

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

From the Principal's Desk

I was listening to NPR over the holiday and there was a long segment, which I think was during the Ted Radio hour, discussing the impact of social media. One particular statement really struck me which I felt well worth sharing "If you don't teach your children to be alone, you teach them to be lonely."

That's a pretty strong statement and yet, we all live in an age where there is an expectation of constant input whether from TV, iPads, or cell phones. Technology has become a playmate to very young children, and at times, a means to entertain and distract.

Media at large and social media in particular offer the option of never being alone with our thoughts. For many, silent reflection or observation is more likely the occasion of lost cable or WiFi signal rather than a matter of choice. An inability to connect through the various platforms can result in significant discomfort and distress. Research has shown an increase in depression among teens corresponding to the growth in the availability of social media and especially among those spending 3 or more hours a day on.

It would be far easier with elementary age students to help them become comfortable entertaining themselves. Who doesn't remember complaining to a parent that you were bored, and hear the retort - "Go outside and play" or "go read a book", or something to that effect. The impulse to solve the problem of a child's boredom is one that we should all avoid. Learning to entertain oneself is important and teaches children to use their own imagination and to think more deeply. These are important skills for a healthy individual to have. The TV doesn't have to be on, tablets do not have to be available and cell phones isn't necessary. Children do not have to be entertained 100% of the time. In fact, it's better that they are not. The next time your child says they are bored, (perhaps during the December break), you will know that you are being a great parent when you tell them to "go use your imagination."

Date and Volume Number

December 6, 2019

Up Coming Events:

Dec. 10: Early Release: Students dismissed at 11:30**Dec. 23:** Jan. 2: Holiday Break - NO SCHOOL**Jan 3:** NO SCHOOL for Students**Jan 6:** SCHOOL RESUMES FOR ALL STUDENTS!

**Whole School Assembly
December 19, 2019
Winter Sing-a-long
Chorus Leading**

SNOW DAYS - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL PROBABLY DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 15

We have had two snow days and have used up our buffer. The school calendar indicates the last day of school is June 12. That is based on attending 175 days of school. The calendar included 177 school days, with 2 days built in to allow for snow days. We've used our 2 snow days already so any more would require that we make them up during the week of June 15 in order to meet the Vermont's requirement of 175 days of school. **We recommend that you not make plans for vacations or camps to start on the week of June 15th.** The probability that we will still be in school that week is very high. We won't know when the last day of school is until mid-April.





PTO LEADERS: Kim Brockway, Kimberly Price & Stacey Kelleher

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We already have 47 students signed up for the play!! And room for many more!

1st & 2nd grade CHOIR:

<https://forms.gle/yNF63NPjmSJRocUZ7>

3rd-5th grade CAST:

<https://forms.gle/aL87ppR2PZWYfvCw9>

4th & 5th grade SET CREW (4 spots left) :

<https://forms.gle/uuKyGbf9EFrLEh6x5>



Today is the LAST DAY to participate in the Danforth fundraiser!

Enter the code "Edmunds" in the "Discount Code" field at checkout, and the Drama Program gets half of your purchase to support the school play. Please share the [Danforth](#) "Edmunds" code with friends and family and help us get there!

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 we 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 Mrs. Palmer in the main office. In order to reach families before the December break, please send in gift cards no later than Monday the 16th of December. Thank you EES community for your generosity during this holiday season.



Early Release



**DECEMBER 10
STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 11:30**