

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

From the Principal's Desk

April 3, 2020

Greetings all,

I hope this Friday Flash finds you and all in your family well.

I am excited that we were able to distribute some Chromebooks to families that responded that there was a need in their homes. I realize that some people missed the emails and texts sent out with the survey asking for those with a need to respond with a deadline. Unfortunately, those families will have to wait for a 2nd wave. We are not yet ready to address the technical needs for our K-2 students. Right now, we are focusing on a second paper packet and formulating plans for the future work that will be required of our schools after April 13th when the expectation is that we will begin providing new information for learning to our students.

I know that families are getting tons of information through email. I promise that I will not be sending more than one email a week and that will be the Friday Flash. I ask that everyone please make it a habit to read the Friday Flash every week. Should there be a need to send another email because of an initiative like getting Chromebooks out, the email will say: **URGENT - IMPORTANT INFORMATION**. **Please be sure to read that email and look for any deadlines that it may have as well as actions you might need to take.**

All the elementary principals are united in the need to ensure that what we do for one school, we do for all of our schools in order to maintain equity and consistency across the district. I know that you all understand that this is a whole new ballgame for all of us - children, parents, teachers and administrators. When this is all over, we will have learned a lot from this experience that we will be able to use going forward. Be sure to get outside and take deep breaths of fresh air. Missing you all!



Dr. Mathias and her team distributing ChromeBooks this morning at EES!



Did you know, there are many great resources such as "[Ask Google](#)" and [YouTube](#) that have tons of videos on solving many common concerns you may be experiencing with your device? ***If you need to know "How To", we would ask that you please access these resources before reaching out to your teachers.*** If you're still experiencing problems with your Chromebook or other BSD device, contact the Burlington School District Help Desk at **864-8434, extension 48437.**



Each day during morning announcements, we state the names of our students celebrating their birthdays; here are the birthday announcements for this week.

**Happy Birthday to:**

Edward & Diana in Ms. Flynn's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

Mabel in Ms. Bonanni's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

**APRIL IS POETRY MONTH!**

*Roses are red, violets are blue, here are some great poetry sites for you!*



If you're excited about poetry or just want to explore and learn more about this form of writing, then you've come to the right spot! Each week during Poetry Month I will be sharing some places that you can visit to read, write, listen to or learn about different kinds of poetry. For example, do you know what an Acrostic poem is? How about a Haiku? Hopefully by the end of April you'll be an expert in those types of poetry plus many more! To get us started, here are some sites that you may want to visit:

**BrainPop:**

<https://www.brainpop.com/english/writing/poetry/>

**BrainPopJr.:**

<https://jr.brainpop.com/readingandwriting/writing/poems/>

**(login for both sites: eesvt - password for both sites: ees2020)**

**Ted Scheu, That Poetry Guy:**

<http://www.poetryguy.com/> Some of you may remember Ted from his visits to our school where he read from his books of poetry and helped with poetry writing in the second grade classrooms.

Check out our [Library webpage](#) for a link to another Vermont poet, Daniel M. Holtz, who reads from his own book of poetry daily.

And don't forget: *Have a good time*

*Learning to rhyme,*

*Before you know it,*

*You'll be a poet!*

Need a "feel good" moment? Take a moment and watch the Marsh family sharing their lockdown-themed coronavirus pandemic in the style of [Les Miserables!](#)



(Here is a resource that Sustainability Academy provided their families with; we thought you might enjoy these activities as well).

### **Sustainability-Focused Educational Resources for Families**

An important part of being the Sustainability Academy is getting students out in the natural world or engaging directly with nature! We wanted to supplement all of the wonderful online resources you are getting with suggestions of optional, tech free- learning activities.

**Nature Note-** Develop a practice of each member of your household sharing something they notice in nature every day. This could be something as simple as the weather or a flower they saw blooming. If you have access to a tree or a bush, spend 5 minutes a day recording everything you notice about that plant. What animals visit? How many insects can you find there? Noticing and articulating these things helps practice observation and description skills. It also helps develop an understanding of phenology. This is the cycles and timing of occurrences in plant and animal life such as when trees bud or the return of red wing black bird. This underlies the inherent interconnectedness of ecosystems.

**Sit Spot-** This is a practice of returning to the same spot every day for a short period of time and noticing what changes. It can be out in nature or even by a window - the important thing is it is the same every day so that small changes can be observed. It is easily coupled with the nature note and a mindfulness practice.

**Tracking weather-** Spring is a season of rapid change. Make note of the temperature every day around the same time. For older students, make a simple bar graph of the temperature changes. This also gives you an opportunity to discuss the difference between weather (small changes daily) and climate (big patterns over long periods of time). For light- make a mark of where a certain shadow is in your house at the exact same time every day and compare over time. As the days gradually get longer, these shadows will shift slightly every day. Ask your student why they think this might be happening and what else they notice about the changes in sunlight. Spend a few minutes noticing the clouds in the sky.

**Timed Scientific drawing-**

Find an animal or plant and make a drawing of it every day. Start with short drawing periods- 30 second to a minute. Gradually extend this time and notice what changes in both your drawing and in what you notice. Try drawing from a different angle or side.

**Reflection on community-**

These times, while they can be scary and challenging, offer an incredible opportunity to think about sustainability, community and interdependence. Who is helping us? How can we express gratitude to them? What help are you able to offer? How does it feel to give help? How does it feel to receive help and support?

**Online Resources for Offline Learning**

Website	Description
<a href="https://shelburnefarms.org/our-work/resources/cultivatingjoyandwonder">https://shelburnefarms.org/our-work/resources/cultivatingjoyandwonder</a>	Cultivation Joy and Wonder is an online book published by Shelburne Farms with offline activities and curriculum that is free to download. Aimed at early childhood learners, but many of the activities can be adapted to be interesting and meaningful to older students.
<a href="http://www.vermontharvestofthemonth.org/">http://www.vermontharvestofthemonth.org/</a>	Vermont Harvest of the month is a wonderful resource with many recipes, food facts and activities highlighting one ingredient a month. March is, of course, maple syrup. Check out their monthly materials and archive for kid friendly recipes with a variety of ingredients. While it might be hard to get every ingredient in the recipe, think about how you can change a recipe to make it your own.

Additions- 3.31.20

[Kids gardening](#)- List of resources, gardening tips and activities for families and students

[Turning Green Classroom](#)- Starting April 1st. 30 days for interactive enviro ed lesson plans. Geared towards middle and high school students, but maybe adaptable to younger students. KP will investigate once it is launched.