

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

October 17, 2013

From the Principal's Desk

A bee and a horseshoe crab

Sometimes we get to witness something that provides an interesting insight into parenting techniques. I had two such opportunities shortly after graduating from and 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 and continued with her work. I watched as the child silently and warily watched the bee, which soon flew away. I was struck 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. It was deserted with the exception of two families, each with several school aged children. 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 horseshoe crab out of the water and placed it on the sand. Another parent then fetched a garbage pail.

Horseshoe crabs are prehistoric creatures that were 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. That 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.

Upcoming Events

- Oct 18 No school Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Oct. 21-25 Winter coat and gear Collection
- Oct. 22 Picture Re-Takes
- Oct. 23 NECAP testing ends
- Oct. 25 Rocktober Dance 6:00pm
- Oct. 31 Halloween Parade 1:45
- Nov. 2 Four Winds Fundraiser at Williston Rest Stop
- Nov. 8 UVM Women's Hockey game - watching our friends from UVM play Boston College, 7 pm
- Nov. 11-15 Winter Coat and Gear Swap
- Dec. 6 Multicultural Night

Whole School Assembly –
Special Guests – The UVM Top Cats!

The parents were a bit 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 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 problem solving to complete. There are many times when we as parents want to protect our children from harm or difficulty in whatever form it 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.

USA Women's Hockey Team visits EES

We were very fortunate to have a visit from 10 members of the US Women's Hockey team this week. They came on Tuesday afternoon and visited the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classrooms where they shared some of their experiences in earning a place on the team. They also shared inspirational messages, encouraging students to put their all into what they do - whether it is school or athletics, and to do as many different types of sports as possible rather than focusing on only one.

From the PTO**DAN'S CHOCOLATES DISTRIBUTION**

Students received the Dan's chocolates that they sold—It's time to deliver! Congratulations and thank you to all those students who sold chocolates. The fundraiser was a huge success, and we appreciate your hard work. Thank you to all parent and student distributors. A model of teamwork was displayed by all of those who worked to prepare and distribute the Dan's chocolates sold by our students (Dan Cunningham, Tisha Shull, Tom Simon, Leigh Fisher, Sarah Heil, Liz Segal, Gabrielle Sealy, Erica Donnis, and several students). Please contact Clare Wool (clarewool@mac.com) if there was a mistake with your order.

EES COAT & WINTER GEAR SWAP OCTOBER 21-25 / NOVEMBER 11-15

COAT & GEAR COLLECTION: We are collecting gently worn, clean winter coats and gear (kids and adults). Coats, boots, mittens, hats, etc. are welcome. Drop your donations off at the EES Main Street entrance October 21st - 25th.

GET A COAT: Stop by the Coat and Winter Gear Swap, ending the week of November 11th - 15th in the Main Entrance of EES. All Edmunds families are welcome to take what they need. You do not need to give in order to get. All apparel is free. The coats and gear will remain up for taking through November 15th. Questions? Contact Leslie Halperin (leslie.halperin@gmail.com or 802-238-3675), Susie Moakley (smoakley@burlingtontelecom.net), or Courtney Asaro (courtneyasaro@gmail.com).

ROCKTOBER DANCE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 6:00-8:30 PM AT EMS GYM

DJ and Dancing! Grades K-2: 6:00-7:15pm; grades 3-5: 7:15-8:30 pm. Looking for volunteers to help at the door and with refreshments for either time block. Please contact Marni Slavik (marnislavik@yahoo.com).

FOUR WINDS FUNDRAISER: SAT. NOVEMBER 2 WILLISTON REST STOP

Please help Four Winds with their fundraiser! Volunteers are needed to "man the posts" at both of the Williston rest stops (Northbound and Southbound). We also are looking for baked goods to sell at the fundraiser, which need to be dropped off by the start of school Friday, November 1st. You need not be a Four Winds volunteer to help with this fundraiser! Contact Gina MacKinnon for a sign up time at gina.mackinnon@comcast.net or 862-0424, or sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080845AAA829A31-williston>.

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>.