



# FRIDAY FLASH



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

May 22, 2015

## From the Principal's Desk

This week's Whole School Assembly focused on what Memorial Day is all about. I told the students about what I remember about Memorial Day when I was their age. I realize that the fact that I was born within 8 years of the end of WWII has a great deal to do with how much attention was paid to Memorial Day parades and ceremonies. Every year, half of my elementary school marched in the parade, whether as Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League or Blue Birds. When I got older, it was band or the high school teams. We all marched to the town green which also was the monuments to past wars and a cemetery. There the crowd gathered to listen respectfully to the speeches about those who we were remembering who had given their lives in service to the country. Memorial Day was far more about that than about a three-day weekend or the cookout.

Our Whole School Assembly included some information about what Memorial Day is, and what the etiquette is to participate in a formal ceremony. We discussed the importance of being respectful, whether or not we sing a national anthem or say a Pledge of Allegiance. The students did a great job, removing their hats, standing respectfully whether or not they chose to say the Pledge of Allegiance, or sing the Star Spangle Banner. I explained that Taps is often part of a Memorial Day observation. The song was a bugle call written during the Civil War to tell soldiers it was time to rest. I explained that it was a time when there were no phones or walkie-talkies to talk to the soldiers and when bugles and drums were the main way to tell people what to do. They got to hear Taps and listened very quietly.

The business community has done a great job turning our holidays into opportunities to spend money. Unfortunately, that seems to overshadow more and more of our traditional events. Our society has gotten farther and farther away from the original intentions of holidays and it seems that many people either never known the meaning or have forgotten. Some communities have embraced a tradition of observation while others have lost them. There are some Memorial Day observations in the area and it would be a good experience for the children to be able to participate in one. I found a website that lists all the communities observing Memorial Day and the dates. <http://www.findandgoseek.net/category/memorial-day> It lists the dates and times of the parades and where the wreaths are being laid. Essex and Winooski will observe Memorial Day on Saturday. Vergennes, St. Albans, Swanton, Jericho and Middlebury are all observing Memorial Day on Monday. From what I understand, the Vergennes parade is the biggest one with 12 marching bands. The parade starts at 1 but it's a big one (2 miles long according to the description) so you want to get there early.

## Up Coming Events

- Jun 3 Volunteer Appreciation Whole School Assembly and Reception
- Jun 5 Field Day
- Jun 10 Kindergarten Goodbye to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and Farewell to Faculty - Whole School Assembly
- Jun 10 EES Chorus performs at Jazz Fest 2pm
- Jun 11 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Appreciation 6:30pm
- Jun 12 Last Day of School 11:30am dismissal (bag lunch)

**Whole School Assembly  
Wednesday, May 27**

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION ASSEMBLY AND RECEPTION

**Wednesday, June 3 - From 8:05 - 9:00**

All volunteers who have helped us make EES the amazing place it is are asked to join us in celebrating your efforts. Whether you volunteered from home or spent some time here at school, whether you cooked, sewed, called, copied, chaperoned, or taught, anyone who has helped in any way is a volunteer in our eyes. Please come and allow us to thank you during a special assembly to acknowledge our Amazing Volunteers! Please join us at 8:05 for the assembly and stay to enjoy our Thank You reception that will follow.

## CALLING ALL BOOKS! TIME TO BRING LIBRARY BOOKS BACK!

With the end of the school year coming quickly, we have set the last day for student library book check outs as Friday, May 22. We are asking that all library books be returned by Wednesday, June 3. This gives us time to check the books in, make any repairs, and get the books back on the shelves so we are ready to start the new school year without missing a beat!

Overdue notices are sent home weekly so you and your student can know what books they have out from our library. If a book has been lost or damaged beyond repair, we expect payment for the item which can be in cash or a check made out to EES Learning Center and dropped off at the library on the third floor. (The cost of the books are printed on the overdue notices.) We will be sending home overdue notices again during the next few weeks, so please be on the look out for them and help us by sending in any books your student may have from our library. Any questions about overdue books can be directed to me via email ([kneil@bsdvt.org](mailto:kneil@bsdvt.org)) or in person during the school day.

Thank you for your help in getting our library books back on the shelves and ready for a new year of lending and learning!!

**SUPPORT FOUR WINDS AND ATTEND A BALL GAME**

Who doesn't like going to a baseball game on a warm summer night! The Lake Monsters Baseball Team has generously offered to support our Four Winds Science program by giving us \$2.50 of every \$6 ticket we sell to their home game on June 22 at 7:05 pm. In order for your ticket purchase to benefit our school, tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance using the special envelope that will come home with your student Tuesday, May 19 and need to be returned by June 2. Only those tickets purchased during this time period will go towards the benefit. If you can't come to the game, your tickets are fully exchangeable for any other game this season before the June 22 game.

Four Winds is a hands-on natural science program developed by the Four Winds Nature Institute, [www.fwni.org](http://www.fwni.org), and is available to all grades at EES. This year we studied patterns in nature, and learned about insects, leaves, cones, snowflakes, animal tracks, bird nests, animal coloration, and frogs! The program includes training for the volunteers teaching the lessons and the materials costs \$3,295 per year. The funds are raised by volunteers in partnership with the PTO. Advance ticket sales to this one Lake Monsters game through this special program will help to cover the cost for next year.

This is a family event and children should have their parents with them for supervision.

All students who want to sing the National Anthem at the June 22 Lake Monsters game should turn in the "Intention Slip" to Mrs. Norland. These went home with students last week on the back of the Music Newsletter. If you need another copy, go to the EES Music webpage and print it from there (go to the EES home page, click on "Our Classrooms," then click on "Music"--or use this link: <https://sites.google.com/site/edmundsmusic/home>). We hope for a big crowd of singers again this year! It's a lot of fun for the kids!

**From the PTO****THANK YOU: MAYFAIR VOLUNTEERS!**

Thank you to all who were able to attend Mayfair, what a great Edmunds tradition! A great big thank you to all the volunteers. It was a real team effort to collect the food, grill, sell tickets, staff the tables and run all the games. We couldn't have such an amazing event without those who give their time so generously. THANK YOU parents, teachers & staff!

**THANK YOU: MAYFAIR SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTORS!**

Huge thank you to everyone who bid on the silent auction items. Together we raised over \$3,000 to support our school! If you still need to pick up and/or pay for your item, please contact Stacey Kelleher [staceyhk1568@yahoo.com](mailto:staceyhk1568@yahoo.com) or Stephanie Mueller [smueller@vnrc.org](mailto:smueller@vnrc.org).

**FIELD DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS FRIDAY, JUNE 5**

Field day is a fun outdoor sporting/teamwork building event for all classes. Tyler Sessions, the PE teacher, has a wonderful day of fun activities set up for the kids, but we need your help. This is a volunteer-run event. Please help make this day a blast for the kids by signing up for a time slot. Grades K-2 are from 9-11am and grades 3-5 are from 12-2pm. Volunteers will get two 10 minute breaks each shift and can enjoy snacks, drinks and great music along with the kids. To sign up click on: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/805094BADAA2EAA8-field1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/805094BADAA2EAA8-field1). Or contact Field Day coordinator Kate Lekstutis at [katelekstutis@gmail.com](mailto:katelekstutis@gmail.com) or 238-2972.

**FROM THE COMMUNITY**

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

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM:**

The Fletcher Free Library will be visiting our school next Thursday, May 28, to tell us all about their summer reading program, Every Hero Has a Story. Rebecca Goldberg and Robert Resnik will give us the inside story as to how your child can sign up for the always fun and exciting program which will include lots of activities and events to keep everyone reading! If your child has a summer reading program T-shirt from a previous year, we are asking that they wear it on Thursday to show their support for the Fletcher Free Library's program.

Also, library card applications have been sent home the past few weeks. If you would like your child to have a free Fletcher Free Library card, please make sure to return the completed application to your child's classroom teacher. The Fletcher Free will issue a card to your child which they can pick up from us here at school on May 28th.

**Fletcher Free Library** invites you to participate in our community planning process. Please answer our [survey](#). Share your ideas, your vision for your library! Tell us how you use the Library and with what frequency. What do you think of current library services, programming, facility and collection? Where do you see opportunities for the library to enhance services and programming for the community? How can we help you enhance your literacy, make community connections and access information you need for work, study or recreation?

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fletcherfree>

