

# FRIDAY



# FLASH



**EDMUNDS**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

## From the Principal's Desk

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 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 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 an important 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!

October 7, 2016

## Up Coming Events:

- Oct. 10 - Indigenous People's Day
- Oct. 11 - Dasara - Yom Kippur Begins
- Oct. 12 - No School (Yom Kippur Ends)
- Oct. 17 - Sukkot Begins
- Oct. 21 - Inservice Day; No School for Students
- Oct. 30 - Deepavali/Diwali/Tahir (Festival of Lights Begins)

**Whole School Assembly  
No School Next Wednesday**

## KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE AND SECURE:

In response to the frenzy around the clown incidents, we want to help reassure our students that they are safe at school. As you may know, the BSD sent an automated call to our families last night with the following information: "The Burlington Police Department would like to inform the community that it is aware of recent attention surrounding the social media postings of potential incidents involving clowns. School Resource Officers are available to the District and to families to answer questions. The Police Department will continue to monitor this activity and is addressing the concern internally with respect to patrols and added visibility at District buildings". The Burlington Police encourage those who have specific information or witness suspicious activity to report this immediately to the police.

Parents may want to use the following tips and script in response to conversations with your children who express concern about scary clowns.

- If possible separate hype/rumors from reality.
- Tell children that "The adults at school are going to help keep them safe."
- Remind students to use positive self-talk to help them feel calm and safe and to face their fears.
- Tell students that if they see a stranger-ANY stranger- and feel uncomfortable, find an adult to tell.

If you are concerned with a student's anxiety/fear around this issue please let Melissa Hathaway or Lauren Royer know.

Finally, there are many more happy clowns that help make people laugh and do not want to scare anyone, Someone thought it would be funny to be scary using clown faces. It makes happy clowns sad.

**PTO Leaders:** Leigh Fisher, Hollie Foley & Rachel Shelley  
**PTO Contact:** [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org)

**DAN'S CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER! NOW Thru FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14th!!**

Please help your children participate in the largest fundraiser of the year for our school! The funds raised pay for many school activities such as the Welcome BBQ, Math Night, Skate night, field trips, author visits and much much more. Selling has begun and **final orders must be submitted by Friday, October 14th**. Chocolate delivery will be completed before Halloween! Use the flyer sent home to help raise money for our school! Questions? Contact Leigh Fisher at [leigh.r.fisher@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.r.fisher@gmail.com) or 802.735.6942.

**THANK YOU OPEN HOUSE SPAGHETTI DINNER ORGANIZERS!**

Thank you Steph Mueller and Marla Ceppetelli for arranging such a nice dinner before the open house.

**VERMONT COFFEE COMPANY ORDERS DUE TUESDAY OCTOBER 18th**

EES makes \$6/bag! Orders will be collected the third Tuesday of every month. Orders will be delivered that Friday. Order forms at Front Office and EES PTO website. (<http://eespto.org/fundraisers/Vermont-coffee-fundraiser/>).

Checks payable to EES PTO, OR Pay via PayPal; Please note in PayPal "Purpose Box" number of bags and coffee choice. Contact Pam Moreau ([802.999.4590](tel:802.999.4590) or [pmoreaulawvt@gmail.com](mailto:pmoreaulawvt@gmail.com)) with questions.

**EES WINTER COAT AND GEAR SWAP NEED A COAT? HAVE AN EXTRA ONE?**

Bring your used winter coats and gear to Edmunds main entrance starting October 12. Hang donations on our racks, boots and gloves can be stowed underneath. Swap officially begins on October 14. Take what you need, you don't need to give to get! Questions? Email Courtney Asaro at [courtneyasaro@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyasaro@gmail.com).

**AMAZON SMILE!**

Here is our Amazon Smile Charity account for EES! Now when you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price. Select Edmunds Elementary school as your charity of choice by clicking on the link below.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0368400>

Remember - always shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), (not [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or the mobile app).

**FOUR WINDS REST STOP FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS!**

A huge thank you to all the families who contributed to our annual rest stop fundraiser for the Four Winds natural science program held on Saturday September 24th!!

We want to give a shout out to the many families who contributed baked goods and other food items—what an incredible spread we had thanks to your generosity! A big thank you also to the tiny but powerful cadre of volunteers who staffed our tables, some even pulled a double shift! Our most humble thanks and gratitude to those who contributed financial donations to the program, your support was critical to meet our goal. And to the amazing Gail Rose who organized the whole thing—thank you! Your leadership was the key ingredient! It truly wouldn't have happened without you. All combined, we raised \$1286 of the \$1860 total cost of the program for the year!! Thank you Edmunds families!

**FOUR WINDS THIS MONTH**

In Four Winds this month, classes are learning about the different adaptations of spiders. Spiders are busy feeding on the many insects available this time of year and it's a great time to observe them. Part of the workshop involves going outside to look for spider activity around the school grounds. Do all spiders build webs? How can I tell the difference between a spider and an insect? Do you know which one a daddy longlegs is? If you don't know the answer, ask your child!

Interested in volunteering for four winds? We still need volunteers for the following classes: Fagan, Ide, Fitzpatrick, Flynn, Gillard.