



WELCOME BACK



A Message from our Principal - Kolby Snellenberger

School starts this week and we are excited to kick off another great year. One of our most significant daily challenges is the drop-off location at the driveway in front of the elementary. We need your help and cooperation to help us keep things moving and students safe.

- **Do not drop off students before 7:45 a.m.** as there are no staff to supervise students.
- **Please do not leave your car in the drive or try to park in the horseshoe drive.** There is some on-street parking near the school if you want to walk your child to the door.
- Staff and volunteers will open doors for students to enter the campus. Kindergarten and first-grade students will go straight to the playground, second and third-grade will go to the East side of the building, and fourth and fifth-grade students will be directed to the field. We will have staff at all locations to supervise students.
- We have two school buses that must move through this area every morning and need room to maneuver through that space. **While buses are loading and unloading, it is illegal to pass them.**

Afternoon pickup is another very challenging time. There is a lot of traffic at this time of day so please be patient and expect delays.

- If possible, **please do not use the horseshoe driveway.** It is best and often faster to park on the street and walk to the front of the school to pick up your child.
- Do not park in the front horseshoe drive.
- Cars should always turn right from the horseshoe drive to keep traffic moving.

To all of our new Kindergarten families! The first few days of school are exciting, but this can be an anxious time for new families and our kindergarteners. As parents, we want to support our children during this significant transition. Often, it is parents who struggle with this transition more than children. Our anxiety around our children's first day changes what should be an exciting opportunity to take a big step towards independence into an uncertain moment for them. Our children pick up on our emotions, and when we look and act anxious, they internalize our worry and become fearful. The longer this is allowed to continue, the more these negative emotions will build. To help your child have the best start to the day:

- Let them exit the car independently in the drive, and staff will lead them to the playground. In most cases, this will create the smoothest transition for both parents and children. It helps if you explain that you will pull into the driveway and someone will open the door and lead them to where they need to go.
- Park on the street, bring them straight up to the playground and encourage them to play with other children as soon as they arrive. Once they are engaged in playing, say goodbye to them and tell them you can't wait to hear about their first day of school when you pick them up.
- Have an activity for after school that they can look forward to so that you have something fun and exciting to talk about as you are approaching the school.
- Trust that your children are in great hands. We have helped hundreds of students over the years to make this transition.
- The PTO will be providing coffee for parents so that you let your child join the other children and spend a moment socializing with other parents. This is a great opportunity to get to know the parents of children that your child will be forming friendships with.



First 3 days of Kindergarten is 1/2 Days!

For the first 3 days of school, kindergarten students will have a half-day ending at 11:30. Students will be scheduled for individual assessments in the afternoon. Be on the lookout for an email with details about your day and time!



Grades 1-5 Have Full Day, August 30th

A reminder to all our families that students are **dismissed at 1:50 on Wednesday's during the school year**; this allows for professional development of our teachers and staff. Please make every effort to pick your child up on time! **Grades 1-5 have a full-day of school on their first day back! 8:10-1:50**



Pre-School

The first day of preschool is Tuesday, September 5th. There is NO preschool on Wednesdays, so there will be no school on September 6th. The first week of preschool will be half days ending at 11:30.

Safe Routes to Schools in Burlington

The Burlington School District, Burlington Public Works, and Local Motion are working together to form a Safe Routes to School (**SRTS**) Task Force, and we're looking for community members who want to get involved! **SRTS** is a national program that promotes walking and biking through infrastructure improvement, education, and incentives to encourage a culture of walking and biking to school. By walking and biking, students also have the opportunity to connect with peers and gain a connection to their community. In addition to our District-wide Task Force, we envision school-based groups made up of representatives from staff, administrators, parents and interested community members who will collaborate on events, help the City understand issues that need to be addressed, work to address school travel barriers, and more. Anyone interested should contact Bonnie Hooper at onnie@localmotion.org



Join Me In Welcoming Our Newest Staff Members!



Welcome Brooke Romania!

Brooke Romania is excited to join the Burlington School District this fall as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant at Edmunds Middle and Elementary Schools.

Brooke graduated from The University at Buffalo, Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa, with a Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science and Linguistics and a minor in Psychology in May 2023. During Brooke's time at the University at Buffalo, she was an undergraduate research assistant in two psychology department laboratories, teaching assistant, academic coach, and intern at the University's Fisher-Price endowed Early Childhood Research Center. Brooke has completed over 900 Americorps hours of service with The DREAM Program in Burlington. The DREAM Program works to bridge the opportunity gap for youth living in low-income housing.

Welcome Danielle LeVine!

Hi Everyone! I am beyond thrilled to join the Edmunds team as a special education teacher this year. I have a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a concentration in history, a minor in deaf studies, a master's degree in special education from The College of New Jersey, and I will be finishing my second master's program for Behavior Analysis. Over the last ten years, I have worked in grades K-6th in private, public self-contained, and resource room settings in Cherry Hill and Medford, NJ and Eden, VT. My favorite subjects to teach are Reading and Math, but they are all pretty great. Although I grew up in New Jersey, my mother grew up in Essex Junction so I always spent my school breaks visiting my grandparents here. A fun fact is that both my grandmother and great-grandmother attended school at Edmunds! My mother is a recently retired teacher so I always knew this was something I wanted to do. She works in Edmunds too as a paraprofessional in kindergarten! For as long as I can remember, I have talked about moving to Vermont - and I was finally able to make the dream a reality! Now, I live here with my dog, Charlie. In my spare time, I love to be with my family out at camp on the Georgia shore; go skiing; kayaking; crocheting; playing with Charlie; traveling; and singing along to Taylor Swift, the Jonas Brothers, and Broadway musicals in my car. I look forward to a wonderful year of growth and personal successes in each and every child and working alongside all the talented staff here.



Welcome Emily Detzer!

My name is Emily Detzer and I'm very excited to be joining the Edmunds Elementary community! My husband and I have spent the last year in Washington, DC, but we are native Vermonters and happy to be back. I have been a speech-language pathologist for 10 years. I love baking, hiking, and my two cats.



Welcome Heidi Dostal!

Hello. My name is Heidi Dostal. You may see my extremely-long-hardly-ever-used full name Heidi Drinkwater-Dostal. I have lived in Jericho, VT for 16 years with my husband, 15-year-old daughter, Jada, a college sophomore, Noah, Niko, the golden retriever, and Alfie, the rabbit. I have practiced and served students as a Speech and Language Therapist for years. In fact, when I arrived from Maine in 2002, I was contracted part-time, right here, at Edmund's Elementary. I am excited to be back.

I changed paths for the 2022-2023 school year and practiced as a Special Educator. I am currently working with AOE and the Peer Review Team on my formal Special Educator's license. At the end of the day, I love working with individuals with diverse learning styles and helping them to access the world around them. I love to garden. It has exploded with all of this rain. Please ask if I have any tomatoes or green beans. The likelihood of me bringing them for lunches in the month of September is high. I look forward to connecting with you all.

Welcome Joni Pecor!

Hi! I'm Joni Pecor and I am thrilled to be returning to the classroom and joining the EES team! I have spent the last 13 years of my career at J.J. Flynn Elementary. I taught grades 5, 4, and 3. Now I'm ready for grade 2!). I learned so much and enjoyed my last 5 years as an instructional coach at Flynn. Prior to coming to Burlington I taught in Seattle Public Schools for a decade.

I live in Colchester with my husband, Jeff, and my children, Ella (18) and Jackson (15). Ella will be heading off soon to begin her first year at St. Lawrence University and Jackson will be a sophomore at Colchester High School. We spend a ton of time at our kids sporting events. I love to garden. And, I love a good adventure! This is a picture of me backpacking this summer on a portion of The Long Trail.





Welcome Kerrie Theye!



Hello, Edmunds Elementary community! My name is Kerrie Theye, and I have been a Burlington resident for about 22 years. I was born and raised just over the bridge in Winooski. After graduating from Champlain College in 1991, I attended the University of Miami and Miami Dade College. 1996 I moved to Dallas, Texas, and then to Austin, Texas. At the thought of starting a family, my husband/college sweetheart Carlos and I made a move to Burlington to be close to family. And I'm so glad we did! I feel so lucky to be part of this community, this beautiful city and all that Vermont has to offer. After having my first child, I decided to halt my career and become a stay at home mom. I'm a proud mom of two Burlington High Schoolers, Sofia and Charlie who are at Downtown BHS (aka Macy's). It's been a unique experience for them, and both are weathering it very well there. Upon the start of their elementary school careers I started working for Essex Hollow

Preschool and fell in love with working with the young kids and cultivating their development at the school. I've been in the preschool setting for 10 years now and I became interested to take my knowledge and experience to the next level. I will be a kindergarten paraeducator for Edmunds Elementary. I'm very excited to join your team and to learn from all of you. In my free time, I really enjoy the four seasons in Vermont! In the winter you can find me and my family skiing at Bolton, Spring and Fall you can find us hiking around different spots in Vermont and Summer you can find us camping, paddle boarding and enjoying the lake. Not to mention live music events in the area, I'm a big fan of live music. Looking forward to meeting and working with you!

Welcome Melyssa Sweet!

Melyssa Sweet has been a school psychologist in the Burlington School District, at BHS, since 2020. She grew up just outside of Albany, NY before moving to Massachusetts to study education, psychology, and sociology at UMass Amherst. Melyssa moved back to the Albany area where she earned her doctorate from the University at Albany, SUNY. Melyssa has experience working in K-12 schools and residential care. Her professional interests include trauma-informed practices, prevention and wellness promotion, and multi-tiered systems of support. When she's not working, she enjoys spending time with her pup (Ralph), hiking, skiing, and baking. Melyssa is extremely excited to join the Edmunds Elementary team this upcoming school year!



Welcome Rachel Guerra!

Hi All - My name is Rachel Guerra and I am from southern VT. I recently graduated from the University of Vermont with a degree in Elementary Education and I am currently working on my Master's of Special Education. I interned in kindergarten at Edmund's last year and I am very excited to be back! I have always loved working with kids, I was a camp counselor for a bit and then worked locally at the King Street Center. I love to be outside, running and swimming have been a couple of my favorite activities this summer. I am also a big skier, Smuggs has been my favorite VT mountain. I look forward to seeing and getting to know everyone this school year!!



Welcome Veronica Zutic!

Hi everyone! I'm Veronica Zutic (she/her) and I'm so excited to be joining the Edmunds Elementary School team! I earned my MSW this past May from the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, part of the City University of New York, and I specialized in child trauma during my program, completing a specialized curriculum in partnership with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. I am interested in child development (especially as it relates to trauma), infant and school-age child mental health, and trauma-focused, relational, and psychodynamic therapy modalities. My go-to toy in play therapy (and in general) is a set of Magna-Tiles!

I'm excited to be relocating from New York City to Burlington this summer with my partner, who was born in and lived in Montpelier for several years as a child. I was born and raised in New Jersey, and before living in NYC I lived in Washington, DC for several years, in western Massachusetts and Montauk, NY briefly in 2020, and in the Upper Valley with my partner's parents for a year. Outside of work I love hanging out with my cat, trying out new restaurants and coffee shops (ask me about my time working in food service!), reading, listening to podcasts, cooking with my partner, and getting together with friends. I'm hoping to crowdsource recommendations for the best coffee, creemees, and yoga studios in the area, so I'd love to hear about all of your favorite spots! Looking forward to meeting and working with all of you!



Hello BSD Families

We are excited to welcome students back to the Burlington Afterschool Programs. The first day of afterschool will be Wednesday, August 30, 2023. This applies to all 1-5 students who have been accepted into the program. Kindergarten students who have been accepted will start on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. We will contact families on the waitlist as spaces become available.

We are so excited that all our Site Director teams are returning this year. They are back at work preparing for the school year. Families should expect communication from their building Site Director in the coming weeks to confirm student schedules. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to your building Site Director, emails and contact numbers are listed below.

Please note that students may begin attending only if there is no outstanding balance, including sibling balances, from participating in prior year(s). Contact Phuket Jennings if you have any questions about outstanding balances: pjenning@bsdvt.org or [\(802\) 324-7872](tel:8023247872).

If you are interested in applying for Afterschool you can do so by creating a parent portal account and completing the 2023-2024 Afterschool Registration Application at <https://bsdvtorgparentportal.cayen-server.net/>.

All new registration applications will be placed on a waitlist.

Emma Steer	Director of Expanded Learning	540-0285	esteer@bsdvt.org
Karlie Gunderson	Asst. Director of Expanded Learning	777-0295	kgunders@bsdvt.org
Phuket Jennings	Billing Specialist	324-7872	pjenning@bsdvt.org
Sage Janser	Site Director, Edmunds Elementary	316-0195	sjanser@bsdvt.org
Tucker Houston	Asst. Site Director, Edmunds Elementary	316-0195	thouston@bsdvt.org
Nick Chmura	Site Director, Sustainability Academy	324-6723	nchmura@bsdvt.org
Kevin Lewis	Asst. Site Director, Sustainability Academy	324-6723	klewis@bsdvt.org
Abbie Israel	Site Director, Flynn Elementary	864-8500	aisrael@bsdvt.org
James Hare	Asst. Site Director, Flynn Elementary	864-8500	jhare@bsdvt.org
Jack Anzalone	Site Director, Champlain Elementary	316-1681	janzalon@bsdvt.org
Shannon Whitehouse	Asst. Site Director, Champlain Elementary	316-1681	smwhiteh@bsdvt.org
Marcie Lussier	Site Director, CP Smith Elementary	316-1153	mlussier@bsdvt.org
Owen Curtin	Asst. Site Director, CP Smith Elementary	316-1153	ocurtin@bsdvt.org