



# FRIDAY FLASH

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

October 4, 2013

## Upcoming Events

- Oct. 7    **NECAP Testing begins**
- Oct. 9    **Whole School Assembly**
- Oct. 9-16 **Walk and Roll to school week**
- Oct. 10    **Open House**
- Oct. 14-18 **Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Oct. 17    **Early Release---11:30am bag lunches**
- Oct. 18    **No school Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Oct. 23    **NECAP testing ends**

## From the Principal's Desk

I was watching children enter the school the other day through two different doors. At each door, I watched as an adult held the door for them and the children completely ignored the adult. In each instance, it was as if the adult was part of the door. There was no acknowledgement of their presence; no thanks for holding the door. The children are democratic in that they would also treat one of their classmates the same way, failing to acknowledge one of their own for the favor of holding a door. Students will crowd through a door with no one willing to give way to another. The children are bent on getting where they were going. I asked the students to please acknowledge anyone who held a door for them, by looking at them and thanking them. It takes a second, but it is appropriate, and simply polite.

Whether we want to call it etiquette, manners, courtesy, graciousness, or respect, expecting children to practice what has long been considered a social norm is important. I've seen the same kind of dismissive behavior in the cafeteria, where students ask for the food they want without including please or thank you, and without making eye contact with the person serving them. And I've seen it throughout our society, where adults pay a cashier without ever looking at the individual, saying thanks or acknowledging the individual in any form.

It troubles me when I see children failing to acknowledge individuals who are helping them. I recognize that a big part of the problem is that adults have simply accepted the behavior. Whether it is getting a call asking for a forgotten backpack to be brought to school, or having a piece of pizza placed on their tray, children should be expected to say please in recognition of the fact that the person is *doing something for them*. They should be expected to say please and thank you and when asked if they want something, no thank you or yes please. Our failure to insist on our children extending courtesy to all results in behaviors that our custodians have experienced, where students who when asked to pick it up their trash, point to the custodians and say, "that's their job", with an attitude that clearly shows they think themselves above cleaning up after themselves, and above the custodians.

I know only too well that it gets old to remind kids to say please and thank you and to acknowledge those who are helping them. I recognize that teachers and parents we like to help our kids. However, if we as adults do not insist that our children extend these simple courtesies to us; if we don't model those courtesies regardless of how trivial they may seem, how will they learn to extend them to all human beings. Maintaining a civil and courteous society, where each person is valued, takes care and effort, but in the end, it benefits all.

**Whole School Assembly – Kick off for Walk and Roll to School Week**

### OPEN HOUSE

**Thursday, October 10, 6:00-7:00 pm**  
**PTO soup, salad and conversations 5:30 to 6:00 pm in the cafeteria**

### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES ELECTRONIC SCHEDULING

Electronic scheduling for our October parent teacher conferences is now available. Please click or go to 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)

For additional support related to scheduling your October EES conferences via PTC Fast:

<http://tinyurl.com/helpforconferences>

### Join our "Walking School Bus"!

Join our kids and families from around the block and around the globe as we walk and bicycle to school and reduce our carbon footprint on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Meet at 444 South Union St (the old Adams School) or at the corner of N. Willard and Brookes Ave. and walk the rest of the way to school. We're hoping to win the statewide Way to Go Challenge. We have huge participation numbers, but we need our percentage of total population to go up. Those who are being transported can definitely help by joining our Walking School Bus. For more information, see the Walk and Roll to School Week article on the back in the PTO section of this Friday Flash.

## From the PTO

### PROPOSED SCHOOL CALENDAR 2.0 COMMUNITY FORUMS

The School Board would like community input on the idea to change the school calendar for the 2014-2015 year. For more information on the proposed regional calendar, visit: [schoolcalendar2.blogspot.com](http://schoolcalendar2.blogspot.com). Join the superintendent and school board members to give your input and learn more about this discussion.

- **Wednesday, October 9th, 6:30 p.m. at BHS**
- Thursday, October 3rd, 6:30 p.m. - BFA St. Albans
- Thursday, October 10th, 6:30 p.m. - Champlain Valley Union High School

### OPEN HOUSE PTO-SPONSORED SOUP/SALAD: OCTOBER 10 5:30-6:00 PM

Please join us in the EES cafeteria for conversations and an update of ongoing events before the Open House. All are welcome. Afterward visit classrooms from 6:00-7:00. Activities for kids, along with members of the UVM gymnastics team, in the EES gym. Contact: Marni Slavik ([marnislavik@yahoo.com](mailto:marnislavik@yahoo.com)) with questions.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VISION/HEARING SCREENING FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Help EES nurses with screening from 10:30 am - 2:50 pm. Volunteers can stay for half or whole session. Contact: Jamie Charlson ([jcharlso@bsdvt.org](mailto:jcharlso@bsdvt.org)) or Marni Slavik ([marnislavik@yahoo.com](mailto:marnislavik@yahoo.com)).

### FOUR WINDS VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED IN THESE CLASSROOMS!

Make Four Winds natural science program happen in your child's classroom! Volunteers still needed for Weishaar (1) and D'Agostino (2). No science background necessary; a fun and fulfilling way to participate in the classroom. **Next training Friday, October 11 from 8:15-10:15.** Contact: Carolyn Hanson ([carolyn@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:carolyn@burlingtontelecom.net)).

### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: OCTOBER 14-17

Show our teachers how much we appreciate them by bringing in food for them during the week! Monday-Tuesday: Grades K-2 bring breakfast foods; Wednesday-Thursday: Grades 3-4 bring lunch foods and Grade 5 bring dessert. Contact: Jenny Sullivan ([wonderjennyvt@yahoo.com](mailto:wonderjennyvt@yahoo.com)).

### 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.

### 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](mailto:pto@eespto.org)).

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

### WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL WEEK: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9th-16th

**Kick off October 9<sup>th</sup>: International Walk to School Day!** Get Ready to Walk-n-Roll. A WEEK of promoting walking and biking to school will take place Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 16th. Join our kids and families from around the block and around the globe as we walk and bicycle to school and reduce our carbon footprint. Last Spring Edmunds was the Second Runner-up in the Way to Go Challenge with the largest number of overall clean commuting students. Let's see if we can beat our own numbers from the Spring!! Check out the daily participation, which is tallied and tracked on the PTO bulletin board. The classes with the most walk and roll participants will get bike-blended smoothies and a golden shoe for their classroom. There will be one prize for grades K-2 and one for 3-5.

**October 9th and 16th: Drop off your kids for a walking school bus! Meet Rachel Shelley at Adams school at 7:40 (Contact Rachel: [rachskye@gmail.com](mailto:rachskye@gmail.com), 802.864.4890) OR Meet Peggy at the corner of N. Willard and Brookes Ave at 7:45 (Contact Peggy: [peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net), 802.999.4995).**

### SIGN UP FOR EES FAMILY DIRECTORY

Last chance to fill out the form to be part of the family directory! If you would like to fill out a hard copy form, please contact Monica Gragg in the office. Please fill out the form online. The link can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1fA1t6OgJyOG02rvnQpd2c5-EP91i52qRKdiIVGK4dko/viewform>. If you would like to receive the online form via email, please email [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org).

### **From the Community (not sponsored or sanctioned by Burlington School District)**

Parents & caretakers of young children can always use advice as we navigate new stages. Join us as clinical child psychologist [Dr. Rebecca Ruid](#) discusses some of the day-to-day issues many parents and care-givers face.

We'll talk about: Why children misbehave; how to establish consistency and routine; and encouraging positive behavior. This workshop is FREE, open to the WHOLE COMMUNITY and includes DINNER & CHILDCARE. Mondays September 30, October 7, and October 14 from 5pm-7pm at King Street Center. Contact [gabriella@kingstreetcenter.org](mailto:gabriella@kingstreetcenter.org) to enroll.

### **Basketball Players**

The UVM women's basketball team is hosting a FREE clinic on October 12th from 9:30am-12pm, for ages 7-12. It is for both boys and girls, and no previous experience is required! Event is at the Patrick Gym at UVM

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