



FRIDAY FLASH

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

November 16, 2012

From the Principal's Desk

When perfect isn't

I've made a few mistakes in my time (I'd say well into the tens of thousands by now), and one thing that I know is that it's far easier to cope with a mistake if we feel safe to make it.

Sometimes mistakes result in better outcomes than the original plan. A great example is the Post-It note. 3M Corporation is really good at insuring that their engineers and scientists feel safe to make mistakes because creativity and innovation is based upon a willingness to try new things. Post-it notes (those sticky notes that you can put on a piece of paper and pull it off without tearing the paper) were born of a mistake. The scientists were actually working on very strong glue. One of the glues they came up with wasn't really strong, but it did have an interesting ability to be re-used. Rather than pushing the mistake aside, the scientists put the adhesive on pads of paper and sent the pads out to the office workers to see what they thought. In no time, the lab was getting orders for more and more pads of paper. They had created a new product from a mistake.

Some of our students are very nervous about making mistakes. They are afraid that whatever they do must be perfect. Perfectionism can be a real barrier to trying new things and improving, especially when children refuse to even try because they know they may not be successful in their first attempts. I think that we all can agree that we don't expect kids to be perfect. No one's perfect least of all children. The thing is, children need to feel safe making mistakes.

There are two things we can do that will help children to feel safe to try new things. The first thing is to reassure them that mistakes are just part of the learning process; that it often takes many tries before someone is able to do something really well. The important thing is trying. The second thing we can do is model making a mistake. This can be done in a "matter of fact" way - "Oh look, I made a mistake. I'll just have to try again." We can laugh at ourselves. If we can show them that we make mistakes, if we can show them that we can feel comfortable and let it roll off our backs, if they can see that we're not upset or angry with ourselves, then we've paved the way for helping them to feel safe to make a mistake. More importantly, we've paved the way for the child to experience new things by trying them, even when they know they're probably not going to be perfect. That is a real gift to any child!

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 7 Reading to End Racism
- Dec. 12 Early Release Day—11:30 am
- Dec. 19 EES Chorus to the University Mall!
- Dec. 24 Start of Winter Break—no school
- Jan. 2 Back to school
- Jan. 3,4,7,8 Play Auditions
- Jan. 21 No School Martin Luther King Day

Whole School Assembly
Mrs. Bellavance's 2nd Grade Class takes a look
at Burlington—then and now

Save the Date!!! Sat., Feb. 9th, 2:00 PM
EES goes to the UVM Women's Hockey Game

VT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ALERT

The VT Department of Health has asked that we pass this information about Pertussis or whooping cough to you because of the increase in the number of cases. To date in 2012, there have been 412 confirmed pertussis cases, compared to 31 cases at this time last year. Of the 2012 cases, 69 are among children younger than 5 years old, and 288 among school children age 5 to 18 years. Since September 1 and the beginning of the academic calendar, there have been 22 confirmed cases in children younger than 5 years, and 106 confirmed cases among school-aged children. For the year, five of 19 confirmed cases in children under age 1 have been hospitalized. To get more information about pertussis, go to the Health Department's website:

<http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/pertussis/providers.aspx>

READING TO END RACISM: 7 DEC.

On Friday December 7, 2012 Edmunds Elementary School will join in a community initiative called Reading to End Racism supporting the District-wide goal of promoting and valuing diversity in the Burlington Public Schools. This project creates an opportunity for all students to listen to new literature, hear personal stories and join age-appropriate discussions to explore and explain racism. All classes at Edmunds Elementary will participate in this one-day presentation, with book readings, personal stories and discussions on ways students can help end racism. After the Thanksgiving break, we will be posting more info about the event and a call out for reading volunteers

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: THANK YOU

Thank you to Peg Emerson and her volunteer crew for working the Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks to all who purchased books!

Boloco to Benefit Burlington School Food Project

EXTRA! EXTRA! *BOLOCO*, the amazing burrito café on Church Street has chosen the Burlington School Food Project as their *12 Days of Giving* recipient. Proceeds from burritos purchased starting on December 1st until December 12th will go to our amazing Farm to School program.

Kitchen Ketch-up!

It's winter squash and root vegetable time again. Our farmers had a terrific season. During fall back-to-school months, over 70% of our salad bar featured veggies from small, local farms. Way to go Burlington!

Right now we have *Arethusa Farms* and *Intervale Community Farm* zucchini as well as *Lewis Creek Farm* broccoli. That's right. We put away over 2,000 pounds of these vegetables for your wintertime enjoyment. Also, get your taste-buds ready for our hardy primavera sauce, packed with local vegetables and prepared by Vermont Bean Crafters in Waitsfield, Vermont.

FROM THE PTO**AO GLASS WORKS FUNDRAISE FOR EES ORDERS DUE 3 DECEMBER!**

EES parents Rich Arentzen and Tove Ohlander of AO Glass Works in Burlington are offering a holiday fundraiser for EES. Their workshop in the South End Arts District creates handblown glass gifts and functional ware for individuals, non-profits, and corporate business. *For the holidays, they are offering 4 locally handcrafted, and signed items in stamped gift boxes for purchase. They will donate \$10 from each item to the EES PTO. Stop by their store at 197 College Street to view those items and more.*

Orders are due: Monday, 3 Dec. AO Glass Items Delivered: 10 Dec.

For more information contact Tove Ohlander (info@aoglass.com).

ECHO: COMMUNITY CONVERSATION - IS RACE REAL? 1 DEC.

As part of the RACE: Are We So Different? Community Conversations Series, on December 1st, ECHO will open its doors for a day of discussions and workshops about race will include conversations around the scientific understandings and social experience surrounding the idea of *Is Race Real?* **\$2 admission all day.** Call 877-324-6386 for more information.

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.

VERMONT COFFEE MAKES A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT

Make someone happy with a holiday gift of Vermont Coffee! The PTO raised almost \$400 with our October coffee fundraiser. Each \$12 bag sold means \$5.40 goes to the EES PTO. Order forms can be found at the front office and PTO website under fundraising or order online:

(<http://eespto.org/fundraisers/vermont-coffee-fundraiser/>).

Orders are due Friday, December 7. Thank you! For more information contact Pam Moreau at 999-4590 or moreaubuck@burlingtontelecom.net

SPRING MUSICAL: PINOCCHIO. PARENT INFO MEETING 12 DEC. 7 PM

Parents of children interested in performing in this year's Spring Musical, *Pinocchio*, are invited to attend the **Parent Information Night meeting on Wednesday, December 12, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the Library Resource Room.** Very Merry Theater and EES Drama Director Don Wright, along with members of this year's Production Team, will be there to provide a logistical overview of the show, including information on important winter/spring dates prior to the performances*, play permission slips, adult volunteer opportunities, and children's auditions. Bring your questions and calendars!

**The dates and times for the three spring performances are: Thursday, March 14, in-school performance; Friday, March 15, 7:00 pm performance; and Saturday, March 16, a 4:00 matinee.*

LOST AND FOUND

We have lots of clothing, boots, shoes lunch boxes and miscellaneous items in our lost and found in the entryway of the first floor. Please be sure to check it out if your child is missing something (and even if you think they are not, you might be surprised at what you find). As a reminder, please only take what items belong to you or your family.

DPW MEETING UPDATE

After communicating with the DPW Commission and attending their meeting on Wed., 28 Nov., we received word that blinking school zone lights for Main Street have been ordered, the sign bases are being fabricated, and they will be installed as soon as they are ready. As for a blinking cross walk lights and a bump out at the actual cross walk, DPW said that this is in the design process and will be ready for construction in Spring 2013. They will share the designs with EES as it progresses. *In the meantime, parents should use caution sending unaccompanied children to the crosswalk in front of EES. We also need to remind parents NOT to park on the street directly in front of the horseshoe - it is a no parking zone, and it makes it VERY dangerous for those of us who do use the cross walk to cross safely.*

*Rich Price, + DJ Disco Phantom

Saturday, December 1st at HIGHER GROUND. Doors open at 12:00 p.m., show starts at 12:30 p.m. \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids. Tickets: www.highergroundmusic.com, at the Higher Ground Box Office, or 888.512.SHOW.

ALRIGHT, 1 DEC. 12:00 PM

For grownups who used to be kids and kids who are still kids! Kids' songs reinterpreted and ready to rock, *all to benefit the Integrated Arts Academy at H.O.Wheeler, Vermont's one and only arts magnet school.* Special live performances by ; *Rough Francis *James Kochalka Band *Swale *Cleary Brothers

Multicultural Night- great fun and fellowship enjoyed by all!

Multicultural Night had a great turnout of families, food and sharing of things from around the world We want to thank all who came and participated and especially those who helped plan it. We want to thank Charlie Rathbone for taking so many lovely pictures and sharing them with us. The pictures help to capture the spirit of the evening and just how diverse our community is.



Wonderful food was shared



Sharing about different cultures and lands



Enjoying visiting with friends, and meeting family members



Learned to salsa dance



Parents creating a chain of hands

We are excited that we will be able to show these, and more pictures on a monitor soon to be installed on the second floor across from the entrance!



Appreciated art through Henna tattoos