



EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY



FLASH

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

Date and Volume Number

March 18, 2016

From the Principal's Desk

When my son was three, I was reading "Little House in the Big Woods" to him before his nap. There were very few illustrations and most of the pages were simply text. One afternoon as I was reading, John, reached across my lap, and waved his hand across the words on the page, saying, "I'm getting used to this kind of picture." I asked, "Do you mean the picture you make in your head from the story?"

"Yes", he responded. It was amazing that I actually got a chance to know when he started developing the ability to create a mental image of what was being said or read to him

The number of children who make mental pictures of their reading has really declined. Children don't have to make mental pictures because of the amount of screen time they now have with television, tablets, phones, and computers. This isn't to say that they can no longer do it. Rather it is a situation where they have not had to do it, so developing the ability is something that will require a greater and more deliberate effort on our part.

Research is very clear about the value of visualizing as an important component to reading comprehension. If you make images while you read, the reading can come alive in your head, helping you make sense of what you are reading as well as making it more memorable. The ability to create a mental picture or image of it is called visualizing. The ability to visualize is also critical in math. It helps students to begin to grasp the concept of quantity, of what a mathematician I've worked with calls "oneness" - the idea of a single object vs. "twoness" - the idea of two objects. Digits and what we call numbers is a symbolic representation of the concept or idea of quantity. When a child grasps the idea of 2 or 5 or 15, and the difference between them in terms of quantity, they are then able to begin to grasp mathematical concepts. Being able to visualize a quantity of any item is important to gaining a sense of numeracy. It's what allows us to eventually be able to see when the total on a bill is wrong, or helps us to estimate a quantity without actually calculating.

You can help your child develop the ability to visualize. When you read to them, don't always show them the pictures. Ask them to make a picture in their own mind. Ask them to describe their mental picture with details of size, shape, color, location, and more. You can also tell a story, perhaps an old fairy tale or story and ask them to help describe the characters in the story or the setting. Have them fill in the detail by asking more questions. The suggestion that they can make those pictures, and use their imagination, especially at an early age, is a great start in helping your child to understand what they read later on.

Up Coming Events:

- Mar. 17 - EES Musical - The Frontier Express (In-school performance)
- Mar. 18 - EES Musical - The Frontier Express 7 PM
- Mar. 19 - EES Musical - The Frontier Express 4PM
- Mar. 24 - ½ day for students; parent/teacher conferences
- Mar. 25 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - No school
- April 7 - Fine Arts Night 5:30
- Apr. 18-22 - Spring Break

Whole School Assembly
March 23, 2016
Red Clover Review

CARE FOR KIDS & WE CARE ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS AT EES:

Dear Parents/Guardians - As you may be aware, Act One, *An Act Relating to Vermont's Sexual Abuse Response System*, passed in 2009 and took effect in July 2011. This law came about, in part, as a result of the shocking statistics that pointed to the widespread nature of child sexual abuse both nationally and across the state of Vermont. One component of the law requires that all Vermont schools provide sexual abuse prevention education at every grade level (Pre-K through 12) that is both age and developmentally appropriate.

This spring Edmunds Elementary will again implement the *Care For Kids* program for students in grade K-2 and the *We Care Elementary* program for students in grades 3-5. Both programs are brought to us by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, a non-profit serving parents, schools, and individuals throughout the state.

Care For Kids and *We Care Elementary* meet all of the new sexual violence prevention criteria mandated by Act One, as well as National and Vermont Health Education Standards. These experiential and interactive curricula focus on helping children build empathy, develop healthy communication skills, and understand boundaries. Additionally, *Care For Kids* teaches students the anatomically correct names for the private parts of their bodies, as this has been shown to increase communication skills and serve as a protective factor. Between the months of March and June, all classes will have the personal safety lessons taught during classroom guidance. If at any point you have questions or concerns, please contact Melissa Hathaway, School Counselor. If you would like to learn more about the curricula, feel free to contact Johanna Straavaldsen, the Healthy Relationships Project Director at Prevent Child Abuse Vermont. The contact information for both is listed below. We are more than willing to provide you with any support you need.

Melissa Hathaway, School Counselor 540-0137 mhathawa@bsdvt.org,
Johanna Straavaldsen, Coordinator PCAV 802 229 5724,
JStraavaldsen@pcavt.org

PTO LEADERS: Marni Slavik, Hollie Foley & Clare Wool

PTO CONTACT: pto@eespto.org

EES SCHOOL PLAY THE FRONTIER EXPRESS UPDATE

Parent Volunteers who have signed up on the sign up genius, please refer to:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094aa8ac2faa8-20151>

Fri. 3/18: **Performance - 7pm**

Performance call times: 5th graders - 5:30 pm
3rd & 4th graders - 5:45 pm
Set Crew & 1/2 Chorus - 6:15 pm

Please feed your child dinner before they arrive for their call time.

Sat. 3/19: **Performance - 4pm**

Performance call times: 5th graders - 2:30 pm
3rd & 4th graders- 2:45 pm
Set Crew & 1/2 Chorus - 3:15 pm

READY SET RUN! IS NOW MINI MILERS

It's back... previously Ready, Set, Run is returning, with a new name! Welcome Mini Milers!! Your child will learn about and practice fitness, the value of proper nutrition, citizenship, and goal setting all while having fun and being safe. Groups meet weekly for an hour. In addition to mileage incentives (including a medal), a t-shirt and finisher's certificate, participants receive monthly e-newsletters filled with activity ideas, citizenship challenges and tasty recipes. Participants are encouraged to participate in other upcoming Run Vermont events. The program will be led from **April 6th to June 1st** on Wednesdays, from 1:50pm-3:00pm, with a final event in June. If your child currently attends the Burlington Kids After School Program, we will filter them back to their leaders at the end of the program. There is a \$35 fee for participation; however, if your child receives free or reduced lunches, the fee is waived. In addition, if the fee is a hardship, please connect with us as we want your child to participate and will seek accommodations. Flyers will be going home with your children soon. Please email Brandi at Brandi.littlefield7@gmail.com with any questions. Feel free to also check in with Kirsten McNeil, Leigh Fisher or Marni Slavik. For further information, you can also go to RunVermont's website: <https://www.runvermont.org/youth/ready-set-run/> (registration is already available online).

