

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

From the Principal's Desk

I know that you are all familiar with fire drills having experienced them in school yourself. Some of you may have also experienced some of the other drills we now have at school. I thought it would be useful to have more information regarding the types of safety alerts we have at school. The importance of drills is to not only practice the emergency procedures, but is essential to preventing panic should the safety alert be for a real emergency. Knowing what to do promotes calm which is essential to keeping everyone safe. The safety drills we practice at EES include fire drills, lockdown drills and one off-site evacuation drill. There are other safety procedures that you may encounter such as "clear the halls" and "shelter in place".

First and foremost, know that any drill requiring us to leave the building includes a protocol where we check the attendance of every student in the school to insure that we have every child. I think everyone should be familiar with fire drills, also known as an Evacuation Drill. Every location at our school has a preferred route to the outside of the building and the students are taught that route. This includes their classrooms for art, music, PE and Library/Computer lab. We also do an evacuation drill to Champlain College once a year. This is in case there is an issue that requires that we not remain on the Edmunds Campus. The district has a full plan for contacting parents should this be necessary.

A Lockdown Drill (also known as a Secure the Building) is used when there is an intruder in the building. All individuals need to go immediately to a classroom or office where doors are closed and locked. Shades must be drawn, lights off, and students and faculty must be away from view and silent. No one will be allowed into the building during a Lockdown Drill. Doors will not be opened until such time as an announcement is made by myself or the Burlington Police or Fire Department personnel releasing the class.

If you find yourself volunteering or visiting during this drill, it is important that you follow these procedures. If you are in a classroom, please support the faculty and staff in maintaining calm among students and in keeping the door locked should there be a knock after the door is closed. The one thing that you may find difficult is to not open the door should there be a knock on the door because you cannot know for sure if it is safe. This is for the protection of all students as our classrooms are linked by interior doors into other classrooms. Opening one door gives access to every class room on the same side of the hall. Students who

September 28, 2018

Up Coming Events:

Oct. 3 - PTO Meeting 6-7 PM; EES, Room 114

Oct. 8 - Dan's Chocolate Sale Begins!

Oct. 19 - In-Service: **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

Oct. 22 - Winter Coat Swap Begins

Oct. 25 - **EARLY RELEASE:** 11:30 AM

Whole School Assembly
October 4, 2018
Indigenous People's Day
Ms. Flynn's Class Leading

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are not able to get back into their classroom (perhaps they were in the restroom when the call was made) are trained to go into a bathroom stall, close the door and pull their feet up should the classroom doors be locked. Students who were moving in the building but in the hall are trained to go to the closest room before the doors shut. The bathroom doors shut automatically like all other doors. I can tell you from experience that our students take the drills seriously and do exactly what they have been taught to do.

When a Lockdown is going on, we are supported by the Burlington Police and Fire Department who go through the building with me and Melissa Hathaway. We divide the task into two teams, going into every room, checking to see if the procedures are being implemented correctly, reassuring the students, and complimenting them for taking the practice seriously. We have found that our youngest students have a harder time remaining silent after we have come into their classrooms so for that reason, we check on Kindergarten last because we can end the drill very quickly after we've checked on them. Normally, these drills last about 25 minutes.

You may also hear an announcement to "Clear the Hall" which usually will include a specific floor or stairwell. This drill is meant to protect the privacy/confidentiality of a student or staff member. A student may be having a difficult time or an individual may be injured and is being cared for by Emergency Services. The situation is generally for a short time period while the situation at hand is resolved. All are expected to avoid the area that has been identified and carry on in classrooms until clearance is provided. The administration will limit the area in question as much as possible using fire doors and

when possible, providing alternate routes so that we can continue as normally as possible until the "all clear" is given.

We do try to warn visitors who have come to the school at a time when we know a drill is coming, to avoid having your day interrupted. Once the drill starts, we ask for everyone's cooperation in adhering to the guidelines. Talking about the importance of practicing these drills with your student is one way that you can help them with any anxiety they may have. It is a scary thing to think about the need for a drill. You may be interested in learning that police across the country have found that children have helped adults remain safe during incidents involving shooting in public places because of what they learned during these drills.

And finally, in an effort to keep our students safe during an emergency, please do not attempt to call or text them on their cell phones; this will only put them at risk. The telephone lines need to be available to first responders, so please do not call the school or the district office. If there is a true emergency, families will be informed as soon as possible through our school messenger system via text, email and phone. The message will include instructions for families.

EES VARIETY SHOW!

Hello families, my name is Victoria Tornwini and I, along with Esther Lokossou and Christina Adolphe, am leading a group of fifth graders to host an Edmunds Elementary variety show featuring students in grades 3-5 on November 9 at 6:30 PM. This is a way for our students to express themselves. There are posters around the school with more information. Kids in grades 3-5 who would like to perform should attend a meeting in the music room during their recess on Monday 10/1. If you would like more information contact Betsy Nolan, Edmunds Elementary's very own music teacher. Her gmail is enolan@bsdvt.org
Thanks! Victoria

PTO NEWS

PTO LEADERS: Jenny Sullivan, Pam Moreau and Stacey Kelleher **PTO CONTACT:** pto@eespto.org

FIRST PTO MEETING: OCTOBER 3, 6-7 P.M.

Childcare provided. We welcome old friends and new to join us for a quick check-in on what the year has in store...We would love to get your feedback and hear your ideas.

DAN'S CHOCOLATES FUNDRAISER: KICK-OFF FRIDAY

September 28

Keep your eyes peeled for fundraising materials for our most important fundraiser--Dan's Chocolates. Students will be receiving instructions and order forms on Friday.

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 or Rachel: 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 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 (EES, EMS, BHS parent) or Rachel: rachskye@gmail.com (EES, EMS parent).