

HIGHLANDS HAPPENINGS

Volume 9, Issue 6

March 22, 2019

Happy March!

Spring Break is just around the corner! The students and staff of Highlands have been very busy with special performances, field trips, and grade level events and activities that provide special learning opportunities for our students. Though a tremendous amount of learning occurs through traditional classroom lessons and activities, we recognize the importance of exploration, movement, and interaction with real-world events and challenges as an essential component of a well-rounded educational experience. It is often through these special types of activities that students are able to make lasting and meaningful connections to the content they encounter in their classroom.

As we continue to focus our efforts on delivering a rigorous and relevant curriculum using the Illinois Learning Standards as the foundation, we continue to explore meaningful ways for students to understand the concepts they are learning.

We often receive questions about the nature of perceived "new ways" of learning certain subjects, and in particular, math. There are, unfortunately, many ways of teaching problem-solving strategies to students that do not result in conceptual understanding. For example, why do students multiply the "top numbers" (numerators) with one another and the "bottom numbers" (denominators) with one another in order to solve a fraction multiplication problem? What is meant by the step "bring down" when completing long division? Though it may be considered "efficient" to teach students the fastest way to arrive at a correct answer, we know that memorizing the steps of an algorithm is far different than actually understanding the process. For students to be able to be apply skills universally and in novel situations, it's important that they develop a deeper understanding of numbers and operations. Often we help students develop this understanding by first modeling concrete examples and working through problems thoroughly and meticulously. Though this process may initially seem confusing, time-consuming, and perhaps even unnecessary, we know that when this is done, there is greater meaning attached to solution steps.

Sometimes this process requires students to solve problems differently than how you and I were taught. It isn't a "new math" or a process of busy work that must be endured before the actually learning occurs. Instead, this process leads to making real and lasting sense of the tried and true methods you and I probably learned when we were in school. If at any point you have a question about the purpose or nature of this type of instruction, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Please be sure to check out the various pieces of student work included in this issue of the Happenings.

As always, thank you for your continued support of your child's education, and have a great spring break!

Sincerely,

Brian Graber
Principal



Monthly Events

March

3/25 - 3/29 - No School; Spring Break

April

4/1 - School Resumes

4/2 - PTC Hot Lunch - Pasta Day

4/3 - Late Start 9:05 a.m.

4/5 - 1st Grade Field Trip 8:50a - 12:00p
Magic School Bus Play

4/8 - **Highlands Family T-shirt Day!**
National Library Week

4/15 - Elementary School Store

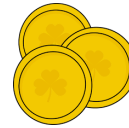
4/16 - PTC Fun Lunch
Jimmy John's Sub
Board of Education Meeting
7:00 p.m.

4/17 - Late Start 9:05 a.m.

4/19 - No School - Good Friday

4/25 - Kindergarten Field Trip
Theater of W.S. 8:45-11:45 a.m.
1st Grade Field Trip
Shedd Aquarium 8:45a-2:00p

4/26 - PTC Ice Cream Day
ECE Spring Parent Program
PTC Flying High Pizza Fun
Night 7:00-10:00 p.m.



FOURTH GRADE STUDENT WORK



Meerkat

By: Michaela

Introduction

Looking into the desert sunset, you see a small hole in the steamy hot sand. Your debating in your mind if should take a closer look and you finally agree that you should. Then you slowly walk towards the small dark mysterious black hole. Then, a furry little head pops out at you with a sharp gleam in its eye! The strange animal looks you straight in the eye. You jump in fear! Until you realize it's a meerkat! In this report, you will learn about the habitat, diet, appearance, and behavior characteristics of a meerkat.

Habitat

You may think that the meerkat likes the desert's **sweltering** sun, but they actually like to hang out in the African deserts cool shade. Some meerkats live in different collines. They mostly live in groups in the desert or Africa. Sometimes they live in the savanna. They dig tunnels in the ground so they have a place to sleep and live with their group. But most of the day they spend in the cool **murky** shade. Then the head out to their tunnel. Then lay their heads to sleep.

Diet

Imagine a dark sky filled with stars. Then you look over to see a meerkat walking through the hot savannah sand. You see the tiny little paws of the meerkat pounce on a cobra. Did you know that the meerkat is strong enough to kill a cobra? You realize the meerkats teeth are very jagged and made for devouring their helpless prey. Their small enigmatic eyes look slightly at you. The meerkat slowly walks back to his den. The meerkat likes to eat different things. For example, they like to eat all different kinds of insects. They also like to eat cobras.

What They Look Like

The meerkat has small little black paws as well as elegant soft fur streaking down their skin with little dark shades of black. The shades of black stream down from their neck to their tail. They have small black paws as well as two murky black ears. The average meerkat weighs 1.6lbs. They are also a type of **mongoose**, which is a type of rodent.

Behavior

Have you ever wondered what a meerkats behavior is like? Well if you want to know your in the right place. The meerkat usually acts nice and **loyal** to some of the other meerkats. But some meerkats aren't friendly to each other. They can be aggressive or even violent! You don't want to get on the bad side of a meerkat!

Conclusion

Through my research, I have learned, that the meerkat has many great qualities. I know the average meerkat can weigh up to at least 1.6lbs. In addition, a meerkat can baby-sit a baby meerkat. In my opinion, it's good to protect the meerkats home, because there's not many left in the wild. If you wanna learn more about the meerkat, visit the website, zoo.co.uk.

Glossary(key words)

Behavior- acting in a certain way

Diet- how they eat and what they eat

Habitat- where they live

Murky- black

Sweltering- very hot heat

Loyal - kind and always has your back

Mongoose- a type of rodent

Sources

<http://www.belfastzoo.co.uk/animals/meerkat.aspx>

<https://www.livescience.com/27406-meerkats.html>

EPIC

World Book Online



The Amazing Yellow Crested Cockatoo

By: Parker

Introduction

What animal has a yellow head, a curved beak, or comes in pairs? A yellow crested cockatoo of course! In this report, you will be learning about the habitat, diet, physical characteristics, and behavioral characteristics of the yellow crested cockatoo. After you will know why the cockatoo is so fascinating.

Habitat

The yellow crested cockatoo has many habitats. One of the habitats are, burning hot Australia. Surprisingly, they live there the most. Another one of their habitats are the warm Philippines!! Cockatoos love to live in the Philippines because of the warm weather. Cockatoos can adapt to the cold weather, but below freezing they will run out of there faster than you can say supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Diet

Nutty, sweet, salty, they love them all! Do you think a yellow crested cockatoos diet is complicated? Nope. They love nuts, and fruits. The fruits they like are mangos, cantaloupe, and grapes. Last, they don't just eat people food (If you thought that) they also eat flower buds, **crops**, and seeds of grass.

Physical Characteristics

The physical characteristics of the cockatoo is kind of confusing.. but also pretty fascinating! These animals can live up to 60 years! I'm almost ten and when I am, cockatoos can live 6 times that! They have curved beaks. That increases their bite. Yellow crested cockatoos are usually somewhere in the range of 12-25 inches. (60 centimeters) Male cockatoos have black eyes, but female cockatoos have brown eyes. Their tongues are as thick as a pencil. Confusing, but fascinating!

Behavior

Cockatoos are very demanding birds. They are like Veruca Salt in Charlie and The Chocolate Factory. Some of the pet owners of cockatoos said, "Living with a cockatoo is like living with a 2 year old child.." These birds may be annoying and selfish, but very smart. Part of their keenness is learning how to talk. After they learn how to talk, they think they can do anything. They also make loud screaming noises when they feel in danger or mostly when they are bored.

Conclusion

Through my research, I have learned that the cockatoo is a very fascinating animal. I learned that cockatoos do not like children. I also know the cockatoos can take place of a 2 year-old-child. In my opinion it's important to learn about the cockatoo because they are becoming **critically** extinct and we can help. If you want more about this animal go to worldbookonline.com.

Glossary:

Critically- Seriously, or badly

Crops- corn

Sources:

Worldbookonline.com

National Geographic kids

Epic

Kiddle.com

Kidrex.com

Thesaurus.com

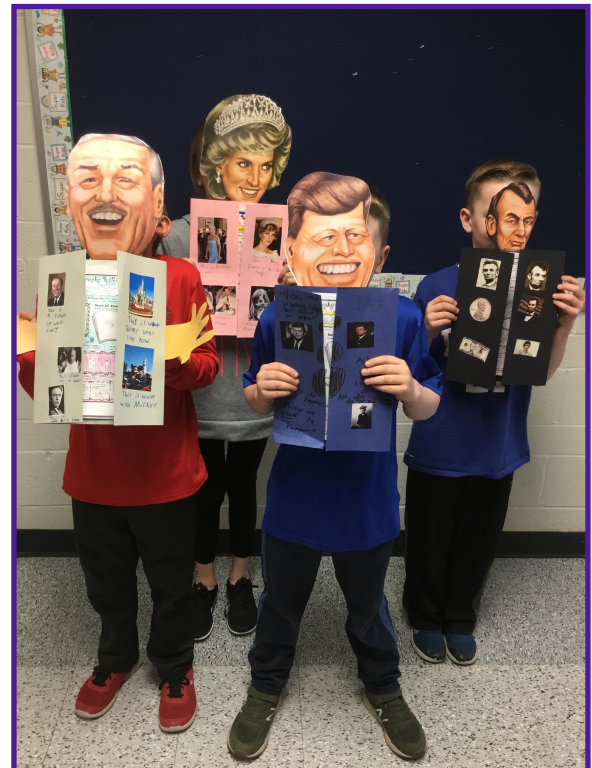
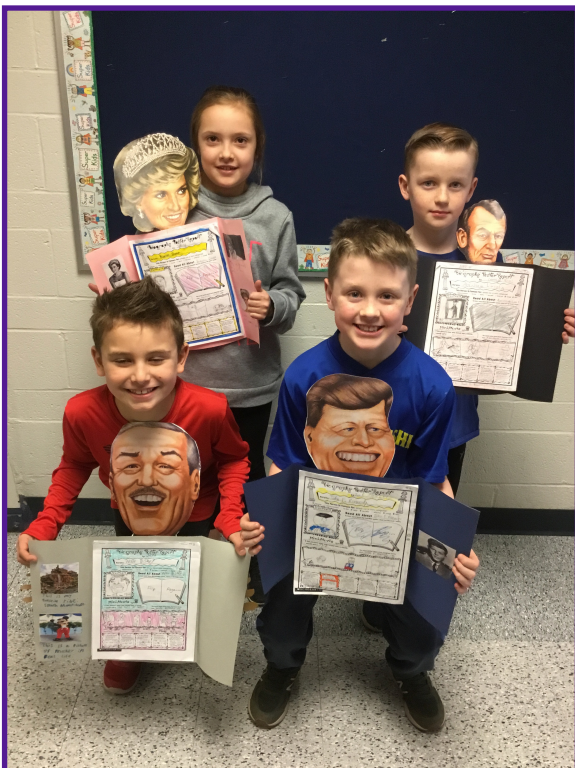
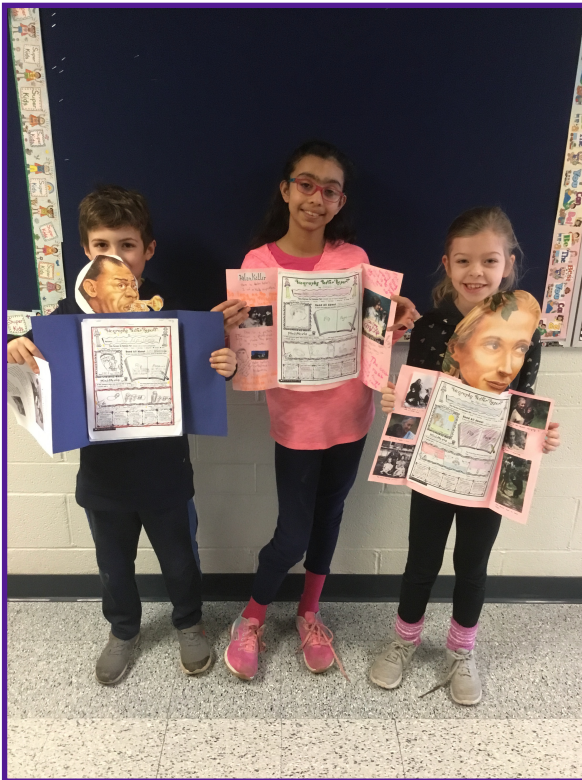
Backyard buddies.org.au

San Diego Zoo



THIRD GRADE STUDENT WORK

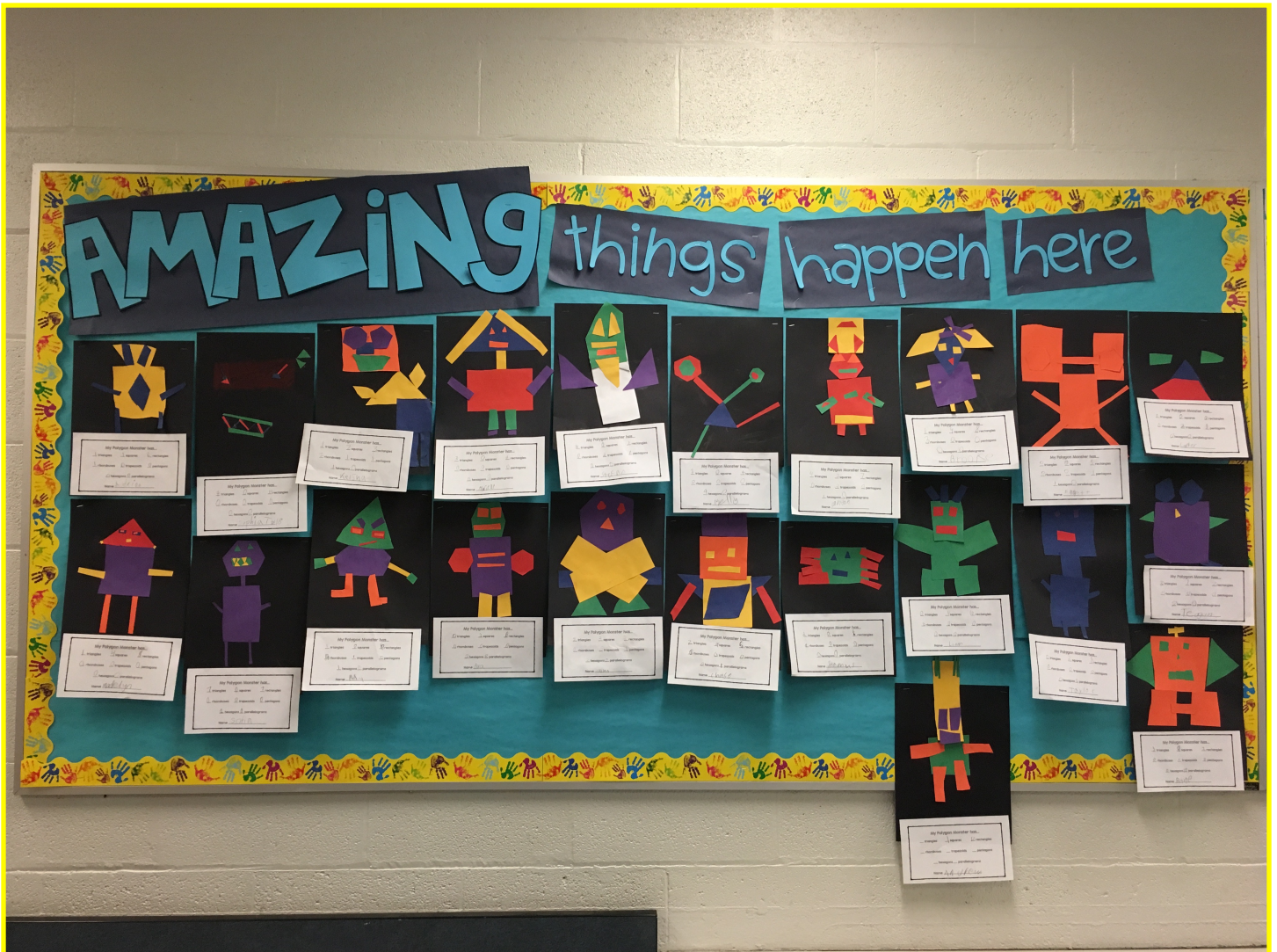
Third graders love to express their knowledge in many creative ways!





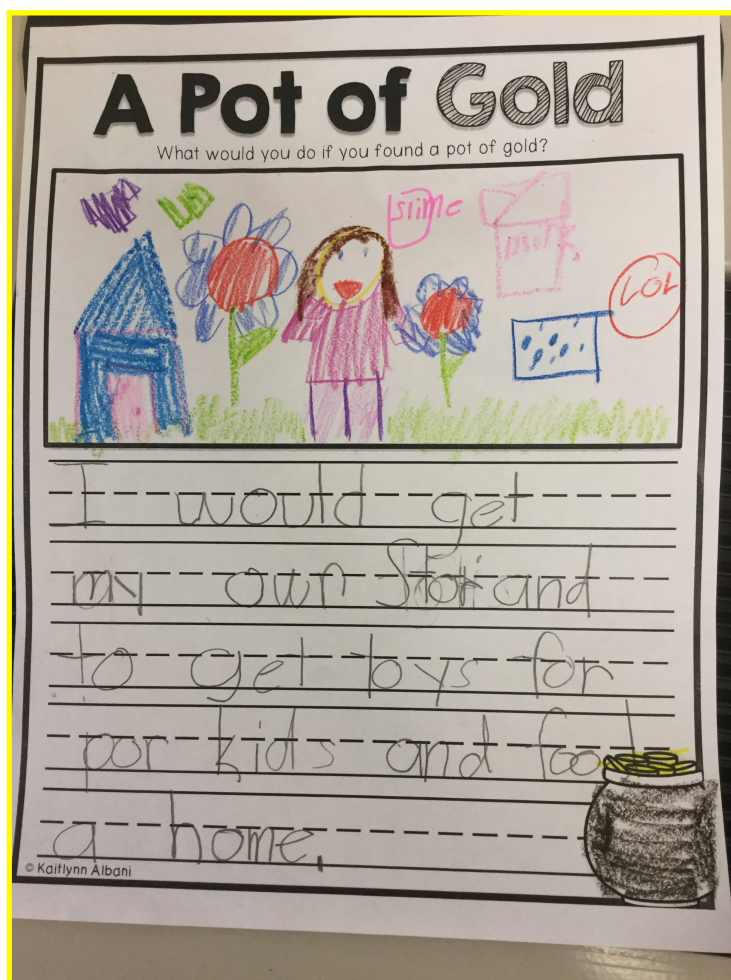
SECOND GRADE STUDENT WORK

We made Polygon Monsters to practice our knowledge of polygons!





FIRST GRADE STUDENT WORK





KINDERGARTEN STUDENT WORK

Name Luke
tree.



This is my mom.

She's love ing.

She can make dinea

Name Ty



This is my snake.

My snake.

is yellow green
with red Dimples

Name Kava



This is my sister!

Shi is fun! Shi make

me laft!

Name Heidi



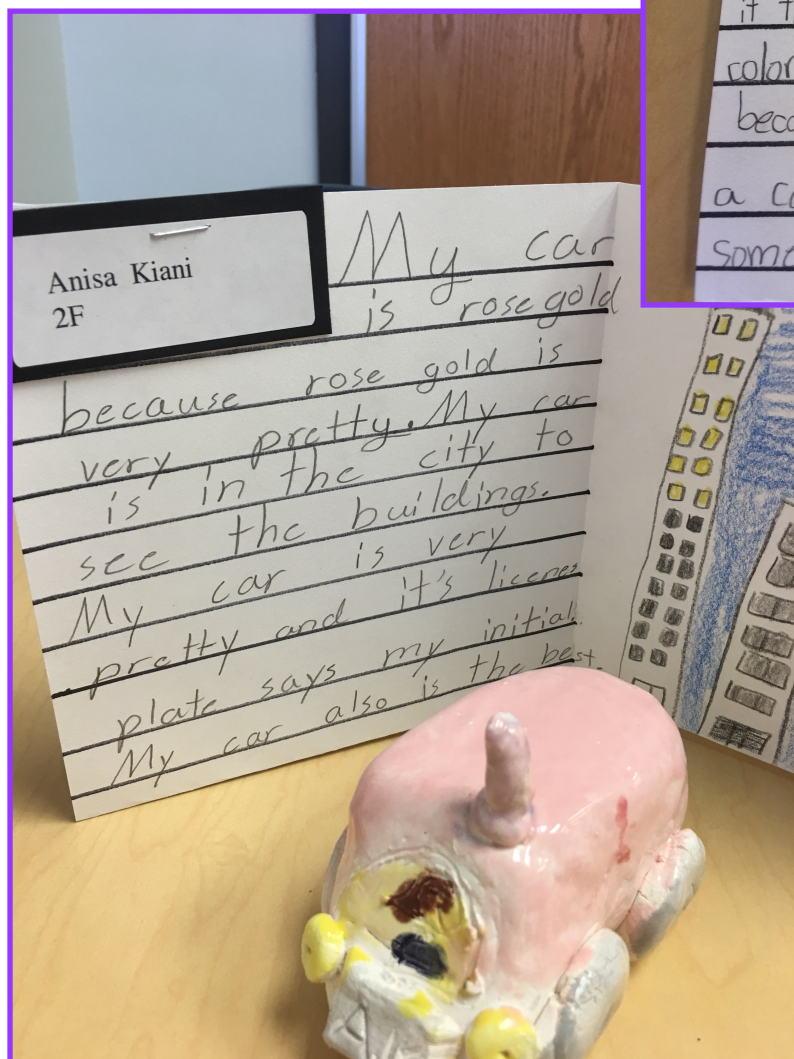
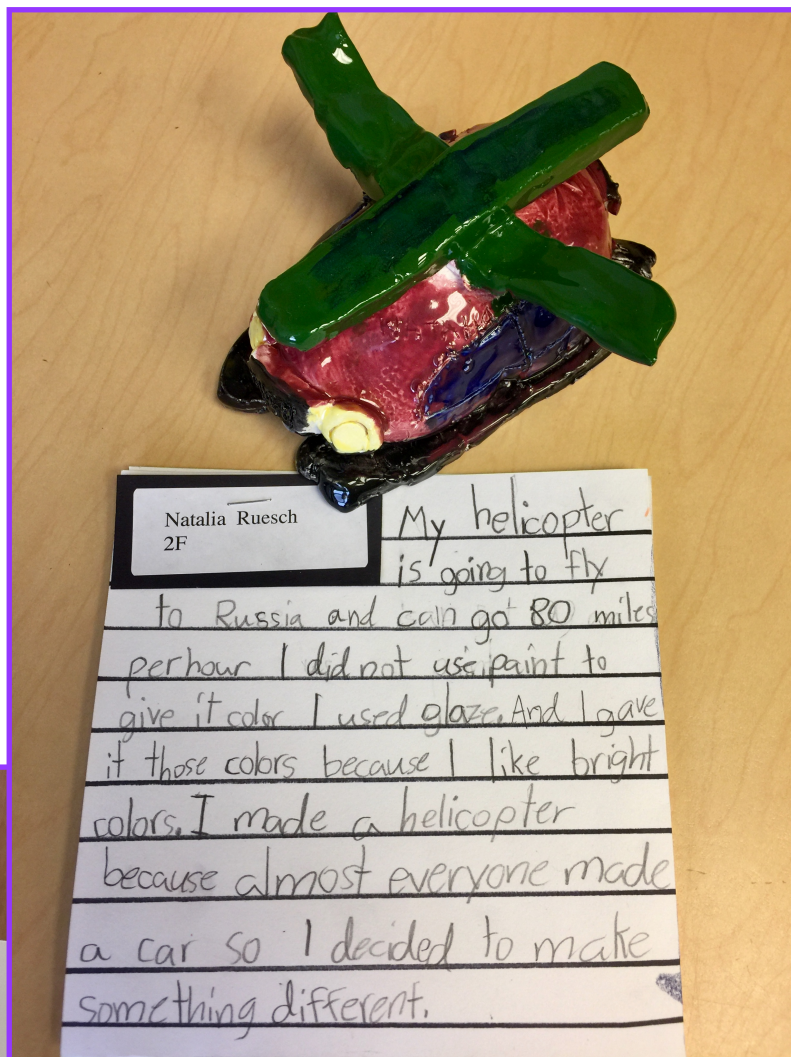
This is a turtle.

She is little and

red and green.



ART STUDENT WORK





March 25 - March 29
School Resumes Monday, April 1

Boxtops & Soup Labels

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



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

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

March 2019

Highlands Elementary School
Mr. Brian Graber, Principal

SHORT NOTES

Display schoolwork

Saving work your youngster brings home is one way to show her that school is important to you. Consider creating a hallway gallery of framed papers and artwork, or store her work in a coffee-table binder. *Tip:* Take photos of her sculptures, dioramas, and other 3-D projects. Display the photos, or add them to her binder.

A list-making habit

Get your child in the routine of making checklists in a student planner or notebook. Suggest that he write down tasks in the order he needs to complete them. Encourage him to check off each item as he tackles it—he will enjoy a sense of satisfaction as his list grows shorter.

Promote a work ethic

A good work ethic, or a belief in the value of hard work, will make your youngster better at any job she undertakes. Develop this trait by giving her regular chores like taking out the recycling or sweeping the floor. Then, let her know how her contribution makes a difference. (“The kitchen looks nice and tidy thanks to you!”)

Worth quoting

“Why fit in when you were born to stand out?” *Dr. Seuss*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: “I pass before the sun but make no shadow. What am I?”

A: The wind.



Be a STEM thinker

With science, technology, engineering, and math jobs in demand, STEM is a hot topic these days. Being a curious, critical, creative thinker who can solve problems will help your child do well in STEM—and in every area of life. Try these ideas.



Wonder out loud

Bring out your youngster's natural curiosity by discussing what you're curious about. (“I wonder why rainbows are curved and not straight.”) Then, he could experiment to find out. Perhaps he'll create his own rainbows using a flashlight, a mirror, and a pan of water.

Make a “tinker box”

Your child will use critical thinking skills by tinkering with natural objects and loose parts. In a shoebox, let him collect items like pebbles, acorns, seeds, straws, rubber bands, and clothespins.

He could add new objects as he finds them. Maybe he'll design a “claw machine” that picks up small objects or examine an acorn under a magnifying glass.

Promote problem solving

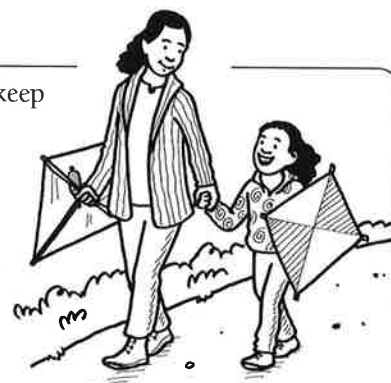
Treat everyday problems as learning opportunities. Say the TV remote won't work, even though you just replaced the batteries. Have your youngster think of solutions and test them. He might check that the batteries are inserted correctly, try batteries he's sure are fresh, or turn the TV off and on again. ♥

Parent-child chats

Regular conversations with your youngster keep the two of you close—and build her language skills. Here are suggestions for making chats more meaningful.

● **Phrase questions thoughtfully.** Questions that require more than a one-word answer will lead to more informative answers. Try “What made you laugh today?” rather than “Did you have a good day?”

● **Show you're paying attention.** It's easy for busy parents to respond out of habit without focusing on what youngsters are really saying. Instead, look your child in the eye, and stop to consider her words. She'll know that what she has to say matters to you. ♥



Learning to be patient

Patience is a skill that can be learned. Kids who develop it tend to have greater self-control and even do better in school. Foster patience in your youngster with these tips.

Live in the moment. Encourage your child to enjoy what's going on right now, rather than looking forward to what will happen next. For example, she could look out the window at the sunset while she waits for you to get off the phone. Or if she's having trouble falling



Let her take on an activity or a project that requires patience, like growing a plant or putting together a jigsaw puzzle.♥

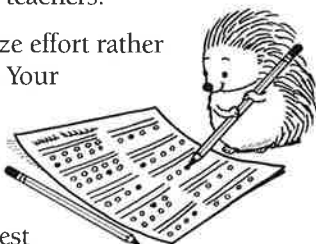
asleep because she can't wait to visit her friend tomorrow, she might focus on how warm and cozy she feels in her bed now.

Enjoy the payoff. Have your youngster think of something that took her a while to master, such as learning to read music. Then, remind her of how good she felt when she succeeded. Share an example from your life, too. *Idea:*

Top tips for standardized tests

How can you help your child do well on standardized tests? Consider this advice from teachers:

- "Emphasize effort rather than scores. Your youngster will feel more confident and relaxed on test day if he knows that doing his best is what counts the most."
- "Have your child do any practice tests or packets that the teacher sends home. Ask him about the material, and look over the work to be sure it's complete."
- "Make sure he gets enough sleep, at least 9–11 hours, each night. He'll be more alert and focused during the test."
- "Give your youngster a balanced breakfast on test day so he has energy and isn't distracted by a growling stomach. Whole-wheat toast, fruit, and yogurt make a brain-boosting combination."♥



Q & A

Autism: Support for parents

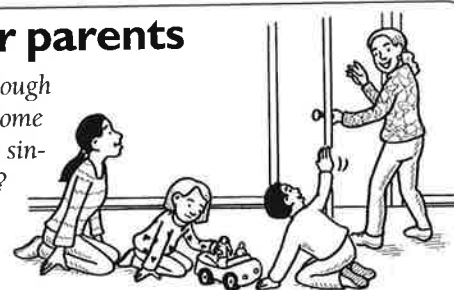
Q: My daughter has autism, and although she's making good progress, she has some behavioral challenges. I'm a working single parent—how can I handle the demands?

A: To take the best care of your daughter, you need to also take care of yourself. If possible, try getting up before she does.

Take a warm shower, and enjoy a cup of tea. You'll feel calmer and ready to start the day on a positive note, which can help her behave better.

Also, look for people who will stay with your child while you recharge. You might run errands or try a new hobby. Ask friends, family, and neighbors if they're able to help or know anyone who can.

Finally, consider joining an autism support group. Connecting with other parents who face similar challenges will make you feel less alone, and you'll get information and advice for helping your daughter. Check online, or ask your child's doctor for referrals.♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

Pump up your memory

A good *working memory* lets your youngster switch back and forth between tasks and do work that involves more than one step. Sharpen his memory with these activities.

Story chain

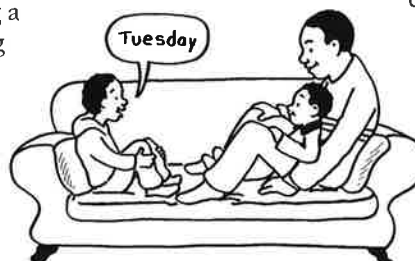
Build a "repeating story" by remembering what everyone before you has said. One person starts with a sentence like "I'm riding a _____ to the _____," filling in the blanks. ("I'm riding a kite to the moon.") The next person repeats the sentence and adds his own sentence. Continue until someone

skips a sentence, says them out of order, or can't remember one.

The last time I...

When was the last time you used a ruler or saw frost on a window? This game strengthens your child's power of recall. Take turns calling out a question, such as "When did you last eat an egg?" To answer, everyone needs to think about details and context.

("We had tacos in school on Monday. So it must have been Tuesday, when I got the salad bar and put hard-boiled egg slices on my lettuce.")♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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