

FRIDAY



FLASH



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

September 14, 2012

From the Principal's Desk

Linking learning to life...

Work. We all do it. But what is it? How do we do it? What tools do we use and how did we get them?

There was a time when almost everyone's work was visible and children really understood what work was as they worked or played alongside their parents. Whether a farmer, a blacksmith, a stone mason, or a homemaker, the work was a skill; the effort was visible to children. They could see their parents' hands and feet moving, changing the shape or condition of materials to either fix or create something new. Today, some work involves visible effort but far more of what we do for work takes place within our heads. Children form an impression of the work they see us doing at home such as washing dishes or mowing the lawn but that work has little resemblance to the work that we do for a living. More often than not, children have very little understanding of the work their parents do. When we ask, they are more likely to say that their mom or dad goes to an office, they sit at a desk, or they talk on the phone.

I think that the difficulty in understanding what people do for work today is related to the fact that most children are really fuzzy about how school is related to what they may do when they are adults. When asked why they think they are in school, they are quick to say, "to learn", "to get good grades" or "to go to college", but if I ask why any of those are important to them, they have no idea. Making their learning relevant is tricky because what they might want to do today will change tomorrow. Relating their learning to many fields of work is important to help them see the relevance in their efforts at school.

When I work with students who are in my office that is some of what I do. I ask them what they might want to do when they grow up. So far, firemen is the lead answer, with policeman second. I then help the students to understand how a fireman would use math, drawing pictures and talking about the way fireman needs to use math in his or her head very quickly in order to save people's lives.

When I ask students if their parents ever do math, you would be surprised how many say "no". This is an example of how we use the tools of our work mentally, but it is completely invisible to the children. If we could occasionally "think outloud" as we process those tasks that we normally do silently, the children would be better able to make the connections between what you do on a daily basis, whether at work on your job or at work around home, that is related to what we

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 19 Whole School Assembly
- Sept. 21 Picture Day
- Sept. 24 PTO Meeting 7:00pm
- Sept. 26 No School
- Sept. 27 Open House/Curriculum Night
- Oct. 5 EES Family Skate Night 5:30 - 7:30

**Whole School Assembly – September 19:
5th Graders Welcome Kindergarten Students
An Edmunds Tradition!**

(Cont'd)

do at school. You could also do that with reading by reading directions out loud and then talking to yourself (which means anyone in ear shot) about what you read and how you will use that information. It will all help them see you working in the way we work on a daily basis.

Open House and Curriculum Night

We will be hosting our Open House on Sept. 27 from 6:00 to 7:30. The Open House portion will begin at 6:00 and go until 6:25. Parents and families are welcome to have their student show their classrooms and have another opportunity to meet your child's teacher and their classmates and their families. We will have child care in the cafeteria from 6:20 to 7:30. The child care is intended to allow interested parents to focus on the curriculum portion of the evening which will begin at 6:30. Teachers will be explaining the curriculum and expectations within their classrooms. We recognize that some of you have more than one child at Edmunds and for that reason, we will offer the same information regarding the curriculum in a classroom twice; with Session I beginning at 6:30 and the Session II session starting at 7:00, ending by 7:25 so that parents can get their children from the cafeteria.

FROM THE PTO

BBQ - a great time was had by all!

We want to thank all of you for helping to make the BBQ such a success. Many parents commented on how nice it was to have so many teachers in attendance. We appreciate them joining us as it made it truly a community event. We want to thank the chair, Libby MacDonald and parent volunteers, Nancy Westbrook, Jordan Rhett, Carolyn Hansen, Kate Larson, Lisa Brighenti, Dave Jenneman, Matt Moore, Locky Macdonald, Al Morton, Emily Ankerson, Dan Maxwell, Wendy McKinnon, Miles Waite, Chris Moran, Sam Ankerson, Pam Shea, and Pam Moreau. We'd like to thank, Clare Wool for arranging and managing the sound system and Lisa Cannon for the mixer idea which gave a great way for new and veteran parents to meet. Lastly, we want to thank Monica Gragg in the office for helping to make arrangements, Mary Gordon in the kitchen, the entire custodial staff and the contact at food service, **Maria Garrido** who was very helpful in getting the behind the scenes organized.

PTO MEETING MONDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER AT 7:00 PM

Please join us at the PTO meeting on Monday, September 24th at 7:00 PM in the Library Resource Room. Agenda TBD. Childcare will be provided. For more information about PTO events contact Signe Daly (signe.daly@burlingtontelecom.net) or Peggy O'Neill (peggyov@burlingtontelecom.net) or visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>

ROOM PARENTS NEEDED

Become a room parent for the 2012-13 school year. Responsibilities include being a resource for teachers, coordinating volunteers, gathering supplies, and communicating PTO information to the parents in your child's class. Much of this work may be done in the evening via phone and e-mail. Please contact Pam Shea (pj_shea@yahoo.com) if you are able to help. (Those parents who signed up at the Welcome Back Coffee need not reply)

HELP NEEDED WITH THE FALL FUNDRAISER

This year we will be selling Dan's Chocolates, and Vermont Coffee. Volunteers are needed to help with the distribution of fundraising materials, collection of orders and sorting of orders when they arrive. If you are able to help, please contact Clare Wool (clarewool@mac.com). Thank you!

SKATE NIGHT FRIDAY, 5 OCTOBER!

Come ice skating with Edmunds Elementary, at the annual fall Skate Night, Fri., October 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be free pizza and drinks. Skates can be rented for \$3. Location is Leddy Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd. Watch for a flier coming home from school, and RSVP by returning the bottom of the flier to your class teacher. For more information, contact Warren Cornwall at cornwallw@gmail.com.

From the Community

UVM hosts Babysitter Mingler

Do you struggle to find a babysitter when you need one? Are you looking for a sitter who has a flexible schedule and lives close by?

Come to the UVM Babysitter Mingler!

A chance for parents and kids in need of babysitters to meet and mingle with UVM students who want to babysit!

10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Davis Center, Livak Ballroom *free parking available on site

To sign up and attend, please email oscr@uvm.edu

Children welcome and encouraged to attend - **when registering, please include the number of adults and children attending.** (And please tell all your friends!)

PLEASE NOTE: 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.