

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

November 30, 2018

**Up Coming Events:**

Dec. 13 - Early Release Day 11:30 am

Dec. 20 - EES Chorus at COTS Vigil 5:00 - 600 PM

Dec. 24 thru Jan. 2 - Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

**From the Principal's Desk**

The best part of my job is the least predictable. It doesn't take any planning. There's no expectation of gathering data, or reporting on it. I never know who I will be doing it with and have no idea how many I will do it with every day. The research says it's important, but I experience it more as a benefit than a responsibility. Having conversations with the children, whether one on one, or in groups, in the cafeteria, on the playground, my office, the classroom, wherever the opportunity presents itself, is without a doubt the part of my work that recharges me and gives me the most pleasure.

I love the earnestness when talking about something important to them. The youngest ones take more concentration as it sometimes takes a bit for them to get their story out. Some are searching for words they haven't yet learned. They can get a little confusing in the telling, changing direction and focus. It doesn't really matter that much if I understand the whole story. They're happy to be listened to. It doesn't matter if I understand every word, as long as I try. The older students can bring some perspectives that are very well thought out. You can tell that they really care about things around them. Some take on big issues like "neonicotinoids" or vanishing species of animals. Their passion is very clear as they tell me what they've learned.

Not all conversations are happy. Some are more serious and are in a teaching mode. The more common conversations have had to do with the rationale for misbehavior. The most common I've heard for inappropriate behavior is "he/she made me mad". I can't tell you the number of times I've discussed whether or not it is possible for someone to "make" them mad. I will work with the students to talk about how our emotions are based upon our own thoughts; that we can choose to get angry or we can choose another path.

The common use of the phrase "he/she made me..." really sheds light on why children transfer responsibility for their own emotions to someone else. The language makes it reasonable for people to think that they do not have to be responsible for their reactions.

Some continue with that belief well into adulthood. Changing the idea starts with the language we use and we,

**Whole School Assembly**  
**December 6, 2018**  
**Winter Playground Expectations**

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as adults, can change the thinking in the language we use.

Whether my conversations are light and fun, or instructive and heavy, talking with the children is the best part of this position. It lets me know how they're feeling, how they're thinking and what's important to them. Sometimes the conversations start with a hug, sometimes they end with one. They are, after all, the reason we are all here.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The EES chorus will be performing on the steps of city hall for the COTS Candlelight vigil on Thursday, December 20th. Each year the Committee on Temporary Shelter holds this vigil to recognize the people in our community who struggle with housing insecurity. We are so grateful to be able to support this essential program with music! Students will meet at city hall at 5:00 PM the vigil begins at 5:30 and lasts about half an hour. The event is outside so, come prepared for the weather (rain location is right inside at Contois Auditorium). Cookies and cider follow the event in the front lobby of Contois auditorium. All are invited!



## PTO NEWS

PTO LEADERS: Jenny Sullivan, Pam Moreau & Stacey Kelleher

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

### EES COMMUNITY HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS:

During this holiday season, if you are looking for an opportunity to give to a family in the EES community, consider purchasing a gift card (Amazon, book store, department store, etc.) to donate anonymously. This year Ms. Hathaway (EES School Counselor), Tyler Sessions (P.E. Teacher), and Celia DeVoe (School Based Clinician) are working to connect EES families in need of some extra financial support with gifts and gift cards for the holidays. The PTO is reaching out to the EES community to help provide gift cards to our EES families in need. The gift cards can be sent to school in an envelope where they will be collected by the class teachers, and given to Ms. Hathaway. In order to reach families before the December break, please send in gift cards no later than Monday the 17th of December. Thank you EES community for your generosity during this holiday season.

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## FROM THE COMMUNITY



**Please join Jake & Kids on the Ball for tennis during Christmas break  
Monday, December 24  
Wednesday, December 26 THROUGH  
Friday, December 28 AND  
Monday, December 31**

**Hop on the Red Bus in front of the Boys & Girls Club at 12:45pm  
In front of King Street Center at 1:00pm  
for tennis from 1:30 to 3:30pm at the Edge  
on any or all days**

**The Red Bus will drop off in front of the King Street Center at 3:45pm  
and in front of the  
Boys & Girls Club at 4:00pm.**

**Call 503-7597 with questions.**

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