



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY FLASH



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

From the Principal's Desk

The idea that failure is the greatest teacher is one that may seem odd and yet, failure and struggle is exactly what allows us to develop. There are times when we adults may want to protect our children from failure and struggle. Ironically, none of us would shield a child from the failure they experienced early on in life. Imagine if we protected them from the bumps and bruises and frustration they experienced learning to crawl and walk. It is the trial and error, and their persistence that finally allows an infant to learn to stand and walk. It takes time, and sometimes is painful to watch and tempting to rescue them from, but we all know that they need to go through the process in order to finally succeed.

Allowing a child to struggle and even to fail can get complicated as they get older. Knowing the difference between supporting a child and intervening is important. Supporting a child may involve pointing them in the right direction, but refrains from fixing the problem for them as much as possible. It is encouraging them to try again, being there to give a pat on the back, or a hug and letting them know you believe in their capacity to overcome the challenge. It's being their cheering section and letting them know that they should be proud of the effort they put in. Focusing on the effort rather than the product reinforces the idea that success comes from effort more than intellect.

Intervening is helping to a point where the struggle is removed from the child, whether by doing the work for them, or removing the task altogether. When this happens, we need to examine our motivation as adults. Occasionally, there is good reason to remove the task altogether - at least temporarily. If a child is emotionally so distraught that they are unable to think clearly, intervention is advisable, but that intervention doesn't mean doing the work. It simply means, intervening to let the child know that it's time to take a break from the work until they are calm enough to tackle it again. It could mean counseling the child on how to go back and get help if they don't understand the work or working harder on honing the skills needed before tackling the task.

If the reason for intervention is our own assumption of status or stigma as a result of our child's success or failure, that is a misplaced reason for intervention. We need to allow each child to experience their own journey on the learning continuum without the notion of impact on their parents. Our society sees far too much impact from the competitiveness associated with the status or stigma attributed to students progress. I look to the day when the learning continuum is truly respected as a path that each takes, as they are ready, and in their own time.

Date and Volume Number

January 5, 2018

Up Coming Events:

- Jan. 9 - Kindergarten Sneak Peek, 5:30 PM
- Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Day - **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- Jan. 17: In-service - **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- Jan. 19 - VSO Petting Zoo
- Jan. 27: Math Night - **SAVE THE DATE!** 5 - 7 PM

Whole School Assembly
January 11, 2018
Martin Luther King Day
We Shall Overcome

MUSIC COMPOSITION CLUB

Composition Club is a music technology club that invites interested students in grades 3, 4 or 5 to write music using music notation software and music looping software. Some students will be able to post their work for feedback from professional composers and submit work for the Opus contest which may result in student work being played by professional musicians. Composition club will meet on Thursdays from 2:50-3:45 January 18th - March 29th. Register [Here](#). See Ms. Nolan for a paper registration if needed.

SAVE THE DATE

3-5 Fine Arts Night is scheduled for Thursday, February 15th at 6:00 PM. This is great opportunity for families to see the wonderful work that happens in art and music at EES!

4/5 CHORUS NEWS

The 4th and 5th grade chorus had a beautiful performance on Church Street, December 21 as part of the COTS candlelight vigil. It was a very cold night and the students did a great job singing and supporting this important organization! For the next two weeks, chorus will have an open registration period for 4th and 5th graders interested in joining for the second half of the school year. Students already enrolled do not need to sign-up again. New participants can sign-up [here](#). See Ms. Nolan for a paper registration if needed.

Dear Parents:

Edmunds Elementary is participating in a statewide program called **Reading is an Investment**. The goal of the program is to teach elementary-aged children personal finance concepts. We are one of many Vermont elementary schools who will use the program managed by the Vermont State Treasurer's Office. Participating schools are sent three new books each year that highlight a specific personal finance theme. Through lessons and activities in the school library and personal reading, students are introduced to basic financial concepts. The 2017-2018 personal finance theme is "**Creative Ideas Pay Off**".

There are two parts to this program—personal reading and school instructional activities. As a parent, you have the opportunity to help your child complete a reading log that will then be entered into a drawing for a \$250 college savings plan account. Last year, more than 4,200 students statewide completed logs and entered the drawing. Twenty prizes will be awarded this year. In order to complete a reading log, a student must read three books from a recommended money reading list and complete additional free reading requirements. The reading logs and recommended money reading list are available through our school library. I am sending home a copy of the log with your child, so please look for it. You also may print a reading log and reading list by going to

<http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/content/2017-2018-reading-investment>

The deadline to complete a reading log and mail it into the State Treasurer's Office is March 15, 2018. **If you prefer, I am collecting the completed reading logs and will send them in for you on March 4, 2018.** Just have your child bring the completed form into the library.

The titles and authors for the 2017-2018 school term are: The Bridge of the Golden Wood by Karl Beckstrand; Count on Pablo by Barbara deRubertis; and The Soda Bottle School by Kutner & Slade. We will also be reading other money themed books that supplement this unit during our library class times together.

I hope this combination of personal reading and instructional exercises will help our students expand their knowledge of personal finance. If you have any questions, please contact me at kneil@bsdvt.org
Sincerely, Kathryn Neil, EES Librarian

PTO NEWS

PTO LEADERS: Leigh Fisher, Jenny Sullivan and Rachel Shelley

PTO CONTACT: pto@eespto.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NO FRILLS THANK YOU!

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of this community we met our Fundraising goal!!

KINDERGARTEN SNEAK PEEK! TUESDAY JANUARY 9TH

Bring your soon to be Kindergartner for a night to get a "Sneak Peek" at EES Kindergarten. Our Kindergarten teachers will be showing them the classroom, reading stories and telling them all about Edmunds. EES PTO provides pizza for all who attend. Don't have a Kindergartner next year, but know someone who does? Please pass along this email with the details! Front Horseshoe entrance - 5:30pm!

VERMONT COFFEE ORDERS DUE ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH

Coffee will be delivered on Friday, January 12th. Drop off in EES PTO mailbox by Tuesday 3pm or pay via Paypal [here!](#) We partner with the Vermont Coffee Company to bring high-quality, fair-trade, organic coffee beans to you for the same price as you'll pay at the grocery store, but to benefit EES.

SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, JANUARY 27th, 5:00-7:00 PM MATH NIGHT!!!

The Edmunds Elementary PTO is sponsoring the 8th Annual Family Math Night. 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.

FROM THE COMMUNITY:

The Greater Burlington
Multicultural Resource Center

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance

Sun, Jan 14, 2018
3:00pm
First Unitarian
Universalist Society
152 Pearl Street

FREE
Tickets available at
Fletcher Free Library, City Market,
and Peace & Justice Center

Keynote Speaker
Louis Gossett Jr.
Award-winning actor
Also: Montpelier Community Gospel Choir

Civil Rights Panel
Mon, Jan 15, 12:00pm
Fletcher Free Library (no tickets required)

Info: 802-657-4219
www.gbmrc.org