

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

From the Principal's Desk

As we enter the holiday season, whether one celebrates Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza, New Years, or nothing at all, we know that for the next six weeks we all will be faced with countless advertisements and ideas for things we, our children, or our friends apparently can't be without. The competition for our attention and our dollars is fierce. The portrayal of how happy each of us can be if we could just own that new "whatever" is always there, unless of course we simply turn off the television.

The ability to appreciate that which we have is greatly enhanced when we have some quiet time to enjoy it. Or some time to think about it. Thinking about what we have and where our fortunes lie is something that we need to share with our children. We can model reflecting about what we are grateful for and give them an opportunity to share what they are grateful for with us. They will be pretty quick to identify their family, but what else can they see? Do they recognize their health, a safe place to live, their brothers or sisters, or the time you take to bring them to their sports games or to their friends? What about their friends? How about the fact that they can go to school? Do they recognize that they live in a beautiful place or value the sunsets on the lake or the bike path they can ride on any time?

Sometimes the value of something isn't readily apparent to children. They may not know that an education isn't something everyone in the world can access. They may be unaware that we live in a place that people travel to from all over the world. They may take their siblings for granted.

Helping our children to understand that good fortune is not necessarily tied to money can help them to keep a better sense of perspective when making decisions later on. The peer pressure they will face as they grow older will include the desire to have similar possessions, and experiences as their peers - and their dissatisfaction in their own life can easily be impacted by a perception of worth or value that they measure in possessions. Possessions can quickly lose their attractiveness, especially when the owner exerted no effort in earning them, as evidenced in the toys children "had to have" that are gathering dust in a corner. The true value is in the activity and sharing.

There is much to be thankful for as Thanksgiving approaches. I am thankful for my family, and the chance to see them this week in California. I'm thankful that I get to work with a great staff, beautiful children, and their families. I hope that all of you have a happy and peaceful Thanksgiving and break.

November 16, 2018

Up Coming Events:

Nov. 19 & 20 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov. 21, 22, 23 - Thanksgiving Recess - NO SCHOOL

Dec. 13 - Early Release Day 11:30 am

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

Whole School Assembly

November 29, 2018

Gratitude

Ms. Flaherty/Goldsmith Class Leading

