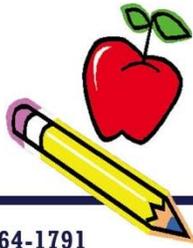


FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

February 6, 2015

From the Principal's Desk

Sometimes we get to witness something that provides an interesting insight into parenting techniques. I had two such opportunities at least a decade before I became a parent. The first occurred on a beautiful spring day. I had gone to work on my dad's sailboat, which was still sitting in its cradle in the boatyard. I was sanding the trim, getting it ready for a fresh coat of varnish when a mother and daughter climbed up into the boat next to ours. We were each working quietly on our own boats when the little girl, about 5 years old, began to scream that there was a bee. The mother gently but firmly said, "Dear, in this world there are bees and we must learn to live with them". She turned back to the task she was working on. I watched as the child silently and warily watched the bee which soon flew away. I was impressed with the simple manner in which the mother helped her child learn about facing an unpleasant situation.

Later that summer, I was reading on the beach which was fairly deserted with the exception of two families with children, all school aged. The kids were having a great time playing in the water, when all of a sudden they began to shout and ran out of the water. Their parents jumped up in alarm to see what the problem was. I watched as a father walked into the water, reached down and picked a large horse shoe crab out of the water and placed it on the sand. Another parent then fetched a garbage pail.

Horse shoe crabs are prehistoric creatures that had become increasingly rare. I was alarmed when I saw the garbage pail, so I walked over to the small crowd and asked the parents what they were planning to do. One of the dads said they were going to put the crab in the garbage pail which of course would have killed it. I asked "Why?"

He said, "The kids could step on it and get hurt". I had grown up on the beach and had played many times near horseshoe crabs without incident. Furthermore, the beach was easily 1,000 feet long. I pointed out that there was plenty of room for the crab and the kids to be in the water. I also pointed out that while the kids could easily exist on the shore, the crab lived in the water and the kids were in the crab's home. The parents were annoyed with my objection, but they didn't kill the crab, and instead moved it far down the beach and away from where the children were playing. Problem solved.

Both situations involved dealing with something that had the potential to be unpleasant. One parent helped her child learn to face the unpleasantness, and build up her own personal resilience. The other parents came to the rescue. Their children were never involved in developing any strategy of how to share the water with the crab. Instead, they were reinforced in looking to someone else to solve their problem

Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 16 Parent Night - Personal Safety and Healthy Relationships
- Feb. 19 Book Swap
- Feb. 20 Report Cards go home
Start of winter break
Student Council Spirit Day
- Mar. 4 Return from Winter Break

Whole School Assembly
Wednesday, Feb. 18
2nd Grade Share of Wind Project eBooks

for them.

The bee and the horseshoe crab could be any problem, whether a disagreement with a sibling or a classmate, or a difficult task that takes hard work and critical thinking to complete. There are many times when we as parents want to protect our children from harm, in whatever form that takes. It is a real balancing act to determine when we need to step in because of truly imminent danger, and when we should hold back, and encourage our children to solve their own problems. Facing difficult situations is critical to helping children grow up to become more competent, capable individuals. The mother with the bee couldn't have been more correct. In this world, there are many "bees" and we all have to live with them.

PTO-SPONSORED PARENT NIGHT BURLINGTON BUDGET AND PERSONAL SAFETY FOR OUR CHILDREN: MONDAY FEBRUARY 16th 5:45-8:00PM

Free dinner and childcare will be provided. Location: EES Gym-café. For more information - see the PTO Section on the back!

EES STUDENT COUNCIL SPIRIT DAY FRIDAY, FEB. 20

The theme is Professional Day. Students may dress up to represent a profession/career of their choice. No masks or make-up. A few ideas/suggestions: chef, teacher, banker, lawyer, doctor, mechanic, singer, actor, athlete, farmer, artist, retail, designer, architect, librarian, carpenter, etc.

Book Swap!

Do you have any gently used children's books collecting dust around your house? Would you like to find a new home for them? The EES Library is planning a book swap on Thursday, February 19th and we could use your donations! Here's how you can help:

- Send in a gently used children's book either on your child's grade level or up to two grade levels higher.
- Limit up to 5 books per child to donate. This will help build our supply of books for students to choose from.
- Please no magazines, textbooks, Golden Books, board books, comic books, coloring books or sticker books.

Every child, regardless if they bring in a book or not, can take home a book to keep on Book Swap day. We will allow students to choose a book of their liking to keep for their own personal reading!

The Library will be accepting donations of your gently used books from Monday February 2nd through Monday February 16. Send in your donations with your children who can drop them off at the library when they come for class. Thank you for your help in making our Book Swap a success!

Racing to Read

February is Love Your Library Month at Edmunds Elementary School! To celebrate our love of books and to promote reading, each classroom will take part in our "**Reading to Race!**" event. This year's theme will have students speeding through Burlington past various local landmarks on their way to the finish line!

From February 1st through the 17th, students will be asked to keep track of how many minutes they spend reading outside of school including their homework. Join in celebrating by encouraging reading at home.

FROM THE PTO**EES MUSICAL NARNIA UPDATE**

We need everyone who has a child in the musical to please help out in some way. Please visit the sign-up genius website at the following link and see what the needs are, email directly with the role you would like to provide, or ask what is needed most. We really can't put on the show without the help of everyone. Please see what you can offer. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at kkworden@gmail.com <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094aa8ac2faa8-20151>

NARNIA PERFORMANCE BAKE SALES - HELP NEEDED!

Every year during the intermission of each performance we hold a bake sale to help cover the costs of the annual musical. In order to make this fundraiser successful, we are asking for donations of food, baked goods, and drinks for both the Friday night and Saturday afternoon performances. We welcome participation from all families whether or not you have children in the musical. Your contribution makes a difference to our school. PLEASE sign up

(www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0B44ACAB2BA57-narnia) to help. Questions, contact Lisa Brihenti (lisa.brihenti@gmail.com or 999-2934)

PTO-SPONSORED PARENT NIGHT DOUBLE FEATURE: BURLINGTON BUDGET AND PERSONAL SAFETY FOR OUR CHILDREN : MONDAY FEBRUARY 16th 5:45-8:00PM

Free dinner and childcare will be provided. Location: EES Gym-café. For information on the parent night contact EES School Counselor, Melissa Hathaway at mhathawa@bsdvt.org or (802) 540-0137, or Marni Slavik at pto@eespto.org. Howard Smith, Interim Superintendent, will discuss the Burlington School District budget for next year from 5:45 to 6:30.

Speaker Johanna Straavaldsen from Prevent Child Abuse Vermont will be speaking from 6:30-8:00. This year, Burlington School District Elementary Schools will be using the *Care For Kids* (grades PreK-2) and *We Care Elementary* (grades 3-5) sexual abuse prevention programs. These programs develop adults' capacity to protect children from sexual abuse and take a comprehensive approach to helping students build healthy relationships. Both programs are brought to us by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, a non-profit serving parents, schools, and individuals throughout the state. These experiential and interactive curricula focus on helping children build communication and empathy skills as well as understand boundaries. Edmunds Elementary School will be hosting an event for parents of elementary school students to learn about these programs and to discuss how we all promote healthy relationships with kids. This event provides parents an opportunity to talk with one another about their experiences discussing relationships with children and consider the different strategies that adults can use to promote healthy relationship skills. It is strongly encouraged that all parents/guardians attend this event. Adult involvement in prevention is critical and truly does make a difference. Additionally, for more information about the *Care For Kids* and *We Care Elementary* Programs, please visit www.PCAVT.org.

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT EES DRAMA TUESDAY, MARCH 3

We are in need of baked goods for the bake sale that will be held on Election Day (Tuesday 3/3) at the Ward 6 voting site (EMS gym). Please consider baking something or donating store bought baked goods or other items for this bake sale. All proceeds benefit the EES drama program, which help pay for the annual musical. One donation we are looking for is coffee, either someone to make and bring in carafes along with cups, milk, creamer and sugar, or donated from Dunkin Donuts or elsewhere. Other ways to help are to volunteer to help for an hour or more at the bake sale. We need your help to make this bake sale a success. Please email Clare Wool at clarewool@mac.com if you can help out in any way. Donations of baked goods or other items for the bake sale can be dropped off at Clare's house prior to Tuesday or directly at the EMS gym on Tuesday morning. Please contact Clare to coordinate.

Don't Forget to Vote - March 3rd. Out of town? Don't forget an absentee ballot!