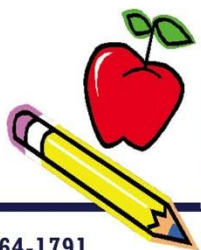


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

From the Principal's Desk

I have found the discussion regarding the school budget very concerning because of the emphasis on a tax rate rather than what our dollars are doing for students. Simply put, you get what you pay for. The dollars have an impact on students, either directly as in classroom teachers, interventionists and specialists, or indirectly as in administrators, buildings and grounds and Central Office. My doctoral research indicates a clear relationship between investment in direct instruction and student achievement. That relationship grows over time - positively or negatively depending upon the level of investment. The closer the investment (spending) is to students, the greater the relationship to student achievement. I have presented these results nationally at conferences, and to the Vermont State House and Senate Education Committees, the Secretary of Education and Governor Phil Scott.

The stated goal of Burlington School District is to reduce our achievement gap which is the difference in math and literacy achievement that can be seen between demographic groups - as in lower income, students of color, English Language students etc. This means that students who have had fewer opportunities actually have to achieve more in order to catch up to students who have had more opportunities than they and requires additional support.

The budget proposed at last Tuesday's School Board Meeting included \$420,000 for Interventionists, cutting the number in half. Every elementary school currently has two interventionists; one for math and one for literacy. The interventionists are experts in teaching in math or literacy with specific training in methods that enhance learning for students who are struggling. The budget proposal would require us to choose between literacy or math. Both skills are essential to the long term success of our children as they grow into adulthood.

The work of the interventionists is critical to every school. Our enrollment numbers require their focus to be on Kindergarten, first and second grades, working to fill in gaps in learning. We would all benefit from an additional interventionist for grade 3-5 in math especially but our budget doesn't support that. The work of the interventionists also includes working with our faculty to enhance their methods and skills to improve first-best instruction. They push into classrooms, co-teaching, and they plan with teachers in reviewing results of assessments to adjust instruction to meet the needs of our students.

January 19, 2018

Up Coming Events:

Jan. 27: Math Night - 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Feb. 9: PACK THE GUTT - 7:00 PM

Whole School Assembly
February 1, 2018
Food Audit Results!
Chittenden Solid Waste District

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They monitor our achievement data, providing the information to the faculty and me on a regular basis so that we are able to assess our effectiveness. They are important members of our School Leadership team, assisting in formulating and executing strategies and are on the team required by the State of Vermont to respond to the new Federal ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) law.

The individuals at Edmunds Elementary School fulfilling the role of Math Interventionist is Kait Hale and our Literacy Interventionist is Janet Halpin. I value them highly but ultimately, I value the ability to have individuals in the roles of interventionists. If you are unfamiliar with the work of interventionists, please ask your child's teacher their opinion of the importance of the interventionists.

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:**

If you have a child turning 5 on or before September 1, 2018, you need to register them now for Kindergarten.

Registration can only be done online at the district website: <http://ees.bsdrv.org/school-registration/>. If you do not have access to a computer or need assistance you may stop by your neighborhood school where you will be given access to a computer and help with any questions. To learn more about our school, you may choose to come for a visit; our next tour is scheduled for **Friday, February 2nd at 11:00 am**. Of course, if this date doesn't work for you, you may call for a tour by appointment at 864-8473.

PTO NEWS

PTO LEADERS: Leigh Fisher, Jenny Sullivan and Rachel Shelley **PTO CONTACT:** pto@eespto.org

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27th: RSVP FOR MATH NIGHT

The Edmunds Elementary PTO is sponsoring the 10th Annual Family Math Night. **FREE!** Explore the wonders of math with your children and let them show you what they are learning. A variety of activities, math centers and home learning activities will be available for children of all ages, such as graphing, chess, games using dice and playing cards and many other fun activities. Prizes, desserts and drinks too! We will have National Honor Society students from BHS to help facilitate games so that parents can fully enjoy the night with their children.

We're bringing back PIZZA at 5:00: Join us for FREE pizza in the First Grade Hallway before Math night begins. RSVP by sending an email to Rachel Shelley (rachskye@gmail.com) including your child's name, grade level and number of people attending. A paper Math Night flyer is being sent home with your child this week.

For those of you new to Math Night, here is how the night will work. **5:00 - 5:30 pm:** Pizza and drinks will be served in the first grade hallway. Math night begins at 5:30. Games in the gym/cafeteria. Each student will go home with a Math game you can play at home.

We are also looking for donations of new or gently used -- with all the pieces--math related games (Uno, Chutes and Ladders, Yahtzee, Phase 10, Dominoes, Set, Sequence, Chess, etc.) for the raffle at the end of the night; and veggies and dip to serve along with the pizza, as well as desserts too. Please contact Rachel Shelley (rachskye@gmail.com) if you are able to contribute. We hope to see you all there! Thank you for your donation!

BOX TOP \$ FOR EDUCATION PIZZA PARTY COMPETITION

Looking for a New Years' resolution guaranteed to be a success? Collect Box Tops for Education! You and your child will feel great about raising 10 cents per Box Top (which adds up quickly) for EES. *Need extra incentive?* The class that donates the greatest number of Box Tops between NOW and FEBRUARY 23 will be treated to a pizza party! It's so easy...just clip those Box Tops for Education and bring them to your classroom where there is a special pizza box with your teacher's name on it. We will announce the winning classroom in March!