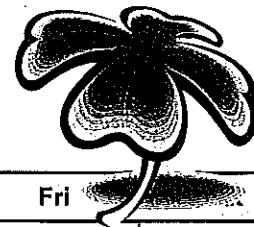


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March 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
						1
2	3 3:15-Play Practice	4 Basketball Practice	5 Basketball Practice	6 Basketball Practice	7 6:00-Basketball vs. Breckenridge away	8
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins	10 5th-8th to PAC for Coterie Play 3:15-Play Practice 6:00-Basketball vs. Tri-County (A)	11 7:30-Board Meeting	12	13	14 End 3rd Quarter 6:00-Dinner Theater	15
16	17 4th & 7th grades to Children's Literature Festival in Warrensburg	18	19 Student Council	20 12:20-Early Out Spring Open House 1:00-6:00	21 12:20-Early Out (Make-Up Day) Teacher In-Service	22
23	24	25 5th-8th grades to CMS for author visit	26	27	28	29
30	31	Bishop Hogan 5th & 6th Basketball Tournament, March 24-28; Game times TBA				

Menus

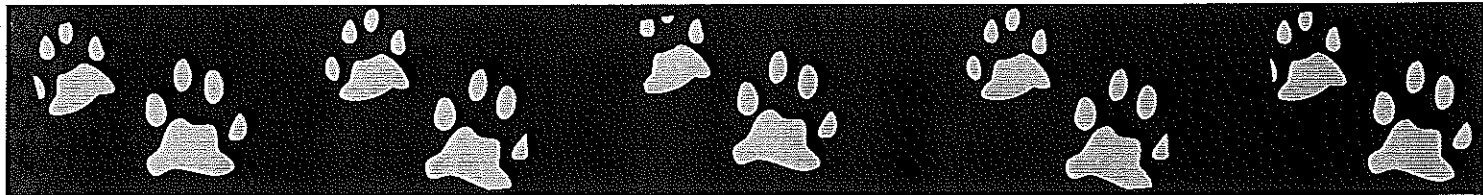
School: Livingston County R-3

Academic Year: 2013-14

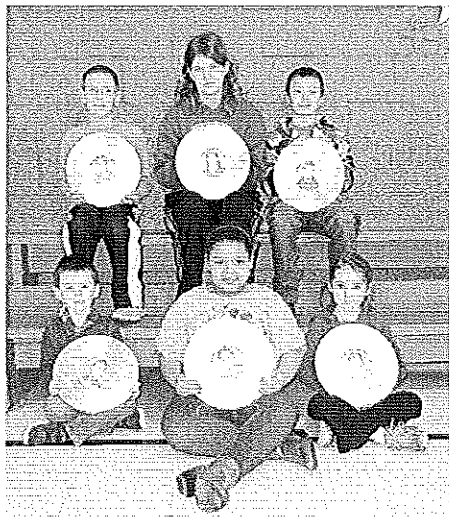
Meal: All

Month: March 2014

March				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
3 Breakfast: Whole grain breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Whole grain chicken patty, mashed potatoes, broccoli, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	4 Breakfast: Ham patty, whole grain biscuit, juice, milk Lunch: Fish wedge, au gratin potatoes, green beans, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	5 Breakfast: Whole grain cereal bar, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Whole grain corn dog, mashed potatoes, sliced carrots, fruit, milk	6 Breakfast: Whole grain cereal, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: PBJ on whole wheat bread, tomato soup, celery sticks, whole grain crackers, fruit, milk	7 Breakfast: Whole grain pancakes, reduced calorie syrup, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Chicken quesadilla, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, refried beans, fruit, graham crackers, milk
10 Breakfast: Whole grain french toast, reduced calorie syrup, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Whole grain chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, broccoli, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	11 Breakfast: Egg patty, whole grain biscuit, juice, milk Lunch: Pork Ribette, au gratin potatoes, green beans, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	12 Breakfast: Whole grain cereal, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Lasagna Rollup, romaine salad w/lowfat ranch, whole kernel corn, whole wheat bread stick, fruit, milk	13 Breakfast: Sausage gravy & whole grain biscuit, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Hot ham & cheese on whole wheat bun, potato wedges, sliced carrots, fruit, milk	14 Breakfast: Whole grain breakfast burrito, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Walking taco w/shredded cheese, shredded lettuce, refried beans, fruit, milk
17 Breakfast: Whole grain waffles, reduced calorie syrup, juice, milk Lunch: Whole grain pepperoni pizza, romaine salad w/lowfat ranch, whole kernel corn, lime sherbet, milk	18 Breakfast: Whole grain cereal, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Whole grain chicken patty, mashed potatoes & gravy, broccoli, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	19 Breakfast: Sausage patty, whole grain biscuit, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Mac & cheese, sliced carrots, cole slaw, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	20 Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Ham slice, sweet potatoes, green beans, whole wheat hot roll, fruit, milk	21 Breakfast: Whole grain breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Beef & bean burrito, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, whole kernel corn, fruit, milk
24 Breakfast: Whole grain pancakes, reduced calorie syrup, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Taco soup, whole grain corn chips, celery sticks, fruit, milk	25 Breakfast: Whole grain cereal, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Fish wedge, au gratin potatoes, green beans, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	26 Breakfast: Egg patty, whole grain biscuit, juice, milk Lunch: Whole grain chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, broccoli, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	27 Breakfast: Cheese omelet, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: BBQ beef on whole wheat bun, potato wedges, whole kernel corn, fruit, milk	28 Breakfast: Whole grain breakfast burrito, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Spaghetti w/meatballs, romaine salad w/low-fat ranch, sliced carrots, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit
31 Breakfast: Whole grain cereal, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Hot dog on whole wheat bun, potato wedges, pork & beans, fruit, milk	1	2	3	4



From the Principal's Desk...



Students of the Month

January Students of the Month were chosen for showing "Rock Star Fairness". They were each presented with a signed gold album.

- Preschool—John Bevelle
- Kindergarten—Charlee Ann Campbell
- 1st/2nd Grades—Torri Taylor
- 3rd/4th Grades—Skylar Stover
- 5th/6th Grades—Spencer Gillespie
- 7th/8th Grades—Haley Graves

Congratulations to our Good Character Rock Stars!

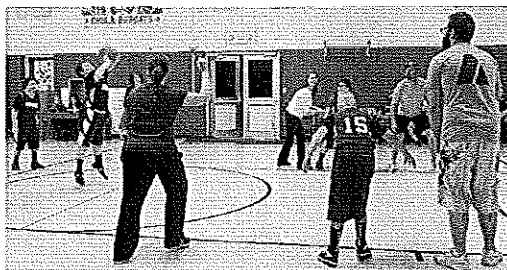
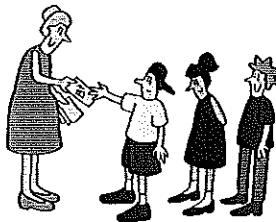
Snow Make-Up Days

We have officially missed 6 days of school this year due to snow. We have already made up two days—January 20th and February 17th. We have two more days built into the calendar for snow make-up days—March 21st and April 21st. That leaves two days to be added on to the end of the year—May 15th and 16th.

There was a 1/2 day teacher in-service scheduled for the morning of March 21st. In order to be able to keep the teacher in-service and have a snow make-up day, March 21st will be an early dismissal (12:20), and the teachers will then have their in-service that afternoon.

Spring Open House

Third Quarter ends on March 14th. School will be dismissed at 12:20 p.m. on Thursday, March 20th for Spring Open House, which will be held from 1:00-6:00 p.m. This will be a time for you to come visit with your child's teacher, see examples of student work, and pick up 3rd quarter report cards.

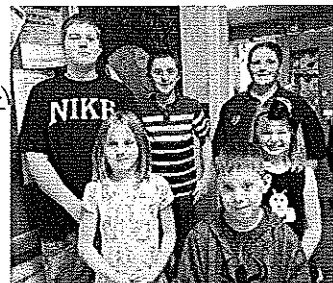


GO BOBCATS!!

It was great to see the younger students going up against their parents at the Parent-Player game! The best part of all was that the Players beat the Parents in both games! Thanks to everyone who supported the team's Red Wheel fundraiser. The funds were used to purchase new uniforms and basketballs. The new uniforms are very sharp!



Mrs. Debbie Shannon (center) was awarded both the local and district VFW Middle School Teacher of the Year. She was presented with a certificate by VFW members Marjorie Murray, Melvin Littrell, Ed Allender, and Benny Simpson. Congratulations!

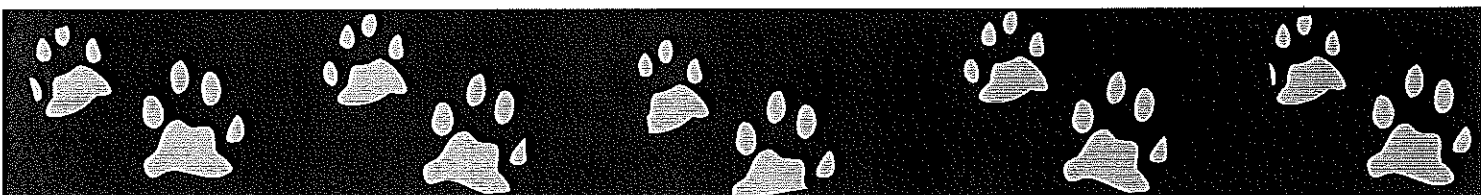


January Outstanding Artists

Back row l-r: Alex Cranmer, Austin Case, Bryce Leatherman
 Front row l-r: Hannah Edwards, Parker Savage, Madalyn Howe
 Not pictured: Bailey Elrod, Lucas Greener



Playing Cupid!





Chula Accelerated School

March 2014

Preschool News

Brush-a, brush-a, brush-a.... We began February talking about what is needed to keep our teeth healthy. Our class practiced brushing their teeth by using a set of over-sized teeth and a great big toothbrush. Flossing was a challenge but we talked about how important it is to do this procedure also as it helps clean away the sticky plaque between our teeth. Many of our friends have been to the dentist so we were able to talk about what happens when you go there and help other friends overcome the idea of being afraid.

Thanks so much to our room moms and everyone else who helped us with our Valentine's Day party! :) The children made wonderful boxes to put their cards in, and many moms or dads were able to come and help the children read the valentine cards they got from classmates. After we enjoyed sharing how much we cared about each other with the cards, we had a terrific sweet snack and a marvy take home treat bag!

The White House and a few of the more well known presidents came into view the following week as we celebrated President's Day. We made tricorn hats to celebrate George Washington and talked about the trials of becoming the very first president of our country. Abraham Lincoln was our other presidential focus as he was one of the most loved presidents of the country. The children made stovepipe hats in commemoration of him. We found out that he carried important papers in his very tall hat to keep them safe, and we discussed what we ourselves might carry in

such a hat if indeed we wore one. We had everything from frogs to water bottles and lunch boxes to tote around. We also learned that the presidents all lived and do live in a fine house called the White House and that it is in Washington DC.

When we got back from our presidential journey, we discovered our heart. It is about the size of our fist and resides inside our chest. For a short time we became resident doctors and took turns listening to our friends and our own hearts. After we listened to them in a resting state, we moved around exuberantly and then listened again to see how things had changed. We talked foods and other ways to make sure we keep our hearts in good working order knowing that our heart is a very important pump that carries oxygen to the rest of our body.

We have had a busy month, even though February is a short month!

Thanks for sharing!
Ms. Claire & Ms. Mindy

Kindergarten News

February got off to a rough start with so many snow days, but we have gotten back on track! We were glad to get back to school to see our friends.

On February 14, 2014, we enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day. We had a fun party filled with yummy snacks and great treasures. Thanks to the Moms who made this happen!

Mrs. Tracy has been coming to our classroom every Tuesday to teach us about nutrition. We have learned how to build strong muscles, develop smooth skin, and silky hair.

Eating her snacks has been our favorite part of each visit!

In math we are working on simple addition. Counting different objects and adding them together has been so much fun. Our favorite part about math is computer time where we get to play so many fun math games.

Our author study this month was focused on Dr. Seuss. We learned that his real name is Theodore Geisel and that he really was not a doctor. We also learned that at first, no one liked his stories, but Dr. Seuss did not give up. He has many fun books that we enjoy trying to repeat. I think our favorite is Green Eggs and Ham. We are looking forward to joining our preschool and 1st/2nd grade friends to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday in March. Maybe we will even eat some green eggs and ham!

Mrs. Cypert



1st & 2nd Grade News

Can you believe it's already March? This school year is flying by! We've had a great February in our classroom. We welcomed a new student to our second grade – Stephen Leatherman. We're so glad to have him. We had a wonderful Valentine's party. The kids were very creative with their Valentine

boxes. It was so much fun to look at them. They enjoyed sharing their valentine cards with each other. We also celebrated President's day by learning about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

In social studies we've been learning about needs, wants, money, and jobs. Each student has a classroom job, and if they do their job each day they get paid on Friday. They have to pay their bills and then get to shop in our classroom store. It's a hoot to watch them look at everything and decide what to buy.

In March we'll be celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday with our traditional green eggs and ham. Then we're going to perform Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You? with our friends in preschool and kindergarten. We'll be reading a lot of Dr. Seuss books that week. To quote Dr. Seuss "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

In March we'll be monitoring the weather to see if it's true that if it comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb. I'm hoping it comes in and leaves like a lamb! We are also wondering in our leprechaun friends will be paying us a visit. Hopefully, if they do, they don't make too big of a mess!

Miss Stone

3rd & 4th Grade News

February may be a short month, but the students in 3rd and 4th grade are extremely busy! The Soil and Water Conservation posters are finished, turned in, and we are waiting anxiously to find out if they are winners. Our class worked very diligently to get them completed, and I believe that all gave it their best effort.

Tracy Minnis, Nutrition Program Associate, completed the scheduled Nutrition classes this month also. Tracy is always a welcome addition to our classroom.

She shares valuable information with the students in fun and interesting ways. They especially enjoy the days we have a taste testing.

The children chose a famous Missourian to research. This is a huge undertaking for 3rd and 4th graders, but this class is up to the task. They worked to complete the research, and went through the complete writing process until they were ready to type. We used our wonderful lap tops, and it was so nice to have one for each student to use. Mrs. Radcliff, our librarian, shared with the children how to complete a bibliography for their research paper. We appreciate her very much! We welcomed parents, grandparents, and friends for the presentation in our classroom. Everyone was so excited and just a little scared. This is a list of the Famous Missourians that visited our classroom this year:

- Daniel Boone-aka Mathew Meservey
- Carl Edwards -aka Blake Gillespie
- Walt Disney-aka Joshua Meservey
- Calamity Jane-aka Cassity Eckert
- Sacagawea-aka Bailey Elrod
- Jessie James-aka Ben Pithan
- Frank James-aka Kasey Cranmer
- Molly Brown-aka Kenlynn Fisher
- Rose O'Neill-aka Breanna Pithan
- Ginger Rogers-aka Addison Lewis
- Mark McGwire-aka Caiden Cabbage
- Mark Twain-aka Clayton Savage
- Ulysses Grant-aka Kyler Klein
- John J. Pershing-aka Cooper Murphy
- Laura Ingalls Wilder-aka Maddie Leatherman
- Harry Truman-aka Parker Savage
- Preist Holmes-aka Skylar Stover

Mrs. Moore

5th & 6th Grade News

As we are studying WWII, the kids are seeing that they are very lucky with what they have in their lives. They finished this sentence: I feel lucky that...

Brent Anderson: ...I have a family, games, and a place to live.

Jessie Case:...I have great friends and family.

Lucas Greener:...I have all the things I have.

Hailey Hamilton:...I have school.

Brooklyn Lambert:...I have a great town to live in.

Samual Pauley:...I have friends.

Colton Searcy:...that I have my teacher.

Hesston Campbell:...my mom and dad let me have traps and go hunting.

Dezeray Crawford:...I have the world's greatest mom!

Spencer Gillispie:...I have good parents.

Audrey Meservey:...I have all the things that I have.

Sam Meservey:...I have books!

Mrs. Pauley

7th & 8th Grade News

The 7th and 8th grade students have been busy writing essays this year. Our first essay was the VFW Patriots Pen Contest. The title of this essay was "What Patriotism Mean to Me."

Our school winners were:

7th Grade:

1st: Haley Graves

2nd: Alex Cranmer

3rd: Madeline Criner

Bailey Pithan

8th Grade:

1st: Jackson Pauley

2nd: Nathan Brooks

3rd: Skye Cashatt

Next, we entered the DAR Essay contest which was titled "The Lives of Children During the Revolutionary War." The maximum word count for this essay was 1000 words. Many students found it difficult to stay under the maximum number of words! Jessie Shipp

received 1st place in the 8th grade division (she has since moved to Chillicothe Middle School).

After Christmas break, we immediately wrote an essay for the Elks Lodge. It was titled, "What Does Veteran's Day Mean to Me?" We have not been notified if this essay has been judged yet.

St. Joseph Writers Guild invited us to participate in an essay contest. Students were to submit an essay they felt was their best work. We did not have anyone place in this essay contest, which encompasses northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas.

The last essay contest that we entered was for the American Legion. It was titled, "How Can I Show My Pride in Being an American." It has been submitted for judging and we hope to hear the results soon!

Students not only learn the writing, editing, revising, and publishing steps by entering these essay contests, but they also learn about the history of our country and why we should show pride in being Americans!

Mrs. Kerr



8th Grade VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Winners

Students: Jackson Pauley, Nathan Brooks, Skye Cashatt

VFW members: Marjorie Murray, Melvin Littrell, Ed Allender, Benny Simpson



7th Grade VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Winners

Students: Haley Graves, Alex Cranmer, Bailey Pithan, Madeline Criner

VFW members: Marjorie Murray, Melvin Littrell, Ed Allender, Benny Simpson

The Carnival is Coming!

Mark your calendars! The date of the OPT Carnival has been set for April 11!

As always we will be collecting donations for a silent auction and for raffle prizes. If there is something you could donate, just call the school!

Please plan on joining us! Bring a friend!

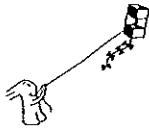
Early Years

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT START

March 2014

Livingston County R-III School

KID BITS



Learning to wait

Try to be more specific than “just a minute” when your child must wait for you. *Example:* “I’ll watch your cartwheel after I put the laundry in the dryer.” He’ll know exactly what has to happen before you’ll be ready. Then, have him help you—it will make the wait seem shorter.

“I predict...”

Let your youngster practice making predictions. Ask her to complete a sentence like, “If I touch a soap bubble with a wet finger, it will _____” or “If I tickle myself _____.” After she tells you what she thinks, she can experiment with bubbles or tickles to check whether her prediction was right.

A trip to the dentist

Before your child’s next dental appointment, ease any fears by telling him what to expect. Explain that the dentist will count his teeth, look to see how well he’s taking care of them, and give him advice for keeping them healthy. Still nervous? Play dentist with his favorite stuffed animals.

Worth quoting

“Imagination is the highest kite one can fly.” *Lauren Bacall*

Just for fun

Q: The more I dry, the wetter I get. What am I?

A: A towel.



A reader grows here

Your child starts the journey toward reading long before she can read on her own. Listening to you read will help her build early reading skills—and perhaps most important, develop a love of books. Snuggle up together, and try these suggestions to help her blossom into a reader.

Go for variety. Read a mix of stories, poems, nonfiction books, kids’ magazines, comic strips, and more. This will prepare your youngster for the different reading materials she’ll encounter in school and can turn her into a well-rounded reader.

Show the “direction” of reading. Pointing to words as you read—from left to right and from top to bottom—shows your child how books work. Plus, she’ll begin connecting the words you say with the print she sees on the page.

Talk about books. Pose questions to get your youngster thinking about what she’s reading. You could ask, “Who does the mommy duck remind you of?” or “What



did you learn about water that you didn’t know before?” These types of conversations will improve her comprehension of what you’re reading.

Experiment with rhymes. Read a rhyming book like *Time for Bed* by Mem Fox, and leave out words that rhyme. *Example:* “It’s time for bed little sheep, little sheep, / The whole wide world is going to _____.” Let your child fill in the blank (*sleep*). She’ll build *phonemic awareness*—the ability to hear sounds in words.♥

Family playtime

Has the grown-up world left you too tired to play? Consider these ideas that will help you connect with your youngster—and unwind after a long day:

- At bedtime, shine a flashlight on the walls, ceiling, and floor. Have your child “chase” your beam with his own flashlight. Then, trade roles.

- Show him what you liked to play when you were his age. You could teach him a card game, a jump rope rhyme, or a magic trick, for instance. Next, let him teach you a game or an activity he enjoys.

- Step into a role. You might each pretend to be someone else (a cashier and a customer, a bird and a squirrel) while carrying on a conversation. Encourage your youngster to think about what his character would sound like and what he would say.♥

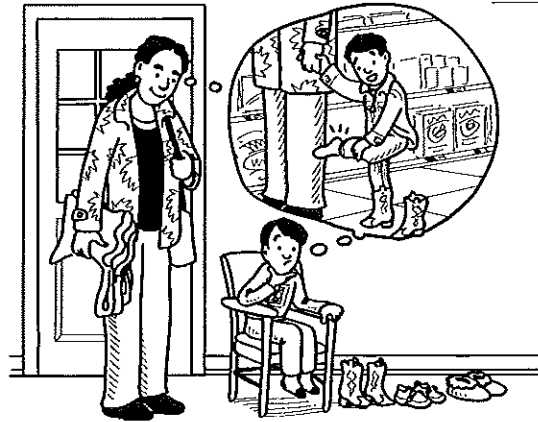


Take your pick!

Grapes or carrot sticks? Park or backyard? Choices are part of daily life, but making them takes practice. Give your youngster opportunities to work on his decision-making skills with these tips.

Decide out loud

When you make a choice, let your child hear your reasoning. You might say, "If I wear a white shirt to the chili supper, it could get stained. I better wear a black top instead." He'll become familiar with the thought processes needed to make his own decisions.



Use "either/or" choices

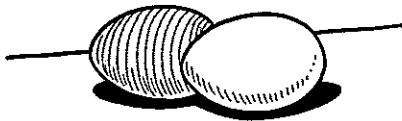
If you narrow down your youngster's options, you will keep him from becoming overwhelmed. Pick two choices you think he'd like. For example, ask if he wants to play catch or badminton or if he'd rather use watercolors or finger paints.

Let mistakes teach

As long as your child's decision won't hurt him, he can learn from a poor choice. Give a gentle reminder ("The last time you wore your boots to the store, you complained that they were uncomfortable"), but leave the final decision up to him. He may think more carefully the next time. ♥

Learn about differences

Children are naturally curious about differences. Use this pair of hands-on activities to help your youngster understand and appreciate others.



1. Show your child a brown egg and a white egg, and ask her what they have in common. She might say that we eat them, they come from chickens, and they have shells. Then, help her crack them into separate bowls. Now can she tell which egg had a brown shell and which had a white one? Point out that people, like the eggs, may look different but still share some traits.

2. Next, get two eggs of the same color, and hard-boil just one. When it cools, place the eggs side by side, and have your youngster try to guess which one is hard-boiled. Crack them to check. This will show her that eggs—or people—can appear to be similar but have qualities that set them apart. ♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

Be a fort engineer

Building a fort—big or small—is a fun way for your child to learn about building and engineering. Try these projects.

Big fort. Let your youngster make a fort by draping a sheet or blanket over a card table or kitchen chairs. Then, encourage her to think of ways to improve her construction. She might add sheets or pillows to create more "rooms" or build a "porch." She'll practice problem-solving skills as she figures out how to keep the roof from caving in or the walls from falling down.

Little fort. Have your child create a miniature fort for her toy people. She could tape together sheets of construction paper and empty paper towel tubes. Suggest that she come up with ideas for making her fort bigger or stronger. For instance, if she adds a second story, she'll need to find ways to support the extra weight. ♥



Q & A Ready for kindergarten

Q: I just registered my preschooler for kindergarten, and we're both excited! What can I do to help him prepare?

A: Because your son is in preschool, he is already learning many skills he'll need in kindergarten, such as following directions and getting along with others.

Try asking his teacher whether he's on track for next year. She may suggest things you could do at home, like playing Simon Says

to work on listening or hopscotch to practice counting.

Also, plan to attend kindergarten orientation so your child can learn more about his new school. And as it gets closer to the start of school, visit a nearby playground where he may meet children who will be in his class or grade. He will feel more comfortable on the first days of school if he recognizes a few familiar faces. ♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

March 2014

Livingston County R-III School
Jocelyn Meservey, Principal



SHORT NOTES

March weather

You never know what the weather will be like in March. Your child may want to wear shorts one day and a sweater the next! Put him in charge of checking the forecast each evening. Laying out appropriate clothing the night before will make mornings go more smoothly.

Review for standardized tests

When your youngster takes a standardized test, she'll probably be quizzed on what she learned in earlier grades. She can refresh her memory by reading library books about previous years' topics (ancient Egypt, magnets). Try a non-fiction picture book by Gail Gibbons or a fact-filled story from Joanna Cole's Magic School Bus series.

Need help?

Could your family use extra support? Your child's school counselor may be able to direct you toward resources like food pantries, health clinics, or donated clothes or school supplies. Don't hesitate to ask—the counselor knows that youngsters do better in school when their needs are met.

Worth quoting

"There are no shortcuts to anyplace worth going." *Helen Keller*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why does the Statue of Liberty stand in New York Harbor?

A: Because it can't sit down.



Eager to learn

"I don't know the answer, but I can't wait to find out!"

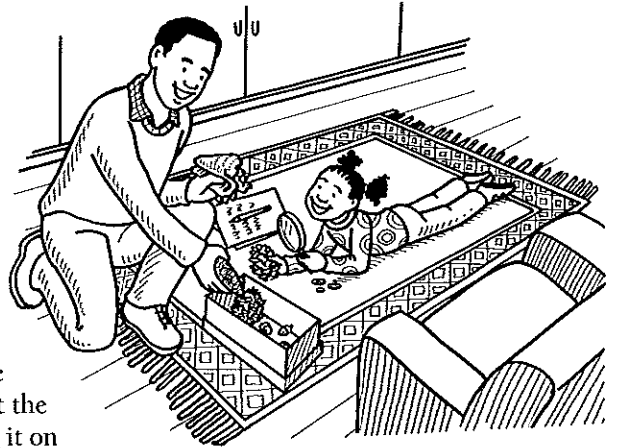
As a parent, you want to raise a child who sounds like that—one who is motivated to learn and takes on new challenges. Here are strategies that can help.

List of "wonders"

Have your youngster write "I wonder..." in big letters at the top of a piece of paper. Hang it on the refrigerator, and family members can add things they wonder about. *Example:* "Are all my fingerprints different?" Then, your child could try to find the answers (press each finger on an ink pad and onto paper and examine the prints).

Exploration box

Fill a shoebox with interesting items (mushrooms, feathers, foreign coins) and tools like a magnifying glass, pencils, crayons, and paper. Then, watch what your youngster does with them. She might look at a mushroom or a feather with the magnifying glass and sketch what she sees. Or



she could examine the coins' shapes and compare the numbers that show how much they're worth. *Idea:* Keep her interest by switching the contents frequently.

Good risks

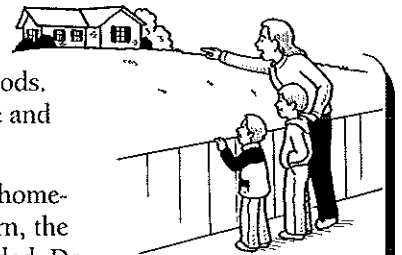
Encourage your child to take chances when it comes to learning. Challenge her to put away the instructions for a Lego set or a train track and see what she can design. Or suggest that she try a new activity like a robotics club or a drama group at school or the library. ♥

When I was little...

Kids love hearing about their parents' childhoods. Use these ideas to take a trip down memory lane and strengthen your bond with your youngster.

• **Point out places.** If you live in or visit your hometown, show him the hospital where you were born, the first house you lived in, or the schools you attended. Do you live far from where you grew up? Check out a library book about the state or country you're from, and read it together. Or find your hometown on Google Earth so your child can take a peek!

• **Share "artifacts."** Your youngster can learn about your past by looking at your baby pictures, high school yearbook, or wedding video. Items like these will spark conversations about special days in your family's history. ♥



Encourage kindness

Kindness can be contagious! Encourage your youngster to notice good deeds that others do and remember to be kind himself. Try these tips.

Catch the “bug.” Have your child draw a cute bug (dragonfly, ladybug) on construction paper and cut it out. When he sees a family member do something nice, he can give that person the bug. For example, maybe his older sister drove a grandparent to the grocery store without being asked, or perhaps you brought flowers



school, ask him, “What did you do today that was kind?”♥

to your spouse. Then, that person looks for more kind acts and passes on the bug.

Look for opportunities.

Suggest that your youngster think of ways to be kind at school. He could invite a student sitting alone on the bus to share a seat with him. Or he might compliment his art teacher on a bulletin board that she decorated. After

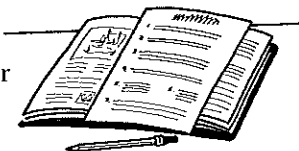


Helping with homework

Q: My daughter sometimes asks me to help her with homework. But as her work gets more difficult, it's harder for me to help. What can I do?

A: It's actually okay if you're not sure how to do the assignments. Homework shows the teacher how much your child knows, so it's important for her to do it by herself. But if she's stuck, there are ways you can help even if you're unfamiliar with the material.

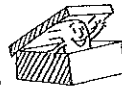
For example, have your daughter teach you what she is



learning. Talking

about it may jog her memory or clear up her confusion.

Also, encourage her to use resources like old tests, textbook glossaries, or the Internet—she could start with links on her school website or at kids.usa.gov. Or she might call a friend who could walk her through a math problem or point out a helpful section in a social studies chapter.♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

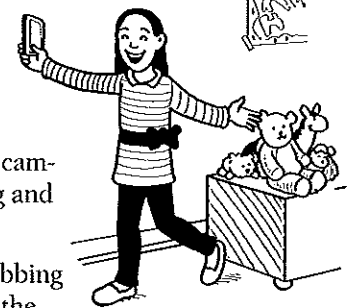
Be a filmmaker!

Making a movie can be even more fun than watching one. Share your cell phone or camcorder with your youngster, and let her practice writing and speaking skills with these two projects.

1. Your child can practice thinking on her feet by ad-libbing her way through a tour of your home. She could hold the camera and describe each room in a loud, clear voice. Encourage her to alternate between turning the camera on herself (“We have lived in this home for eight years”) and filming rooms and belongings (“This is my room, and those are my stuffed animals”).

2. Suggest that your youngster film a funny video. Have her recruit “actors” (siblings, friends). She might write a script with jokes or silly family stories, making each person's lines a different color. Then, they can take turns filming each other.

Idea: She can share her video by holding a “premiere” for your family. Or help her upload it to a website (youtube.com, vimeo.com) and click on “privacy settings” to make sure only people she knows can watch.♥

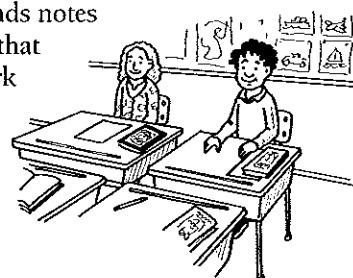


PARENT TO PARENT

Good classroom behavior

My son Jackson brought home a note saying he was talking to friends instead of listening to the teacher. He and his friends' desks had been moved apart, but I wasn't sure whether to punish him at home, too, so I called his teacher:

Mrs. Ross said she sends notes home so students know that parents and teachers work together to help them succeed. She wasn't asking me to punish Jackson, but she suggested that I might speak with him.



When I talked to Jackson, he complained that his friends started the conversations. I pointed out that he didn't have to respond. I asked what he could do next time, and he said he should keep his eyes on the teacher and talk to his friends at recess. I also reminded

him not to start conversations while the teacher talks.

I'm glad his teacher told me what was happening. Now she and I will stay in touch to help Jackson behave in the future.♥

OUR PURPOSE

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

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