

FRIDAY



FLASH

EDMUNDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Date and Volume Number

From the Principal's Desk

February 8, 2019

Up Coming Events:

Feb. 13 - Fine Arts Night Grades 3, 4 & 5

Feb. 15 - End of Marking Period

Feb. 22 - Report Cards Go Home

Feb. 25 - Mar. 4: Winter Break

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

Whole School Assembly
February 14, 2019
TURN Quartet
"New Century-New Voices"

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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 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 NEWS

PTO LEADERS: Jenny Sullivan, Pam Moreau and Stacey Kelleher. **PTO CONTACT:** pto@eespto.org

SEEKING MAYFAIR SILENT AUCTION

DONATIONS

Though Spring feels a lifetime away right now, it will come, and with it, our beloved Mayfair celebration! We are beginning to gather names of potential donors for the Mayfair Silent Auction. Are you a local business owner? Do you have a favorite business; artist or crafter you might recommend for us to solicit donations or that you yourself could ask? We need your help to make this year's auction extra exciting. Donations can be in the form of gift cards or merchandise. With many schools and charitable organizations seeking donations, any personal connections would be super helpful. Please email Stacey Kelleher at staceyhk1568@yahoo.com with your suggestions and to let us know if you might be available to help with the Silent Auction.

3-5 FINE ARTS NIGHT

Once a year, the 3rd 4th and 5th grade Edmunds Elementary School community gathers for a special evening: Fine Arts Night! All students will have artwork on display, and all students will have an important part in the music performance. This is our chance to celebrate the musical and visual arts in our community. All students are expected to participate, and all families and friends are welcome to attend. Please let your teachers know if you need transportation support.

3-5 Fine Arts Night is on Wednesday, February 13

5:45 Art Show in the first floor hallway

6:20 Doors Open for the Concert

6:30 Concert begins in the middle school gymnasium

HELP NEEDED FOR FINE ARTS NIGHT

The music program could use some help for fine arts night. I need three adults: someone to run the sound board, the light board and take video of each performance for our web page. Don't feel intimidated by the tech jobs, I've trained fifth graders successfully! Reach out to enolan@bsdvt.org if you can help! **If you have a spot in your car and can provide transportation support to a student in need? If yes, contact Ms. Nolan enolan@bsdvt.org.**

And finally...

Please consider stepping forward to be a PTO leader next year. We will be down to one PTO leader next year, and if two more people do not step up to these roles, the function that the PTO plays at Edmunds will have to be greatly diminished. If you are considering it, but do not think you are qualified, or have enough time, or think you are the PTO type, or whatever the conversation may be, please know that everyone has the same kinds of concerns. It isn't that much work. It makes a huge difference in our community. You can do it!

