

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

## From the Principal's Desk

September 21, 2018

## Up Coming Events:

Sept. 23 - Sukkot Begins

I frequently have children in my office who have been sent to me. I always ask the student what their understanding is of why they are in my office. There are three basic responses: an accurate retelling of their behavior; declaration of innocence which leaves out significant details of the story; or blaming the other person (which sometimes turns out to be true). No child wants to be in trouble for obvious reasons. They want to avoid the consequences including any punishment they may receive at home. Some immediately take responsibility for their choice of behavior while others take a bit longer, owning up once they know that we know the truth.

There are times when a student refuses to take any responsibility for their choice in behavior. They balk when asked to reflect on how their actions met the expectations of our school community, or may have harmed others. They place blame on others including the adults who identified their behavior, saying the adult "got them in trouble", "doesn't like them" or is mean.

The unwillingness to be introspective and take responsibility for choices is something that we work hard to correct. Difficulty with introspection can be based in many things including embarrassment, a lack of empathy, a need for control, fear of the consequence of the behavior or knowing that their trusted adults were likely to trust them above others. Regardless of the reason, failure to be introspective and take responsibility results in repeat behaviors. It can also result in peers avoiding a child who repeatedly harms them, leaving the student socially isolated.

Our children will always be able to give us their perspective, and it is important to listen. Hearing the other side of the story is also important. Motivation is key to discerning the truth. Is your child trying to avoid the consequence of your discovering their behavior or to gain your sympathy? Is the teacher trying to avoid repeat behaviors? I can tell you, that calling parents to tell them about a problem is never something I enjoy having to do, but it is important in helping children to grow into the successful people we all want them to be.

**Whole School Assembly**  
**September 27, 2018**  
**Kindergarten Welcome**  
**Fifth Grade Leading**

**WELCOME TO EDMUNDS: A LONGSTANDING TRADITION**

This coming week we have a special tradition that we hope the parents of our 5th graders and Kindergartners will join us for. Every year our 5th graders welcome each of our kindergarten students during our Whole School Assembly this coming Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you join us.

**EES AWARDED ARTIST IN SCHOOL GRANT!**

As we announced last week, EES was awarded a \$2500 "Artist In Schools" grant for students in grades 3-5, to work with the local artist Alexandra Turner, who will be working with students during art class on Tuesdays-Fridays for five weeks. Our students will be exploring the structures of native plants, minerals, and how fossils form over time. They will be immersed in geology, scientific drawing, outdoor plant collection, and will culminate with working with glass to create their own artwork on native plants fused into glass. If you would like to help support this residency, flat, clear glass (old windowpanes, for example) is needed and appreciated. If possible, please be certain that the glass is not in a wood casing that could contain leaded paint. All glass panels can be dropped off to the art room at any time over the next two weeks.

**MUSIC NEWS**

Last chance to sign up for 4th and 5th grade chorus until the second session begins in January. If you filled out a paper form you do NOT need to register again. To register your child, please fill out the registration form linked [here](#). 3rd and 4th grade students will be beginning our recorder unit in mid-October. Keep an eye out for recorder order forms going home next week. The kids are really excited about this part of our curriculum!

## PTO NEWS

**PTO LEADERS:** Jenny Sullivan, Pam Moreau and Stacey Kelleher **PTO CONTACT:** [pto@eespto.org](mailto:pto@eespto.org)

Hi everyone! Thanks to all who attended the Welcome Back BBQ last Friday. Also, a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who made it all possible. What a great way to start out the new school year!

### WAY TO GO CHALLENGE: WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL September 25 -October 6

- Get ready to Walk-n-Roll in the state-wide Way to Go! Challenge.
- Let's cut our carbon and have fun getting to school on our own muscle power--walk, bike, scooter, skateboard, etc.
- If your parents drive you, have them drop you off a couple of blocks from school and walk the rest of the way--every little bit counts!
- We'll be competing with schools across the state for the coveted Carbon Cup Award. Let's bring it to Edmunds!
- Students and staff will track their modes of transportation to and from school each day during the challenge. Our coordinator will enter our data and we can track our progress.
- Questions, please contact  
Peggy: [peggyov5@gmail.com](mailto:peggyov5@gmail.com) or  
Rachel: [rachskye@gmail.com](mailto:rachskye@gmail.com)

### EDMUNDS WALKS & ROLLS ON OPEN STREETS

Open Streets is a free city program that provides the people of Burlington a chance to explore miles of urban streets in a safe car-free environment. We want to bring Edmunds families together to celebrate Open Streets and showcase a new demonstration project with a designated bus stop and protected bike lane in front of our school.

**When:** Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 11:30 am

**Where:** Meet on S. Union Street in front of EMS

**Who:** Any and all EES and EMS students, families and school community members (that means teachers, staff and principals, too!). **Why:** To celebrate Open Streets in Burlington, kick off the Edmunds pop-up bus stop zone and protected bike lane demo, and the Way to Go! School Challenge. **How:** Don't have a bike? No worries! Walkers, strollers, wheelchairs, skateboards and all people-powered vehicles welcome (just no cars). **What's the route:** Edmunds to Sustainability Academy, which is about a 10-minute bike ride at an easy pace. We'll walk and roll

along Union Street then turn left on North Street and head to S.A. At our arrival, you can have a bike-blended smoothie, and then explore all the fun and cool activities on car-free streets! Contact: Peggy: [peggyov5@gmail.com](mailto:peggyov5@gmail.com) (EES, EMS, BHS parent) or Rachel: [rachskye@gmail.com](mailto:rachskye@gmail.com) (EES, EMS parent).

## Volunteer Opportunities

We still are **seeking room parents** for the following classes:

- Ms. Fitzpatrick
- Ms. Johnson
- Mr. Styles
- Ms. Kaseta

Please consider stepping up for these roles. It really makes a big difference for the children and the teachers. Please contact Melanie Needle if you are interested. [mneedle@gmail.com](mailto:mneedle@gmail.com)

### SEEKING DAN'S CHOCOLATES CO-COORDINATOR

Dan's Chocolates is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We are looking for someone who is interested in co-coordinating with Jenny . This is our biggest fundraiser and we are so lucky to have it! This would be a great way to enter the PTO volunteer arena and really make a difference for our school. Please contact Jenny Sullivan ([wonderjennyvt@yahoo.com](mailto:wonderjennyvt@yahoo.com)) if you are interested.

### LAST CALL FOR MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

**COORDINATOR: November 2**

Multicultural Night is a fun family night focused on cultural origins to celebrate the diversity at EES. Families are invited to share music, a song, a dance, or a craft, as well as a traditional (or favorite) dish for the potluck dinner. This event needs a minimum of three volunteers and so far no one has stepped up. We have a wonderful diverse community to celebrate and we need your help to make it happen. If we are unable to find volunteers to coordinate this event, it will, unfortunately, have to be canceled. Please contact Jenny Sullivan ([wonderjennyvt@yahoo.com](mailto:wonderjennyvt@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in coordinating this event.

Thank you!  
Jenny, Pam and Stacey