

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

From the Principal's Desk

We are delighted to be able to share with you that Betsy Nolan is a recipient of the UVM 2019 Outstanding Teacher Award. The contributions that Ms. Nolan makes to our school community are many.

Ms. Nolan's music lessons are always engaging which, given the age span of her students - 5 years old to 11, is not as easy as some may think. Her lessons include not only singing, but learning to read rhythms, and music, dance and playing instruments - percussion, string with the ukulele and recorder. Her students begin to learn the structure of music and experiment with creating their own compositions. Compositions by EES students have been included in the Opus program where the students work with musicians from the VSO and this year, UVM in fine tuning their compositions, ultimately having them performed by professionals. We have had compositions from students as young as 8 selected for inclusion in the Opus program

Betsy has a strong sense of cultural competency, the importance of equity and diversity and is a leader in the EES community in leading the way on these issues. An example is in her advocacy for Chorus to be held during the school day so that all students who wanted to, could participate. She convinced the faculty to sacrifice 45 minutes of academic time once a week so that more students could participate. The results are obvious today as our chorus is both large and highly representative of the diversity of our school.

Ms. Nolan makes her music room and herself available to students. She frequently eats with the students in the cafeteria, building relationships with students throughout the year. She regularly opens her classroom during lunch and recess so that students can work on their compositions, or other projects such as learning the recorder, the ukulele or perfecting a dance routine. Ms. Nolan volunteered to help students organize a Variety Show, providing guidance and structure while making it clear that the students were the workers in the endeavor, requiring that they run the auditions, promote the event, and MC it. The result was a delightful evening for all. She also worked with a group of 5th grade girls who wanted to perform a dance to a Beyonce song which was about power. Her.

Date and Volume Number

December 13, 2019

Up Coming Events:

Dec. 18: COTS Candlelight Vigil 5:15

Dec. 23: Jan. 2: Holiday Break - **NO SCHOOL**Jan 3: **NO SCHOOL** for StudentsJan 6: **SCHOOL RESUMES FOR ALL STUDENTS!**

Whole School Assembly
January 9, 2020
Ms. Nolan Leading

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conversations with them lead them to do it in honor of International Women's Day.

EES has a Whole School Assembly every Thursday morning which highlights various ideas, or accomplishments of students. Betsy has organized and compiled the assembly with a different classroom each week being featured as song leaders. This helps us bring families into school as parents come to share in the experience.

On a professional level, Betsy is active with her contemporaries, working on projects like the district wide family dance night which highlighted students who studied strings and learned to play Celtic/Folk tunes for dancing. Her relationships with the music community at large provides the EES community with opportunities to hear music groups from beyond this area, including international groups.

Betsy Nolan contributes a lot of time and effort to our community. Her enjoyment of our students is obvious and her laughter and music contributes greatly to our overall climate. Please join us in congratulating her next time you see her!



CHORUS NEWS

The EES chorus will be performing on the steps of city hall for the COTS Candlelight vigil on Wednesday, December 18th. 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 5:15 PM in the downstairs of city hall (the acoustics are amazing!); 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! Please reach out if your child needs transportation support! enolan@bsdvt.org. The chorus will be having a pizza party on Thursday, December 19th during their regular, 2:00 chorus rehearsal. Parents are welcome to join us. I'll be getting the pizza; if you would like to donate drinks, snacks or paper products, please, sign up [here](#).

**EES COMMUNITY HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS:**

Everyone has that person who has everything that they want or need, to whom you need to give a gift. What do you do? Why not donate a gift card or two for our needy families in their name? We can send them a note letting them know that a gift has been made in their name. Knowing that your gift is helping a family in need may bring far more joy than the fruitcake that you were thinking of sending! If it's difficult for you to get a physical card, we'd be more than happy to receive cash donations and purchase cards on your behalf. Please bring your gift cards or cash donations to the office by Monday if possible, so we can begin gifting to our families. Thank you.



PTO LEADERS: Kim Brockway, Kimberly Price & Stacey Kelleher

PTO CONTACT: askeespto@gmail.com

ARE YOU OUR NEXT HERO?

We are in need of a hero to help with circle traffic on Friday mornings. If you have 15 minutes to spare (7:50-8:05) on a Friday morning, we'd love to have you there. Contact Stef Waite if you are interested. waite@burlingtontelecom.net

