



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY



FLASH

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

November 15, 2013

From the Principal's Desk

Oh yes, I remember it well. The manila envelope with the report card neatly tucked within. They were passed out at the end of the day, and the minute we exited the building, we whipped the report cards out of the envelopes to see what we got. I knew where the conversation was going to go based upon the grades. Back then we were still on the A,B,C, D, and F scale. F for Failure was not part of my landscape, but there were occasional trips into D and C land which my parents didn't think much of. Go figure. Here's the thing though. I could have had all A's and B's and one C or D and the entire conversation focused on the one low grade. Depressing!

My parents were good people and a product of their own experiences. I know my mother would have been in huge trouble had she brought home anything less than an A because she told me about how her mother reacted to grades. Her report cards grades were numeric and she was under a great deal of pressure to get high 90's. Anything in the low 90% was unacceptable to her mother. While my mother was honestly brilliant, that's still a lot of pressure for a child, especially in a very tough parochial school

We have changed the way we address expectations in school to focus on what we want to see rather than what we don't want to see. The same should hold true in our conversations regarding grades in report cards. If my parents had spent more time focusing on the A's and B's in my report card, perhaps they would have helped me to see what I was doing differently in those subjects. Just liking a subject was not a reason for a higher grade. It was the fact that I was actually doing the work in the class, and trying harder. That created a situation where I was more successful, which made me feel better about myself, which made me try harder, which resulted in earning better grades.

As you review your child's report card with them, spend more time on the areas in which they seem to be doing better. Ask them about the subject and what they think they did to earn the grade or the comments the teacher made. Ask them to think about how their work in that subject differs from their work in the subject that they may not do as well in. In the language you use, avoid referring to the grade as something "given" to the student. Teachers do not "give" grades. Students "earn" grades.

In your conversations, help your student to make the connection between their effort, their perseverance and their commitment to working for their own improvement. Most of all, help them to remember that they are not in school to earn good grades. They are here to equip themselves with the tools necessary for adulthood, and the more tools in their tool box, the better.

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 20 Whole School Assembly
- Nov. 27-29 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 4 Whole School Assembly
- Dec. 6 Multicultural Night
- Dec. 23-Jan 1 - Winter Break

Whole School Assembly
Wednesday Nov. 20 8:10

Thanks to all for coming to the UVM Women's game and helping break the attendance record by over 500 people! New record - 2028. Also thanks for helping with Meals on Wheels. And thank you to the parents who helped our students get to the game!

BURLINGTON KIDS AFTERSCHOOL

We're getting ready for Session 2 in Afterschool! The dates for session 2 are Monday, January 6 - Friday, March 15, 2014. Activity brochures will be sent home soon, keep an eye out! Any questions, contact Priscilla at 316-0195 or praba@bsdvt.org

CLOTHES NEEDED BY NURSES OFFICE

Our nurses have requested donations of clean stretchy or elastic waste pants for boys and girls in size 6 - 16.

DRESSING FOR RECESS

While the weather seems to be warming up for this weekend, the reality is that it is going to get consistently colder before the weather warms up. Children will go outside for recess unless it is below 0° F with wind chill or it is raining (we do go out in a light drizzle). It is important that children are dressed well enough to protect them from the impact of the cold. Hats, gloves, mittens, snow pants, warm coats and boots are all essential. **Mittens and gloves need to have a waterproof shell. Thin knit gloves are not warm enough** to play in the snow or be outside for 30 minutes.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost & Found will be cleared out on November 26th. Any remaining items will be donated to a local nonprofit organization. Please swing by before the 26th to look for your lost items. Thank you!

From the PTO

MULTICULTURAL NIGHT: FRIDAY DECEMBER 6

6:00-8:00 PM

Featuring a performance by Jeh kulu! We are collecting stories from Edmunds families about our diverse cultural origins to share at Multicultural Night. We are interested in the story of how your family got to Burlington. Whether your family is a new arrival to Vermont, from another country or another state, or you have been here for generations, we want to learn your story! If you're willing to share with us, please contact Svea Closser at sclosser@middlebury.edu. We are also looking for volunteers to present tables at Multicultural Night. Please contact Svea Closser or Laura Fetters at fettersl@us.ibm.com if you're interested!

CONGRATULATIONS: TURKEY TROT WALK AND ROLLERS!

Not only did we continue to reduce our carbon footprint but we also gathered and donated 323 pounds of food, which was donated to the Chittenden County Food Shelf!

THANK YOU: UVM WOMEN'S HOCKEY GAME DRIVERS

Thank you to Susie Moakley, Signe Daly, Jamie Charlson, Sam and Clare Wool, Misa Lindberg and Claudia and Alan Morton for providing EES students with rides to this fun event.

THANK YOU: EES COAT SWAP

Thank you to Susie Moakley, Leslie Halperin, and Courtney Asaro for organizing this event, and thank you to the SkiRack for donating hangers and racks for the display.

BEYOND THE PTO

THEATRICAL PRODUCTION OF ANNA'S JOURNAL: NOV 14-17

Intended for audiences of age 13 and up. Produced by Theatre Kavanah, a local theater company dedicated to staging the Jewish experience. More information at www.theatrekavanah.com.



EES Faculty and Staff embrace the spirit of Halloween



EES Faculty geared up for Pie! (Guess Who?)



Go Cats Go