

FRIDAY



FLASH



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

From the Principal's Desk

As parents, you all remember fire drills. We have several emergency drills that we practice throughout the year in order to insure that students know what to do. The most frightening thing about any emergency is feeling helpless; in not knowing what to do. When that happens, individuals can panic, as can be seen when people have stampeded out of buildings, and stadiums with tragic results. The purpose of each of our drills is to insure that students have not only been given a plan of action, but that they understand it's purpose and have practiced it so that if it is ever needed, they won't panic.

They will remember these drills long into the future. I grew up during the Cold War and lived in Connecticut. I still remember the public service announcements on TV reminding us of the various signals from the air raid sirens. I remember the piercing sound from testing the sirens that would blast several times a year throughout the town. I remember the drills in school which were practiced as the town sirens wailed. The siren with the short bursts meant we had time to file out into the hall to sit against the walls and cover our heads with our arms. The continuous blast meant we were to dive under our desks to "duck and cover". The continuous sound was the sign of immediate and imminent danger with an expectation of a blinding flash and mushroom cloud! I very much remember my parents calmly making preparations during the Cuban Missile Crisis, the show down between the United States and the Soviet Union. I remember my mother taking us to purchase winter clothes when it was still warm outside, just in case we had to leave for the mid-west and I remember being aware of the overall tension. I had just turned 8.

We realize that drills can make students anxious. The reality is that we do need to talk about things that can happen - a fire, an intruder, some danger outside in town like a truck leaking gas, and how we will handle each. In the mid-West, Tornado drills are conducted in schools, and earthquake drills on the west coast. The alternative is to leave our students defenseless which puts all in harms way.

Why not talk about what you remember as a child when practicing drills? Help them to know that this is part of what helps you feel safer in knowing what to do as an adult. Talking about it calmly and reinforcing the idea that the likelihood of an emergency happening is very low, but we want to know what to do just in case is like taking swimming lessons so we know what to do if we fell in water over our head. Perhaps taking the opportunity to talk about your recollection also poses and opportunity to formulate plans in case of an emergency in your own home. You could develop a plan for fire routes, and even have a practice in your home occasionally. All of these help students develop coping skills when frightening situations arise.

September 30, 2016

Up Coming Events:

- October 1 - Navratri Begins
- October 2 - Dashain Begins & Hijri (Islamic New Year)
- October 3 - Picture Retake Day
- October 3 - Rosh Hashanah Begins
- October 4 - Rosh Hashanah Ends
- October 10 - Indigenous People Day
- October 12 - Yom Kippur (No School)

Whole School Assembly

October 5, 2016

Indigenous People's Day

Mr. Style's Class Leading

EES STUDENT COUNCIL:

We will soon be starting up a Student Council group for Grades 4 and 5. It will allow participation of all students in these grades and also elected representatives to work with teachers and administrators to plan school and community activities and events. Interested students in these grades will soon be asked to write and record a speech about why they would be a good Student Council member and some projects on which they would like to see our school work. They will also be invited to make a campaign poster, too. On Tuesday, November 1st--a week prior to our national election--students in Grades 4 and 5 will select a total of 8 of their peers to represent them on the Student Council. They will meet weekly with advisers to support the school in a variety of ways. For more information, please contact Ms. Flynn or Mr. Fleury at the school.

MUSIC NEWS:

October 3-7 is Students Perform Week! Students Perform Week is a chance for any student to share a prepared song or instrumental piece learned outside of school for their class. Successful performances have these qualities; BE PREPARED: They have been practiced ahead of time and show effort. BE TIMELY: 1-3 minutes is usually perfect and BE APPROPRIATE: Song must use school appropriate lyrics and themes. This is also a chance for students to demonstrate their skills as audience members by being: QUIET: Listening to the performance with voices quiet. 2 POLITE: eyes watching, ears listening, bodies still and 3. THANKFUL: clap at the end, share kind words.

BRAIN COGNITIVE STUDY AND UVM:

Students in Grades 3,4, and 5 will be bringing home packets of information about the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study being conducted by the University of Vermont. This study is optional for children and families and has been approved by the school district. It has also been endorsed by the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Education, For more information, please email the study coordinators at abcd@uvm.edu.

PTO LEADERS: Leigh Fisher, Hollie Foley & Rachel Shelley

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AMAZON SMILE!

Here is our Amazon Smile Charity account for EES! Now when you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price. Select Edmunds Elementary school as your charity of choice by clicking on the following link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0368400>
Remember - always shop at smile.amazon.com, (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app).

DANS CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER! NOW Thru FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14th!!

Please help your children participate in the largest fundraiser of the year for our school! The funds raised pay for many school activities such as the Welcome BBQ, Math Night, Skate night, field trips, author visits and much much more. Selling has begun and final orders must be submitted by Friday, October 14th. Chocolate delivery will be completed before Halloween! Use the flyer sent home on Wednesday to help raise money for our school! Questions? Contact Leigh Fisher at leigh.r.fisher@gmail.com or 802.735.6942.

WAY TO GO CHALLENGE: WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL:**Sept 26th-Oct 7th**

Get Ready to Walk-n-Roll in the state-wide Way to Go! Challenge.

* Let's cut our carbon and have fun getting to school on our own muscle power - walk, bike, scooter, skateboard, etc.