

FRIDAY



FLASH

GROW WITH DIGNITY



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

September 7, 2012

From the Principal's Desk

It would be 7:15 in the morning. I'd be hurrying the kids up when one of them would say, "Are we going to the Open House tonight?" Without skipping a beat, I'd say, "Of course we are", never letting on that I'd completely forgotten all about it! As a parent of 4 kids, who attended three different schools, all the requisite sporting events, and who commuted 45 minutes to work, I would have appreciated the technology that helps with reminders the night before an event rather than at 7:15 in the morning when getting everyone off for the day.

I know that you have already experienced Alert Now, the system that enables us to provide you with messages concerning school via telephone. The vast majority of our families have indicated that they value the system. There are a few important things that you should know about how we will use Alert Now.

We will not send out an Alert Now message during the day unless there is a situation at school that requires informing you immediately. All emergency numbers that you have provided will be called. If you find that you missed a call from the school in the middle of the day, *please listen to the phone message. The message will have the information and instructions you need.* If there is an emergency, we will be using the phones to be in contact with emergency services personnel. It will make it more difficult to be in contact with the people who help us in an emergency if our phone lines are busy with parents seeking information. In order to be part of helping out, I'd like to suggest that you connect with another parent who you can call to check in with should your message be garbled (you'll be able to use the Edmunds Directory to set up that contact). Our Central Office for the Burlington School District would also be aware of the situation so that may be another source to call.

Alert Now is used for school closure (snow days). Those calls go out between 6:00 and 6:15 am. We also use the system to communicate about school events and more unusual but important situations such as the call about peanut allergies that went out before school started. We make sure that the messages are short. My goal is no longer than 60 seconds. I schedule them for 7:15 pm in an attempt to avoid the dinner hour but be early enough so as not to interrupt bed time routines. As before the system will leave messages on your answering machine so if you miss a call, listen to the message instead of calling the school because there will be no one answering the phone in the evening.

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 7 PTO BBQ 5:30
- Sept. 12 Whole School Assembly
- Sept. 19 Whole School Assembly
- Sept. 21 Picture Day
- Sept. 24 PTO Meeting 7:00pm
- Sept. 26 No School
- Oct. 5 EES Family Skate Night 5:30 - 7:30

**Whole School Assembly – September 12:
Focus on Healthy Foods Jeopardy!**

I know that some find the calls a little annoying and to those people I apologize for any inconvenience. We are able to target classrooms specifically to minimize the impact and use it for major events or special circumstances.

The true value in the system is that it helps more parents access Edmunds Elementary School programs, events and information. We know that to be true because the attendance at school events increases dramatically when we use Alert Now. That impacts our students in very positive ways.

Edmunds Directory and the PTO Email List

In order to help families connect, Edmunds has a school directory that is organized by classroom. The directory includes parents' names and contact information. The Edmunds PTO has an email list that they use to send out information to families. We are able to provide the PTO with our families' email addresses. They use the tool to block others from seeing your email when sending news. Those wishing to be included in both don't need to do a thing.

We understand that some may prefer not to be included in the directory or have their email addresses shared with the PTO. We are sending home a form included with today's Friday Flash that enables them to indicate that preference. It is also possible to indicate a willingness to be included in one but not the other. Please take the time to fill it out if that is your preference and return it to us no later than next Wednesday, September 12.

If we do not hear from you by September 12th, you will be included in the directory and the PTO email list.

FROM THE PTO

EDMUNDS COMMUNITY BBQ: FRIDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Please join us for the annual Edmunds Community BBQ, sponsored by the EES PTO, on Friday, 7 September at 5:30 pm on the upper playing field. This is for our students, parents, families and EES faculty and staff.

Burgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs and drinks provided.
EES Families with last names from A - L: Please bring salad or side dish to share.

EES Families with last names from M - Z: Please bring dessert to share.

Bring blankets and lawn chairs

Walk or bike

FREE!!

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.

INTERESTED IN BEING A FOUR WINDS VOLUNTEER?

Looking for a way to do some fun and meaningful volunteer work in your child's class? Four Winds is a hands-on natural science program run by parent volunteers in every class for every grade at Edmunds. Each class has the opportunity for 8 workshops throughout the year. Volunteers are encouraged to make a year-long commitment to the program and to attend 8 trainings approximately once a month on Friday mornings (8:15-10:15) at the school. The overall commitment is about 4 hours a month. We need two volunteers for each class. Our first training for the year is Friday, Sept 14 from 8:15-10:15 am in the resource room next to the library. This year's theme is earth and sky, and our first workshop is about sun power. If you have any questions about four winds at Edmunds, please contact coordinator Carolyn Hanson at carolynhanson21@gmail.com.

For more information about the program, please visit www.fourwindsinstitute.org.



Kindergarten students in Mrs. Weishaar's class enjoy healthy snack while classmate demonstrates cleaning up

From the Community

Ward 6 NPA Meeting Thursday September 6 at the Greek Orthodox Church 7PM

Do you have pressing issues regarding the City? Curious about Plan BTV, the new taxes just proposed or wondering about SmartMeters? Want to know more about CEDO's new director? Come to our next Neighborhood Planning Assembly meeting! This is your chance to ask those burning questions and meet some of Burlington's most influential citizens. Come to the meeting!