

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

May 10, 2019

Up Coming Events:

May 12 - Mother's Day

May 17th - Mayfair Spring Carnival

May 27 - Memorial Day - No School

From the Principal's Desk

Everyone is probably familiar with the television show "Survivor". It is a competition that starts with a team framework and, over time depends upon dishonesty, and ruthlessness, with an ultimate winner being the one who is best at being able to create alliances, and manipulate the situation to their advantage. The show encourages a level of individualism that is ultimately every person for him or herself. If we actually think about it, the characteristics that are rewarded with a million dollars by the end of the show, are the characteristics that would be destructive to a high functioning society. In a real life situation, being the last person standing would not be an advantage. It would be disastrous. Even in early human development, tribes were formed to help the members survive, and each member was expected to contribute to the well-being of the group. Those tribes that experienced losses of members, became more vulnerable. Throughout history, we can find countless instances of people banding together for protection against threat - combining their strengths and resources for the greater good.

Over time, we are seeing more and more focus on individualism and the rights of individuals with the focus of attention, without a corresponding expectation of the responsibility of individuals to contribute to the greater good of our society. My dad used to say, "your freedom ends where my nose begins". In other words, I had to include in my actions their impact on others. An example of the focus on the rights of the individual would be an insistence on unrestricted access to guns and ammunition as a right, despite the nationwide impact on children who should be able to attend schools without the fear of an armed individual invading their school, or the rights of individuals to attend their place of worship or even have an evening at a concert or a movie. With rights come responsibilities.

Individualism is becoming out of balance in our society. When we see it in the actions of so many individuals in simple actions, whether it's the act of tossing trash on the ground, taking a handicapped parking spot when one isn't handicapped, or talking in a theater or at a performance. All of these things may

Whole School Assembly
May 16, 2019
Mayfair! - These Green Hills
Ms. Bellavance's Class Leading

(cont)

serve the individual well, but impose on the rights of others. The need to think about balancing our needs with those of others, to contribute, to belong to something bigger than oneself, to make something better for the next person, should be valued and honored, whether it's something as simple as picking up a piece of trash, or lending a helping hand. These are the things all of our children need to see us model every day.



It's almost time for Mayfair 2019! The Mayfair Spring Carnival takes place this year on **Friday, May 17th**. This event is one of the PTO's largest fundraisers and an Edmunds tradition! Dollars raised during Mayfair help to fund enrichment activities, such as art, language, and science programs, that would otherwise be unavailable to Edmunds kids. Funding is also given to teachers to provide basic but essential classroom supplies. It takes many volunteers to pull off Mayfair. If you would like to volunteer in any way please sign up below. Thanks in advance. We couldn't do it without you! [Sign up here to volunteer for Mayfair 2019!](#)

MUSIC NEWS

If you missed the K-2 concert in April, you can check out their work on the [music web page!](#) Congratulations to the 4th and 5th grade composers who participated in a live performance of their original composition at UVM on May 1st. The student's at UVM provided feedback on our students compositions and then performed them in a small concert for friends and family. Many thanks to the folks in the UVM music department and at Music-Comp for providing this opportunity to our students.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The EES 4/5 Chorus will be going on tour to two retirement communities in Burlington on Tuesday, June 4th. We will be leaving EES at 12:30 and plan to return in time for dismissal at 2:50. Please [email Ms. Nolan](#) if you are available to join us!

PTO NEWS

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

**MAYFAIR SILENT AUCTION IS LIVE!**

Check out the selection—meals and deals from many of our favorite local establishments, art and photography sessions...and so much more! Auction runs until 7 pm on May 16 and items bid on may be picked up and paid for at Mayfair, May 17. Thank you for your support!!
<https://www.32auctions.com/EESMayfair2019>