

FRIDAY



FLASH

GROW with DIGNITY



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

From the Principal's Desk

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind" - Mahatma Gandhi,

I have long admired the thinking of Mahatma Gandhi as exemplified by that simple statement. The quote is on the back of my door and there have been times this year when a student or two and I have read that and discussed what it means. They find themselves meeting with me because they didn't see a different way of dealing with an issue.

We have noticed that many of our students who have felt somehow slighted by a classmate will often resort to retaliation. If one child says something with a mean edge to it, the recipient often responds with something harsher, and so it goes; ratcheting up and up, tempers rising, and often an occasional push or shove. It becomes a power struggle that neither wins and results in a trip to the office. Once here, the process is to help the student(s) to consider their alternatives. What were all the choices they had when someone says or does something mean?

We have been working on equipping students with alternatives to retaliation. Those choices may be as simple as telling the person that what they said or did isn't ok, or to ask them to stop. It may involve simply walking away. There are times when students may need to go ask for help from adults. It will also involve learning how to negotiate. Whatever the strategy, we emphasize the importance of maintaining a respectful approach regardless of the other's behavior. All children need to learn strategies to deal with behavior that isn't acceptable because they will encounter people who behave badly throughout their lives. They need to be helped to see that retaliation is a poor strategy that often results in the opposite of what they actually want.

This is one of our expectations in terms of teaching social skills. Arming children with constructive, positive responses to the destructive behavior of others empowers them to know that they have the ability to defend themselves in a way that generates an acceptable resolution to a problem. This is important in terms of not creating a belief that only others can solve their problems. We want to develop healthy, resourceful people who believe in their own ability to solve their own problems. As a parent of four, there were times

Date and Volume Number

February 21, 2020

Up Coming Events:

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

Mar. 3 - Professional Development Day - **NO SCHOOL**

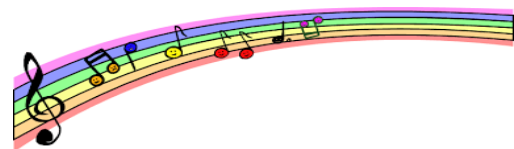
Whole School Assembly
March 5, 2020
Ms. Quinn & Fitzpatrick's Class Leading

(CONT)

when the same kind of retaliation happened in my house. It was frustrating to listen to two sides of a story and have two pairs of eyes looking to me to judge a situation that I neither saw nor heard, both with the expectation of a decision on "their side". The good news is that we don't have to be judge and jury. It is perfectly fine to focus instead on discussing the choices that both had to approach the problem so that they could peacefully coexist and have their individual wants met. A lot of the time, the issues can easily be avoided by teaching children to negotiate through speaking respectfully to each other, practicing some patience and compromising. Helping children to see that they both win when they can come to a mutually agreed upon decision. They will learn that they have the power to make their home a more peaceful place and they will become closer friends.

MUSIC OVER THE BREAK

If you are looking to distract your children over the break, here are a couple music resources that might be fun and educational. [The Chrome Music Lab](#) is a web based (no download required) variety of creative music activities. They span from beginning composition to the basics of sound science. [Classics for Kids](#) is a website hosted by Cincinnati Public Radio; it has interactive educational activities and games around the theme of western classical music. Have a great vacation and please, remind the kids that their homework, as always, is to sing in the shower and dance in the grocery store.





PTO LEADERS: Kim Brockway, Kimberly Price & Stacey Kelleher

PTO CONTACT: askeespto@gmail.com

LION KING ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE

Calling all Cast, Crew, and Chorus of the Lion King! Please sign up to bring breakfast treats, baked goods, and to help staff the Election Day Bake Sale. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0444a4ad23a2f58-lion> Takes place on Tuesday March 3 from 7:30-4:30, in the EMS gym (Ward 6 Polling location). All proceeds benefit the Lion King Production and EES Drama budget. This is a great way to get community members to contribute while enjoying a treat after voting. Questions? Contact aliciamcunningham@gmail.com Thank you!



MINI MILERS NEEDS YOU!

Last year, we were unable to participate in this excellent program because we had no volunteers. Mini-milers is a fun way to get kids moving and trying the life-long fitness activity of running. We are seeking running leaders for the mini-milers program. This is a 10-week program beginning the week of March 30. Cost is \$35 per student and no child will be turned away. Kim Brockway has offered to be the contact person, and we are seeking volunteers to run with the kids after school one day a week. If you volunteer, you pick the day. Contact Kim Brockway at kimbrockway1@gmail.com



VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - MUSICAL PETTING ZOO!

Attention music lovers and parents of kindergartners and first-graders! We need your help to make this event happen! The musical petting zoo is a fun, hands-on experience for kids in kindergarten and first grade to learn about the instruments that are part of an orchestra and get a chance to play them. We need lots of parent volunteers to help hold these actual orchestra instruments and sanitize them between students - an easy way to volunteer and join in the fun! No musical experience needed! We are looking for 8 volunteers to staff this one-time workshop from 8:15-10:10 am Friday April 17th. Only available for a portion of the morning? No problem! I am happy to coordinate shifts. Contact Kate Remuzzi if you are available to volunteer kremuzzi@gmail.com



FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD IS SKATE NIGHT!

We are still seeking a fabulous person to be in charge of this fun event. This is an opportunity to volunteer after 5 pm and may be a good fit for you. Many helpful notes and instructions are available. Contact us at askEESPTO@gmail.com ASAP.

STILL LOOKING FOR MORNING TRAFFIC CIRCLE VOLUNTEERS!

Your morning traffic circle crew needs a volunteer one morning per week. Do you have 20 minutes to help on Wednesday OR Friday mornings between 7:45-8:05 in the traffic circle? This is a fun, easy way to help students start the day safe and smiling. Please email Stefanie Waite if you can help: waite@burlingtontelecom.net

