

FRIDAY



FLASH

GROW with DIGNITY



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

From the Principal's Desk

This week I got a video of my 13-month old grandson taking his first steps. I think that all parents are at their best in dealing with "failure" is when a child is learning to walk. Each step is greeted with encouragement, regardless of the number of tries before successfully mastering walking. The idea that failure is the greatest teacher is one that may seem odd and yet, failure and struggle is exactly what allows us to develop.

There are times when we adults may want to protect our children from failure and struggle. Ironically, none of us would shield a child from the failure they experienced early on in life. Imagine if we protected them from the bumps and bruises and frustration they experienced learning to crawl and walk. It is the trial and error, and their persistence that finally allows an infant to learn to stand and walk. It takes time, and sometimes is painful to watch and tempting to rescue them from, but we all know that they need to go through the process in order to finally succeed.

Allowing a child to struggle and even to fail can get complicated as they get older. Knowing the difference between supporting a child and intervening is important. Supporting a child may involve pointing them in the right direction, but refrains from fixing the problem for them as much as possible. It is encouraging them to try again, being there to give a pat on the back, or a hug and letting them know you believe in their capacity to overcome the challenge. It's being their cheering section and letting them know that they should be proud of the effort they put in. Focusing on the effort rather than the product reinforces the idea that success comes from effort more than intellect. Intervening is helping to a point where the struggle is removed from the child, whether by doing the work for them, or removing the task altogether. When this happens, we need to examine our motivation as adults. Occasionally, there is good reason to remove the task altogether - at least temporarily. If a child is emotionally so distraught that they are unable to think clearly, intervention is advisable, but that intervention doesn't mean doing the work. It simply means, letting the child know that it's time to take a break until they are calm enough

Date and Volume Number

January 31, 2020

Up Coming Events:

Feb. 7 - Pack The Gut 6:00 PM

Feb. 13 - Fine Arts Night (Grades 3-5) 5:45 PM

Feb. 21 - Report Cards Go Home

Feb. 24 - Mar. 2 Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

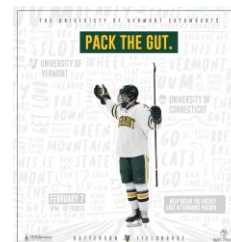
Mar. 3 - Professional Development Day - NO SCHOOL

Whole School Assembly
February 6, 2020
UVM's Pack the Gut
Ms. D'Agostino's Class Leading

to tackle it again. It could mean counseling the child on how to go get help if they don't understand the work or working harder on honing the skills needed before tackling the task. If the reason for intervention is our own assumption of status or stigma as a result of our child's success or failure, that is a misplaced reason for intervention. We need to allow each child to experience their own journey on the learning continuum without the notion of impact on their parents. Our society sees far too much impact from the competitiveness associated with the status or stigma attributed to a student's progress. I look to the day when the learning continuum is truly respected as a path that each takes, as they are ready, and in their own time

Pack The Gut!

Join us at the 9th Annual "Pack the Gut Challenge" with the UVM Women's Ice Hockey Team. Friday, February 7 at Gutterson Field House. Free tickets for all students will be given out in the lobby between 5:30 and 5:50. Come and support the women and join us in Sections 9, 10 & 11.





PTO LEADERS: Kim Brockway, Kimberly Price & Stacey Kelleher

PTO CONTACT: askeespto@gmail.com

Thanks to all the families who joined us for Math Night - it certainly was a lot of fun. A big thank you to super volunteer, Rachel Shelley, who has been at the helm of this event for seven years—such dedication and enthusiasm!



We are so grateful for all those years of help. Someone made a beautiful and delicious sweet potato pie with a cool pi symbol baked on top. Wish I'd thought to take a picture! Whoever that star was, I have your pie pan and server. Please email askEESPTO@gmail.com to arrange to get it back.



Skate night is coming in April. We are looking for a person or people to be in charge of this event. Could it be you? The person who did it for many years, Kate Lekstutis, has left us great how-to directions which make taking it on easy-peasy.