

THE EDGE NEWS

ALL ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7TH

LEAPING INTO THE LAND OF THE SWEETS

BY: CLARA BEHRMAN

ESSEX -The Vermont Ballet Theater School in Essex Jct., Vermont, has been performing its very own Nutcracker since 2004. Every year, the dancers perform at the Flynn in Burlington, but not until roles have been casted, costumes have been made and fitted, and most of all, everyone has rehearsed their roles for many, many weeks. "[The Nutcracker] is a musical and artistic interpretation of a young girl's dream that takes her on a magical journey from her home on Christmas Eve to the Land of the Sweets, with her Nutcracker Prince," says Michele Federo, VBTS teacher.

Every Saturday, dancers go to the ballet school, many of them early in the morning, to begin a long day of intense training. The Vermont Ballet Theater Company attends this full day training, as well as several classes of practice during the week. It takes about ten weeks to prepare for the big shows

This past Saturday, dancers from the Vermont Ballet Theater rehearsed dances such as Snow, Spanish, Chinese, Flowers, Sugar Plum Fairy, Party Scene, and many more. With sweat pouring down faces, and feet blistered and sour, dancers are hard at work preparing for the big

show. The reasons are obvious: The dancers put in this much effort into the Nutcracker, because it is a time for them to shine, make the school look good, and mostly, light up the stage. The Nutcracker is an opportunity for boys and girls to have a chance at being a real dancer, show off their skills, and get the experience of dancing in front of a crowd of hundreds of people.

Essex Middle School hosts their annual 5K to raise scholarship funds for the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.



CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE REOPENS

BY: EMILY BULGER

VERMONT - On Monday, November 7th, the Champlain Bridge reopened, to the delight of many people. Almost two years before when the bridge was demolished, a lot of people from both New York and Vermont had to find a new way to get across the lake and to their jobs. Their answer? A time-consuming ferry service paid for with tax dollars. Many people lost hours out of their lives. However, on Monday, all of that changed. The bridge reopened at 2:30 with a ribbon cutting ceremony involving Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin and New York Lt. Governor Robert Duffy. This bridge is important to daily commuters and travelers. The bridge brings very important business to both Vermont and New York. Now that the bridge is back, everything will be like it was before; many people will get important hours of their lives back, business will be booming, and overall this will help to keep our tax dollars in our pocket.

WHERE IS THE MONEY? BY LIAM KINNEY

ESSEX -Recently, there was a new bank built on 2 Commonwealth Avenue. Essex VT. The bank is National Bank Trust, a banking company that has two other offices in Vermont. The bank opened Wednesday, October 5, 2011. However, there was a few trees and lots of grass in the site, so they had to clear-cut. A clear cut is when you clear out everything in the area so the building can be constructed. The first step that they took was bring in a bulldozer and basically destroy everything in the area.

There were some different opinions about the clear cut. I interviewed a few of my classmates and got mixed results. A male student in my class(who wishes to stay anonymous), said that "The clear cut is a good idea, they just cut down some thorns and some trees that were going to get cut down anyway." But Lauren House has a different standing on this. "I don't think it was a very good idea because they destroyed some animal's possible homes." When I asked her if she thought it had any impact on the community she replied, "I think a lot of people thought that it was a good idea and some people thought it was a bad idea so it

it might have had a impact."

So in conclusion, there are mixed opinions on the clear cut. I personally think that the bank will pay off itself. There aren't many banks around where I live, usually we go to the movie theater ATM. So having a extra bank around will be helpful.

OCCUPYING BURLINGTON BY: CHLOE LEMMEL-HAY AND RYLEE WRENNER

BURLINGTON - Following the recent shooting at Occupy Burlington last Thursday in which one man lost his life, police are reigning in the protest in the interest of the community's safety. The gunshot rang through City Park on the afternoon of Thursday, November 10th. Joshua Pfenning, 35, is believed to have shot himself in the head for suicidal purposes. He was brought to Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington and pronounced dead three hours later. According to Burlington Police Chief Andi Higbee, Pfenning had alerted three fellow campers of the possession of his gun days before the alleged suicide.

Police ordered the camp to be taken down from the park the following weekend, and said that protesters could still occupy City Hall Park from 6 a.m. to midnight each day. There was some dispute about this agreement the days following the shooting, and Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss helped the police regain order of the park. On Friday, a letter signed by officials including Mayor Bob Kiss stated, "The presence of structure/tents creates an enhanced risk by virtue of the activity that can and is occurring inside them with such potentially dangerous activity hidden from view in areas that are routinely open to and accessed by the public. These risks cannot be managed by the encampment facilitators or police under the current circumstances."

EDGE STUDENTS CREATE A CRITTER BY: JULIA CHADWICK

ESSEX-For the past week in the Edge Academy Lindsey Halman has started a new unit called Create a Critter in her literacy block. This is a fun new twist on ecology where the class is assigned a planet called Khoumon and the students are creating new life. Erik Ronsberger created this planet. This planet is made up of four main sections. North Elauos (subarctic to temperate very dry), Zafrana (temperate), South Elauos (temperate to subtropical), and last Hasvakoor (tropical, very humid). The students have read an article about the planet as part of their research. As another part of their research of organisms the students came up with a list of things all living organisms needed to

survive. Then they narrowed it down to the top seven. The students have come up with their own design (for critters) from vegetation to land to water, there are so many options. "I think that creating a critter in the world of Khoumon is a fun and educational experience that involves creatively and knowledge!" says Clara Behrman an 8th grader at The Edge Academy. The class has also interviewed each other and found that other classmate's critters are prey and some are predator, or even both. As a whole these projects are showing great progress and a bright future.

STUDENTS SHARE THEIR VOICE AT EMS BY: NATALIE IACOCCA

EMS - Here at the Essex Middle School students are capable of running for student body council. The vote for president, vice president, treasurer and secretary is on December 5th, 2011. Kathryn Daniels is running for vice president she is representing the Edge Academy, and is in seventh grade. When asked why she was running for Vice President, she answered that she was running for V.P because, "I think that students from the Edge Academy should have a voice in a the Middle School. I also would like to learn about politics." That is someone who would like to win the election. On the other side of the school, there are people who aren't quite as excited, and wouldn't run for president, or VP or treasurer. Julia Chadwick is from that side of the classroom, she is also in the Edge Academy and also in seventh grade. "I am not running because I don't think I could handle the pressure. I follow other peoples ideas, I don't know how well they will turn out on my own." She won't be handing out buttons or hanging up posters to win the election in the lost sea called middle school. Unlike Kathryn Daniels who wants to be right up there, she wants to be in the middle school politics group, she wants to be Vice President of the Essex Middle School. Other than just her, there are eight eighth graders running, two seventh graders and two sixth graders running for office. That is one of the events going on here at Essex Middle School. Be sure to vote!

CRAFT FAIRS COME TO ESSEX By: Hollie Parks

Essex - In preparation for the coming holiday season there have been many craft fairs and Bazaars going on at local churches and schools throughout the month of November. Many people went to the craft fairs or was a crafter at the craft fair. They sold jewelry, baked goods, paintings, trinkets, knitted items, and many other things as well. Many were held on November 5th and also on November 12th.

"It was fun, and my corn chowder was delicious and very hot!" said Rylee Wrenner, a customer at the craft fair at Founders Memorial

School. Gabby Churchman, a craftsman at the fair said that she had a fun time because she was with her friends while

selling animal themed products. Some of the money raised will go to the Humane Society to help the animals in need there. She had a good time and had lots of customers.

Most of the craft fairs happen once a year in November to get ready for the holiday season. Many people buy presents for the upcoming holidays to give to their friends and family. "There was a steady flow of people in and out of the craft fairs, treasures were purchased and people went away smiling," says Carol Parks a helper and consumer at the craft fair at the Essex Free library and the Founder Memorial School craft fair. "I had a wonderful time sharing the day with my daughter."

K.I.T.S. AT CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE BY: STEPHAN

BISHOP-MERCIER BURLINGTON - On November 10th, a group of twenty 7th graders in Mr. Airolidi's Design and Technology Education class, at Essex Middle School, went to Champlain College to learn about technology with the Kids In Technology and Science program(or K.I.T.S.). K.I.T.S. showed them a lot about computer programing, radiography (study of x-rays), how to make a computer, and Lego NXT Mindstorm Robots. "I thought that it was very fun and it kept me interested," said Natalie, a 7th grader that goes to EMS, "the programing was really fun".

ABOVE THE FOLD BY: JESSE MONAHAN

ESSEX - Students at the Edge Academy are working hard to complete the "Above the Fold" project in their Writer's Workshop. Their goal: to create the front page of a newspaper! Each person tackles a piece of local news alone or with a partner. They want it to be short because we have to fit in a lot of articles. Their goal is for it to be around two hundred and fifty words or a little shorter. The deadline for the project is November twenty-first two thousand eleven, but they have Thanksgiving vacation then so they are pushing to have it finished by Friday the eighteenth of November. "I'm writing an article about the new NBT bank here in Essex," says Liam Kinney, a student at the Edge Academy. "I think that this is an okay project. I might do it again, although I would not want to do it on a daily basis." Reporting on our local news has been a new and exciting project for the Edge learners.