

The Buzz



*A Message from our Principal,
Bonnie Johnson-Aten*

Hello EES Families,
I hope you and yours are healthy and safe amidst this most unsettling time. Now more than ever, it is important for us to work together in supporting our children. Below are a few tips to help re-establish a sense of normalcy and safety for our children after an act of violence has occurred.

Reaffirm safety...let children know that they are safe at home and school. Make time to talk...let your questions be your guide to what information to provide. Keep explanations simple...provide information that is appropriate for their age. Keep an eye on their emotional state...watch for a change in sleep, eating or behavior patterns.

Maintain normal routines...limit TV watching, encourage outdoor play.. This is also a great time to talk to your child about social justice issues. Elementary children are incredibly attune to issues of fairness. As our superintendent, Tom Flanagan said in his note to the community "let's consider the ways in which we can promote healing and acceptance and let's send the message of love and community to our children."

Please feel free to reach out if you feel your child needs any support at this time. Happy New Year!
Stay well,
Bonnie



Calendar Dates to Remember

January 18 - Martin Luther King Day: 1/2 Day for Students. Dismissal at 11:30. Lunch will be sent home.

Excerpts from Superintendent Flanagan's Community Letter Regarding Recent Events in Washington, D.C.

Dear BSD Community,

I am shocked and disturbed by the events that occurred in our Nation's Capital this week. I grew up in Washington, D.C., where my mother still lives, so these events particularly hit home as I witnessed the center of our country's democracy and my hometown become disrupted by seditionists.

As an educator, I believe it is our responsibility to teach our students about the importance of diversity, inclusion, and compassion, and the role we each play in our community to improve the collective good. We have to give our students the space to have conversations, to ask questions, and to consider their role in furthering a society that respects all of its members. We also have to provide space for students to build relationships, to listen to each other, and to restore relationships when they are broken. Creating these supports helps students process events like those that occurred today, and turn their emotions into positive actions.

I know we have a lot of work to do as a country to address systemic inequities, but I also believe in our democracy and in the importance of our collective voice and our election process. I'm also optimistic we can, and will, rise above the divisiveness, hate, and violence that are dominating public discourse.

Sincerely,
Tom

Child Not Feeling Well? Please Keep Them Home!

We continue to take our morning health screening questions seriously and this means we may need to ask you to pick up your student, if they appear to have any symptoms. Please ensure your emergency contact information is up to date and you have a plan in place if your student needs to stay home.





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(continued)

BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020-2021 CALENDAR & HANDBOOK

Join the Journey!

Translations of handbook are available in Arabic, French, Kirundi, Nepali, Swahili, and Vietnamese.
EO: This material is available in alternate formats for persons with disabilities. To request an accommodation, please call 1.800.253.0191 (TTY) or 1.800.253.0195 (voice).

The 2020-21 Handbook & Calendar

The updated 2020/2021 Calendar & Handbook is now available! In this document, you'll find helpful information including contact information, policies on school safety, Internet usage, bullying and more. And of course, the updated school calendar with important dates for all the schools within the Burlington School District.

As with all things COVID-related, the dates included on the calendar are subject to change.

BSD Flu Shot Clinic

The Burlington School District is offering FREE flu vaccines for Burlington students starting the week of January 11th. A flu shot clinic will be held at Edmunds Elementary on January 12th and 14th. Flu vaccines will be administered by a member of the UVMC Primary Pediatrics team. Again, these are free vaccinations and available to all students in our school building. If you would like your child to receive a free flu vaccine at school, please fill out and sign the form that came home in your student's backpack at the beginning of December. Every child who brings back a signed form before the clinic date will receive a flu vaccine during the scheduled clinic.



Free Winter Coats!

Thanks to a generous donation from the Knights of Columbus, our school has received a large supply of boys and girls winter coats. Sizes range from 7/8 to 12/14. If your child needs a new coat, please email Melissa Hathaway at mhathawa@bsdvt.org

