

HIGHLANDS HAPPENINGS

Volume 9, Issue 2

October 5, 2018

Happy October!

This is our first "regular" issue of the Highlands Happening for the 2018-19 school year, with samples of student work from all grade levels, as well as occasional highlights from specials. Not only does this provide for you an authentic window into the work in our classrooms, it also provides real-world publishing opportunities for our students. We hope you enjoy the students' work!

I am happy to share information about this year's school improvement goals. These goals were formally approved at the September 18 Board of Education Meeting.

Our first goal began last year and involves the continuation of improved math performance for all students. We are in our second year using Eureka Math resources. Eureka Math is aligned with the Illinois Learning standards and includes comprehensive resources for students, teachers, and parents. One particular focus of this goal includes meeting the math needs of high-achieving students. We will continue to share information about how you can remain informed about math instruction and how you can provide support at home for math learning.

Our second goal also began last year and involves personalized learning experiences for all students. Last year, we continued our transition away laptops and desktop computers, and in particular their use in an isolated and separate lab setting, and towards the more integrated use of iPads within the classroom setting. We continue that transition this year. Personalized learning experiences are by no means limited to the use of a single tool. However, we do intend to maximize the appropriate use of these devices, as well as to implement other personalized learning strategies, to continue ensuring growth for all students. Similarly to our first goal, we are taking a particularly close look at the reading and writing goals of high-achieving students.

Our third goal is in the area of social-emotional learning. We seek to establish a community in which all students feel a sense of belonging, set goals for themselves, and actively monitor their progress towards achieving their goals. We are again looking at reduced student absences as one of the success criteria for this goal. We ask for your support in ensuring regular school attendance. Teachers are also working with students to set and monitor developmentally-appropriate goals.

Thank you for helping us get the 2018-19 school year off to a great start!

Sincerely,

Brian Graber
Principal



Monthly Events OCTOBER

- 8 - Columbus Day,
No School
- 9 - Teacher's Institute Day,
No School
- 12 - PTC Variety Show
Audition Forms Due
- 13 - Third Annual Chili
Cook-Off, Fall Festival
2:00 - 5:00 p.m. (MS)
- 15 - Elementary Picture
Re-take Day
- 16 - PTC Fun Lunch -
Culver's Chicken Tenders
Board of Education
Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 17 - **Late Start** 9:05 a.m.
- 19 - End of First Quarter
PTC Ice Cream Day
- 22 - Start of Red Ribbon
Week (22nd - 26th)
Elementary School Store
- 23 - Variety Show Auditions
3:30 - 6:00 p.m. (MPR)
- 24 - Variety Show Auditions
3:30 - 6:00 p.m. (MPR)
- 25 - ECE AM class only
- 26 - **Early Dismissal** 11:45a.m.
Halloween Parade
10:40 a.m.
Halloween Parties
11:00 a.m.
ECE - PM class only
8:30 - 11:00 a.m.
- 31 - Halloween
ECE Classes only
Celebrate Halloween
(costumes/parties)





KINDERGARTEN STUDENT WORK

The kindergartners were excited to meet their 4th grade buddies in September. We look forward to working with them this year.

Buddies





Age 9 Color 
Favorite Activity Tennis

Age 5 Color 
Favorite Activity Play outside with sisters

Buddies





Age 9 Color 
Favorite Activity Soft ball

Age 5 Color 
Favorite Activity base ball

Buddies





Age 9 Color 
Favorite Activity Flying drones

Age 5 1/2 Color 
Favorite Activity Soccer

Buddies



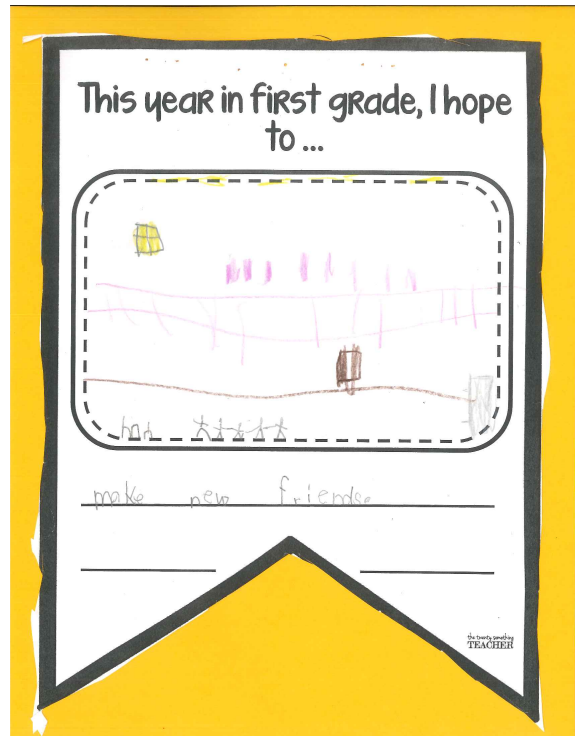
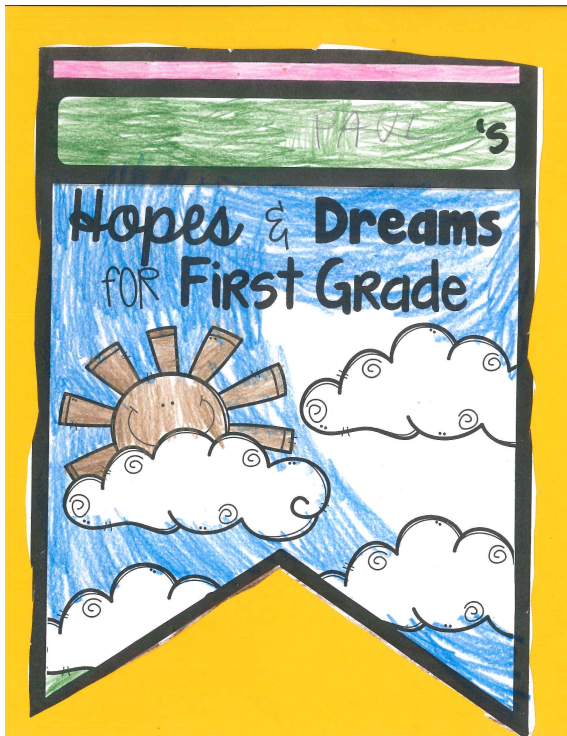
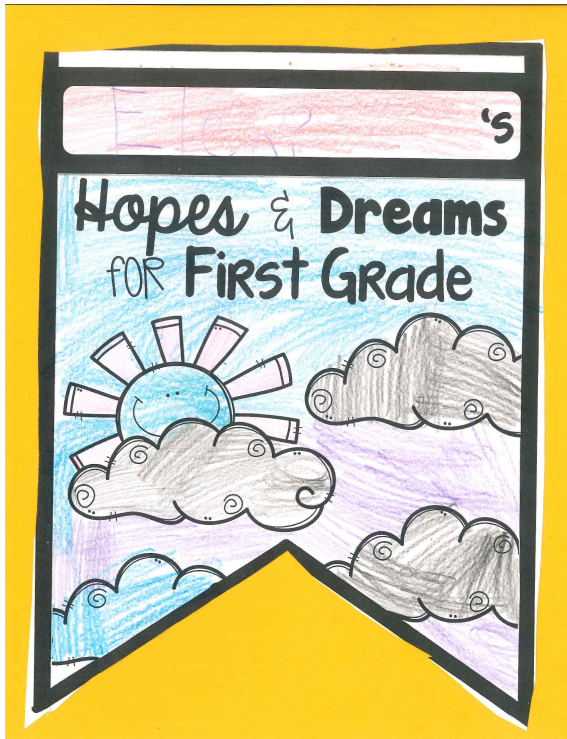
Age 9 Color 
Favorite Activity Drawing

Age 5 Color 
Favorite Activity Gymnastics

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**



FIRST GRADE STUDENT WORK





SECOND GRADE STUDENT WORK

Kerrington

Vocabulary

Write it: brutal

Use it in a sentence: The boy was so harsh when he kicked

Part of speech: adjective

Draw it/Define it

Harsh

Synonym (same)

harsh

Antonym (opposite)

soft, gentle

Write it:

Use it in a sentence:

Part of speech:

Draw it/Define it

Synonym (same)

Antonym (opposite)

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Ever J

Vocabulary

Write it: brutal

Use it in a sentence: My friend gets brutal when she

Part of speech: adjective

Draw it/Define it

Harsh

Synonym (same)

hard

Antonym (opposite)

easy, light soft

Write it:

Use it in a sentence:

Part of speech:

Draw it/Define it

Synonym (same)

Antonym (opposite)

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and
eva

Vocabulary

Write it: brutal

Use it in a sentence: Last night the foot ball game was brutal

Part of speech: adjective

Draw it/Define it

hates

Synonym (same)

hard, grim

Antonym (opposite)

Soft easy

Write it:

Use it in a sentence:

Part of speech:

Draw it/Define it

Synonym (same)

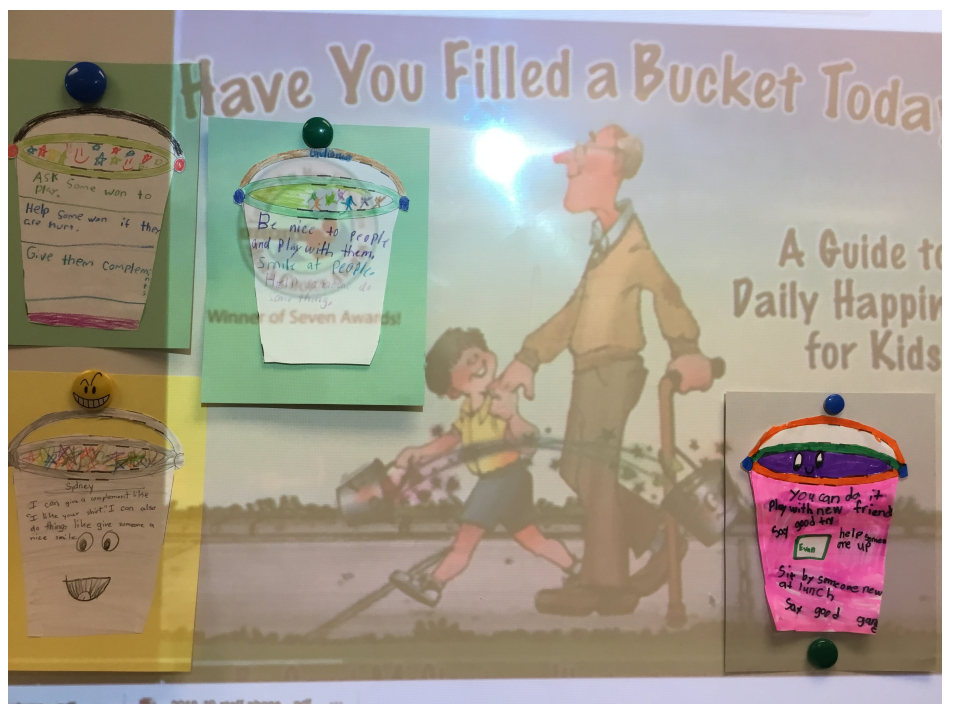
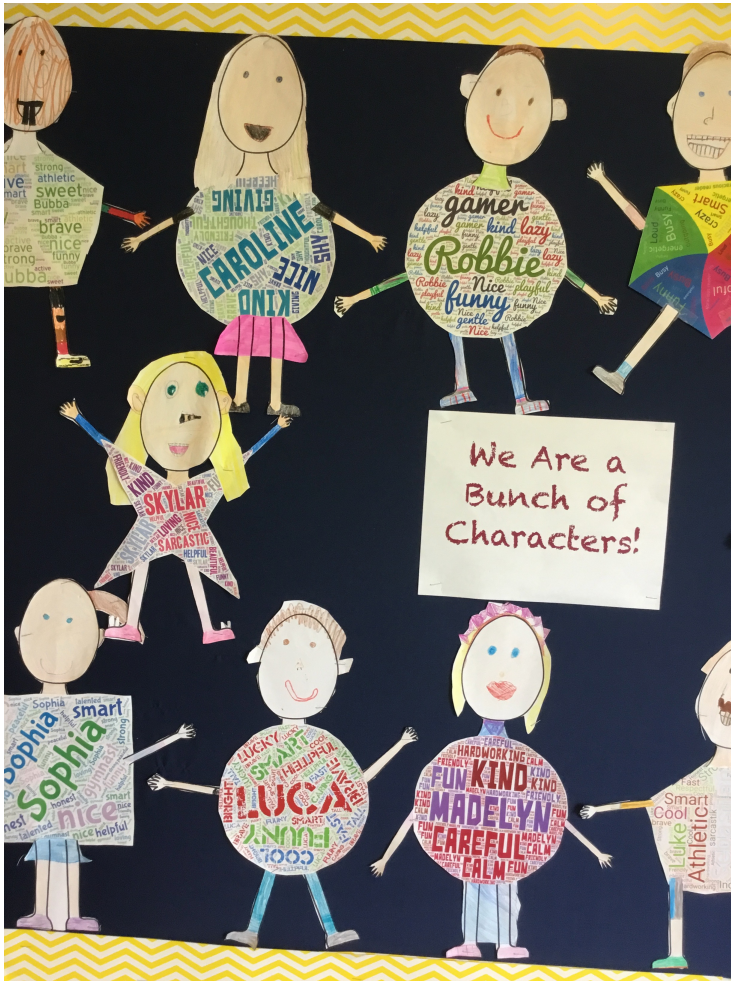
Antonym (opposite)

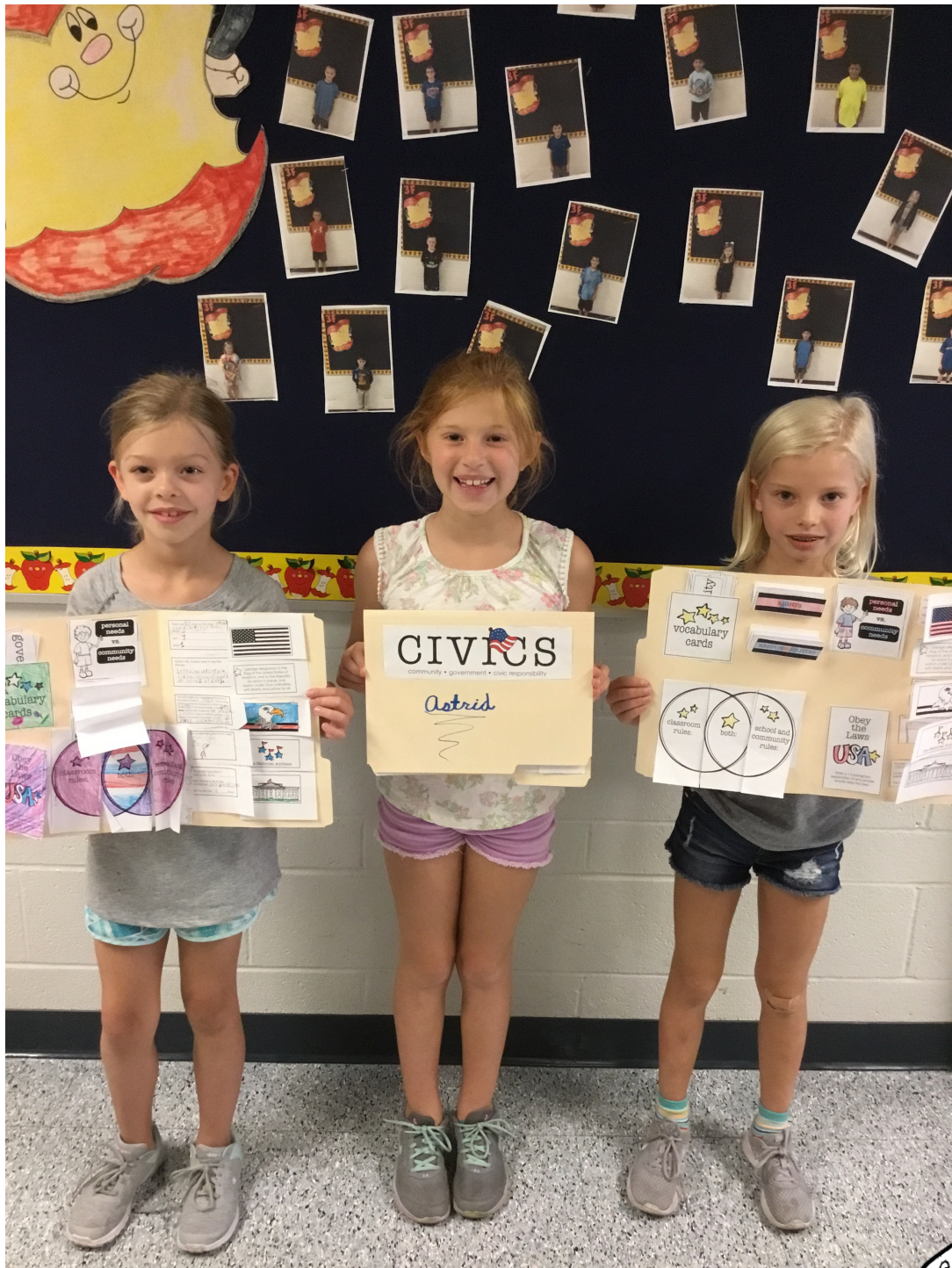
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THIRD GRADE STUDENT WORK







FOURTH GRADE STUDENT WORK

Fortnite Opinion By Mika

Think how different the world would be without kids playing Fortnite. Some people say Fortnite is bad for kids under 13, but other people think the other way around. I think kids should not be allowed to play Fortnite!

To begin with, Common Sense Media says Fortnite is too violent for kids under 13. As evidence, Common Sense Media is a respected group that gives advice to parents. They feel that if you're over 13, Fortnite might be fine, but it's too violent for younger kids. It's important to take advice from groups like Common Sense Media. They know what they're talking about!

Furthermore, there is too much violence in the real world, so there's no need to add violent games. For example, if your little sibling saw you playing Fortnite, they would want to play it too. If they would play the game, they would see too much violence like killing people. Think if you were 5 years old and you saw all that violence!

Finally, too much screen time is bad for kids. For example, if you already play other video games and you add in Fortnite, you would get too much screen time! Imagine if you had three hours of screen time!

In conclusion, kids should not play Fortnite! It is way too violent for people under 13. Even Common Sense Media says that! There is already enough violence in the real world, and kids don't even need any more screen time! You should NOT play Fortnite! Instead play outside or with your friends. It's a way better way to spend your time!





Fortnite Opinion

By: Elizabeth

How different would the world be if kids weren't allowed to play Fortnite? Some people say Fortnite is bad for kids because they think it is very violent, but I disagree. I think kids should be allowed to play Fortnite.

To begin with, it's a cartoon without blood, guts or violence. Even though it seems violent it's just a cartoon. We've all watched cartoons together. Everyone knows cartoons aren't real. A cartoon without blood or guts isn't too bad for a kid my age.

Furthermore, scientists say playing Fortnite is good for the brain. In support of this, you need to come up with a strategy and concentrate or else you will lose. Coming up with a strategy will help you in school. This is why Fortnite is good for the brain.

Finally, you cooperate with other players. For instance, it helps you make lots of friends. It lets you communicate with other players so you can help them win and learn team building skills. This is why Fortnite helps you cooperate with other people.

In conclusion, kids should be allowed to play Fortnite. It's a cartoon without blood or guts, scientists say it's good for the brain and, you cooperate with other players. You should try playing Fortnite today. You will see that I wasn't lying to you, also it is fun.





REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Halloween Reminder for October 26th

Parents and siblings are welcome to enjoy the Halloween parade at 10:40 a.m.
Halloween parties are 11:00-11:45 a.m.
Please remember that this is a 1/2 day and dismissal is 11:45 a.m.
Have a spooky afternoon!

ELEMENTARY OFFICE HOURS:
7:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
OFFICE LINE: 579-6886

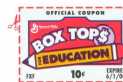


**PLEASE CALL IN YOUR STUDENTS ABSENCE
AND HOMEWORK REQUEST BEFORE 10:00 A.M.
ABSENT LINE: 579-6894**

Don't forget to check the **lost and found**. It's getting very full. We also have small items like phones, glasses, and jewelry in the front office.

Boxtops & Soup Labels

The PTC is still collecting boxtops and Campbell's soup and participating products' labels for education. Turn in your clipped boxtops and labels to your child's homeroom teacher.



Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

October 2018



Highlands Elementary School
Mr. Brian Graber, Principal

SHORT NOTES

Exercise your brain

Your child's brain is like a muscle—the more he uses it, the stronger it will become. Suggest that he give his brain a workout with activities like using his nondominant hand to throw a ball or to color. Learning to speak a foreign language or play a musical instrument are also known brain boosters.

DID YOU KNOW?

If your youngster qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, your family may also be eligible for low-cost internet. Contact local internet providers to find out. In addition, most libraries have computers with internet access. Your child can use them to do research for school or to look up topics she's curious about.

Family talent show

Stage a talent show to help family members appreciate one another's skills. Each person can choose something he likes to do (singing, juggling). Encourage practice time, and choose a night for your event.

Worth quoting

"The world is round so that friendship may encircle it." *Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*

JUST FOR FUN

Teacher: Jill, name four members of the bear family.

Jill: Mom, dad, sister, and brother!



Super homework support

Making homework an important part of life at home will show your youngster that her education matters. Letting her work independently will also send the message that you believe in her. Consider these strategies.

Provide backup

Allow your youngster to work on her own, but tell her you're available if she needs you. Say she's confused about the directions for an assignment. You could encourage her to reread them slowly or maybe read them aloud to her. If she's not sure how to approach a math problem, you might look at similar problems together in her textbook.

Give feedback

Point out to your child what she's doing well—you'll inspire her to repeat the behavior in the future. For instance, if you notice she started a long-term project the day it was assigned, you could say,



"Nice move! Now you have plenty of time to come up with good ideas and do your best."

Show interest

Glance over finished homework so you know it's done and your youngster knows you care. Also, look at returned assignments. She might proudly share a nice comment her teacher wrote on her essay. Or if a paper has spelling errors, ask how she can avoid the same problem next time, perhaps by looking up unfamiliar words in a dictionary.♥

Organization made easy

Good organizational skills will help your child find what he needs—and save time. Try these tips:

- Encourage your youngster to help with jobs that teach organization. For instance, have him organize your toolbox. Let him try his ideas, such as grouping together same-size screws or arranging wrenches from shortest to longest.

- Point out that *staying* organized is easier than *getting* organized. If he cleans out his school desk and his backpack every Friday, those tasks won't be overwhelming. *Idea:* He could put sticky notes on his desk and bag that say "Please clean me on Friday!"♥

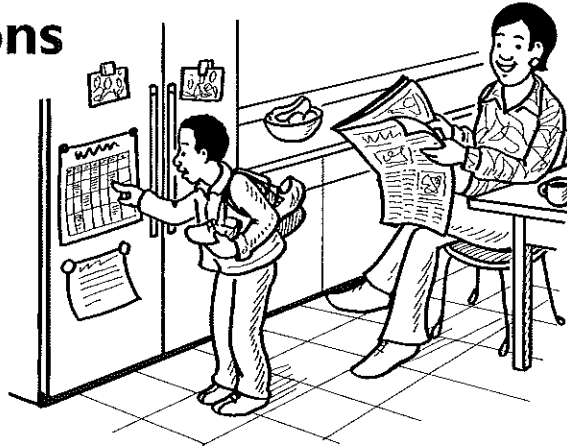


Setting expectations

Andrew always wears his sneakers to PE class and returns his books on library day. Robert sometimes forgets his sneakers and misses out on PE, or he leaves his library books at home and can't check out new ones.

What's the difference? Andrew's parents expect him to keep track of his schedule. Here's how to set expectations for your youngster.

Discuss in advance. Be clear about what you expect, and remind your child regularly. For example, if you want him to manage his schedule,



score goals, but you could expect him to attend every practice, show good sportsmanship, and try his best. ♥

you might post it on the refrigerator and tell him that it's his job to check it each day. Or if you're getting a pet, explain what he'll need to do to care for it. ("You'll be in charge of filling the food bowl every evening.")

Be reasonable. Set expectations that your youngster can live up to. If he plays soccer, for instance, you might not expect him to

ACTIVITY CORNER

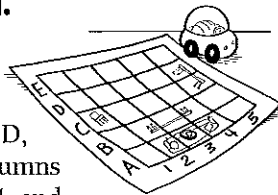


Build map skills

This version of hide-and-seek lets your youngster practice finding places on a grid. She'll have fun working on map skills and spatial reasoning.

1. Draw a grid.

Have your child make a grid with 5 rows (labeled A, B, C, D, and E) and 5 columns (labeled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). Her grid will represent a room in your home.



2. Add pictures. Next, your youngster should draw furniture or other items in the boxes to indicate their locations in the room. Say your couch is centered along the front wall of the living room. She could draw a couch on her grid across boxes A2, A3, and A4.

3. Hide an object. Take turns closing your eyes while the other person hides something (perhaps a toy car) in the actual room. Then, place a penny on the grid to show where you hid the item. If you put the penny on A3, your child might figure out that the toy is under the center of the couch. ♥

PARENT TO PARENT

After-school activities: Find a balance

My fifth grader, Alicia, was already in Girl Scouts and the school science club when I agreed to sign her up for martial arts. Before long, she started coming home too tired to do homework, and she had little time to play.

Alicia and I realized she needed to cut back on her extracurricular activities. She wasn't thrilled, but I explained that school comes first—and that she would enjoy each activity more if she weren't juggling so many. We talked about what to drop. She wanted to stick with her friends in Girl Scouts, and she loves the experiments she does in science club. In the end, she decided martial arts would be the one to go.

Alicia has more time for homework and play now. And maybe she can try martial arts next summer when school is out. ♥



Q & A

How to talk about lockdown drills

Q: My son came home anxious about a lockdown drill they did in school. How should I discuss this with him?

A: Lockdown drills help students know what to do in an emergency that requires them to shelter inside the school.

Explain to your son that his teacher and principal want to keep him and his classmates safe. That's why the school holds drills to prepare the children for

situations like intruders, fires, tornadoes, or earthquakes. Although it's scary to think about emergencies, having a plan can make him feel more in control.

Ask your son to name other ways we stay safe, such as wearing a seat belt in the car, looking both ways before crossing the street, or going indoors during a thunderstorm. He'll realize that he knows how to do a lot of things that help to protect him.

Note: If he continues to feel anxious, contact the school counselor for advice. ♥



OUR PURPOSE

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