

FRIDAY



FLASH


EDMUNDS
 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

From the Principal's Desk

I'm looking forward to this evening and getting out to play with the kids. Not my kids - yours. They are so much fun to be around. Today, I get to be a soccer goalie during Mayfair. I had a lot of fun doing it last year so I'm looking forward to returning to my "post" this year. Mayfair is a great time and example of how much fun play can be for everyone. While watching them play is nice, playing with them adds a whole dimension of fun and connection for both.

Playing with our children is one of the most valuable things we can do as parents, and yet, it is something that all too frequently takes a back seat to all the things we "need to do". Ironically, when you ask an adult about their favorite memories of their parents, it will be the activities and play time they had. They won't recall how clean the house was, or whether all the laundry was done or dinner on the table on time. They'll remember the laughter and the silliness of play. Getting down at their level, laughing and joking, and being silly will make you feel as good too. You will have fun if you just let yourself go and find your inner child. My brother was amazing at this. I'll never forget watching him play with his boys, and the riotous laughter that resulted. Being silly didn't mean that he lost any respect as a parent. The boys knew when it was time for play and when he was being serious.

Whether it's hide and seek, a board game, or tea parties, there is so much that we can do with our children that gives us time to talk, laugh and visit with them, without any technology and no cost. My children loved to have tea parties. It's amazing how "special" ordinary food can be made to look, whether it's a peanut butter and jelly sandwich cut with cookie cutters, or a tangerine peeled and opened up like a flower on a plate. It's all a bit more glamorous when placed on a child sized table with little cups and saucers. Playing store with things from the cupboards, playing restaurant where they write up a menu and you pretend to be the customer is another easy thing to do. Building forts with blankets, sofa cushions and pillows was another favorite. These activities don't cost anything and the children delight in anything that is even slightly creative. And clean up is easier because you're right there with them. Being silly and imaginative and finding your own inner child to play with your child creates special memories that live in their hearts forever.

Ultimately, the old saying "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" is really true. Taking time to play with your children will not only benefit them, it will also make your work and chores a bit easier, because you can look back at the fun you just had, remember the silly things that happened, and do those chores with a lighter heart.

May 10, 2013 Upcoming Events

May 17	MAYFAIR
May 23	EES Talent Show (during school)
May 24	EES Talent Show evening performance
May 27	Field Day
June 13	5 th Grade Tribute - 6:30 pm
June 14	Last Day of School 11:30 dismissal, bag lunch

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday – May 22

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)

EDMUNDS ALL-TALENT SHOW: FRIDAY, 24TH MAY 7 PM IN EMS GYM

Edmunds All-Talent show is an all-inclusive variety show to exercise the performance creativity of Edmunds students. We will create a show with lots of team spirit, to showcase individual talents as well as the power of working with a group. Join us on FRIDAY May 24th @ 7:00-8:30 pm the EMS Gym. Contact Trisha Denton at orksbox@gmail.com for more details.

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.

Lake Monster Game (cont'd.)

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)

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

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.

CALLING ALL FUTURE KINDERGARTEN PARENTS:**EES TOUR**

We hope to have as many kindergarten students as possible registered by the end of this school year. Help us to reach out into the community and bring kindergarten students to EES. We currently have 11 more seats left for Kindergarten students.

Kindergarten tour:

*Wednesday May 22nd: 1:15 - 2:15 pm

RSVPs are helpful. Call 864-8473, extension #1.

(If you miss the tour, you can always call and we can arrange one).

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 anxieties. We meet regularly over coffee or libations - what could be more fun!

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.

FOUR WINDS PROPOSED TO BECOME A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE PTO

One of the proposals that will be addressed at the final PTO lunch meeting on May 30th from 12-1 is whether to allow Four Winds to become part of the PTO. Four Winds is interested in doing this for several reasons: We believe it will integrate the program more fully into the school than if it continues as a stand-alone program. This will hopefully provide more stability to the long-term success of the program as current volunteers move on from the program when their child(ren) move on. It should also make the program more visible to the school community and reduce confusion as to how supporters donate money to support Four Winds.

Up until now, Four Winds has been a stand-alone program that was entirely self-supported through donations and fundraising.

When the program first came to Edmunds three years ago, the PTO didn't feel it could take on any additional responsibilities and wanted to see if the program was successful. We believe that Four Winds has proved to be a successful addition to the Edmunds community and has provided an opportunity for parents to be involved academically in their child's classroom, something that the PTO had previously identified as a goal. For those unable to attend the meeting, the PTO plans to have a way of indicating electronically whether you agree or disagree with this proposal.

If the proposal is approved, Four Winds will become a subcommittee of the PTO but will still engage in the same fundraising efforts and provide its own leadership as it has always done. We hope that you will support this change to embrace this program as part of our PTO mission. Thank you for your consideration, Carolyn Hanson, Edmunds' Four Winds coordinator. Questions or comments may be addressed to carolynhanson21@gmail.com