

FRIDAY



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

FLASH

Date and Volume Number



From the Principal's Desk

I've been spending several nights attending board meetings, both the whole board and the finance committee. The conversations have been difficult to say the least.

I don't know if you all know this, but I worked in private industry for 25 years before getting into education. My youngest daughter was in 8th grade the first year I taught. So, for most of the years that my four kids were growing up, I looked skeptically at the cuts that school boards made when there was a problem passing the budget. "Oh sure!" I'd think. "They're just doing that to get people to pass the budget!" It always seemed that favorite programs like sports or after school programs were hit. I thought it was just a ploy to get people to pass the budget. Then I changed hats, becoming an educator 13 years ago.

As a principal responsible for making sure that students have as much academic support as possible, and making sure that there is growth in achievement and achievement gap shrinks, my attitude towards budgets changed dramatically. My desire to protect the academic programs serving kids became my highest priority. As a principal, my focus was to fight for the maintenance of academic programs. When push came to shove and it meant that I had to sacrifice sports or extra curricular activities for academics, I made that decision. This didn't mean I felt those activities were not important. It meant that I had to make hard choices, knowing that some would be upset.

As I went through this evolution in thought, I honestly felt pretty sheepish when I looked back and reflected on how naive I was when I thought that cutting sports and extra curricular activities was just a political ploy. I remembered the conversations with my friends and how we were all very skeptical of the school administrators' decisions. I wished I could have taken all of it back but of course, it was water over the dam. All of my friends' kids had long since graduated and it was a moot point. But was it? I suppose I could still go back and help my friends to understand that it really isn't a political ploy to cut popular activities that are not directly involved with academics. It's a necessary sacrifice. And the reality is that my friends are still paying property taxes as more (hate to say it) senior citizens.

The decisions being made are difficult and I want everyone to know that we are looking for those that least impact students. Each cut we make does impact students, directly or indirectly. You may not understand the impact or even believe that there is an impact, but the relationships between the investments we make in education and the experiences of all students do exist in very real ways.

Upcoming Events:

- May 19 Visiting Author Scott Nash
- May 20 Musical Petting Zoo
- May 28 Kindergarten Get Acquainted Day
- June 5 Field Days
- June 6 EES Chorus at Burlington Jazz Festival
- June 10 5th Grade Tribute - 9:15 am
- June 11 Last day of school - Early Release 11:30am
- June 17 EES at Lake Monster Game

Whole School Assembly May 21
8:10 to 8:30
Mini Talent Show

EES STAGE SHOW!

Dress rehearsal: **Sunday May 18 @ 10-2 pm** in EMS Gym
School Teaser: **Wednesday May 21 @ assembly**
Show: **May 23 @ 6:30 pm** in EMS Gym

EES Night at Lake Monster Game - June 17th

On Tuesday, June 17, the Burlington Lake Monsters will have a home game, and it'll be Edmunds Elementary night! A special group of students will kick off the night singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

All students going into 3rd-6th grade this fall are invited to sing the National Anthem to open a minor league baseball game this summer! We have sent a form home with students that parents can fill out and return it to their teacher or Mrs. Norland next week. We will have one rehearsal at the end of May (during the school day).

Singing students and their families should buy a ticket through the school fund raiser—the cost is \$6 (with half going right back to Four Winds here at EES). Participating students will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the home team clubhouse. They will sing at 7:00, and the game will start at 7:05. Parents are expected to sit with and supervise their child(ren) during the game. Regardless of whether your child sings, we hope to see you at the game. Please contact Mrs. Norland with any questions: cnorland@bsdvt.org.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE - REMEMBER SUNSCREEN!

Just a reminder that it is important to apply sunscreen to your child between 10 am and 4 pm. Approximately one ounce of sunscreen should be applied thirty minutes prior to going outside. The sunscreen should protect your child from UVA and UVB rays and have a SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 15. Reapply sunscreen every 90 minutes or after swimming or sweating. Protect your child from harmful rays and painful sunburns. If you have any questions, please contact the health office at 864-8473 extension 3.

FROM BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parents,

Burlington School District believes in celebrating diversity and providing equitable, welcoming environments for every student and family. To measure our success and strive for improvement, we are launching an Equity, Inclusion, and Respect Parent Survey on May 15th. This survey will be accessible via a link on the District website (www.bsdrv.org) and will be open through May 29th.

Designed by independent technology and communications firm K12 Insight, the survey seeks your views on critical issues such as discrimination, staff respectfulness, and student safety during school activities. While addressing these topics can be difficult, it is essential to helping students reach their highest intellectual and personal potential.

Separate Equity, Inclusion, and Respect Student and Staff Surveys will be conducted at school. Please be assured that all feedback is confidential, with responses anonymous to Burlington School District staff. Once the surveys, the District will share results.

Thank you for your participation, which will guide the District's work to end disrespect, stereotyping, and discrimination at school. We value your opinions and commitment to drawing great strength from our differences.

Sincerely,

Jeanné Collins, Superintendent

PTO NEWS**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FIELD DAY THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH**

The annual Field Day is an outdoor sporting/teamwork building event for all classes. The kids LOVE it, but we need your help. Tyler Sessions, the PE teacher has a wonderful day of fun activities set up for the kids. Please help her by signing up to lead an activity. There are two different time slots to choose from (or stay the whole day). Grades K-2 is 9-11am, and grades 3-5 will be from 12-2pm. Volunteers will get two 10 minute breaks each shift and can enjoy watermelon and rocking tunes along with the kids. To sign up click on:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094BADAA2EAA8-field> or contact Kate Lekstutis at katelekstutis@gmail.com.

"VOTE FOR US" STUDENT, TEACHER AND FAMILY MARCH MONDAY, JUNE 2 AT 3:00 PM

Teachers, students, and families from EES and EMS will meet to march down Church St. and back to raise awareness for the June 3 school budget vote. Families from other Burlington schools can meet us downtown between 3:15-3:30. Please join us and spread the word- our students and teachers need our support. Contact Marni Slavik (marnislavik@yahoo.com) if you would like to help lead the group or help make signs.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THE NO FRILLS FUNDRAISER

Thank you for all contributions, large and small. Your donations will go toward enrichment activities, field trips, and community-building events. If you missed the No Frills fundraiser, donations can still be made online at: www.eespto.org or by checks made payable to EES PTO.

THANK YOU GREEN UP DAY VOLUNTEERS

A special thanks to Signe Daly, who on May 15th coordinated this event. A special thanks to all of the teachers, students, and families who helped clean up our school campus.