

Postal Patron

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 03  
Chula, MO

Livingston County R-III School District  
Chula Accelerated School  
PO Box 40  
Chula, MO 64635

## Introducing... [www.chulaschool.org](http://www.chulaschool.org)

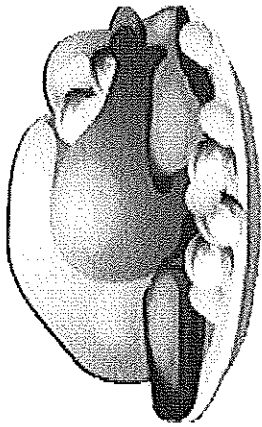
Chula Accelerated School now has its own website!

When you visit the above web address, you will be able to access the school calendar and upcoming events, library resources, the parent portal for TeacherEase, and a variety of other district information.

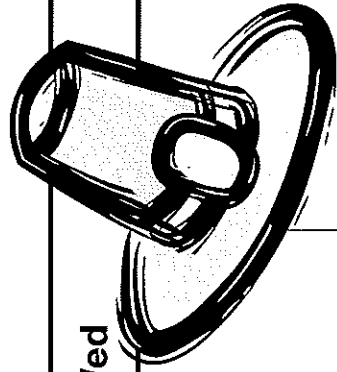
As with any website, ours is a "work in progress". If you think of something you would like to have access to via our website, please contact the school office. We want to make this site as user-friendly as possible!

Just a reminder: Student names and photos are considered "Directory Information" (see student handbook p. 8). We would like to include pictures (possibly labeled with student names and/or grades) from classroom activities, field trips, special awards, and special events on the website. If this is a problem, please contact the school office.

We hope to see you soon at [www.chulaschool.org](http://www.chulaschool.org)!!



# November 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Fri	Sat
				1	2
3 Daylight Savings Time Begins	4	5	6	7 6:00-Basketball vs. Bishop-Hogan (H)	8 12:20-Early Dismissal
10	11 8:30-Veterans' Day Assembly R-6 Tournament Girls-5:00 Boys-6:00	12 R-6 Tournament Girls-5:00 Boys-6:00 8:00-Board Meeting	13	14 R-6 Tournament Boys-7:00	15 2nd Qtr Mid-term
17	18 Book Fair Begins	19	20 StuCo-3:15-3:45	21	22
24	25 Book Fair Family Night & OPT	26 Book Fair Ends	27 NO SCHOOL	28 Thanksgiving NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL
					30

# Menus

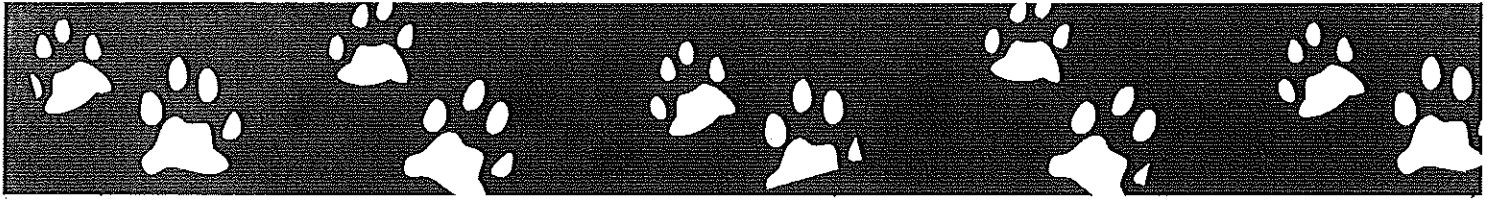
School: Livingston County R-3

Academic Year: 2013-14

Meal: All

Month: November 2013

November				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
28 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain cereal, whole grain muffin, fruit, milk, juice <b>Lunch:</b> Whole grain chicken patty, mashed potatoes, broccoli, whole wheat bread & butter, peaches, milk	29 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain cereal bar, yogurt, fruit, milk, juice <b>Lunch:</b> Fish wedge, au gratin potatoes, green beans, whole wheat bread & butter, pineapple, milk	30 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain pancakes, reduced calorie syrup, fruit, milk, juice <b>Lunch:</b> Turkey & cheese on whole wheat bread, raw baby carrots & celery sticks, baked chips, apple wedges, milk	31 <b>Breakfast:</b> Scrambled eggs, whole wheat toast, fruit, milk, juice <b>Lunch:</b> Walking taco, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, refried beans, strawberries, milk	1 <b>Breakfast:</b> Sausage patty, whole grain biscuit, fruit, milk, juice <b>Lunch:</b> Whole grain cheese pizza, tossed romaine salad w/lowfat ranch, whole kernel corn, shape-up, milk
4 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain biscuit, Egg patty, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Hamburger patty, on whole wheat hamburger bun, Pickles & leaf lettuce, French fries, Baked Beans, Orange wedges, Milk	5 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain cereal, Whole wheat toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Whole grain corn dog, Mashed potatoes, Broccoli, Sliced peaches, milk	6 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain french toast, Reduced calorie syrup, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Turkey & cheese roll-ups, Shredded lettuce, Sliced tomatoes, Raw baby carrots, Celery sticks w/lowfat Ranch dip, Pineapple chunks, milk	7 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain biscuit, Sausage patty, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Whole grain chicken nuggets, Potato wedges, Sliced carrots, Whole wheat bread & butter, Fruit cocktail, Milk	8 <b>Breakfast:</b> Cheese omelet, Whole wheat toast, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> BBQ pork ribette, Au gratin potatoes, Green beans, Whole wheat bread & butter, Sliced pears, Milk
11 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain breakfast pizza, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Whole grain cheese pizza, Tossed romaine salad w/lowfat Ranch, Whole kernel corn, Pineapple chunks, Milk	12 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain cereal, Whole wheat toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Whole grain chicken patty, Mashed potatoes & gravy, broccoli, Whole wheat bread & butter, Sliced peaches, Milk	13 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain pancakes, Reduced calorie syrup, Fruit, Juice <b>Lunch:</b> Fish wedge, Au gratin potatoes, Green beans, Whole wheat bread & butter, Mixed fruit, Milk	14 <b>Breakfast:</b> Oatmeal, Whole wheat toast, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Ham & cheese on whole wheat bread, Baked chips, Raw baby carrots & celery sticks, Apple wedges, Milk	15 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain cereal bar, Yogurt, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Taco burger on whole wheat hamburger bun, Shredded cheese & shredded lettuce, Refried beans, Grapes, Milk
18 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain breakfast burrito, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> BBQ pork ribette, Au gratin potatoes, Peas, Whole wheat bread & butter, Pineapple chunks, Milk	19 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain biscuit w/sausage gravy, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Whole grain chicken nuggets, Mashed potatoes, Broccoli, Whole wheat bread & butter, Strawberries, Milk	20 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain cereal, Whole wheat toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Spaghetti w/meatballs, Green beans, Romaine salad w/lowfat Ranch, Garlic bread, orange wedges, Milk	21 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain waffle, reduced calorie syrup, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Tomato soup, Cheese stick, Celery sticks & baby carrots, Crackers, Apple wedges, Milk	22 <b>Breakfast:</b> Cheese omelet, Whole wheat toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Sloppy Joe on whole wheat bun, Potato wedges, Baked beans, Pears, Milk
25 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain cereal, Whole wheat toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Whole grain chicken patty, Mashed potatoes, Broccoli, Whole wheat bread & butter, Peaches, Milk	26 <b>Breakfast:</b> Whole grain breakfast pizza, Fruit, Juice, Milk <b>Lunch:</b> Ham slice, Sweet potatoes, Green beans, Whole wheat roll, Pineapple chunks, Milk	27	28	29



## From the Principal's Desk...

It's hard to believe that it is already November! We have been enjoying the beautiful fall weather, and I am not ready for it to be winter just yet!

However, it is time to make sure we are prepared for wintry weather. If you haven't had a chance to sign up for Textcaster yet, this might be a great time to do that. This service is provided to us by the Chula Farmers Coop.

By signing up, you will receive text messages (or emails) about early dismissals and/or "no school" days. You can find the link to Textcaster on our new website (see article in this newsletter). If you need assistance, please feel free to give us a call!



The 1st-4th grade students had a wonderful day at Kids' Day at the Steam and Gas Show. This year, each student (and some of the adults) got to try their hand at shooting a bow and arrow. Some were pretty good shots! The students also got to taste fresh apple cider, sample fresh-churned butter with Mary Grothe, sip homemade root beer made by the Cruse family, make rope with Joe Roberts, and much more! Of course, taking a ride in a covered wagon and playing old-time games are always favorites too!

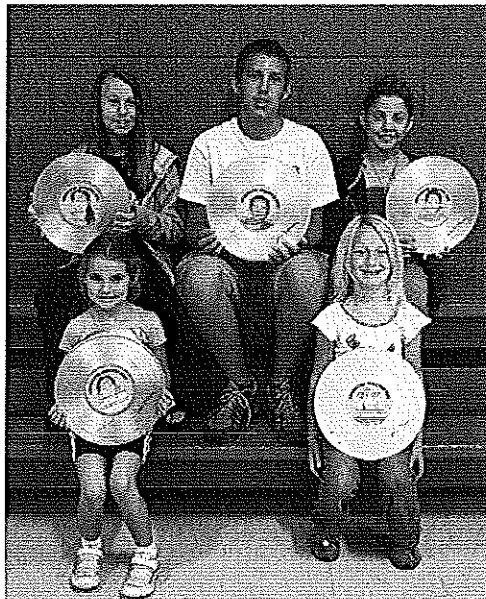
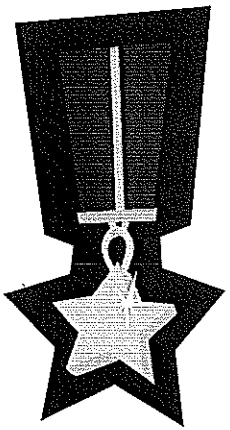
### 1st Quarter Honor Rolls

#### A Honor Roll

Emma Shipp  
Jessie Case  
Samual Pauley

#### B Honor Roll

Nathan Brooks  
Austin Case  
Skye Cashatt  
Bailey Castillo  
Tiffany Gillespie  
Jackson Pauley  
Jessica Shipp  
Haley Graves  
Bailey Pithan  
Dezeray Crawford  
Spencer Gillespie  
Audrey Meservey  
Sam Meservey  
Brooklyn Lambert  
Colton Searcy



### Students of the Month

August/September Students of the Month were chosen for showing "Rock Star Respect". They were each presented with a signed gold album.

Haidyn Jessa—PK—*not pictured*  
Charlee Ann Campbell—Kindergarten  
1st/2nd Grades—Maci Stover  
3rd/4th Grades—Kara Lager  
5th/6th Grades—Brooklyn Lambert  
7th/8th Grades—Nathan Brooks

Congratulations to our  
Good Character Rock Stars!





# Chula Accelerated School

November 2013

## Preschool News

"Ooohhhh" went the wind and out went the lights... October has been a whirl in the preschool room. We began the month in the field with Fredrick the field mouse and his companions following Mrs. Brice and her mice. The children heard stories about mice, squeaked and scampered, and had a fun time pretending.

Leaving the mice behind, we moved into Fire Prevention Week with stories that helped us practice the "911" emergency number and "stop, drop, and roll" to put out any fire we might accidentally get on our clothing. Thanks so much to the Chula Fire Department for letting us visit. The journey was not really perilous, but it was an adventure.

When we got back from the fire station, we moved on to the pumpkin patch and had a terrific

field trip with just about all of our parents joining us at Papa Charlie's!

Thanks so much to everyone who helped us get there and shared the fun with us!

When we came back from the pumpkin patch we started watching the sky for birds flying south. The class talked about, looked at, and listened to a multitude of bird species. We even practiced flying; we just couldn't seem to get off the ground!

We left the birds behind and moved on to wearing costumes and pretending to be someone or something else to end out the month with Halloween.

Preschoolers are working on printing their names and learning letters from the alphabet and the sounds those letters make so when we move onto reading we will be ready!

Thanks for sharing,  
Ms. Claire & Ms. Mindy

## Kindergarten News

The theme this month was "Spiders". We learned many new things about spiders that we did not know. Did you know that spiders have eight legs AND eight eyes? We also learned that spiders taste with their legs!! After studying spiders, we have discovered that spiders are not so scary.

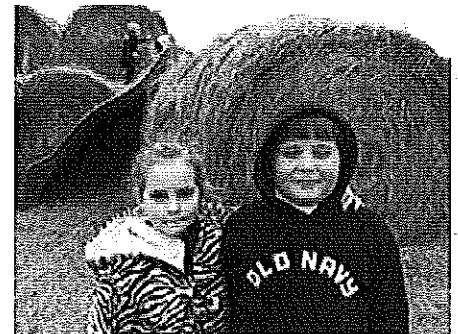
We worked hard to make a special card for our grandparents in honor of Grandparents Day. On October 11<sup>th</sup> we joined with preschool and our grandparents in making a wonderful snack. We had a great time with our Grandparents.

David Shannon was the author we studied this month. His most

popular book series is the David series. These books are based on his childhood and all the trouble David would get into. We enjoyed the crazy antics of David in these stories.

Our field trip to Papa Charlie's Pumpkin Patch was on October 18<sup>th</sup>. We were met with cold conditions, but the rain held off until we were on our way home. How lucky we were! We enjoyed a hay ride, corn maze, bouncy house, hay tunnel, hay mountain, hay slide, and pedal tractor riding. We ended the day with a pumpkin of our own to take home. Thank you to the parents that helped to make this a wonderful day!

Mrs. Cypert



## 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News

A BIG thanks to all the grandparents, moms, aunts, and sisters that came to our Grandparent's Tea! The kids loved showing off the boats they made and helping their special person build one. The best part was being able to race against each other. We have some very competitive sailors in our room. We appreciate you taking part of your day to spend it with us!

*The Chula Rural Fire  
Department will hold their  
annual meeting on Thursday  
November 7, 2013 @ 7:00 pm at  
the Chula Community Center. We  
will have a business meeting and  
elect two (2) board members.  
Refreshments will be served and  
door prizes given. Everyone is  
encouraged to attend.*

*The Chula Rural Fire Board*

October was a busy month in first and second grade. We've been reading and writing up a storm. I'm so impressed by how much we're writing - pages and pages of wonderful stories! First graders have taken their first timed test in math over their doubles facts. They are awesome with their facts! Second graders have worked hard on their doubles plus ones and they're pros at them now. We have such a smart group of students!

In November we're looking forward to a visit to the Livingston County Library. We'll learn about the library and everyone will receive a library card. They'll get to check out books to bring home. We're also looking forward to our annual Thanksgiving Feast with our pals in preschool and kindergarten.

Miss Stone

### 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News

October has been a very busy month in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. Our school hosted a Grandparents Tea to honor grandparents. Our class practiced our friendly letter writing skills and worked very hard to write a nice letter to those grandparents that did attend. They also prepared one for grandparents that only wished they could be here. As the grandparents arrived in our classroom they were interviewed by their grandchild. Some of the questions they were asked included: Where did you grow up? When you were little, did you get an allowance? How much was your allowance? Did you spend your money right away or did you save it? If you spent it what kinds of things did you buy? How much did a candy bar cost when you were my age? What did you want to be when you grew up? Did you have a computer when you were my age? Did you spend time with your grandparents when you were my age? What did you do? Tell me a story of a time when you were my age. The children were quite amazed

at some of the answers to their questions. We then went to the cafeteria, enjoyed cookies and punch and just enjoyed being together!

October is also the month for the Science Nonfiction book report and poster. The students (*and moms*) had so much fun creating the posters. The students chose a subject of interest to them, read the book, and created a poster in order to share the information with their classmates.

Lewis and Clark is a big topic in our classroom right now. We traveled with their expedition from the comfort of our classroom, and discovered just how exciting that journey west really was. Did you know that Lewis and Clark discovered more than 100 animals that were new to science? Did you know they traveled up the Missouri River? Did you know that Lewis or Clark neither one were good spellers? Our journey has taken us almost to the Pacific Ocean and we will soon be traveling on the return trip home. Be sure to ask these kiddos what they ate on their journey.

Owl Pellets!!! This is an adventure that will not be forgotten! We are dissecting the pellets of owls. Enough said! Be sure to ask about this experience.

Mrs. Moore

### Community Center Board

The Chula Community Center is seeking persons interested in serving as members of the CCC Board. Anyone interested should contact Julie Case at 639-2381.

### 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade News

Our class is already thinking about what we are thankful for in our lives. For example, as a class project we decided to do an acrostic.

We are thankful for...  
Teachers that care, and  
Helping hands everywhere.  
A good looking class, that  
No one can pass (without a smile)  
Kindness with no exceptions,  
Smiles as the rule.  
Growing up happy,  
In Chula School.  
Very patient friends  
In them we depend.  
No place can compare, to  
Growing up in a place... where  
everyone cares.

Mrs. Pauley

### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade News

First quarter has ended. Time is going by very quickly!

Students just finished writing their first essay of the year. It is titled "What Patriotism Means to Me". It will be submitted for judging next week. Students completed ALL the essay work in the classroom. It is truly "their" work.

In math, seventh graders are working on Algebra and Integers and eighth graders are learning to solve multi-step equations.

We are studying Ecology in science. In social studies, seventh graders are studying how Spain built an empire. Eighth graders are learning about the westward movement.

Basketball season is underway. The first home game is October 29. November 7<sup>th</sup> is the final home game. We will recognize 8<sup>th</sup> grade players and cheerleaders' parents. Don't forget to come and support the Bobcats!

Mrs. Kerr



# STEPS TO Homework Success



When your children do homework, they reinforce what they learned at school and expand their knowledge. But they learn more than the information in their assignments—they also build study skills and habits that they'll need throughout school and life.

Here are ways you can provide support and help your youngsters succeed with their homework.

## BEFORE

### Create a study area

Many children work best in a special study area, such as at a bedroom desk or the kitchen table. However, some youngsters do better sprawling on the living room floor or sitting on their bed. Consider letting your child decide where he'll work—he's more likely to stay on task when he's comfortable. Regardless, his work area should have adequate lighting and homework supplies, such as pens, pencils, paper, a ruler, a calculator, and a dictionary.

### Get assignments

Remind your youngster that it's her job to write down assignments in school. She may need to copy them from the board or write them in her agenda as her teacher talks. When she gets home, check that she has the instructions and handouts she needs—you'll help her get in the habit of bringing home her assignments the day they're given.



### Make a daily plan

Glance over your child's homework, and help him come up with a study plan. You might suggest that he tackle tougher or

longer assignments first while he's fresh and alert. He should be able to follow most homework instructions without supervision, but let him know you're available to discuss them.

### Break projects into steps

Encourage your youngster to use a calendar to stay on schedule as she works on a project. Have her divide each project into steps and write them on the calendar. A science project, for example, might include steps like: develop hypothesis, conduct experiment, record results, write lab report. *Tip:* She may need your help breaking assignments into chunks and choosing deadlines.



### Team with teachers

Ask your child's teacher about homework rules and how she would like you to help (or not help) him. Find out what kinds of assignments your youngster should expect. Provide your phone number and email address, and encourage the teacher to contact you if problems arise. The sooner you are aware of an issue, the more quickly a solution can be found.

*continued*

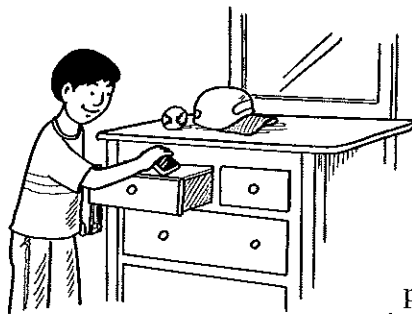
## DURING

### Keep a routine

Starting homework at the same time each day can make learning a habit for your child. Have her try a couple of different times to see what works best. Possibilities include immediately after school, before dinner (but after she has had time to play), or after dinner.

### Increase concentration

Some youngsters need calm surroundings to focus on homework. Others may study better with background music. But television is too much for anyone to ignore. Your child



should keep the set off during study time so his mind is tuned in to his homework. Likewise, if he has a cell phone or a handheld video game system, have him turn it off and put it out of sight so that he isn't distracted during homework time.

### Have family quiet time

Whenever possible, try to match your household's schedule with your youngster's study time. If homework is done from 7 to 8 p.m. each day, make this a quiet time for the entire family. Do paperwork or read alongside your child while she studies. This will help her stay focused.

### Provide support

If your youngster is stuck, guide him in the right direction rather than providing the answers. For example, instead of answering his question, "Mom, how many feet are in a mile?" ask, "How do you think you can figure that out?" Your child will learn to work independently and to problem-solve. *Tip:* When he would benefit from your assistance, offer to pitch in. For instance, you could quiz him on spelling words or multiplication facts.

### Give reminders

A simple prompt ("Finished that poem?") may be all that's needed to encourage your youngster to complete a project. But watch for signs that she's frustrated or seems to be spending too much time on her homework. If she consistently has trouble finishing assignments, ask her teacher for advice.



## AFTER

### Check homework

Take a moment to inspect your child's work when he's finished. Knowing that you will be looking at his assignments increases the chance that he will finish them *and* do his best. Check to see that his work is neat and complete. If you find several misspelled words or calculation errors, ask him to look over it again. But you shouldn't correct his work—that's his responsibility. Plus, mistakes show the teacher where your youngster needs help.

### Boost confidence

Praising hard work as you notice it encourages your child to keep learning. A warm comment ("Nice job on those division problems") can give her confidence when she tackles her next assignment. Remember, the right attitude can make a big difference!



### Find ways to improve

When graded homework is returned, look for the teacher's notes. These tell you if your youngster understood the assignment or where he went wrong. If he received a poor grade, ask him to think about the reasons. Did he copy the assignment correctly? Did he follow the instructions? Discovering what went wrong can keep him from repeating mistakes.

### Talk about learning

You can stay up to date on what your child is learning in school by talking with her regularly about her homework. For instance, during dinner you could ask, "How is your geography project coming along? What have you discovered so far?" Or while you're in the car, the two of you might look for words on that week's vocabulary list and discuss their meanings.

### Save assignments

Help your youngster create a system for filing returned homework. He might keep each subject in a different color folder. Then, he can use the papers to study for tests and quizzes. *Idea:* Suggest that he post ones he did especially well on—they can be a source of encouragement when he struggles with an assignment.

\*\*\*

*Tip:* The key is for you to stay involved and monitor your child's homework without doing it for her. With your guidance and encouragement, your youngster will learn how to work independently and plan for success.

## Home & School CONNECTION®

Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated ■ 128 N. Royal Avenue, Front Royal, VA 22630 ■ 540-636-4280

© 2013 Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated

HS13x398E



# Early Years

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT START

November 2013

Livingston County R-III School



## KID BITS

### Writing with salt

While you cook dinner, your youngster can practice forming letters and numbers. Cover the bottom of a shallow baking pan with a layer of salt, and call out letters or numbers for him to write in the salt with his finger. *Idea:* Try more challenging requests like “Make the first letter in *spaghetti*” or “Write the number of people in our family.”

### History comes alive

Are you visiting older friends or relatives soon? Ask them to show your child some of their treasures from long ago. *Examples:* a photograph, a typewriter, a baseball glove, an old piece of furniture. Then, they can tell her the stories behind those items.

### Sharing toys

Giving your youngster a little control may help him share. Before a play date, let him choose one toy he would prefer not to share, and put it away for safe-keeping. Remind him that he needs to share his other toys. He can take the special item out when his friend leaves.

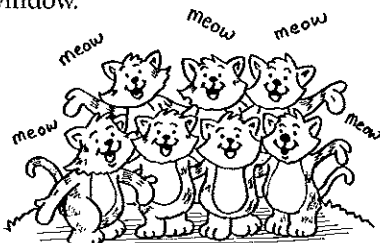
### Worth quoting

“Life is like a trumpet. If you don’t put anything into it, you don’t get anything out of it.” *W. C. Handy*

### Just for fun

**Q:** What’s louder than a cat meowing outside your window?

**A:** Seven cats meowing outside your window.



## Let’s chat

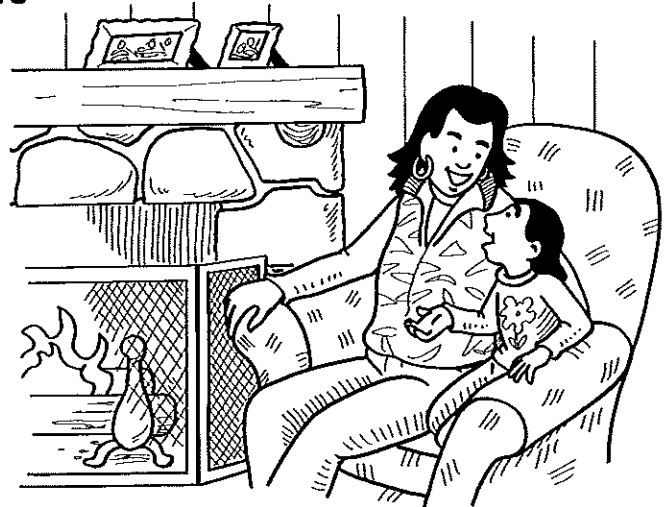
Did you know you can improve your child’s ability to read and write by talking with her? Here are ways to build her language skills during everyday conversations.

### Get her input

Encourage your youngster to share her opinions and put her thoughts into words—skills she’ll use when she writes. During a conversation, you might prompt her by saying, “I like swinging on the front porch at Grandma’s house. What’s your favorite thing to do when we visit Grandma?”

### Talk “up”

The more different words your child hears, the larger her vocabulary will be. Try to sprinkle interesting words into your discussions. You might tell her you’re going to *register* her for tumbling



class rather than *sign up*, or describe her favorite dress as *gorgeous* instead of *pretty*.

### Listen patiently

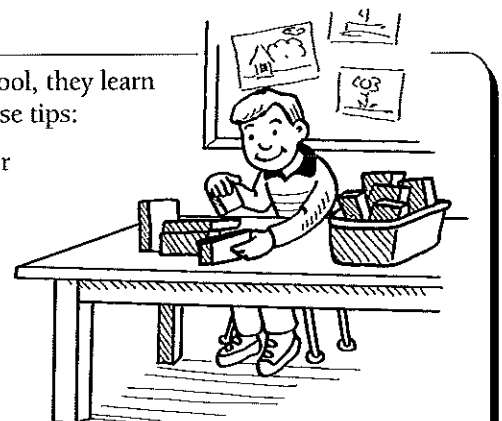
It can be tempting to speed up a conversation by talking for your youngster, especially if it’s taking her a while to respond. It’s better if you let her think about what she wants to say and put it in her own words. Your patience will give her confidence when speaking. Plus, you’ll show her how to be a good listener.♥

## Good classroom behavior

When youngsters behave well in school, they learn more. If your child is acting out, try these tips:

- Exchange information. Ask his teacher for updates so you can give him a high five on good days. Also, let her know about things that could affect your youngster’s behavior, like a new sibling or the loss of a pet.

- Try to visit his classroom. You may spot things to work on at home. Say he throws a tantrum when he’s upset. After school, you might role-play ways he can ask for help instead. (“I spilled my milk. May I please have a paper towel?”)♥



# Raise an independent child

Your youngster can gain a sense of pride and accomplishment by doing things for himself. Use these three strategies to give him a can-do attitude and help him become more independent.

**1. Suggest.** When he struggles with something, offer advice so he can do it on his own. *Example:* "Try putting the bigger blocks on the bottom, and see if your tower will stay standing."



**2. Demonstrate.** Let your child watch you do something, and then have him repeat it. Say you're teaching him to set the table. You could do one place setting, and he can follow your example to do the others. That way, he'll be able to see where everything belongs and make sure that his settings match yours.

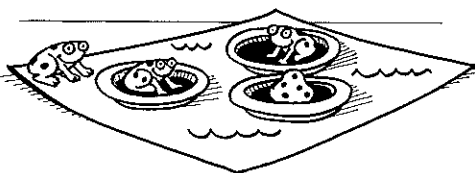
**3. Help.** If he's working on a more difficult task, let him do a single step while you help him with the rest. When he masters that step, he could add another one. For instance, if he's learning to wash his hair, he might rub in the shampoo by himself, and then you can rinse it out.♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER



## What's in a habitat?

Making habitats for toy animals is a fun way for your youngster to learn about the homes of real animals.



Together, talk about what animals need to live (food, water, shelter). Next, she can choose a favorite toy animal and set up a habitat in a corner of her room. For example, she could create a pond habitat for plastic frogs by putting blue poster board (water) on the floor with green paper plates (lily pads). Or she could design a savanna habitat for a stuffed giraffe with construction paper grass and paper towel-tube trees.

If she's not sure where the animal lives, look it up together in a book or online. Or visit your local zoo. She'll get to see habitats, and you can help her read signs that describe the animals' homes in the wild.♥

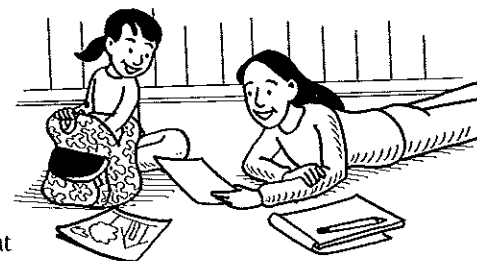
## PARENT TO PARENT

### Conferences: How to prepare

My first parent-teacher conference is coming up. I'm a little nervous, so I got advice from a friend who has older children.

She said it's helpful to write down questions in advance. When I told her I had no clue what to ask, she suggested I get ideas by looking over schoolwork that my daughter, Ava, brings home. That way, I can inquire about the units the class is doing or find out whether Ava is making progress in certain areas. Finally, my friend encouraged me to see if there's anything I can do at home to help my daughter.

I listed my questions, leaving room to take notes as the teacher talks. Now I feel prepared, and I'm looking forward to finding out how Ava is doing.♥



## Q & A

### Learning with traditions

**Q:** How can I help my son keep learning during the holiday season?

**A:** You can easily fit learning into many of your family traditions. For example, if you usually say what you're thankful for at Thanksgiving, you could have your son write his list ahead of time and read it aloud.

Or if you do craft projects, let him help. Making gingerbread houses is a

fun way for him to practice a variety of skills. For example, ask him to count the candies you're using as decorations. He could even measure his house—you might ask him how many peppermints long a graham cracker wall is, for instance.

Your son might not realize how much he's learning with these activities—he'll just know he's having fun with his family!♥



**OUR PURPOSE**

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote school readiness, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

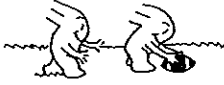
Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated  
 128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
 540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@volterskluwer.com  
 www.rfeonline.com  
 ISSN 1540-5567

# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

November 2013

Livingston County R-III School  
Jocelyn Meservey, Principal



## SHORT NOTES

### Play is for everyone

Play boosts imagination and relieves stress for kids of all ages. Try to make sure your youngster has time each day that's free of structured activities. You might encourage him to take out toys he hasn't used in a while—many elementary schoolers still enjoy building with blocks or racing toy cars.

### Celebrate progress

Suggest that your child create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a container with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I memorized the state capitals") on a slip of paper and put it in the container. When she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Many smokers tried their first cigarette between the ages of 11 and 13. That means now is an important time to tell your youngster that you don't want him to smoke and why (it's addictive, it's unhealthy). If you smoke, you might explain how hard it is to quit, and avoid smoking around him.

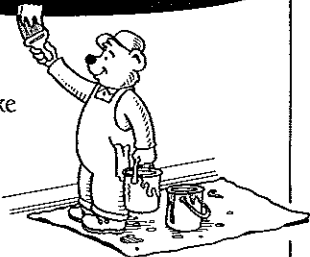
### Worth quoting

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try and cheer somebody else up!"  
Mark Twain

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** What's yellow and smells just like green paint?

**A:** Yellow paint.



## Critical thinking

There's an important skill that can help your youngster do well in every school subject: thinking! Consider these ideas for helping her to think critically.

### Spot similarities

Choose two objects in the room that don't appear to have anything in common (say, a clock and a sneaker). Ask your child to find at least one thing that's similar about them. She could say that numbers are printed on both or that each has "body parts" (the clock has a face and hands, the shoe has a tongue and a heel).

### Flip a fairy tale

Critical thinkers can look at situations through different lenses. Encourage your youngster to write a fairy tale from another character's point of view. For instance, how would the wolf tell *The Three Little Pigs*? He might think of himself as hungry rather than "big and bad." If the mother pig were the narrator, how might the story be different?



### Play strategy games

Games like checkers, chess, Connect Four, and Mastermind build thinking skills. Play some of these together, and share your thought process: "If I move here, you'll probably move there, and then I could capture your piece." Suggest that your child talk herself through her moves, too. *Idea:* Solo games and activities like Sudoku, Rubik's Cube, and Rush Hour can also make her a better thinker.♥

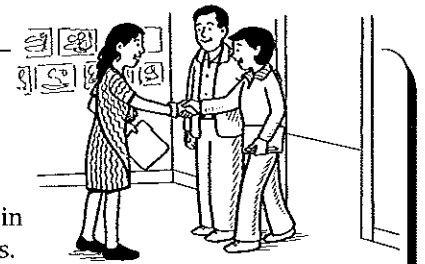
## The ABCs of conferences

Try these suggestions to get the most out of your next parent-teacher conference.

**A**sk questions. A written list will help you remember what you want to know. You might ask whether your child participates in class or how well he gets along with classmates.

**B**e positive. You could tell the teacher about a classroom activity or lesson that your youngster particularly enjoyed. Sharing good news helps create a strong working relationship.

**C**heck back. If, for instance, your child needs extra help with math facts or struggles with taking turns, see what you can do at home. Then, find out how and when to follow up on his progress.♥



# Bullying: Reach out

Even if your child has never participated in bullying or been a bully's victim, odds are he has seen a classmate being teased or threatened. And he can play an important role in helping those who are bullied. Here's how.

**Reporting vs. tattling.** He could interrupt a bully by asking the victim to play or read with him. If he doesn't feel safe doing so, however, he should get an adult's help right away. When it comes to bullying,



telling an adult isn't tattling. Make sure your youngster knows the difference: *tattling* gets someone *in* trouble while *reporting* gets a person *out* of trouble. Then, ask him to think of grown-ups he can go to if he sees bullying (teacher, coach, school counselor).

**"Pull-ups" vs. put-downs.** Encourage your child to say nice things to students who are teased. He might compliment a classmate on a presentation ("Your science project was cool!") or ask, "Hey, want to sit together at lunch?" His friendly words will act as "pull-ups" to help counter the put-downs these kids hear.♥

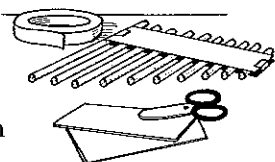
## ACTIVITY CORNER



### A musical experiment

Why do musical notes sound high or low? Your youngster can find out by making her own set of windpipes. She'll learn about music and science at the same time.

1. Have your child cut nine straws to different lengths and leave a tenth straw whole.



2. Ask her to lay them side by side, leaving a little space between each straw.

3. Help her put tape across the straws, front and back, to hold them together.

4. She should cut two pieces of cardboard that are wide enough to cover the straws and tape one piece to each side.

Now your youngster is ready to play her instrument! Suggest that she blow through one straw at a time. Does she know why each straw makes a slightly different sound? *Answer:* The shorter the straw, the faster it vibrates (and the higher the pitch) when air is blown through it.♥

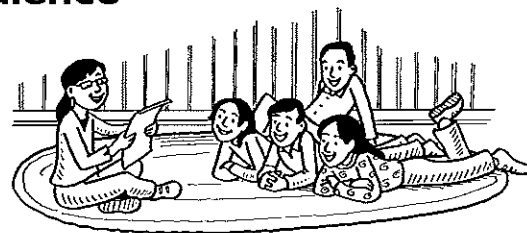
## Q & A Write for an audience

**Q:** My daughter has to share her writing in class, and she feels uncomfortable. How can I help her?

**A:** Your youngster might feel more confident if she gets used to sharing different types of writing outside of class.

For example, if you want to advertise furniture in the newspaper or on Craigslist, have her write the ad. Show her the published ad, and be sure to let her know when people respond. Or if you take a day trip or vacation, let your daughter pick out postcards. She can write about her adventures and mail the cards to friends or relatives.

Another idea is to encourage her to write a funny story that she could read to cousins at a family get-together. As they enjoy her story, she'll get a boost that could help her be more comfortable sharing her writing in school.♥



## PARENT TO PARENT

### Be a good citizen

At our local playground, my son Jack and I noticed a lot of trash on the ground. He said it was "gross" and asked why people didn't throw it away. I told him that good citizens help make our community a nice place to live, and he suggested that we clean up the playground.

We put on gloves and got bags for picking up the trash. The playground looked

much better, but Jack pointed out that people would just keep on littering. So he decided to hang up a poster reminding people to use the trash can.

Jack came up with a slogan: "Here's a fun place to play. Throw your litter away!" Then he drew a picture of kids—

and even a few pets—putting snack wrappers and empty juice boxes in the trash. He's excited to go back and see whether his sign is making a difference.♥



### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,  
a division of CCH Incorporated  
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com  
www.rfeonline.com

ISSN 1540-5621