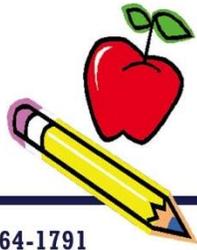


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

## From the Principal's Desk

Two years ago, 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from Edmunds Elementary made a presentation to the School Board about the eBooks they created using iPads. The seven year olds described the process that they used in developing the eBooks, from the planning phase through their research, and the production of the final project. The students had gone to the Echo Science Center one afternoon a week for six weeks to study various animals. They were able to use the iPads to photograph, video tape, take notes about the creature of their choice from their observations and reading, and finally create the actual eBook. The resulting eBooks were about salamanders, mud puppies, turtles and more. The Echo Center made the eBooks available to their guests throughout the summer. Professional development was critical to making this happen.

In the last three years, we have seen a proliferation of teachers taking a graduate course in the use of iPads in the classroom which included not only effective approaches in the use of technology, but an iPad for the teacher and six for their classroom. The result of the professional development was a transformation in instruction. Equipped not only with the hardware, but with knowledge of how to effectively use it in the classroom, teachers across the district have increased overall engagement in the classroom with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in inquiry based learning. Students are being taught how to safely use the technology to do research, how to present evidence of their learning and how to share their learning with their peers and others.

Some professional development involves many faculty, and some involves one or two but even one teacher bringing back new information to a school can be transformative. Lori Palmer enrolled in the Vermont Science Initiative shortly after I arrived at EES and has taken a lead role among her peers in bringing science alive to the third graders, sharing what she learned with her team to enhance learning for all. Heather McMorris attended a conference in mathematics and shared her learning in a growth mindset with Burlington faculty across the district in last June's end of year In-Service. New faculty to our district bring the professional development they gained in their previous schools with them. EES experienced this in Andrew Styles who came from North Carolina, bringing with him the knowledge in how to more effectively analyze data for the MTSS model. The most effective professional development is that which occurs across an entire school or district, allowing all to hear the same information simultaneously. I orchestrated this at my last school with the benefit of the funds that the Stimulus Money for education provided. I took \$25,000 and had two concurrent classes in Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support running

Date and Volume Number

September 16, 2016

## Up Coming Events:

- Sept. 28 - EES Celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- Sept. 28 - Way to go Challenge!
- Sept. 29 - Open House 5:30-7:00 (Free Spaghetti Dinner)
- Oct. 1 - Navratri Begins
- Oct. 2 - Dashain Begins
- Oct. 2 - Hijri (Islamic New Year)
- Oct. 2 - Picture Retake Day
- Oct. 12 - Yom Kippur - (NO SCHOOL)
- Oct. 21 - In-service Day (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)

**Whole School Assembly**  
**September 21, 2016**  
**"Welcome to Our School Ceremony"**  
**All 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Kindergarten Classes**

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL CEREMONY:

This ceremony is a long standing tradition at EES. Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be individually welcoming each Kindergarten student and presenting them with an Edmunds pencil. We look forward to this every year and hope that you can join us.

**(Con't)**

in my school over the school year. The dollars paid for the course and substitutes as the teachers were out of the classroom a total of six days (half days alternating morning and afternoon). The result? The school saw a 16% increase in the number of low income students achieving AYP (adequate yearly progress). The Agency of Education was so excited that they called to let me know. Then they called me back an hour later and said, "We want you to know that we consider a 4% gain statistically significant". The impact of the professional development on my faculty resulted in quadrupling that. My belief in the importance of professional development is supported by the findings of my research in the relationship between investment and student outcomes; a longitudinal study involving 1355 Vermont students over 10 years. I analyzed student test scores in conjunction with funding for Instructional Support, which includes Professional Development. In a nutshell, there was a 25 point difference in test scores in mathematics between low and high investing communities by 10<sup>th</sup> grade. 25 points would make the difference between being competitive on SAT's or having to take remedial college classes that cost tuition but do not count towards graduation. We live in a rapidly evolving world with new information and new legislated requirements constantly arising. Professional development is essential to our work force to insure that our students are getting what they need to be successful adults.

**PTO LEADERS:** Leigh Fisher, Hollie Follie & Rachel Shelley  
**PTO CONTACT:** [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org)

**SEEKING ROOM PARENTS: NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**

**We still need one room parent the following classrooms Kilburn, Fagan, McMorris and Flaherty/Goldsmith.**

Being a room parent is a great way to get more connected to your child's classroom community and support his/her education! A room parent's basic responsibility is to assist her/his classroom teacher in promoting family involvement in the classroom and school wide activities, such as teacher appreciation and classroom party planning. Being available during school hours is helpful, but not necessary.

If you are interested in being a room parent or have questions about what a room parent does, contact Hollie Foley ([holliesfoley@yahoo.com](mailto:holliesfoley@yahoo.com) or [802-318-2596](tel:802-318-2596)). Please include your name, classroom teacher, and the best way to contact you.

**FOUR WINDS REST STOP FUNDRAISER 9/24— DONATIONS NEEDED!**

Four Winds annual fundraiser is on Saturday September 24 from 8-4 and we need your help! The Four Winds program is a hands-on natural science enrichment program that gets kids outside to explore their curiosity about the natural world and get parents involved in the classroom which has shown to increase children's learning. The program costs approximately \$1800 and we try to raise well over half of that through this fundraiser, but we need your help! Please consider signing up to donate baked goods or other items. Go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aa9aa2aa20-baked> to sign up!

Please let family and friends know to stop by I89 rest stop Northbound or Southbound on Saturday 9/24 to grab some great snacks and support a good cause!

Donation items can be dropped off to a horseshoe volunteer outside the school on Friday morning, September 23. Please contact Gail Rose for more information at [grosevt@gmail.com](mailto:grosevt@gmail.com).

**PREVENT CHILD ABUSE:**

Prevent Child Abuse, Vermont coordinate several Nurturing Parenting Programs (NPP) and Circle of Parents (COP) support groups throughout the region. These are groups for parents who are looking for extra support and/or want to learn additional skills around parenting. There are groups designed for all families and situations ranging from programs specifically for dads to parenting children in foster and adoptive families. There are NPPs starting in Enosburgh, Essex, St. Albans, and South Burlington. All programs are free of charge with a light meal provided. Childcare is also available free of charge for groups who need it. For more information, please visit their website at [www.pcavt.org](http://www.pcavt.org)