



**EDMUNDS**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# FRIDAY



# FLASH

## From the Principal's Desk

Have you ever found yourself telling your child how smart they are? We all value intelligence. Over time, intelligence has been so highly thought of that the idea of being average is unacceptable to many. Of course, that is silly because the concept of average is a matter of statistics. Not everyone gets statistics. As a matter of fact, I had a friend who was a math teacher in West Virginia. I can't remember if it was their legislature or the Dept. of Education, but whichever, decreed that the bottom 25% of students would be the bottom 33%. But I digress.

If you think about it, intelligence in and of itself is of little value. Effort is far more important, regardless of intellect. There are plenty of smart people who do very little with their lives, and "average" people who do great things because of the effort they expend. Too often though, we talk about how smart people are when in fact, it was the effort combined with intellect that resulted in their success.

The impact of effort on the development of our brains is really important in insuring that we are increasing our brain's capacity. It's really fun to tell students that they can actually make their brains smarter. They can increase the number of neurons through trying new things or they can shrink them by doing the same things repeatedly without trying anything new. A common comment by students who spend time talking to me is that school is "boring". The problem is that they generally have not actually tried to do what is being asked of them. As we get deeper in the conversation, I find that they often think things are hard but they have not actually expended any effort. It seems that the idea of not being able to do something is enough of an obstacle.

The focus on intellect has given many children the impression that being "smart" means that they should be able to do things very well the first time they attempt the task or skill. They can be surprised when that isn't the case. Some become angry and frustrated because letters are not formed perfectly, they can't pick up reading immediately or math is hard. Their frustration and anger comes from a concern that perhaps they are not "so smart" after all. This can shake their image of themselves, and also create concern that they will disappoint the people who told

### Date and Volume Number

October 10, 2014

### Upcoming Events:

Oct. 13-18 Parent Teacher Conferences

Oct. 14 Fork in the Road Food Truck visits EES

Oct. 15 Early Dismissal 11:30am

Oct. 15 No Burlington Kids Afterschool Program

Oct. 16 & 17 No School

Oct. 20-Nov 1 Winter Coat Swap

Oct. 24 Multicultural Night - Rock Around the World

**Whole School Assembly,  
Wednesday, Oct 16  
8:10 - 8:30**

(Cont'd) them that they are smart. They won't even allow themselves to practice something before expecting perfection. It is amazing how complicated things can get for young minds!

We can change their thinking to one that affirms their right to practice and encourages them to see it as an important part of the process of learning. We can do this by focusing on the effort they expend, "Wow, you worked really hard on that" or "You must have tried really hard". "You must have practiced that a lot!" Admiring their effort affirms their right and need to practice and puts the emphasis on the attribute of effort that in the end, makes the most difference to them becoming successful adults.

## Parent/Teacher Conference Scheduling

Electronic scheduling for our October parent/teacher conferences is now available. Please click on the following link to access the teachers' conference schedules. If you cannot access the link directly, please cut and paste the link into an Internet browser.

[http://ptcfast.com/schools/Edmunds\\_Elementary\\_School](http://ptcfast.com/schools/Edmunds_Elementary_School)

If you need assistance, please contact Mrs. Monica Gragg at 864- 1791. If needed, please see the web documentation related to scheduling your October EES conferences at PTC

Fast: <http://tinyurl.com/helpforconferences>

## MULTICULTURAL "ROCK AROUND THE WORLD"

With the exception of Native Americans, everyone has moved to Burlington from somewhere else - whether it was 200 years ago or 2 months ago. Over the next few weeks, students will be asking you about your family's journey. How

did your family arrive and where did they come from ?  
Do you know any of the old traditions they brought with them?

We also hope to see as many families as possible joining us on October 24<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the journey's that we've all taken to arrive in one community. So put it on your calendar, MultiCultural Rock Around the World Night from 6 -8. And please, if you have music to share, bring it!

### **Burlington Kids Get a Taste of Fork in the Road:**

School Food Truck Visits EES Oct 14 noon-1pm

In honor of National School Lunch Week and Farm to School Month, the Burlington School Food Project will be offering a "Taste of the Harvest," to Edmunds Elementary students on October 14th. This event celebrates Vermont's bounty and will be hosted out of the district's unique food truck, Fork in the Road. Students will have a chance to sample smoothies featuring berries from Norris Berry Farm, spinach from Digger's Mirth and honey from the BHS hives.

## **FROM THE PTO**

### **HELP WITH MULTICULTURAL "ROCK AROUND THE WORLD" OCTOBER 24 FROM 6-8PM**

This year's Multicultural Night is focused on our cultural origins of music and dance to celebrate the diversity at EES. 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 about your heritage!

Please contact Signe Daly (parent of Medea - 3rd grade and Karl - 5<sup>th</sup> grade; [signe.daly@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:signe.daly@burlingtontelecom.net) or 802-399-7401) to let her know if you have music, a song, or a dance you'd like to share at this year's event. We're also looking to have folks bring a traditional dish and crafts to share.

### **EES ANNUAL WINTER COAT SWAP OCTOBER 20-NOVEMBER 1**

Collecting gently used coats, snowpants and winter boots. Rack will be set up in the front lobby of the school. Hang donations on the hangers on the racks and place boots underneath. Take what you need. You don't need to give to get. Questions email Susie Moakley at [smoakley@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:smoakley@burlingtontelecom.net).

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EES BOOK FAIR NOV 3-7**

Time commitment is 1-2 hours on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday of the week. Location: EMS Library. Email Kathy Neil ([kneil@bsdvt.org](mailto:kneil@bsdvt.org)) if you can help.

### **THANK YOU FOUR WINDS REST STOP FUNDRAISER VOLUNTEERS!**

Thank you so much for your generous donations to make our 2014 Four Winds Williston Rest Stop Fundraiser successful. With your help we made over \$1100! WOW! A SPECIAL THANKS goes out to: the volunteers who donated their time at the rest stop on a beautiful Fall day; City Market for their donation of a gift card; Mirabelles and August First for their donation of yummy treats; McKenzie Country Classics for their donation of hot dogs; Price Chopper for their donation of cups and a gift card; Carolyn Hanson for coordinating the Four Winds Program and for hosting the Edmunds Mini Bake Sale; and Monica Gragg for her beautiful smile and kindness while delivering her ever helpful advice regarding strategic planning.

### **A MESSAGE FROM "FRIENDS OF BURLINGTON KINDERGARTENERS," A MOVEMENT TO REINSTATE KINDERGARTEN PARAEDUCATORS**

FB page link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Burlington-Kindergarteners/634191750034772>

"I created the page recently with the hope that it would facilitate communication District wide. I am hoping that parents, teachers, taxpayers, etc. will post their experiences and the struggles they are seeing and feeling as a direct result of being under supported in their classrooms. This would be great data that the Board cannot ignore and so I was hoping to present it to each one of them as well as the interim superintendent." - Nicole Zygarowski, parent of 3 BSD children

### **PTO EMAIL UPDATES**

The PTO sends out weekly email updates. If you would like to be added to the PTO email list, please contact Marni Slavik at EES PTO ([pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org)).

For more information about PTO events visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>.