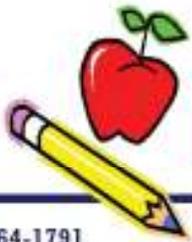


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

December 20, 2013

From the Principal's Desk

I don't know about you, but I enjoy the idea of magic and magical things. As a child, I loved fairy tales, and read lots of them. I'm an adult who loves Harry Potter, the books feed my love of fantasy; of make believe. As a child, I had a pretty vivid imagination. There were definitely alligators and tigers under my bed and I had to jump way out beyond the edges when the room was dark. My dolls came to life when I was gone and would return to the position I left them in a fraction of a second before I returned to the room. I would sometimes pretend so hard, I would scare myself. I remember playing a game when I was 8 or 9 where there were witches flying around and I got so caught up in the game that I dove under a picnic table, avoiding a witch plummeting down out of the sky on her broom. I found myself cowering, out of breath, and heart pounding. I then reminded myself that it was make believe and sheepishly crawled out from under the picnic table. My imaginings came from stories I read.

Our children will often see magic or fantasy in movies, but what they are able to experience in their own minds and from books can be so much richer, especially as they learn to visualize the story within their minds. Reading stories from books with pictures is fun, but it is also good to read stories from chapter books that don't have pictures. You'd be surprised how early they can begin to envision the scenes and the characters. They also get to hear richer language as books will use more vocabulary than we might use in our everyday conversations. It isn't necessary to explain every word. The language will become apparent in the same way they learned the vocabulary they know - through exposure.

When we think about it, humans have a long history of telling stories to one another. It was a major form of entertainment before technology came along. Cultures had individuals who were responsible for memorizing the history of their people and would relay the stories to the community. Traveling story would go from town to town entertaining people with stories. Families would gather in the evening and listen as a story teller enthralled them with stories and legends.

I was reminded of just how wonderful it was to be able to listen to a good story this fall, when I drove to Virginia over Thanksgiving. I listened to an audible book. The story was so long that I listened to it for days after getting back to Vermont. I was surprised at how much I have enjoyed listening to a story being read to me.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 23-Jan 1 - Winter Break
- Jan. 8 Whole School Assembly
- Jan. 15 Whole School Assembly
- Jan. 20 Martin Luther King - no school

Whole School Assembly - Welcome Back

Cont'd:

As the nights are long, it is the perfect time to open a good book and share it with your children. Let them take the time to quietly listen to a good, long story; one that is rich in description and in developing the characters, where they can create the scenes and care about the characters. Pull out the stories that you loved as a child and share them with them. The richness that they are exposed to in listening to stories will become part of their own language, their own fantasies and imaginings and their own writing as they grow.

If you are taking a long car trip this vacation, try downloading a story and listen with the whole family. It may just be the most peaceful, interesting trip you've ever had!

HOURLY OF CODE

Students in our library classes recently participated in a computer science event called "Hour of Code". During this time, our students were a part of over 15 million students who experimented with computer coding to find out exactly what programmers do! They were able to make game characters move, jump and navigate mazes by writing code for games. This was a great exposure to the behind-the-scenes aspect of games they like to use and gave our students a new perspective on how they work. If you would like to learn more about this Hour of Code, visit the website <http://csedweek.org/learn> and try your hand at coding!

AFTERSCHOOL NEWS

Hi, I'm Stephanie Elliston and I'm very excited to be joining the Burlington Kids team at Edmunds Elementary School as the Assistant Site Director. I have a masters in environmental education from the University of New Hampshire, and have enjoyed working in camps and other informal education programs, all along the east coast, for the last 10 years. I moved to Vermont 2 years ago from New York City where I was an educator at the city zoos, and where I got to work with some amazing animals and kids. I love animals, travelling, taking pictures, and making everything from cookies to furniture. I'm excited to get to know all of the Burlington Kids/Edmunds staff, kids, and families really soon. So, if you've ever wondered who bites harder - a baby alligator or a penguin, what a hedgehog smells like, or how to knit a hat, come chat with me sometime!

Afterschool Families!

Session 2 schedules were sent home this week, paper copies as well as via email. If you did not receive an afterschool schedule, your child is not enrolled. Please contact Priscilla, 316-0195, praba@bsdvt.org or the new assistant director, Stephanie stellisto@bsdvt.org if you have any questions. Thanks, hope everyone has an enjoyable break!

FROM THE PTO**WILLY WONKA SCHOOL MUSICAL**

The sign-up genius is ready for people to use and secure their volunteer positions. If you attended the informational meeting on Tuesday, December 3, please follow-up by choosing how you will support this year's school musical. Click on the link below to identify what will work best with your schedule. You can also access the link through the PTO website (eespto.org). <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094AA8AC2FAA8-2013>

Auditions for grades 3-5 will take place Tues-Thurs

January 7, 8, 9th. Grades 1-2 chorus will meet on Fridays (see Burlington Kids after school program brochure). No rehearsals for Grades 3-5 cast on Fridays Jan-March. Full run through Sunday, March 9th. Show will be Thurs-Saturday March 13-15th. More information at <http://eespto.org/theater-program/>. ***Looking for (2) Parent Volunteers to Chair our team of volunteer parents.*** Contact: Clare Wool (clarewool@mac.com) if you are interested in helping out.



First graders representing EES at Berlin City Auto Group which donated \$1,500 to Edmunds for our garden and landscaping project! They were very articulate, explaining what the funds were to be used for without any practice (we didn't know they'd have an opportunity to speak). We are very proud of our entire First Grade for writing letters to persuade the company to give us funds for our project.

PTO MEETING AND PARENT NIGHT THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Save the date! More information to be announced. Questions or topics you would like to discuss? Contact PTO leaders Marni Slavik, Stephanie Mueller, and Clare Wool at pto@eespto.org.

PTO EMAIL UPDATES

The PTO sends out weekly email updates. If you would like to be added to the PTO email list, please email the EES PTO (pto@eespto.org). For more information about PTO events visit: <http://eespto.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/eespto>.