



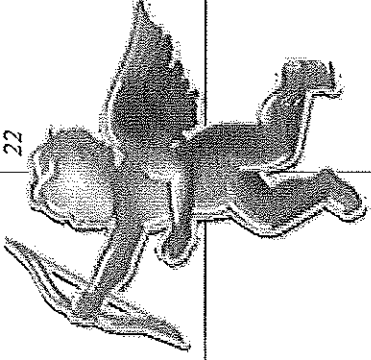


February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Cheerleading	Basketball Practice	Basketball Practice	5th-8th to PAC: "Geek Mythology" production	Third Quarter Mid-Term	5:30-7:00 Chula Fire Dept. Hog Supper
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Cheerleading	Basketball Practice	Basketball Practice	Cheerleading	Basketball Practice	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	SCHOOL IN SESSION (Make-Up Day) 6:30-Parent/Player Game	6:00-Basketball vs. B-H @ home	3:15-3:50: StuCo Basketball Practice	6:00-Basketball vs. Laredo @ home	12:20-Early Out Teacher In-Service	
23	24	25	26	27	28	
	7:00-OPT	Basketball Practice	Spring Pictures (Class & All-school)	6:00-Basketball vs. Spickard @ home		

Menus

School: Livingston County R-3

Academic Year: 2013-14

Meal: All

Month: February 2014

February				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
3 Breakfast: Whole grain waffle, reduced calorie syrup, juice, milk Lunch: Whole grain chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, broccoli, whole wheat bread & butter, apple wedges, milk	4 Breakfast: Whole grain cereal, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Pork ribette, au gratin potatoes, green beans, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	5 Breakfast: Sausage patty, whole grain biscuit, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Chili, raw baby carrots, celery sticks, cheese stick, whole grain crackers, fruit, milk	6 Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Whole grain pepperoni pizza, tossed romaine salad w/low-fat Ranch, whole kernel corn, fruit, milk	7 Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Hamburger patty on whole wheat bun, potato wedges, sliced carrots, fruit, milk
10 Breakfast: Whole grain cereal, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Grilled cheese, tomato soup, celery sticks, fruit, whole grain crackers, milk	11 Breakfast: Whole grain pancakes, reduced calorie syrup, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Whole grain chicken patty, mashed potatoes, broccoli, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	12 Breakfast: Cheese omelet, whole wheat toast, juice, milk Lunch: Fish wedge, au gratin potatoes, green beans, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	13 Breakfast: Oatmeal, whole wheat toast, juice, milk Lunch: Hot dog on whole wheat bun, pork & beans, potato wedges, fruit, milk	14 Breakfast: Whole grain cereal bar, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, tossed romaine salad w/low-fat Ranch, sliced carrots, fruit, milk
17 Breakfast: Ham patty, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Whole wheat mac & cheese, green beans, cole slaw, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	18 Breakfast: Whole grain french toast, reduced calorie syrup, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Whole grain mini corn dogs, mashed potatoes, carrots, fruit, milk	19 Breakfast: Egg patty, whole grain biscuit, juice, milk Lunch: Whole grain chicken nuggets, mashed sweet potatoes, broccoli, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	20 Breakfast: Whole grain cereal, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Sloppy joe on whole wheat bun, potato wedges, whole kernel corn, fruit, milk	21 Breakfast: Whole grain breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Tacos, refried beans, shredded lettuce & diced tomatoes, shredded cheese, fruit, milk
24 Breakfast: Whole grain waffle, reduced calorie syrup, juice, milk Lunch: Hamburger patty on whole wheat bun, potato wedges, broccoli, fruit, milk	25 Breakfast: Whole grain cereal, whole wheat toast, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Pig in a blanket, mashed potatoes, peas, fruit, milk	26 Breakfast: Sausage patty, whole grain biscuit, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Pork ribette, au gratin potatoes, carrots, whole wheat bread & butter, fruit, milk	27 Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Chili, raw baby carrots, celery sticks, cheese stick, whole grain crackers, fruit, milk	28 Breakfast: Cheese omelet, whole wheat toast, juice, milk Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, tossed romaine salad w/lo-fat Ranch, whole kernel corn, fruit, milk

From the Principal's Desk...



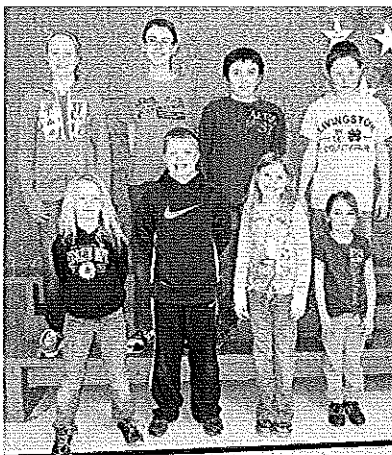
Back row l-r: Jimmy Meservey, David Beck, Steven Meservey, Dan Murphy
Front row l-r: Austin Campbell, Jeff Westcott, Zack McClellan
Not pictured: Ronnie Eckert, Bill Meeker

Award of Distinguished Service

The Award of Distinguished Service was presented to the Chula Farmers Cooperative by the School Board at the district's annual Christmas program in December. The award was accepted by members of the Cooperative's Board of Directors and Manager, Dan Murphy. The Livingston County R-III School District presented this award to the Cooperative for its service to the activities and programs of the school district and to the Chula community.

December Outstanding Artists (above right)

Back row l-r: Bailey Pithan, Jackson Pauley, Colton Searcy, Hesston Campbell
Front row l-r: Maci Stover, Ben Pithan, Addison Lewis, Charlee Ann Campbell



Students of the Month

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

- Preschool—Charlee Hibner
- Kindergarten—Charlee Ann Campbell (not pictured)
- 1st/2nd Grades—Jackson Searcy
- 3rd/4th Grades—Addison Lewis
- 5th/6th Grades—Colton Searcy
- 7th/8th Grades—Bailey Pithan

Congratulations to our Good Character Rock Stars!



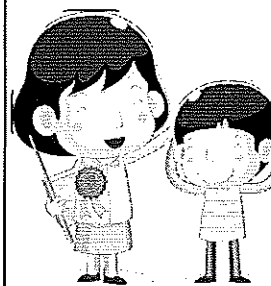
BRRRR!! January was one cold month! Let's hope that February's weather is more cooperative with us!

Please remember that on these extremely cold mornings to make sure you dress your child in warm layers with hats, gloves, scarves, and coats. It is much better to be safe than sorry when putting children on the bus on cold mornings. We will cancel school if the wind chills get too cold, but otherwise we will plan to be in session.

2nd Quarter Honor Rolls

A Honor Roll
Austin Case
Dezeray Crawford
Samual Pauley

B Honor Roll
Nathan Brooks
Wade Campbell
Skye Cashatt
Bailey Castillo
Tiffany Gillespie
Taylor Lambert
Jackson Pauley
Madeline Criner
Haley Graves
Bailey Pithan
Audrey Meservey
Samuel Meservey
Jessie Case
Brooklyn Lambert
Colton Searcy



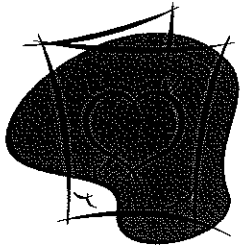
The Missoula Children's Theater group visited us in early January. The students learned about acting and got to practice being different characters while dancing. Everyone was up and moving during this assembly! Thanks to the Browning Foundation for bringing this opportunity to Chula!

Snow Make-Up Days

School will be in session on the following days due to school being dismissed for bad weather in January:

- Monday, February 17th
- Friday, March 21st





Chula Accelerated School

February 2014

Preschool News

So when was the last time you knew that the Arctic Circle was warmer than Missouri? During the month of January we discussed how cold the weather has become and when it might STOP being colder than usual. Winter has been our seasonal conversation. Preschoolers decided what kind of clothing we need to wear in this season. This winter has been a bit different because of Polar Vortexes and other reasons for wind chill factors. Our discussions took us to the topic of being safe in this really cold weather by wearing warm coats; hats; gloves or mittens; maybe a scarf or earmuffs. We also talked about what frostbite is and how it can hurt us.

We visited the Polar Regions and talked about the people and the animals that inhabit those areas. Our research showed us that some of those cold region animals are beginning to have some difficulty with the recent unusual warm up even though it doesn't feel all that warm here.

When we came back from the Polar Regions, we checked out Martin Luther King Jr. and talked about what it is to be a leader. Preschool friends found out that it takes really great listening skills and the ability to follow directions and by the same token be responsible enough to give reasonable directions to become a leader. We are practicing those necessary skills.

We finished up the month returning to winter to talk about the weather event that usually takes place during that particular season (besides the cold): snow. Wondering if it will snow any more

this winter season has become the predictable math event. What causes snow and why it happens during the winter season finished out the thematic unit.

The 31st of January became the 100th day of school! We celebrated this phenomenal event with our friends from Kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grades.

Thanks for sharing with us!

Looking forward to February,
Ms. Claire and Ms. Mindy

Kindergarten News

We started our month off with a visit from the Mizzoula Children's Theater. Liz and C.J. taught us how to express ourselves through facial expressions and body movement. We had a great time learning from them!



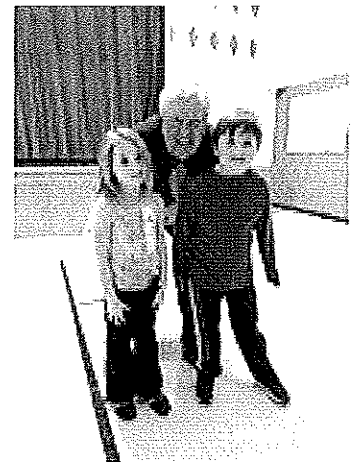
Randy Nadler came to visit us on January 16. He showed us pictures and talked to us about New Zealand. He even went bungee jumping from the bridge where bungee jumping was invented. This was Chance's favorite part of his program. Charlee Ann enjoyed looking at the pictures of all the cute animals.

Laura Numeroff was the author we studied this month. Her most

popular book series is based on her book *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. These books are about the humorous chain reaction that happens when you give an animal something. We read *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, *If You Give a Dog a Donut*, *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake*, *If You give a Pig a Pancake*, and *If You give a Moose a Muffin*. We liked all of them and can't decide which is our favorite!

We are looking forward to joining our preschool and 1st/2nd grade friends to celebrate the 100th day of school on January 31.

Mrs. Cypert



1st & 2nd Grade News

Happy February! We are hoping that the weather is not as cold as it has been in January. Having inside recess all the time gets a little boring. We're ready to get outside and get some fresh air!

We are going to celebrate the 100th day of school on Friday, January 31. Can you believe we've been in school for 100 days? We're planning a celebration with our pals

in preschool and kindergarten full of "100" activities.

In January, our second graders started their math fact race. They have to know all their addition facts from the +0's to the +10's, including the doubles and doubles plus ones. They are super competitive and are not happy when they don't pass a test. First graders are also working on their math facts and love to take timed tests!

We are starting our unit on economics. Everyone in our classroom has to apply for a job. They have to do their job every day and at the end of the week they receive their pay envelope. They have to pay bills with their money and then they can shop at our classroom store. It's very interesting and entertaining to watch how they choose to spend their money. Some of them like to spend it all and others will save up and get a big item or save it to see the new things that get added each week.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, I asked the kids how you show someone that you love them.

Maci – give them a hug

Noah – give them a kiss

Ray – make them a heart

Jackson – buy her a bracelet and put it in a card and write "I Love You" on it and put a dollar in the envelope.

Kamdyn – give them a koala kiss (rub noses)

Mady – give them a candy cane

Katie – give them a bouquet of flowers, a balloon bouquet, a teddy bear, and a box of chocolates

Hannah – write a note with xoxo on it

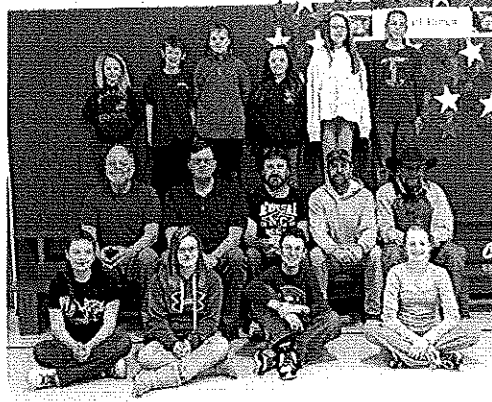
Rachael – I say "I heart you"

Emily – Tell them that they are the best!

Aiden – give her a teddy bear

Torri—Always tell them that you love them and give them lots of hugs and kisses

Miss Stone



Wednesday, January 29, was set aside to honor our school board. Attending a school board appreciation breakfast was John Graves, Dan Murphy, Jeff Lambert, Steve Case, and Clint Campbell. The board members were presented gifts of appreciation by the Student Council.

3rd & 4th Grade News

The Missoula Children's Theater shared with the children some of the important things they need to know to perform. The children were a great audience and the teaching was very entertaining! This was sponsored by the Roger A. Browning Foundation from Chillicothe. We all think we have what it takes to be an actor!!

Ben Pithan-I like the Grapevine Dance. I didn't know how to do that before, now I do.

Parker Savage-My favorite was learning to act like different characters. I think that is fun.

Breanna Pithan-I learned how to act like a different person. We acted like a lot of different people and it was really, really awesome.

Addison Lewis-I like the dance they taught me. I like to dance and they taught me a lot of different dance moves.

Cooper Murphy-I liked the movements of dancing because it is related to singing.

Kenlynn Fisher-My favorite part was when they taught us how to dance. They had some funny moves.

Kyler Klein-I liked when they taught us how to dance because it was funny.

Blake Gillespie-I liked learning how to Grapevine dance. The dance steps were fun.

Joshua Meservey-The Grapevine dance was my favorite because I like dancing around.

Clayton Savage- I liked the dancing because I like the activity of moving around.

Skylar Stover-I liked the Grapevine dance because it was my favorite.

Bailey Elrod-My favorite was when we danced. I really like to dance. I do it all the time in my room.

Randy Nadler was with us to present information about the country of New Zealand. It was a very interesting presentation. I asked the children what their favorite part was and they said it was hard to choose because it was all good. This is what they finally decided on:

Kyler Klein-I really liked the bungee jumping. It was cool! I would like to do that sometime.

Cooper Murphy-I liked the bungee jumping because I have done that before.

Ben Pithan-I thought the glow worms were pretty cool. I have never seen one of those before.

Addison Lewis-I really liked learning about the seal pups and the state bird because I really like learning about animals. I also liked hearing about the geysers.

Cassity Eckert-I really liked the seals because they were so cute.

Skylar Stover- I liked hearing about the bungee jumping because I would like to try it.

Breanna Pithan-I liked the bungee jumping because it looked like a lot of fun. I would really like to try it sometime.

Parker Savage-I liked the bungee jumping. I think it would be fun to jump off of a bridge and bounce at the end of a big rubber band.

Kasey Crauner-My favorite part was the bungee jumping because I want to do it.

Joshua Meservey-I like the ice tunnels because it looked cool. I would like to go there someday.

Clayton Savage-I like the one where they jumped off the bridge. I like this because they let him get his head wet in the river and it was winter.

Blake Gillespie-I liked seeing the Hobbit houses. I thought it was interesting to learn that the more windows there were in the house, it meant that they had more money.

Bailey Elrod- I liked seeing the baby seals the best because they were so cute and the dad was funny.

Mathew Meservey-I liked the Hobbit holes because it had to do with Hobbits.

Kenlynn Fisher-I liked seeing the native New Zealand people do their dance. It was very funny! They bugged out their eyes, stuck out their tongue, and hit their legs to scare off the enemy.

Mrs. Moore

5th & 6th Grade News

Brrrrr! We have decided in 5th and 6th grade that spring can come now! To ward off the cold, we have had to stay busy. Lucky for us our basketball season is in preparation. We hope we will be seeing you at our 5/6 grade season games. The kids have been working hard at practice almost every day after school and they are so excited to be part of it!

In our regular day, we have been working on putting all our knowledge together to get some projects going. In Science, we have been once again able to work with the Conservation Department in developing posters for the contest. We are also implementing some technology through all the subjects by perfecting our Microsoft skills, including Power Point and graphing. It is such a motivator to the kids when they can see a published project!

Mrs. Pauley

Fire Department Hog Supper

The Chula Fire Department's annual hog supper will be

Saturday, February 8, 2014
From 5:30-7:00 pm.

Join the community in supporting our volunteer fire department at a whole hog dinner with all of the fixin's.

Free will donation with all proceeds to benefit the fire department.

7th & 8th Grade News

The seventh and eighth graders are busy preparing for their Dinner Theatre. This year's play is titled "Aw, Shucks!" The 5-act play will be presented on March 14.

The following is some information about the play. Just when Maw decides it's time to help her son Roscoe find a perfect Southern belle to be his bride, he comes home with a city-girl fiancé named Brooke Benton! Truth be told, Maw's choice for Roscoe, farmer's daughter Savannah Davis, is probably better suited for her other son, mud pit belly-floppin' Billy Bob. Still Maw is determined to prove that she knows best. Along with her sisters, Maw decides that an old fashioned hoedown is the only way to decide who Roscoe should marry. Though she's a bit worried about breaking a nail, Ms. Benton participates in Maw's competition and gets a little countrified in the process. This country vs. city comedy will make you go "horse" with laughter!

If you would like tickets, contact any 7th or 8th grade student or call the school office. Come and enjoy an evening out while supporting our school!

Mrs. Kerr

Library News

Many students will be doing research for class projects in the next few weeks. Please use our online resources at home by going to www.chulaschool.org. Find "Parent Resources" and then "Library Resources". Choose "Destiny" which has lists of research sites. Try "Famous Missourians" or one of the MORENET subscription sites. Our username is *morenetliving* and password is *bobcats*. If you have questions, please contact me at bradcliff@chulaschool.org. If your child needs help in research, encourage them to see me or Ms. Cheryl. All the students in grades 3rd through 8th are instructed on using the resources on the Destiny site during our weekly library schedule. We are pleased this is available for your child's success in locating information.

Mrs. Radcliff



Early Years

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT START

February 2014

Livingston County R-III School

KID BITS



Attending school events

When your youngster brings home a notice about a program at school (play, open house, spirit night), have her post it on the refrigerator. Try to attend as many events as possible. You'll get to know her teachers and friends, and you'll show her how important her school is to you.

Drive through the maze

A masking-tape maze is a fun place for your child to drive his toy cars—and to develop his spatial skills. Help him make the maze by arranging strips of tape on a kitchen or basement floor. He can label an entrance and an exit and add a few wrong turns.

What do animals need?

Pets can teach your child that all living things have needs. Ask her to tell you what her pet (or a relative's pet) requires, such as food, water, shelter, and exercise. She could draw a picture of the animal along with everything it needs.

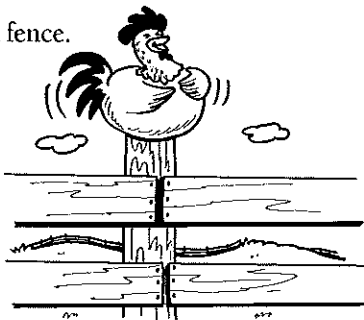
Worth quoting

"There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it's going to be a butterfly."
Richard Buckminster Fuller

Just for fun

Q: What runs around a farm but doesn't move?

A: A fence.



Tips for better behavior

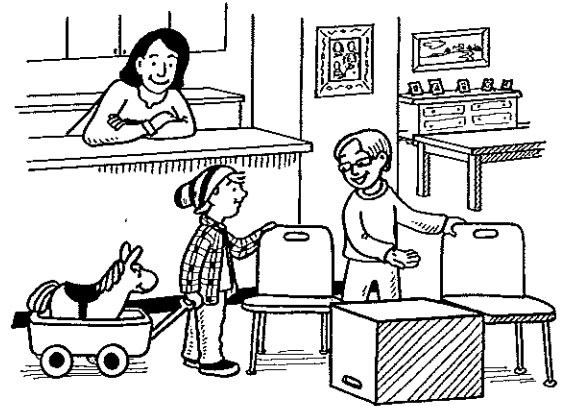
Every parent knows that whining, tantrums, and bossiness can be part of life with little ones. The good news is that as children get older and learn to control themselves, they usually outgrow these habits. In the meantime, here are tips from other parents to help you handle common—but challenging—behaviors.

Whining

"I stumbled on this idea by accident. One day, my son was talking in a whiny voice, and I couldn't understand him. After I asked him to repeat himself three or four times, he finally spoke in his normal voice. Now when he whines, I say, 'I can't understand you unless you talk like a big boy.' It usually works like a charm!"

Tantrums

"Casey's tantrums were exhausting for both of us until I learned to watch for 'triggers.' Now if I notice she's getting tired or hungry, we take a break or eat a snack. That way, I can usually head off a meltdown. When she does throw a tantrum, yelling or threatening a punishment



won't stop it—and giving in doesn't teach her not to do it in the future. The tantrums seem to end faster if I calmly move her to a quiet spot."

Bossiness

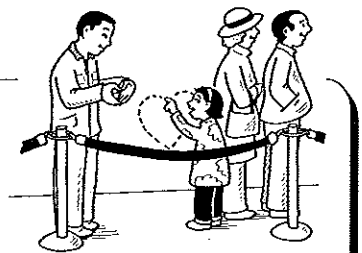
"Alex had a habit of bossing his little brother around. Evan was getting tired of it, so we came up with the 'question' rule. When Alex wants his brother to do something, he has to turn it into a question. Instead of, 'You sit in this chair,' he should say, 'Can you sit in that chair, and I'll sit in this one?' Of course, sometimes Evan says no, but at least Alex is learning to ask nicely for what he wants."♥

Imagine and learn

You and your youngster need only your imaginations to play these learning games. Try one the next time you're in a waiting room or standing in line.

● **What's in my "bag"?** Pretend to take an object out of an imaginary bag and use it. You might act like you're putting on a pair of boots or cracking an egg, for example. Let your child guess the item, and then ask her to pick something from an imaginary bag for you to guess.

● **What am I drawing?** Secretly think of a simple object (say, a heart). Give your youngster step-by-step instructions for drawing it in the air with her finger ("Start at the bottom, slant up and left, then stop..."). How quickly can she figure out what it is? Next, let her give you something to "draw."♥



We love music!

Did you know that music can help your child learn a variety of skills? Add a little singing, wiggling, and giggling to her day with these musical activities.

Act out songs. Let your youngster pick a song and make up motions to go with it. She could pretend to row a boat while singing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Or she might sing "The Bear Went Over the Mountain" and climb an invisible mountain. She'll practice listening to lyrics and thinking about their meanings.



Dance with streamers. Make streamers by tying lengths of ribbon to a key ring. Then, turn on the radio, and encourage your child to dance with the streamers. She could wave them quickly for a fast song or make long, sweeping motions for a slow one—she'll learn to pay attention to tempo.

Put on a parade. Play upbeat music on the radio or your MP3 player, and take turns leading a parade around the house. With each new verse, the leader chooses a different way for everyone to move (march, skip, tiptoe). Your youngster will get exercise and build large motor skills.♥



Q & A Show-and-tell: No toys allowed

Q: My daughter isn't allowed to bring toys for show-and-tell. How can I help her think of other things to take?

A: The no-toys rule still leaves plenty of things for your daughter to share. Ask her what she has that is special or unique, like a family photograph or a pair of her baby shoes.



Another idea is to share something that's related to a lesson at school. If she's learning about weather, she might take a book on rainbows. Or when she studies dinosaurs, she could share a brochure that she got at a natural history museum.

After she picks her object, help her practice what she'll say so she feels confident in front of the class. For example, she could explain what was happening in her photo or describe her favorite page in her book.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

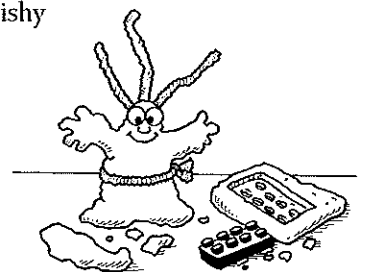
Homemade play dough

Encourage smooshy and squishy fun by making your own play dough at home.

To whip up a batch, help your youngster measure and stir together 2 cups flour, 1 tbsp. cream of tartar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt. Add 1 cup hot water and 2 tbsp. vegetable oil. Have him mix it with his hands until a dough forms. (If it's sticky, he can add more flour, 1 tbsp. at a time.)

Then, suggest these ways to use it:

- Your child could mix in food coloring, glitter, or cinnamon. He'll experiment with colors, textures, and scents.
- Encourage him to notice different textures. Have him walk around the house with a handful of dough and make impressions of objects. He might press a Lego or a button into the dough, for example.
- Let your youngster get creative. He can make silly creatures by adding pipe cleaners, wiggly eyes, and other craft items to the dough.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Three's company

My son David recently had his two best friends over. After a short time, I saw that two was company but three was complicated. Someone was always left out.

I asked their teacher for advice. She said that odd numbers of kids often need extra adult help to get along. If I stay nearby while they play, I can step in if one of them gets left out. She also said that planning activities ahead of time is a good idea.

The next time David's friends came over, we were ready. It was a Sunday afternoon, when I wasn't busy and could easily keep an eye on them. David set up a line of chairs to make a "school bus," and when the children arrived, I suggested that they take turns being the driver.

They all got along for a while, and then I suggested they switch to a board game. The afternoon went much more smoothly this time—we discovered that three can be good company!♥



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 • rfcustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1540-5567

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

February 2014

Livingston County R-III School
Jocelyn Meservey, Principal



SHORT NOTES

The five Ws

Spark your youngster's interest in the newspaper by sharing sections with her. Tell her that a news story usually answers the five "W" questions: who, what, when, where, and why. Read an article together, and see if she can spot the answers to all five questions.

Camp registration

In many areas, camp sign-ups begin now. If you want your children to attend, start looking into options. City or county camps will cost less than private camps, and some may offer free or discounted registration to help people afford them. You could also check with community centers and places of worship.

Household fire drill

Your youngster is probably used to fire drills in school—but what about at home? Ask him to draw a map of your house and use a red X to mark two exits from each room. Then, pick a safe meeting place outside (the corner, a neighbor's front yard), and hold a fire drill.

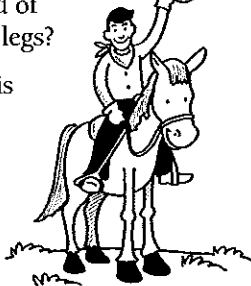
Worth quoting

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer." *Harriet Tubman*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What kind of horse has six legs?

A: One that is being ridden.



Your child's social life

Just like being involved in your youngster's education can lead to his success in school, taking an interest in his social life can help him form healthy friendships and handle peer pressure. Try these strategies.

Ask about friends

When you talk to your child about what he's learning in school, also find out who he plays with at recess or sits with at lunch. During conversations with your youngster's teacher, discuss how he gets along with classmates. If he struggles to make friends, see if there is someone he seems to like or has things in common with. Then, encourage him to invite that child home to play.

Meet other parents

Building relationships with the parents of your youngster's friends makes it easier to manage any problems that arise. Before your child visits a friend's home, call the parent to touch base. Better yet: Drop your youngster off, and introduce yourself in person. You can also meet friends'



parents at school functions (literacy night, concert), sports games, and neighborhood playgrounds.

Explain peer pressure

Help your child make good choices when he's with his friends. Point out that kids influence each other in good and bad ways, and together, brainstorm examples of each. To determine the difference, he should think about whether a friend's advice is helpful ("You *have* to read this book!") or harmful ("Only babies wear helmets when they ride bikes").♥

Fun with analogies

Here's an easy way to boost your child's thinking and word skills.

Give her an *analogy*, or a sentence comparing how things are related. For example, "Basketball is to sports as mozzarella is to ____." She should say "cheese," since basketball is a type of sport and mozzarella is a kind of cheese. Then, let your youngster give you an analogy to solve.

You could also make up analogies about topics she's studying in school. If she's learning about continents, you might say, "Japan is to Asia as Mexico is to ____." (Answer: North America.)♥



Winter walks

Walking in a winter wonderland can be fun *and* educational. Find a trail in your neighborhood or at a park, bundle up, and have your youngster take along these items.

Camera. Bare branches allow your child to observe details that are hidden when trees are full of leaves. She can choose a favorite tree and take photos of it, zooming in on things like a squirrel perched on a branch or a hole in the trunk. *Note:* Have her come back to the same tree in the spring so she can observe changes like buds and bird nests.



Bag. Suggest that your youngster collect a few natural items from the ground, such as rocks, pinecones, or nuts. At home, help her practice research skills by using library books or websites to identify each object.

Book. Pick a comfortable place to sit, and enjoy an outdoor read-aloud. A volume of nature poems, a story set in the woods, or a nonfiction book about wildlife make nice choices. Encourage your child to look around for images from the book (an icicle dangling from a porch, a deer darting through a field).♥

ACTIVITY CORNER



Memory strategies

Try this game to boost your youngster's memory. He'll discover techniques that can help him remember information he learns in school.

1. Write down 10 random words. Let family members look at the list for one minute, then put it away.



2. Give everyone a blank sheet of paper, and have them write as many words as they remember in two minutes. Count to see who got the most.

3. Discuss the strategies you each used to recall the words. Maybe your child noticed that *supermarket*, *crisp*, and *bowl* could all be linked to food, and remembering food made him think of those three words. Or perhaps you made up a sentence using four of the words.

4. Play again with 10 new words. Encourage your youngster to try one of the ideas you discussed. Can he remember more words this time?♥

Developing a work ethic

A strong work ethic—a belief in the value of hard work—can help your child in school, at home, and in her future career. Consider these suggestions:



- Show her how you put work before play. You could say, "I want to relax with a magazine, but I have to work on our taxes first." Then, have her do her work first, too. For instance, she should complete homework before she watches a movie.

- Help your youngster recognize the feeling of satisfaction that comes from hard work. After she cleans her room, let her invite family members to take a tour. Or when she finishes a painting that took a long time, you could let her display it in the hallway as a reminder of her effort.♥

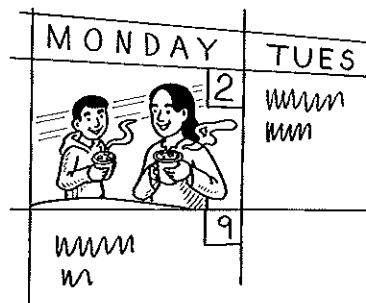
Q & A Create together time

Q: *Our family has a busy schedule, and I feel like I don't spend enough time with my son. How can we stay connected?*

A: Try giving your son a special spot on your calendar. Find a pocket of time, and pencil in his name. Then, ask how he'd like to spend it. Perhaps you could visit the library on Saturday morning or chat over hot chocolate after dinner on Monday.

You might weave "together time" into your existing schedule, too. If you work the evening shift, call him during your break and let him read you a story. When you're in the car or on the bus together, sing songs with your child.

Also, think about ways you can save an hour here or there so you can make time to be with your son. Could you put dinner in a slow cooker once or twice a week? Would switching to online banking help you pay bills faster?♥



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