

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

From the Principal's Desk

This week we were delighted by the singing of the UVM Top Cats, a men's a cappella singing group. A cappella means that the group sang without being accompanied by any instruments. The group was very entertaining as they gave us several renditions of songs from the 60's and 70's. It was pretty amusing when they sang about getting a kiss from a girl. The boys definitely were listening because they squirmed at the thought of wanting to be kissed by a girl! The kids were delighted as the lead singer went to Mrs. Norland, our music teacher, serenading her with a proposal. The rest of the group joined him and Mrs. Norland played right along (although her cheeks did seem to get a bit pinker with all the attention and the young man beseeching her from his knees).

It would have been a delight just to hear the Top Cats, but there was an ulterior motive in our invitation to come to EES. We have a wonderful chorus, and it could be even better if we had more boys. Somewhere, our boys have gotten the idea that boys don't join choruses! That idea couldn't be farther from the truth. In fact, I just enjoyed a weekend of listening to men's singing groups in a barbershop competition. There were choruses of 15 to 40, aged 10 to 80, and quartets that sang songs from the turn of the last century to contemporary numbers arranged with barbershop harmonics. Some of the men had been singing in their groups for as much as 50 years!

We wanted our boys to see young men singing, sounding great and having a good time to help them make the leap to join our Edmunds Elementary Chorus. It's a great way to gain confidence, an appreciation of music and the ability to making music (which is very special). It is also a way to help reinforce the idea of being part of a team, where each person does their part to make the whole sound better for the audience (and even for themselves). Anyone who has been a part of a singing group knows how special it is to produce a lovely sound together.

Children will often conform to their perception of what is ok to do, regardless of whether they would like to participate in an activity or not. If it is not accepted by their peers, they are less likely to join. It's a good thing that we start students in the Very Merry Theatre in first grade because so that the students know how much fun singing, dancing and performing as an ensemble can be. They grow into the bigger parts by the time they are older, and are far less likely to abandon the play. It would be great to see the same thing happen in music.

Roles are often influenced by old and outdated ideas. Singing is something that brings joy to the singer and the audience alike. It's a constructive, healthy, lifelong activity. The girls have it figured out. Let's hope the UVM Top Cats have inspired our boys to join the EES Chorus. And let's hope our girls encourage their classmates as well!

October 25, 2013

Upcoming Events

Oct. 21-Nov. 4 Winter coat and gear Collection

Oct. 25 Rocktober Dance 6:00pm

Oct. 31 Halloween Parade 1:45

Nov. 2 Four Winds Fundraiser at Williston Rest Stop

Nov. 4-8 Scholastic Book Fair!

Nov. 8 UVM Women's Hockey game - watching our friends from UVM play Boston College, 7 pm

Nov. 4 -15 Winter Coat and Gear Swap

Dec. 6 Multicultural Night

Whole School Assembly –
Halloween Sing-a-long

Halloween Costumes Needed for Oct. 31

Do you have any old Halloween costumes that you would be willing to donate or lend to us for students who may not have or know about Halloween costumes? Halloween is a custom that our students really enjoy, but not all of our families are aware of the tradition. We are looking for some spare costumes to share so that all students can enjoy the Halloween Parade. If you have one, please send it into the office and we'll get it to a student. *And don't forget to join us for the parade at 1:45 on Oct. 31st!*

Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

EES families, support our library by coming to the annual book fair being held the week of **November 4th - 8th in the Edmunds Middle School Library**. This is our only library fundraiser. It is a good opportunity to do some holiday shopping while supporting our school library. Profits earned from the fair go to our library to help fund equipment, book and video purchases as well as author visits. We encourage parents to visit the book fair at any time. Hope to see you at the upcoming book fair!!! Our hours are:

Monday & Tuesday Nov. 4th & 5th: 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Wednesday Nov. 6th: 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Thursday Nov. 7th: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Special Evening

Hours for family shopping!

Friday Nov. 8th: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Students will be visiting the book fair on Monday and Wednesday that week to preview selections and bring home ideas of books that they would like to purchase. You may send money in with your child if you would like them to buy

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Bookfair (cont'd)

books and we will make sure they get to the fair to do so. Checks can be made out to Edmunds Elementary School Library. Please make sure you include enough to cover tax (7%).

Wanted! Landscaping project has opportunity to get grants

We have been alerted to several grant opportunities that would fit in with our desire to create a more useful, aesthetically pleasing, educational and environmentally sound area between the school and the field. We are looking for volunteers who have some writing skills and time to help with a watershed management and farm to school grant. Contact Lisa Cannon (lcannon2010, Stephanie Mueller, smueller@vnrc.org or Dr. Mathias at smathias@bsdvt.org for more details. There are a couple of projects and they are of short duration and are due in the near future. There's money in them there hills!!!

From the PTO**ROCKTOBER DANCE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 6:00-8:30 PM AT EMS GYM**

DJ and Dancing! Grades K-2: 6:00-7:15pm; grades 3-5: 7:15-8:30 pm.

DAN'S CHOCOLATES REWARDS: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Students will receive their Dan's Chocolates rewards at the whole school assembly on Wednesday, Oct. 30. Congratulations and thank you to all those students who sold chocolates! The fundraiser was a huge success, and we appreciate your hard work.

EES COAT & WINTER GEAR SWAP NOVEMBER 4-15

COAT & GEAR COLLECTION: We are collecting gently worn, clean winter coats and gear (kids and adults). Coats, boots, mittens, hats, etc. are welcome. Drop your donations off at the EES Main Street entrance until November 4.

GET A COAT: Stop by the Coat and Winter Gear Swap, ending the week of November 4th - 15th in the Main Entrance of EES. All Edmunds families are welcome to take what they need. You do not need to give in order to get. All apparel is free. The coats and gear will remain up for taking through November 15th. Questions? Contact Leslie Halperin (leslie.halperin@gmail.com or 802-238-3675), Susie Moakley (smoakley@burlingtontelecom.net), or Courtney Asaro (courtneyasaro@gmail.com).

FOUR WINDS FUNDRAISER: SAT. NOVEMBER 2 WILLISTON REST STOP

Please help Four Winds with their fundraiser! Volunteers are needed to "man the posts" at both of the Williston rest stops (Northbound and Southbound). We also are looking for baked goods to sell at the fundraiser, which need to be dropped off by the start of school Friday, November 1st. You need not be a Four Winds volunteer to help with this fundraiser! Contact Gina MacKinnon for a sign up time at gina.mackinnon@comcast.net or 862-0424, or sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080845AAA829A31-williston>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EES BOOK FAIR NOVEMBER 4-8

Please contact Kathy Neil (kneil@bsdvt.org).

THANK YOU: WALK AND ROLLERS AND TEACHER APPRECIATION VOLUNTEERS!

A special thank you to our coordinators Peggy O'Neill, Rachel Shelley, and Jenny Sullivan, and all other students and families that participated.

PTO EMAIL UPDATES

The PTO sends out weekly email updates. If you would like to be added to the PTO email list, please email the EES PTO (pto@eespto.org).

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

From the Community

(The following are not sponsored by Burlington School District and are presented as a community service)

Have Some Halloween Fun With Us on UVM's Redstone Campus!

Dear Burlington Families and Neighbors,

UVM's Inter-Residence Association Student Organization invites you to:

UVM Family Fall Fest

Saturday, October 26, from 1-4 pm

UVM Redstone Green

No RSVP's Needed - Just Come and Enjoy

FREE Fun Stuff: Food, Bouncy House, Pumpkin Painting, Face Painting, Games, and Candy!

Questions: e-mail us at irauvm@uvm.edu

We look forward to celebrating Halloween with you!

Your Hosts,

UVM Inter-Residence Association Students

Fourth Annual Halloween Bike Ride: Shared Streets Not Scared Streets

WHEN: Sunday, October 27th @ 2PM

WHERE: City Hall Park (ride begins here)

GLAD YOU ASKED: Join Mayor Weinberger and hundreds of riders for a rolling Halloween costume party! We'll begin at City Hall Park in Burlington, Vermont at 2PM. Costumes encouraged but not required. This police escorted, easy ride will meander through the Old North End, the South End and Church Street, giving you an opportunity to showcase your mad costume designing skills! Games for kids and adults, delicious food, excellent coffee, bike portraits and prizes at Magliano after the ride. This is an inclusive ride so bring the whole family.