

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

February 6, 2015

From the Principal's Desk

As a child born in the early 1950's, I remember the measles, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough and polio. I had a very severe and dangerous form of measles in first grade. I missed the last six weeks of school, including the turtle races, and it took the entire summer to recuperate. The hospital didn't want me there because it was so contagious. Only my mother was allowed in my room, and my dad would talk to me from my doorway to prevent spreading the disease at his work. I don't remember the fever convulsions, but I do remember my mother carrying me to the tub she'd lined with towels and filled with cool water to reduce my fever and to try to prevent me from injuring myself as I was convulsing. I remember having to eat baby food and when I was finally able to go outside again in late July, my brothers dragging me around in the red wagon because I was too weak to walk more than a few steps. In high school, I had Rubella (then German Measles), three years in a row, a rarity, to be sure, but a fact. I was bed ridden for many weeks of high school as a result.

Polio was a frightening, painful, and sometimes fatal disease. It was so serious that the vaccine was dispensed in schools. I remember lining up in the cafeteria, waiting for the vaccine that was in the form of a sweet syrup in a tiny white cup. It was given several years in a row to provide immunity. I have several friends for whom that vaccine came too late. I met a great kid at Girl Scout Camp whose leg muscles were shriveled, her legs little more than the bones within, surrounded by braces. She used metal crutches with the clamps around her forearms to walk. She was fearless and did handstands on those crutches. Polio also attacked the muscles around the lungs, affecting the ability to breath. Children lived in iron lungs - huge machines that breathed for them.? This wasn't something that went away with the disease. For some, the damage was permanent.

There was a very good reason why parents in my parents and my own generation didn't question vaccinating our children. We all knew children who had either been debilitated, or worse, died from the diseases that were prevented by the vaccines.

I recognize that two generations of parents have no context or personal connection with these diseases that were common when I grew up. The thing is, the risks are no less serious. We can't rely on rumors regarding vaccines or bad science. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) has very clear information regarding vaccines and their safety, which is readily available on the Internet. There is risk in anything we do, but the risk in more and more children not being vaccinated is dangerous, not just to the children who are not vaccinated as a matter of choice, but to those who have no choice because of age or their compromised immune systems. Today's parents may not remember, but there are those who do among parents and grandparents.

I am old enough to remember. I vaccinated my children.

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**

Mar. 4 Return from Winter Break

**Whole School Assembly
Wednesday, Feb. 11**

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!

EES Staff Appreciates the Appreciation

That may sound funny, but we want to make sure that you know that the faculty and staff really enjoy the special efforts parents make to let us know that you appreciate the efforts of all the adults in the building every Thursday. It's such a lovely surprise and very creative! We marvel at the ingenuity and fun that is displayed. Thank you so much!

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

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 Straavaaldsen 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. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to call Melissa Hathaway (540-0137).

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>

The following roles are especially needed:

- Cast Costume Party Organizers (Wednesday 2/18)
- Election Day Bake Sale Organizers
- Pit Orchestra (**March** 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th)
- Set Crew Helpers at dress rehearsal and performances (**March** 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th)
- Graphic Design Layout of Playbill Ads
- Playbill Biographies
- Cast Cues at dress rehearsal and performances (**March** 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th)
- Stage Entrance Helpers at dress rehearsal and performances (**March** 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th)
- Dress Rehearsal Helpers (**March** 8th, 9th, 11th)
- High School Volunteer Organizer

FROM THE COMMUNITY**NOFA CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE**

The next generation of farmers, gardeners, and food lovers (ages 5-12) is invited to participate in two days of special programming at NOFA Vermont's Children's Conference—running concurrently with the 33rd annual Winter Conference—February 14 and 15, at the University of Vermont. Led by an incredible group of educators, yogis, musicians, artists, farmers, foresters, and environmentalists, the workshops nurture stewardship and sustainability...and are guaranteed to be a lot of fun! The cost is just \$30/day per child. More details and registration information at <http://nofavt.org/conference/childrens> or by calling (802) 434-4122.