

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

May 18, 2018

From the Principal's Desk

This week's Whole School Assembly will focus on what Memorial Day is all about. I realize that the fact that I was born within 8 years of the end of WWII has a great deal to do with how much attention was paid to Memorial Day parades and ceremonies when I was EES students' ages. Every year, half of my elementary school marched in the parade, whether as Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League or Blue Birds. When I got older, it was band or the high school teams. We all marched to the town green which also was the monuments to past wars and a cemetery. There, over 1,000 gathered to listen respectfully to the speeches about those who had given their lives in service to the country. Memorial Day was far more about that than about a three-day weekend or the cookout. I can still picture the green in Glastonbury, CT, the crowds that lined Main Street and then walked to listen to the speeches, and watch the honor guard lay a wreath on a memorial. There was always the playing of Taps in the distance as the crowd listened respectfully, and silently.

Our Whole School Assembly this week will include some information about what Memorial Day is, and what the etiquette is to participate in a formal ceremony. We will teach the importance of being respectful. We instruct the students about the norms of respect and how the expectation is that all are respectful whether or not they chose to say the Pledge of Allegiance, or sing the Star Spangle Banner. Taps is often part of a Memorial Day observation. The song was a bugle call written during the Civil War to tell soldiers it was time to rest. I will explain that it was a time when there were no phones or walkie-talkies to talk to the soldiers and when bugles and drums were the main way to tell people what to do. They were able to hear Taps.

Our society has gotten farther and farther away from the original intentions of holidays and it seems that many people either never have known the meaning or have forgotten. The business community has done a great job turning our holidays meant to remember into opportunities to spend money. Unfortunately, that seems to overshadow more and more of our traditional events. Some communities have embraced a tradition of observation while others have lost them. There are some Memorial Day observations in the area and it would be a good experience for the children to be able to participate in one. Just Google Memorial Day Observations to find one that will fit in your families plan for next weekend.

Up Coming Events:

May 18 - Mayfair! 4:00 - 7:00 PM

May 28 - No School - Memorial Day Observance

June 13 - 5th Grade Tribute 6:00 PM

June 14 - Last Day of School ½ Day for Students

Whole School Assembly
May 24, 2018
Memorial Day - One Nation
Miss Nolan Leading

PTO NEWS

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

MAYFAIR MAYFAIR MAYFAIR TODAY (4pm-7pm)

Fun for the whole family! Games, prizes, food with your EES community. Activities include a bouncy castle, musical cakes & more. Tickets available at the fair! **WE NEED YOUR HELP** Please help us at this amazing event by volunteering

at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4aaca723a6fc1-mayfair>

any questions please contact

Nicole nicoledehne@gmail.com

NEW BIKE RACKS COMING SOON!

Thanks for your patience while we await our new bike racks that went missing. New ones have been ordered and we are just waiting for them to arrive next week!