



**EDMUNDS**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# FRIDAY FLASH



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

## From the Principal's Desk

Part of the work we do here is to teach social skills. You've probably seen the signs around the building that reinforce the need to be responsible, respectful and safe.

We've noticed an increase among our students of being a bit touchy and unkind to each other. While it isn't a terrible situation by any means, this year has been very calm so any increase is noticeable and we aim to "nip it in the bud". The issue is often a question of how children are choosing to react to a situation. For example, when a student feels physical contact in a crowded space, we've seen them react as if someone intentionally hit. An assumption of being hit or pushed quickly turns into retaliation - pushing, hitting or kicking the person they felt did them harm. Sometimes it isn't even the person who bumped into them. While we've all had knee-jerk reactions to situations, we grow to recognize that we do need to slow down and think before reacting.

The conversations we have with students after an incident of retaliation for a perceived harm reveal a sense that retaliation is the norm and expected - that somehow retaliating is a statement of their position in the world. This eye-for-an eye mentality may seem reasonable to them, but our experience is that it leads to an escalation of actions as each person increases their response making the climate unpleasant for all. Ironically, it is generally the person who last retaliated that is caught in the act.

We work with students to help them consider that there are other ways to react to situations and slowing down enough to think is always going to be their best tactic. It takes practice and reinforcement. Some of the tactics that allow some time to think are counting to ten, breathing deeply, and stepping away from the situation to allow some space.

Yesterday's Whole School Assembly focused on Kindness and the students and adults all made the following Kindness Pledge.

"I pledge to myself on this very day to try to be kind in every way. To every person big or small I will help them if they fall. When I love myself and others too, that is the best that I can do".

## Date and Volume Number

March 23, 2018

## Up Coming Events:

April 12 - Fine Arts Night: K-2

April 23-27 - Spring Break: No School for Students

**Whole School Assembly**  
**April 5, 2018**  
**PTO - Skate Night**  
**Ms. Flaherty & Goldsmith Class Leading**

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at the 31st BCA City Hall Art Show Thursday night. Their work is exhibited in the lobby of City Hall. We want to thank Joanna Elliot for her excellent instruction in the creation of works of art.

**Sophia Ambroggio - Belal Ashraf - Gavin Bowley - Riley Davis - Gretchen Fitzgerald - Mia Gorman - Amina Hussein - Poppy Killpatrick - Bawmu Lawla - Shakira Lumen - Wendy Mai - Devorah Martin - Sofia Mendez - Franco Milano - Josh Mutar - Hunter Noel - Mohammed Osman - Carrie Pecsényicki - Sam Perlah-Hard - Lillian Robtoy - Stella Smiar - Victoria Tornwini - Ivy Van Der Velden**

*The Bently Davis Siefer Art Award: Sophia Ambroggio and Gretchen Fitzgerald.*

## PTO NEWS

**PTO LEADERS:** Leigh Fisher, Jenny Sullivan and Rachel Shelley

**PTO CONTACT:** [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org)

### A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM YOUR MORNING TRAFFIC CIRCLE VOLUNTEERS:

Please refrain from passing vehicles in the traffic circle unless specifically directed to do so by the volunteer in the bright yellow vest. This creates a hazard for students exiting on the left side of vehicles, which is sometimes necessary due to car seats or other reasons. We recognize that morning drop-off is a hectic time, but please remember that safety is the top priority. If you are in a big hurry, consider pulling over on Main St. to let your children exit and walk to the building. Thanks for keeping us all safe and ensuring that this busy time goes smoothly for all!!

### THANK YOU MARY POPPINS VOLUNTEERS

**THANK YOU** to the parent volunteers that scrambled to get kids on and off stage, in and out and in and out of their costume changes, help cue their lines, work the lighting, make sure the mics are working..... It goes without saying, the production is impossible without your generous efforts - but please know how greatly it is appreciated.

### ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION CONTEST

#### **DRUM-ROLL PLEASE!!!!!!**

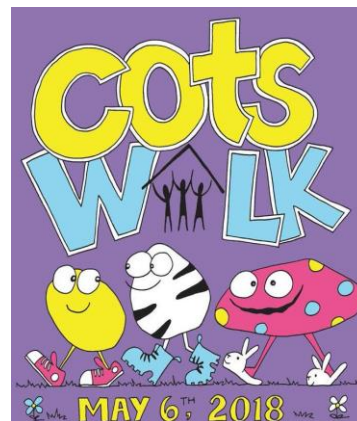
In 1st place and the winner of the Box tops for Education contest is **Ms. McMorris's** 2nd grade class. They collected an incredible 330 Box tops!!

**Mr. Gillard's** 5th grade class came in 2nd place with an outstanding 232 Box tops collected!! Congratulations to both these classes - you have BOTH won a class pizza party!! Thank you everyone for participating!! Each classroom contributed a very impressive number of Box tops. All combined we raised \$215.80 for EES!!!

### SKATE NIGHT FRIDAY, APRIL 6TH FROM 6-8PM

EES students and their families are invited to Leddy Ice Arena for a fun night of skating and socializing. The PTO will provide free pizza as well as skate rentals. If able please bring a snack, drink or dessert to share. Also seeking a few people to help staff the event. This is a night you don't want to miss. See you there! any questions please contact [katelekstutis@gmail.com](mailto:katelekstutis@gmail.com)

## FROM THE COMMUNITY:



### COTS WALK 2018

The COTS Walk is almost here! Save the date - May 6, 2018. Register Today by calling 802-864-7402, Ext. 207

*The dissemination of this material is intended to be of community service. Burlington School District does not endorse nor sponsor this organization.*