



FRIDAY FLASH

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

September 13, 2013

From the Principal's Desk

I'm probably dating myself (ok definitely), but the term "Sunday Best" was very specific when I was the age of our students at Edmunds Elementary School. I grew up in a middle class home. My dad was an engineer, my mom a homemaker. My brothers and myself had school clothes, and play clothes, and play clothes were last year's school clothes that were a little small and a bit worn out. We had to change every day when we got home so we wouldn't wreck our school clothes. I had one "best" dress for each year (my favorites were the dark green and blue plaid with smocking). My best dress was what I wore to church and holiday parties. Everybody had a Sunday best outfit, and no one worried about the fact that they wearing the same thing every Sunday morning. Even parents were seen wearing the same good clothes - the same suit or their nicest dress.

Flash forward 50 years and we are at a place where marketing has done its job. Retailers have sales all the time rather than twice a year, and the cost of merchandise is so low that closets are full - even overflowing. As a high school teacher teaching marketing, I once asked my students to count their shirts and while most had between 25 and 50, one had over 100 and that didn't count t-shirts and one had only 3 and they were all t-shirts. Having a selection is certainly nice but the amount that we have can sometimes lead to a sense that things are disposable. We see it here at school as our lost and found fills up.

Beautiful coats, practically new winter boots, sweatshirts, sweaters, hats, mittens, lunch boxes, back packs, water bottles, you name it, if they bring it to school, it can and does end up in lost and found. While some students look for their lost items, many never do. We know this because the clothes are neatly hanging in the front lobby and easy to see but they go unclaimed day after day. Ultimately, many items go to needy families here at EES or through Goodwill.

Instilling a sense of responsibility for one's things is important, not just for the economic reason of not wasting money, but for the sake of sustainability - that it is wasteful to have to replace something simply because we didn't take care of what we have. Sometimes it is hard for students to figure out whether an item is theirs or not - especially black snow pants! It would be helpful if their names could be written in indelible marker to help them identify their things. Maybe having them help with that process would help! Taking care of ones things can start early. Expecting children to look for their things is an important message to help them develop an appreciation for that which they have. And please, check out our lost and found in the front lobby!

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 18 Whole School Assembly
- Sept. 20 EES Family Skate Night 5:30 - 7:30

Whole School Assembly – September 18

Skate Night - A great time for all!

Friday, Sept. 20 is skate night from 5:30 to 7:30. It's a great time and probably one of the best attended community events of the year because it is so much fun. It doesn't matter whether or not you can skate. Skates will be provided as well as something to lean on if you're not a skater (yet). We will be joined by our friends from the UVM Women's Ice Hockey Team. Pizza and drinks will be provided as well so no need to worry about dinner. We hope that everyone will join us for this fun event. Contact coordinator Pam Shea (pj_shea@yahoo.com) with questions.

Generosity, Kindness and thinking of others

Developing generosity and kindness in thinking about others before ourselves is an important part of the process of educating good citizens. Finding projects that students can relate to helps them to understand more easily. Dr. Mathias asked for help from the students in raising \$800 to send a child with Muscular Dystrophy to go to camp next summer. EES students have a long tradition of helping others. Last year, our students had fundraising efforts for COTS, the Food Shelf and the Humane Society. The students learned that the disease affected the muscles of the children and they are not able to do the same kinds of summer activities without special care and equipment. That makes it more expensive than most camps. The children's parents often have a lot of medical expenses that make it difficult for them to also pay for a camp. The students who are interested in helping can make their own contribution, pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters or dollars - whatever they fee; they can give. If parents could just remind their children about the fundraiser before sending them off to school, those who wanted to donate will be able to do so more easily. Any parents who would like to help in this effort are welcome to do so.

EES CHOURS BEGINS SOON!

Chorus is a volunteer singing group open to Edmunds Elementary School 4th and 5th grade students, directed by Mrs. Norland, and designed to promote the joy of singing in a group and to teach vocal technique. Rehearsals are Thursdays, 2:50-3:30, plus there are a few TBA performances during the school year. Practice takes place in the Music Room. Chorus is a wonderful opportunity for many students to expand their musical horizons by participating in a performing group, singing in parts and canons, and mastering more complex music. And, it's fun—we feel good about ourselves when we sing, and we make friends while making music together. All students in 4th and 5th grade are welcome to join, and should fill out the form that went home in folders, and return it by next Friday. Questions? Contact Mrs. Christina Norland, cnorland@bsdvt.org.

BOXTOPS

We continue to collect "Boxtops 4 Education" this year. Last year, we earned \$220 and have already collected box tops worth over \$85 for this school year. Please bring your box tops to the collection bin outside the main office. We submit twice per year in October and February. Information on the program can be found at www.boxtops4education.com or contact Cliff Morgan 863-5891

THANK YOU EDMUNDS COMMUNITY BBQ VOLUNTEERS!

A great turnout on a beautiful evening! A special thanks goes to Lisa Cannon, the coordinator. Thanks to Alex Dewey, Darnel Thomas, Harold Moran, Dan Maxwell, David Jenemann, Kevin Worden (and his parents!), Stephanie Mueller, Taina Flores, Clare and Sam Wool, Marni Slavik, Beverly Wemple, Carolyn Hanson, Mia and John Novelli, Ken Hampel and all the great help from so many kids with set up and clean up.

WAY TO GO EDMUNDS WALK AND ROLLERS!

The next monthly themed walk and roll to school will be October 9th: International Walk to School Day. Contact Rachel Shelley (rachskye@gmail.com) with any questions.

Anything look familiar? Lost and Found items!**LOST AND FOUND**

We are only a few weeks into school and already the Lost & Found is piling up. For now, until we can find it a better home, the Lost & Found is located on the clothes rack in the Main Street entrance of EES. Please check, and encourage your children to check the Lost & Found regularly, when items go missing.

If you find an item, please hang it on the rack or place it in the bin next to the rack.

About four times a year (or when the Lost & Found is overflowing), with notice, we will clean out the Lost & Found and donate lost items directly to Edmunds families or to local organizations that collect clothes for people who need them.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE FIRST PTO MEETING!

Thank you to all who attended! Productive conversations were had about ongoing and future PTO events, the financial report, and school board-related issues, including the school budget. Clare Wool, Stephanie Mueller, and Marni Slavik were voted in as the new PTO leadership team. Many thanks to our previous leaders Peggy O'Neill and Signe Daly.

ROOM PARENTS NEEDED; NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

We especially need room parent volunteers for the following classrooms: K-Weishaar, K-Weidman, K-Zeigfinger, and 2-White. Being a room parent is a great way to get more connected to your child's classroom community and support his/her education! Room parents may help teachers to plan class parties, recruit field trip chaperones, or assist with other class projects. They help keep parents informed and involved in school activities.

Being a room parent is an important role, yet the time commitment is manageable -- typically under 15 hours per year. Being available during school hours is helpful, but not necessary. Parents new to EES are encouraged to participate (orientation provided). If you are able to be a room parent, please contact Pam Shea, pj_shea@yahoo.com or 861-2720.

BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014-2015 BUDGET PROCESS

The PTO is meeting with the faculty at Edmunds, as well as other schools, to determine the most important needs for the school budget. Please send any ideas or input to PTO leaders Marni Slavik (marnislavik@yahoo.com), Clare Wool (clarewool@mac.com), or Stephanie Mueller (smueller@vnrc.org). You can also fill out the budget survey online (www.bsdvt.org) or in hard copy form. Contact: Jeanné Collins, Superintendent (802) 864-8474 jcollins@bsdvt.org.

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>.

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 to reduce summer vacation by adding an extra week to the school year in June, and returning to school a week earlier. Blocks of times, or intersessions, would occur during the school year that could be used for multiple purposes, so that the number of school days would stay the same. For more information on the proposed regional calendar, visit: schoolcalendar2.blogspot.com

- Wednesday, October 9th, 6:30 p.m. at BHS
- Wednesday, October 2nd, 6:30 p.m. - Essex High School ☐
- Thursday, October 3rd, 6:30 p.m. - BFA St. Albans ☐
- Thursday, October 10th, 6:30 p.m. - Champlain Valley Union High School

BUDDY WALK: OCTOBER 13 AT 1:00 PM BATTERY PARK

Since 1995, the Buddy Walk® has become the premier advocacy event for Down syndrome in the United States. It is also the world's most widely recognized public awareness program for the Down syndrome community. This is the Champlain Valley Down Syndrome Group's largest annual fundraiser. Learn more at <http://www.ndss.org/Buddy-Walk/> or email Stacey Kelleher (staceyhk1568@yahoo.com).

Community Forum on the Burlington School District English Language Learner Program

Come learn about the findings of the needs assessment conducted by the New England Equity Assistance Center of the Education Alliance at Brown University and give your input in a facilitated discussion on the priorities for English Language Learners and their families.

Monday, September 30, 2013
BHS Cafeteria
6 pm-8 pm

Join us for snacks at 6 pm. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

Interpretation offered for speakers of Bosnian, Burmese, Kirundi, Maay Maay, Mahaa, Nepali, and Vietnamese. Transportation and childcare provided. Please contact a Multilingual Liaison or Nijaza Semic at nsemic@bsdvt.org or 288-6048 to discuss your needs.

Please RSVP to Chelsea Piazza at cpiazza@bsdvt.org or 865-5332 by September 27, 2013.

UVM BABYSITTERS

Every semester the Office of Student & Community Relations hosts a "Meet-and-Greet" for area families in need of responsible babysitter and UVM students interested in a babysitting job. Join us on the 4th floor of the Davis Center!

DATE: Sunday, September 22, 2013 ☐ **When: Families arrive at 10:30 and the event ends at 12 noon** ☐ **Where: Dudley H. Davis Center (590 Main Street), UVM and parking is available** ☐ **Tickets & Information:** <http://www.uvm.edu/~oscr>

PLEASE NOTE: Only currently (Fall 2013) enrolled UVM students are eligible to attend the event as prospective babysitters.

As UVM affiliates, we cannot take on the role of holding, exchanging, or advertising the particular babysitting needs of parents in the community, or the particular babysitting availability and/or qualifications of our students. We can host Babysitter Minglers where we bring students and parents together so that they can meet face to face and exchange information if they so choose. We do recommend that parents check references of the students who attended the Babysitter Mingler and use whatever screening process they would normally use when hiring a sitter.