffee drinkers, it's time to submit your order for summer. Each \$12 bag sold means \$5.40 goes to the EES PTO. Order forms will be sent home with the Friday Flash, and can be found attached, or on the PTO website under fundraising or order online:

(<http://eespto.org/fundraisers/vermont-coffee-fundraiser/>).

Orders are due Monday, May 13th. We will also be selling Vermont Coffee at Mayfair - Please buy a lot to stay adequately caffeinated over the summer! Thank you! For more information contact Pam Moreau at 999-4590 or moreaubuck@burlingtontelecom.net.

WALK/BIKE ROUTE ASSESSMENTS: 10 MAY AFTER SCHOOL

As part of the Safe Routes to School program, we are organizing two neighborhood walk/bike rides to identify safety issues and assess ease of walking/biking on Friday, 10 May after school.

Both groups will start at EES. Rachel Shelley will lead a group (rachskye@gmail.com) will south along South Union Street.

Peggy O'Neill (peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net) will lead a group north along North Willard Street. Feel free to join us on the walk home.

FINAL PTO LUNCH MEETING- PASSING THE BATON: 30TH MAY 12-1 PM

If you have question about the PTO leadership roles, please contact Peggy peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net or Signe signe.daly@burlingtontelecom.net, or catch us at drop-off or pick-up. We are happy to answer any questions and alleviate any fears. Our next step is to hold a **final PTO meeting during lunchtime on May 30th from 12-1PM**. During that meeting we will confirm leadership roles for next year, vote on any proposals for next year, and discuss transition steps for the new leaders. We also hope to allow teachers and parents to participate electronically in these decisions, if they are not able attend the meeting. If you have any proposals for the PTO for next year that you would like a PTO vote on, please let us know and we will help you disseminate that information before May 30th. The basic guidelines for EES PTO-Sponsored Events and Activities is on the PTO website.

EDMUNDS MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTS A VERY MERRY THEATRE PRODUCTION. STARLIGHT EXPRESS

Adapted from Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock musical, the plot revolves around a group of toy railway trains, portrayed by actors on foot or roller-skates, who come to life inside the mind of a small boy. The characters race to become the 'fastest engine in the world'. **Come & see an amazing show by our EMS student actors! Shows are Thursday 5/9 at 4:00, Friday 5/10 and Saturday 5/11 at 7:00. All shows are free and open to the public.**

From the Community (not PTO or BSD sponsored events)

UNVEILING & CELEBRATION OF KING STREET CENTER'S BUILDING PLANS

All are invited to come join in the unveiling of King Streets Center's new building plans!

Join us on Wednesday, May 15 at 1PM at 87 King Street. Among the guests will be Honorary Campaign chairs Bob & Holly Miller, The Honorable Madeleine Kunin, Special Guests Bob & Christine Stiller, Mayor Miro Weinberger and King Street Kids, Families, Campaign Committee, Board of Directors, Staff and Friends!

SUMMER CAMP FAIRS

Come learn about summer camps in Burlington! Representatives from 6 Burlington organizations will gather to present detailed information for parents and kids about upcoming summer programs. Interpreters will be available to help answer any questions. You can sign your student up for any of these programs on the spot. Refreshments, snacks, and youth activities including face painting will be provided! **Visit the Summer Camp Fairs at the locations, dates and time listed below:**

Flynn Elementary: Monday, May 13 from 5 pm - 7 pm.

The following organizations will be attending.

Boys & Girls Club of Burlington, Sara Hollbrook Community Center, YMCA, King Street Community Center, Burlington Parks & Recreation, Burlington School District Summer School, Child Care Resource

Contact Mr. Ali Dieng with any Questions!

802.316.0731 or adieng@bsdvt.org

Guidance Focus on Personal Safety

Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classroom guidance lessons on personal safety came to a close this week. Starting next week, I will be presenting safety lessons to students in grades kindergarten, 1st and 2nd. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to take this opportunity to talk further with your child(ren) at home about this important topic. Although it can be difficult to know what, when and how much to say to young children on the topic of personal safety, it is important our children are getting this message from home as well as school. Below are some general guidelines adapted from the guide "Step Up: Protect children from sexual abuse" written by the Vermont Department for Children and Families. I hope you find this information helpful as you continue the process of empowering and protecting your child.

*Recognize that discussions about personal safety are ongoing versus expecting there to be "one big" conversation that covers the topic.

*Set and respect clear boundaries. All family members have the right to privacy (e.g., dressing and bathing). If someone violates these boundaries, it is an adult's responsibility to enforce the boundaries.

*As your children grow, encourage them to take ownership over their bodies and foster independence in regard to self-care (e.g., bathe themselves, get dressed).

*Teach your child about setting their own personal boundaries. For example: your 5-year-old daughter doesn't want to kiss her Grandma. Use this as a teachable moment. Let her know this is her decision to make and that it's okay to say no.

*Discuss what friendship is and is not. As children mature, talk about and model healthy relationships (e.g., open communication, mutual respect and trust, equal power). There are plenty of opportunities in movies and t.v. shows to point out and name examples of unhealthy relationships.

*Establish and teach your children safety rules about private parts of their bodies. These rules should cover touching, as well as the taking and sharing of images of private parts.

*Let your child know she/ he has the right to say "no" if someone is touching her/ his body in a way that hurts, makes them feel uncomfortable or confused, even if it is a trusted adult.

* Teach your child that secrets about touching private parts, uncomfortable or confusing touches are never okay.

* Help your children identify trusted adults in their family and community they can turn to for help. Let them know they can talk to these adults if they feel scared, confused or uncomfortable.

If you would like more information about preventing abuse or if you have concerns about your child's safety, don't hesitate to contact Edmunds School Counselor, Melissa Hathaway (540-0137).