

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

From the Principal's Desk

February 7, 2020

Up Coming Events:

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

Last Wednesday, students at Edmunds Middle School organized and presented an assembly for the campus in the raising of the "Black Lives Matter" flag on the Edmunds Campus. The assembly was well done. Many of our students were able to participate as part of the audience.

It is important that adults help our children understand the context of the statement. "Black Lives Matter". It does not mean that other lives don't matter. It means that Black lives matter as much as other lives, in all the opportunities that exist here in the United States. Helping children to understand that there are many opportunities that have been denied because of the color of people's skin; that there are still examples of prejudice in our society which diminishes others' experiences and opportunities as members of our society is the reason for the "Black Lives Matter" movement and flag.

Helping children to understand the context of the movement and the flag is important because they may see messages from those who want to minimize the importance of the movement. This has happened where statistics have been used to make it appear that there is not a need to acknowledge where racism is still injuring members of our society. Presenting statistics that may be accurate as pure numbers but that lack context is a great example of the old adage, "Statistics don't lie, Statisticians do". Of course all lives matter, but when there is real disproportionality in how people are treated, it is necessary to confront that which allows that disproportionality to exist in order to fix it.

While I know I've recently shared this quote from Martin Luther King, it bears repeating. "True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring". Unfortunately, the edifice of institutionalized racism still exists in our society. Any system that marginalizes a people for whatever reason needs restructuring. Structural inequity has been present in so many aspects of our society over the years. Whether employment, housing, wages, healthcare or education, there is significant evidence of inequity that has given a very different message regarding the

Whole School Assembly
February 13, 2020
100 Days of School!
Kindergarten Leading Song

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value of human beings in our society.

We will be working to help students develop the skills to recognize the need to delve deeper when statistics are used to promote a position; to question and examine the relevance of the numbers, as well as the sources and even, as students become more capable, the motivation of those sources. Teaching students the importance of critically examining sources and context when looking at statistics is an important step in restructuring an edifice that is harmful.

MORNING TRAFFIC CIRCLE VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

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





PTO LEADERS: Kim Brockway, Kimberly Price & Stacey Kelleher

PTO CONTACT: askeespto@gmail.com

Last week's PTO Meeting was small but productive and we are excited about the ideas and projects that are brewing! A few updates & reminders for this week...

LOST & FOUND

PTO is working on setting up a new location for the Lost & Found which will hopefully make it easier for you to search and discover all your kiddos' missing items! It will be just a few steps to the left after you enter the C Building. In the coming weeks, we will be hauling things down from the 2nd floor and setting up this new Lost & Found station. At the end of each month, we will be going through items and bringing older items to charity shops. The overflow of stuff is taking over it's current set up and needs some attention! If you'd like to help with this effort, please let Kimberly Price know at askEESPTO@gmail.com.



Skate Night is scheduled for Friday, April 3. We are looking for a lead volunteer to help facilitate this fun, annual event for our community. 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.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

NATIONAL GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY!

Join **Athleta** for Sports Day, an annual day of observance held to acknowledge the accomplishments of female athletes, recognize the influence of sports participation for women and girls, and honor the progress and continuing struggle for equality for women in sports.

Athleta on Church Street is teaming up with the amazing young women on the Burlington High school Soccer Team for discussion panel on #EqualPay followed by fun activities to promote the #PowerofShe

The event is free to all parents and students at Athleta on Church Street this Saturday, February 15th at 9:00 AM.

Come support **Girls & Women in Sports Day!** Additional information can be found at

<https://events.athleta.com/girlswomeninsports-f329>

