FRIDAY





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

From the Principal's Desk

The level of importance that children put on simple things like being first is really fascinating. When I was growing up, it was always who got the front seat of the car. I'm sure that you all remember the term for claiming that coveted seat, a throwback to the old western movies where the stagecoach driver always had someone sitting "shotgun". A surprisingly large list of rules exists for shotgun. My kids were experts in the rules and often quoted them. The level of sophistication has expanded with the introduction of the internet and now being able to access the front seat has been codified - see www.theshotgunrules.com.

It is not unusual for children to want to be first in line. First to receive something - food, treats, toys, time, it really doesn't matter what it is (although bed was not something I saw anyone rushing to get into first). I suppose if we think about it, it's a survival of the fittest mentality. If we lived in a time when food was really difficult to get, we would be able to easily understand rushing to the line for lunch. For the most part, rushing to be the front of the line does not get the student much. Sometimes jockeying for position results in the exact opposite of what they want and they end up with a trip to the office because they've knocked down a classmate in their hurry.

The point to all of this is helping kids to gain a sense of perspective when they are not first, they are cut in line or they don't get the "best" seat. Getting a sense of perspective often requires that we ask that they step back and ask themselves what will happen if they don't get what they were so anxious for. If being first means being rude, hurting someone, or being unsafe, it isn't worth it. By asking a series of questions, serious or silly, we can help them develop a view that helps put the target of their desire in perspective. Will the sky fall? Will you still be able to get a ride if you're not in that seat? Will you still be able to hear the story? Will you be able to see if you sat in that other seat? Will you still get lunch if you are second? If you get your lunch 30 seconds later, will you faint from hunger? Asking questions helps them to examine their thinking and develop some self-talk when disappointed in an outcome. It also helps them to make better decisions about whether or not being first in something really matters. There are races where winning is important but not everything is a race.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 12 Scholastic Book Fair

In Edmunds Middle School Library

Nov. 14 Whole school Assembly

Nov. 16 Report Cards go home Nov. 16 Multicultural Night

Nov. 21 No School - Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 26 Back from Vacation!

Whole School Assembly
Every Wednesday in the Cafeteria at 8:10am

MULTICULTURAL NIGHT: FRIDAY, 16th NOV. 6 - 8

Please join us for our 2012 Multicultural night on Friday, November 16th starting at 6.. Multicultural night is a potluck dinner and party where we get to meet other families, eat food from around the world, share traditions from other cultures, and dance!

You are invited to bring food for all to share (food for about 15 people). You can also host a table where you can share information about your culture with kids. You can share a game, some art, a story, music, or anything else. If you do not want to share food or a table, do not worry. We want you to come and eat and meet other Edmunds families. Please contact Chase Rosenberg (crosenbe@bsdvt.org) or your multilingual liaison if you are planning on bringing food and/or want a table so that we can prepare it for you.

Additional Scholastic Book Fair Information: Classroom teachers will be taking your children to the book fair to preview and/or purchase books next week,

November 12-16. Prices of books run from approximately \$5.00 for paperbacks up to \$20 for hard cover books. If you are planning to send money in with your child to shop during the day, please remember to include money for tax on each item purchased. Also new this year, we will have a donation box at the cashier's table if you would like to help fund purchases for students who may not have the opportunity to otherwise buy a book from the fair. Cash or checks made out to Edmunds Elementary School will be accepted. Any amount is welcomed and appreciated! Thank you once again for supporting our library!!

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FROM THE PTO

IMPORTANT NOTE ON RACE EVENTS

Dear EES Families,

We hope that many of you have had the chance to visit the ECHO exhibit, "Race: Are We So Different?" or attended some of the many community events related to the topic of diversity. There are more events coming, and the Race exhibit will be at ECHO until the end of January. Remember, the Fletcher Free Library has \$4 passes, and the ECHO Open Door Program works with 30 local social service agencies, who give out \$2 vouchers for their constituencies to visit ECHO. In addition, the November 10th event, Burlington's Changing Community, at ECHO is \$2 for the day.

If you need help with transportation or the cost of any of these events at ECHO or at Edmunds, please contact Signe Daly (signe.daly@burlintontelecom.net, 399-7401) or Peggy O'Neill (peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net, 999-4995). We would like to help you be part of these important, educational and community events.

11/8, 6:30 - 8:30 PM: RACE & ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

ECHO's Café Scientifique provides a unique, relaxing setting to engage in thoughtful conversations about hot button science topics. This Cafe Scientifique will focus on the predictors of environmental concern with Tom Macias, Associate Professor of Sociology at UVM.

11/10, 10 AM - 5 PM: BURLINGTON'S CHANGING COMMUNITY.

ECHO - \$2 admission all day!

This daylong event will focus on Burlington's changing community, including a conversation about the relationship between changes in Burlington's demographics and the community's neighborhoods, urban planning, social services, and business infrastructure.

EVERY FRIDAY at 11AM - Story Hour at ECHO for preschoolers which focuses on how to talk to kids about race. WWW.UNDERSTANDINGRACE.ORG - for much more information about the ECHO exhibit.

MULTICULTURAL NIGHT: FRIDAY, 16th NOV. 6 - 8 PM

Don't forget to come to Multicultural Night. It is your chance to meet other families and learn about their cultures. Learn to dance a little salsa too! See the front of this Friday Flash for details.

Sign up with Senor Chase (crosenbe@bsdvt.org) or Ms. Lindberg (mlindber@bsdvt.org) for an evening of sharing and learning about other cultures from our own diverse community. Potluck dinner and salsa dancing. Open to all.

TEACHER WISHLIST FOR MS. MACK, NEW 4TH GRADE TEACHER

As you may know, Edmund's added a new 4th grade classroom this year. Ms. Mack and the families in room 304 have been working hard to gather the resources needed to build a creative and functional space for learning. We are reaching out to the Edmunds community for help. The link posted below will take you directly to a web page showing room 304's current wish list. Many of the items on the list will benefit the students of room 304 for years to come. We will update the list weekly as donations are received and new needs emerge. Feel free to check the online list periodically using the link below. Gently used items are welcome, especially for items such as educational board games for indoor recess. You may drop off your donations in room 304. Contact Nicole Diebold with any questions at <u>dieboldvt@gmail.com</u>. We greatly appreciate your support. List URL: http://www.teacherlists.com/lists/view/edmundselementary-school/4/ms.-macks-class/nicole-diebold/room-304wish-list

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE FOUR WINDS REST STOP FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS!

Despite the gloomy weather, Four Winds made \$646.02 at our rest stop fundraiser on Saturday Nov 3! A huge thank you to all the families that baked such delicious baked goods. Your generosity and willingness to pitch in is just one of the things that makes our school such a special place. Thanks also to all the Four Winds volunteers and their families that spent part of their Saturday at the rest stops collecting donations: Warren Cornwall (a double thank you for pulling two shifts!) and family, Tom Simon, Linda Berlin, Gina Mackinnon, Claudia Renchy-Morton, Kirstin Worden, Paul Hobbs, Lisa Brighenti & Dave Jenemann and family, and Gail Rose. Thanks to Kate Larson, Rachel Shelley and Bryan Mihok for helping collect and distribute donations. A big thank you to Mackenzie meats for donating hotdogs, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters for donating all our coffee, and City Market for donating all our hotdog rolls!