

HIGHLANDS HAPPENINGS

Volume 8, Issue 7

March 14, 2018

Happy March!

We're on the fast track towards Spring, and we have so much to share with you about the work students have been completing, as well as some exciting upcoming events.

This past month we enjoyed our first Valentine's Day celebrations, grade level music performances, and numerous special grade level activities and projects. This month we continue to look forward to the Trinity Irish Dancers, the PE obstacle course, English/language arts PARCC testing in 3rd and 4th grade, and spring break!

As a school and district, we maintain a focus on continuous improvement. We continue to promote our vision statement, which states that students will communicate, collaborate, problem solve, and think critically.

One way we evaluate the effectiveness of our current program is through the lens of relevance. Learning occurs best when students are able to make connections to their own life and experiences. We focus on meaningful learning with real-life applications, so that the knowledge and content of the classroom truly mirrors students' experiences in the real world. In this sense, then, we seek to limit experiences that promote learning in isolation or that are only important for "the test." Learning that is most meaningful and that will last beyond just a single unit of study occurs when there is real-world relevance with the potential for immediate application beyond the walls of the classroom.

Please be sure to check out each of grade level's student work samples included in this issue of the Happenings, and as always, thank you for your continued support of your child's education.

Sincerely,

Brian Graber
Principal



Monthly Events

March

- 16 - End of 3rd Quarter
Trinity Irish Dancers 8:40 a.m.
PTC Ice Cream Day
Early Childhood Education (ECE)
AM 10:30 - 11:00; PM 2:00 - 2:30
- 20 - PTC Fun Lunch - Culvers Chicken Tenders
Vandercook Band Festival
Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 21 - Late Start 9:05 a.m.
- 22 - Educational Foundation sponsored Obstacle Course Time
- 3/26 - 4/2 - No School; Spring Break
- 4/3 - School Resumes
PTC Hot Lunch - Pasta Day





FOURTH GRADE STUDENT WORK

Brooke M's Precept

Kind words are superheroes,
mean words are the villain in life.



Bennett's Precept

**If you follow your dream, you will
succeed.**



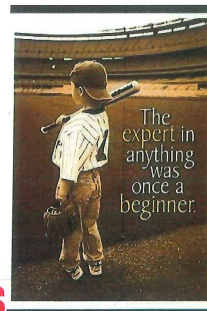
Michael's Precept

**CHAMPIONS ARE MADE,
NOT BORN, DAY BY DAY.
- JAMES L.**



Ava's Precept

**An expert at anything was
once a beginner.**



-Helen Hayes



THIRD GRADE STUDENT WORK



Country Project: Students got to choose a country they wanted to learn more about. They completed research with a partner, wrote a paper independently, and created a poster on the iPad which is what you see examples of.

Math Area Dream House Project: This was a culminating project to our area unit. Students got to think about what they would include in their dream house and then outline it. They then measured each side length, found the area of each room, and found the total area. Lots of math involved!



Fraction Project: This was an introduction to fractions where students had to follow step-by-step directions to make a Valentine themed picture. Beautiful math!



SECOND GRADE STUDENT WORK

Matthew U

How to Build a Lego Ship

A lego ship is fun to build. You can have fun building a cool lego ship. You can use any kind of legos.

You will need to use 1 big black lego, 8 little blue legos, 2 lego people, and 2 beige legos.

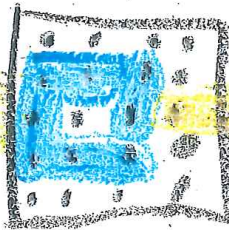
First, put the big black lego on the bottom. Next, add more legos on top of it. The legos can be any color.

After that, put 8 blue legos up on top of the black lego. Put the blue lego on the black and make a jail.

Then, put 2 beige pieces in the middle of the black lego.

Finally, put one guy to drive the ship and one to protect. A guy needs a sword to fight the bad guys.

Do you know how to build a lego ship? Use your imagination to build any kind of lego ship.



Reagan S

How to Draw a Dog

Would you like to draw a dog an easy way?

The materials you will need are a brown colored pencil, a light brown colored pencil, a black colored pencil, and a pink colored pencil. Those are good colors for a dog because it will make them look real.

First, draw a U upside down and put two small ovals on the side of the U. This will be your head and your ears.

Next, make another oval but instead of putting it on the head put it on the bottom gap. Make sure to make it not to big.

Then, make two large circle eyes inside the top oval. You then draw one triangle nose in the bottom oval. You can make the mouth by putting two J's under the nose.

Last, make a oval that is long next to either side of the bottom oval. Make the tail on the side of the long oval. Draw 4 legs under the long oval.

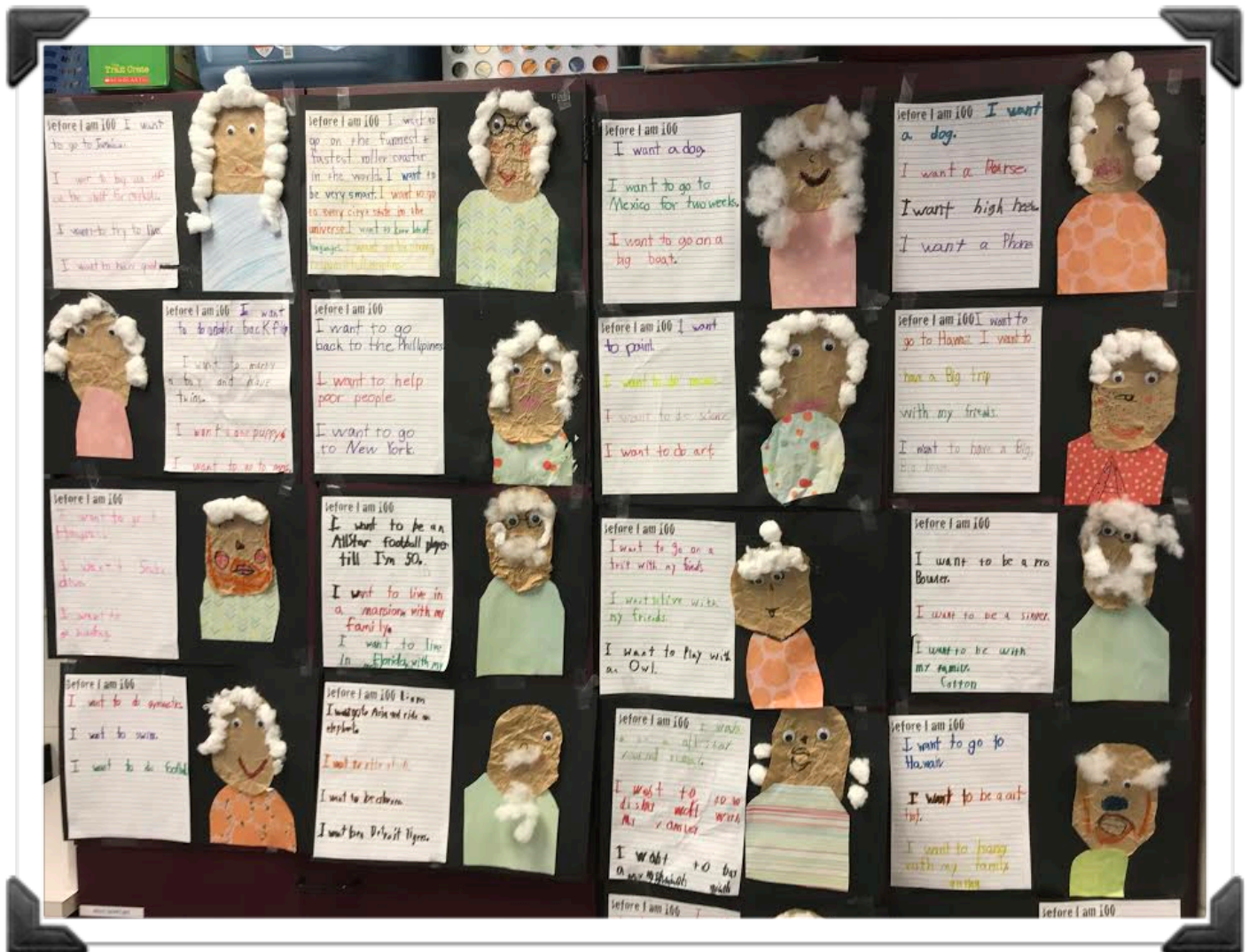
Now are you going to draw a dog? If you do, you could show it to your parents or give it to a family member.





FIRST GRADE STUDENT WORK

First grade students celebrated the 100th day of school by brainstorming 3-4 experiences they would like to have before they are 100. Students then made a self portrait of himself/herself when they are 100!





KINDERGARTEN STUDENT WORK

Name Sophia



My favorite play was Annie because I
liked when
the dog
came out. I
liked when
she got adopted.

Name Caroline



My favorite play was Annie because its
a kind play. And I
like when sandy
shows up.

Name Jon (X)



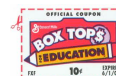
My favorite play was Beauty and the Beast

because I like Belle's
Yellow dress. I
liked when she
dances.



Boxtops & Soup Labels

The head-to-head competition is still going on between homerooms. Please bring in your boxtops.



March 26 - April 2
School Resumes Monday, April 3



ELEMENTARY OFFICE HOURS:

7:45 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

OFFICE LINE: 579-6886

PLEASE CALL IN YOUR STUDENTS ABSENCE AND
HOMEWORK REQUEST BEFORE 10:00 A.M.
ABSENCE LINE: 579-6894



Home & School

CONNECTION®

Working Together for School Success

March 2018

Highlands Elementary School

Mr. Brian Graber, Principal



SHORT NOTES

School events

Show your child that his school is important by asking about and attending events. Encourage him to post notices about plays, award ceremonies, or talent shows on a family bulletin board. You could also put them into your electronic calendar and turn on notifications to remind you.

Musical vocabulary

Enjoying music with your youngster can help her vocabulary grow. Try introducing her to your favorite songs from when you were growing up, and have her share music she likes. Together, listen for new words, and discuss their meanings.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than half of all smokers took their first puff by age 14, so it's not too early to talk to your child about smoking. And with e-cigarette use on the rise, he may think they're a safe alternative. Explain that most e-cigarettes still contain nicotine, which is addictive.

Worth quoting

"We grow great by dreams."
Woodrow Wilson

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What do you get when you cross a rooster and a giraffe?

A: An animal that can wake people on the top floor of a building.



Be "super" respectful

Being respectful is one way your youngster can build strong relationships with teachers, classmates, and family members. Here are tips for helping her understand and show respect.

Imagine your powers!

If your child were a respect "superhero," what would her super-powers be? Let her draw a picture of herself in this role. She might be carrying a backpack full of supplies for writing thank-you notes. Or perhaps she'll be wearing a bracelet with a "grabber" that picks up litter to show respect for the environment.

Roll for respect

Have your youngster number a sheet of paper 1–6. Beside each number, she could list a person (custodian, bus driver, neighbor). Take turns rolling a die and naming a way to show respect for that person. If 2 is for bus driver, she



might say, "Follow bus rules." That demonstrates respect for the job he does.

Write a poem

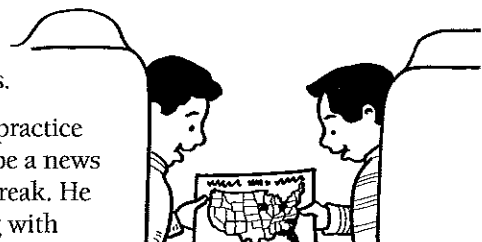
Suggest that your child write the word RESPECT down the left side of a sheet of paper. She can make an *acrostic* poem by writing a way to show respect that begins with each letter in the word. Examples: "Really listen when others speak" for R, "Everyone's equal—treat them that way" for E.♥

Break for learning

During spring break, inspire your child to enjoy learning adventures outside the classroom. Consider these ideas.

● **Live coverage.** Let your youngster practice writing and speaking by pretending to be a news reporter covering your family's spring break. He might write about activities like playing with cousins or making his favorite meal with you. At the end of the week, invite him to read his "broadcast" to the family.

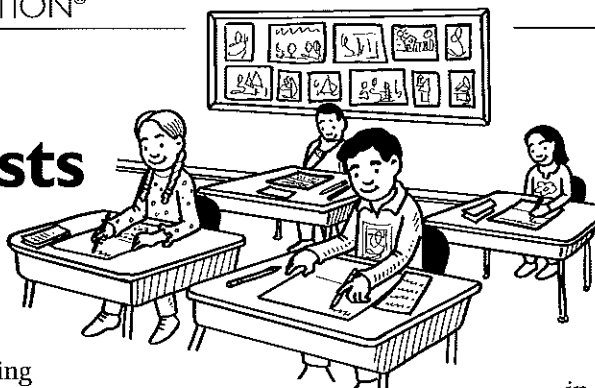
● **Spot the state.** Print out a United States map online, or have your child draw one, and take it in the car. Everyone calls out license plates they see from different states, and your youngster finds and colors each state on his map. How many states will he locate by the end of spring break?♥



Ready for standardized tests

Springtime is state test time for many students. Encourage your child to do his best with this advice.

Be strategic. Suggest that your youngster use strategies that increase his chances of getting the right answer. If he has to answer multiple-choice questions about a passage, he could read the questions first so he knows what to look for in the text. For fill-in-the-blank items, he might read the sentence with each possible answer to see which one makes the most sense.



Plan before writing.

Your child will do better on a short answer or essay section if he takes time to plan what he will write. This may be as simple as listing his main points on scrap paper. Then, he can write about each point in a separate paragraph in his essay. Or he might create an outline. His essay will be more organized, and he'll be more likely to include all the important information.

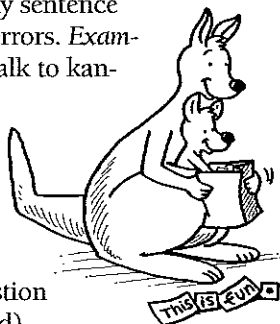
Idea: Tell your youngster to stay calm and confident. Remind him that he has been preparing for the test simply by going to school and completing his work.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Grammar detective

Using proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation will help your youngster write clearly and effectively. Practice together with these activities:

- Write a funny sentence that contains errors. *Example:* "can you talk to kangaroos." Let your child read it and correct your mistakes (capitalize the C in *can*, put a question mark at the end).



Then, she could write a sentence with errors for you to fix.

- Together, cut out words and punctuation marks from newspaper or magazine headlines. Put them in a bag, and have your youngster pull out one at a time until she can form a sentence using correct grammar and punctuation.♥

Q & A

Build sibling bonds

Q: I'd like my kids to be close, but they bicker a lot. How can I help them have a better relationship?

A: It's common for siblings to squabble. What's important is that they form a connection that helps them enjoy each other (at least sometimes) and handle disagreements.

Try giving them tasks that require them to rely on each other. For instance, one might wash dishes and the other dry them, and then they could put them away together. Also, encourage them to spend time doing something they both enjoy, like hitting baseballs or playing with toy dinosaurs.

Finally, use their disagreements to build their conflict-resolution skills. When they argue, let them take turns setting a timer for 1 minute and explaining their side to the other. If they can't come up with a solution, suggest they take a break by going into separate rooms. They can try again when they've both calmed down and had a chance to think.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

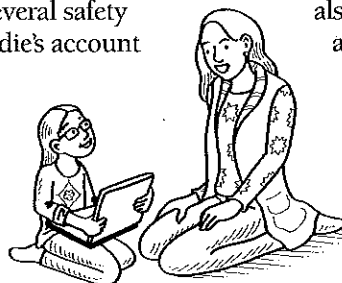
Protecting your child online

My fifth grader, Sadie, likes to watch videos on a kid-friendly website. I worried that she might come across something inappropriate, so I looked at the site's help page.

Luckily, I found several safety features. I marked Sadie's account private and disabled the "comment" option. And I changed her search settings so mature content will be less likely to pop up.

I explained to Sadie that the changes would help keep her safe from strangers and away from videos that may upset or confuse her. But since I know settings aren't foolproof, I told her to come to me if she sees anything that bothers her. I also reminded her not to upload anything without my permission and to never post personal information.

I still keep an eye on Sadie's internet use, but I feel like she's better protected now. Plus, she's learning good habits for the future.♥



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
800-394-5052 • rfecustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com

ISSN 1540-5621