



# FRIDAY FLASH



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

November 2, 2012

## From the Principal's Desk

I remember the first time I made my bed by myself. I was 6. I had watched my mother and gave it a try one day. I worked hard at getting it nice and smooth, and was very proud of what I had accomplished. I brought my mother up to see what I'd done and she was delighted, saying "I didn't know you could make your own bed!" She had always made my bed for me. My delight in my accomplishment was tempered a bit by her comment as she left the room which was, "Now that I know you can do it, you can make your own bed from now on." I remember silently questioning the wisdom of letting my mom know what I could do.

As parents, we do a lot for our children. We do it for a variety of reasons; we love doing things for our kids, it's faster than teaching them, we're particular about how things are done, or we don't think they can do it yet. Allowing our expectations of our children to grow as they grow is important to their development as capable people. It also teaches the lesson that we all need to contribute to the family. While doing something out of love might make *us* feel good, it isn't always good for our kids. I've known many teenagers who've never been expected to wash a dish or do a load of laundry. The insensitivity of the teens was huge - throwing clean clothes on the floor, using a fresh towel for every shower, leaving dishes on the counter rather than rinsing them or putting them in the dishwasher - all of which added to the work of the parent. It also showed a lack of empathy or respect for what had been done for them. The more important lesson comes in helping our children to learn what they are capable of. In a way, not expecting them to learn to do the things is like saying, "I don't think you are a capable person".

We want our children to grow up to be happy, capable, confident adults and that is accomplished by giving them the time to practice and master the skills they will need at home first. Let the mistakes be made where there is still a safety net, rather than in a strange city, with no one to reassure them that a mistake can be corrected; that they will do better the next time. Perhaps the hardest part of being a parent is stepping back, and letting a child struggle as they learn a new skill and new independence, but it is truly a great act of love.

## Upcoming Events

- Nov. 6 Early Release - 11:30
- Nov. 6 End of Marking Period
- Nov. 8 Picture Re-Take Day
- Nov. 12 Scholastic Book Fair  
In Edmunds Middle School Library
- Nov. 16 Report Cards go home
- Nov. 16 Multicultural Night
- Nov. 21 No School - Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 26 Back from Vacation!

**Whole School Assembly  
Dan's Chocolate Awards,  
EES Election Results**

Please help us out by not going into the driveway at the end of school. The school buses that pick up some of our students need to be able to get in and get out so that they are able to pick up students waiting in other schools. When people leave their cars and block the entrance, it causes real problems for the driver, students and the adults helping them. We appreciate the help of all in this.

## Scholastic Book Fair

Our annual book fair will take place the week of November 12-16 at the Edmunds Middle School Library. We will again have a wide selection of books for all ages and reading levels as well as books for parents and other adults who may be on your shopping list! Our hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 - 3:30 and Friday from 8:30-1:00. **A Bedtime Story Pajama Party** will be our special family event Tuesday evening from 6:00-7:30 pm. The fair will be open for you to browse and purchase books during this time. At 6:30 until 7:00, guest readers will be at the fair to read to your children who are invited to attend in their pj's! We look forward to helping you select books that are just right for your children and getting an early start on your holiday shopping. Thank you for your support of our library!

## Multicultural Night

Please come join us for our 2012 Multicultural night on Friday, November 16th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Multicultural night is a dinner and party where we meet other families from our community, eat and share traditions from around the world, and dance! You are invited to bring food for all to share (food for about 15 people). You can also have 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 tell Chase Rosenberg ([crosenbe@bsdvt.org](mailto: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. Hope to see you on the 16<sup>th</sup>!

## FROM THE PTO

### PTO LUNCH: MONDAY, 5 NOV. 12:00 - 12:50 PM RESOURCE ROOM

Please join us at a PTO lunch on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November at 12:00 PM in the Library Resource Room. **Henri Sparks, Burlington School District's new Director of Equity will talk to parents and teachers about his new role. He'll also hear from all of us about diversity at our school. Bring your own NUT-FREE lunch (the resource room is nut-free). Childcare will be provided.** For more information about PTO events contact Signe Daly ([signe.daly@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:signe.daly@burlingtontelecom.net)) or Peggy O'Neill ([peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net)) or visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>

### DAN'S CHOCOLATES UPDATE

We Did It! Thank you students and families, you made it possible for the PTO to continue its commitment to excellence. Our school raised over ELEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS which is HALF of our PTO yearly budget. Big THANK YOU for your generous support and show of commitment to our school. *We will have a DAN'S CHOCOLATE Wednesday Morning Assembly on November 7th at 8:10AM.* If your child sold more than 15 packs she/he will be given their earned CASH rewards at that time. If your child sold 1 pack or more she/he will be recognized for their effort! Please join us on Wednesday, Nov 7th! Any questions or order help call: Clare Wool (802) 657-3211.

### SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 12-16 NOVEMBER

Kathy Neil, EES Librarian, is in need of volunteers for the Scholastic Book Fair the week of November 12-16. EES will need volunteers to help out on Monday, Nov. 12, and Wednesday, Nov. 14 from 8:15-3:30. Peg Emerson ([snowsorry@comcast.net](mailto:snowsorry@comcast.net)) is coordinating the volunteers. Please contact Peg directly if you are interested in helping.

### TEACHER WISHLIST FOR MS. MACK, NEW 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TEACHER

As you may know, Edmunds has 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 [dieboldvt@gmail.com](mailto:dieboldvt@gmail.com). We greatly appreciate your support.  
List URL: <http://www.teacherlists.com/lists/view/edmunds-elementary-school/4/ms.-macks-class/nicole-diebold/room-304-wish-list>

### FIFTH GRADERS SKI & RIDE FOR FREE IN VERMONT

As you know, kids benefit from being outside, getting exercise and enjoying a healthy activity with family and friends. The Fifth Grade Passport program allows children the special opportunity to get involved in a great sport while learning to appreciate all the natural wonders that Vermont offers. And the best part, skiing and riding is free for Fifth Graders! Information and the application is available at: <http://www.skivermont.com/events-and-deals/program-passport>  
This is not a PTO-sponsored event.

### EES COAT SWAP SUCCESS

Thanks to Leslie Halperin, coat drive coordinator, and all her volunteers, as well as those who donated items. We saw a lot of outerwear that got moved on to new bodies.

### EES R'OCKTOBER FAMILY DANCE: THANK YOU CLARE

Thanks to Clare Wool and all her amazing volunteers for putting on a successful EES family R'October dance. A special thank you to Lily the DJ (aka, Burlington Kids staff member) and the UVM Dance Team. Thanks to all of you who hip-hopped, boogied, got down and danced away the evening.