

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

November 14, 2014

## From the Principal's Desk

This week, the PTO hosted a session with Prof. Ellen Baker concerning the Common Core Curriculum. Christina Norland join the discussion to talk about how EES faculty are working to incorporate the new principles and philosophy within Common Core. The testing for the new curriculum, which is required by Federal mandate, is also going to change. This year, our students will experience the first generation of standardized tests via an internet based test and they will be using computers to take the test. First things first. Everyone has to try this! Understand what it is that your children will be expected to be able to do. Go to this website, and at the bottom of the page, you will see 2 green squares. Click on the Student Interface Practice and Training Tests.

<http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/> Have fun!

As we face implementing the exam, we are faced with a number of challenges. The first challenge is that the Common Core requires a significant change in approach to learning and thinking. It is far more analytical with the goal of developing critical thinking skills in all students. This is great and I'm all for it, but, it takes time to do this. It isn't something that happens overnight or even in a few months. It takes much longer than that.

The next issue is the availability of technology. The tests are estimated to take eight hours per pupil. About one hour of it will be classroom preparation (30 minutes each for math and Language Arts). Additionally, it is important to give all the students a chance to practice a math and an English/Language Arts test which means two more hours for each child. We have about 170 students who have to take the tests and only 25 computers available for the task. We do not have computer centers in our classrooms to help develop the technology skills, we must rely on our one computer lab. This is a Catch 22, as all students will need to develop the skills and we will be reducing computer access because of testing. We as a district are going to have to support more technology throughout our elementary schools as well as return resources for Curriculum and Professional Development if we expect to be able to successfully achieve the implementation of the Common Core.

It is still going to take time to evolve to a level of proficiency that we want to achieve. This is a whole new world for everyone, so as we approach this, consider it a Sputnik era; exciting, with bumps along the way. We'll be talking at greater length about this as we experience it ourselves for the first time. I'll keep you posted.

## Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 21 Report Cards sent home
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Break Begins-No School
- Dec. 1 Back to school

**Whole School Assembly**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 19**  
**8:10 - 8:30**  
**First Grade and Mindfulness!**

## Elementary School CCTA BUS ID Reminder:

Beginning Monday, November 17, all elementary school students who live less than .7 miles from school will have to pay to ride CCTA busses. All elementary students who live at least .7 miles away will be provided with school ID's with the CCTA logo affixed. This will allow them to ride CCTA without paying. Again, without the ID, they may not ride unless they pay.

## Scholastic Book Fair: Thank You!

A great big "Thank You" to everyone who supported our book fair last week. Whether you purchased books or volunteered your time to help us with the sale, we really appreciate your efforts on behalf of the library. Funds raised go directly to our library which we use to purchase additional books, videos, equipment, and invite in authors/illustrators to talk with your children about their craft. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to provide these enriching activities for our students. Thank you again for your enthusiastic support!

## Burlington Kids Afterschool - Session 2

Session 2 activity brochures are being sent home! Check out the blue brochure for exciting new activities, including Ice Skating, Outdoor Survival Skills, Young Writers Project, Flag Football and more! Contact Priscilla ([praba@bsdvt.org](mailto:praba@bsdvt.org)) or Mohamed ([mdiop@bsdvt.org](mailto:mdiop@bsdvt.org)) or [\(802\) 316-0195](tel:8023160195), for more information!

**FROM THE PTO****THANK YOU: DAN'S CHOCOLATES FUNDRAISER PARTICIPANTS!**

Thank you to all of the families who helped our school by selling Dan's Chocolates. Way to go EES families: We made 70% of our PTO budget! Our Dan's Chocolates fundraiser earned \$12,500 for our PTO student and teacher enrichment budget, which supports toward field trips, teacher supplies, classroom supplies, and community activities. Thank you to our team of parents and students enthusiastically and efficiently sorted the Dan's Chocolates orders.

**THANK YOU: COMMON CORE DISCUSSION**

Thank you to Dr. Ellen Baker, the director of teacher education at UVM, as well as Christina Norland, for giving great presentations on the Common Core Curriculum. The PTO will be making the PowerPoint presentations available for those who are interested but could not attend.

**THANK YOU TURKEY TROT FOOD DRIVE SUPPORTERS**

Thank you for your food donations! Next walk and roll is December 10: Jingle Bell Walk.

**SUPPORT FUND FOR SHELLEY SPINNER**

Many people have asked how they can support Shelley Spinner and her family. In response, we have set up a support fund website. From the website: "We have struggled to find a way to show our love, support and dedication to her recovery. Donating to Shelley's fund is just one more way we can do this. Let's all inspire HER to recover, to heal and to beat this! Contributing to this fund will provide Shelley and her family with a bit of financial peace and will allow them to focus on what is most important: Shelley's recovery and family quality time."

If you would like to donate, please go to the link below.

<http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/support-fund-for-shelley-spinner/247918>

**PTO EMAIL UPDATES**

The PTO sends out weekly email updates. If you would like to be added to the PTO email list, please contact Marni Slavik at EES PTO (pto@eespto.org).

For more information about PTO events visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>