

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

From the Principal's Desk

I am delighted that the Burlington School Board supported the flying of the "Black Lives Matter" at BHS. In saying that, I think it is important that adults help our children understand the context of that statement. "Black Lives Matter" does not mean that other lives don't matter. It means that Black lives matter as much as other lives, in all the opportunities that exist here in the United States. Helping children to understand that there are many opportunities that have been denied because of the color of people's skin; that there are still examples of the prejudice in our society which diminishes others' experiences and opportunities as members of our society is the reason for the "Black Lives Matter" movement and flag.

Helping children to understand the context of the movement and the flag is important because they may see messages from those who want to minimize the importance of the movement. This has happened where statistics have been used to make it appear that there is not a need to acknowledge where racism is still injuring members of our society.

Presenting statistics that may be accurate as pure numbers but that lack context is a great example of the old adage, "Statistics don't lie, Statisticians do". Of course all lives matter, but when there is real disproportionality in how people are treated, it is necessary to confront that which allows that disproportionality to exist in order to fix it.

Martin Luther King said it best when he said, "True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring". Unfortunately, the edifice of institutionalized racism still exists in our society. Any system that marginalizes a people for whatever reason needs restructuring.

We will be working harder to help students develop the skills to recognize the need to delve deeper when statistics are used to promote a position; to question and examine the relevance of the numbers, as well as the sources and even, as students become more capable, the motivation of those sources. Teaching students the importance of critically examining sources and context when looking at statistics is an important step in restructuring an edifice that is harmful.

February 16, 2018

Up Coming Events:

Feb. 15: Fine Arts Night (Grades 3-5) - 6:00 PM

Feb. 23: Reports Cards Go Home

Feb. 26 - Mar. 5: Spring Break - NO SCHOOL

Whole School Assembly
March 8, 2018
If the World Were a Village of 100
Miss Flynn's Class Leading

A REQUEST FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE:

Our health office is in dire need of socks and undies! At this time of year, the need for socks is at a premium, and we're simply just out of undies, especially for boys. If you have any socks that are no longer needed, we'd be happy to accept a donation of all sizes! As for the undies, boys and/or girls size 6-8. Thank you!

FIDDLE TUNES CLUB AT EES!

Fiddle Tunes Club at The Burlington Elementary School with Mark Sustic begins the week of March 12, 2018 and continues for 5 consecutive Weeks. The club is offered at no cost to students or schools and is sponsored by BSD community partner Young Traditions Vermont (www.youngtraditionvermont.org). Any Burlington Elementary student with a fiddle and at least *one year's experience playing* is invited to participate. The club is designed to prepare the same music at all the elementary schools so we can come together and play for the Community Dance on Thursday evening May 3rd at Burlington High School. Sessions will be taught by Mark Sustic (mark.sustic@gmail.com) or other members of the Young Traditions teaching community.

Students from EES will meet Monday 3-4 pm in the music room. If you would like to get involved sign up [here](#) or get a signup sheet from Ms. Nolan.



PTO NEWS

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

BOX TOP\$ FOR EDUCATION

Final Countdown!!! Box Top\$ have been pouring in, along with reports of a rise in sibling rivalry (so sorry - unintended consequence)!! Now is the time to get those last few Box Top\$ out of the cupboard...search the bottom of that kitchen junk drawer! The last day to submit Box Top\$ to raise much needed funds for EES and WIN a pizza party for your classroom is Friday, February 23rd.

EES DRAMA BAKE SALE

Please donate your baked goods and sign up to sell the goodies all to benefit the EES Play, Mary Poppins! We will be holding our annual Election Day Bake Sale on **Tuesday, March 6th**. (The first day back after Winter Break). This year, the kids will be at school so hop on over to the EMS Gym and take a shift at the table. All the proceeds from this event will go towards helping us reach our financial goal for our 2018 production of Mary Poppins We will start collecting all food/drink donations as of 8:00 AM. While we do charge a nominal fee for the play, most of our expenses are paid through the generosity of our community.

[Sign up Genius is here!](#)

FROM THE COMMUNITY:

YMCA SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES:

The YMCA has amazing summer opportunities for our students! The Y will be offering 6 weeks of Community Engagement Camps. These camps will have your students working hard to make a difference in their home town. Each week the Y will partner with a different organization to complete a project. There will be some adventure too! For more information, contact Katelyn Irwin, YMCA Youth Development Coordinator at 652-8153 or kirwin@qbymca.org

SUMMER CAMP AT SMUGGLER'S NOTCH!

Smuggler's Notch summer camp is open to children ages 5-15 and includes a variety of fun and exciting programs. Participation also includes transportation with a counselor-staffed shuttle. For more information, call Summer Fun University at 802-644-1090 or visit smuggs.com/vtcamp for more information.