



SHAMROCK SHOUT OUT FEBRUARY



IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

1st...Girls Bball 5A/6A at O.D. 5:30 PM
1st-5th...Coin Wars for Book Fair
2nd...JGSC Board Mtg. 7 PM
6th...LaVille Tourney 6th Gr. A & B
8th – 11th...Book Fair Week
10th...Ice Cream Social 6-8 PM
12th...No School (Snow make-up day)

15th... No School (Snow make-up day)
16th...Girls Bball 6th H 5th T vs. LaVille 4:30
16th...JGSC Board Mtg. 7 PM
18th...PTO Meeting 3:15 Library
22nd...6th A & B at New Prairie 5:00 PM
25th...Math Bowl Competition @WES 5:00 PM
29th...Girls Bball 6th T 5th H vs. Riverside

Lunch Money

How much money is in my child's account? MySchoolBucks is an easy and convenient service to monitor your student's meal choices and lunch account. We recommend creating an account even if you are not using it as a payment option. To create an account you will need your students 9 digit ID#. To obtain this information you can email Celeste Dooms at cdooms@jgsc.k12.in.us. Once you set up your account, you can monitor your students' lunch activity free of charge. A "low balance alert feature" can be set to send you an email when your child is running low on lunch money. If you choose to make an online payment, there is a small handling fee (\$1.95) for each transaction.

Adult lunch fees are \$3.00 and the cafeteria registers are unable to make changes for you.

Mrs. Cummings and Mrs. Heiser's Building Locations

Mrs. Cummings, Asst. Principal, rotates between Walkerton Elementary and North Liberty Elementary during the school week. Her schedule is Monday, Tuesday and Friday AM at WES. 574-586-3186. She is at NLES on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday PM 574-656-8123.

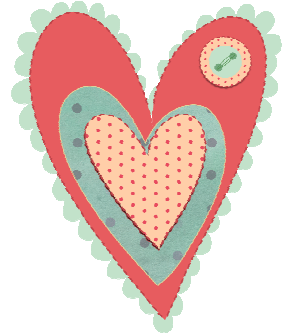
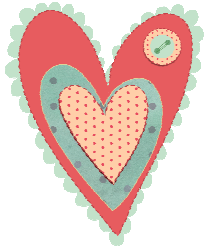
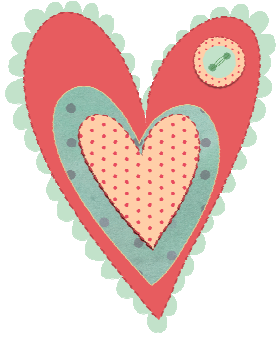
Mrs. Heiser, counselor, has the opposite schedule as Mrs. Cummings. Monday, Tuesday and Friday AM at NLES. She is at WES Wednesday, Thursday and Friday PM.

Email is the best way to communicate information. Mrs. Cummings rcummings@jgsc.k12.in.us and Mrs. Heiser mheiser@jgsc.k12.in.us

ISTEP+ Part 1 Applied Skills Coming Soon

February 29 – March 11 is the window for Gr. 3-8 & 10 ISTEP+ testing. The staff will be working on a schedule that provides optimal time to meet the students' needs. Coming home Monday are the finalized 2015 ISTEP+ Student Report. Last year's test was newly developed with increased rigor and technology enhanced questions. NLES saw a decrease in overall passing scores, which were anticipated with the new format. The leadership committee continues to look at current data, provide staff development, and adapt instruction to not only meet ALL students' needs but also prepare them for grade level content.

\$10 per person
North Liberty Elementary
February 19, 6-11 pm
Snacks and water provided



Call Office at 656-8123 to reserve a space.

Snow date is February 26

Gift Certificates Available

Proceeds benefit the Summer Reading Program! Thank you!

North Liberty Elementary
2nd 9 Weeks Honor Roll

Third Grade

Distinguished

Dakota Brown
Logan Bryant
Brody Chapman
Ethan Craft
Avery Franklin
Liriel Geist
Harryson Givens
Jonathan Griesinger
Brady Joachim
Makayla Laskowski
Alanna Meersman
Abigail Norvell
Anna Shoue
Lucas Sternaman
Madysen Whitmer
Delaney Williams

Regular

Dylan Albright
William Baker
Nicholas Beem
Shade Beuley
Thomas Boss
Tristan Bunnell
Isabell Clifton
Alexis Dare
Jake Duval
Diamond Edwards
Kyle Harbaugh
Brody King
Makinzie Kline
Sean Kruszewski
LeAnna Lardino

Jayden Leitch

Alexis Mankowski
Ian McNeill
Peyton McVoy
Taylor McVoy
Dakota Mills
Alexandra Moseberry
Ryder Patrick
Carlos Pena
Alainna Pittman
Maxwell Roush
Sienna Scott
Grace Sharpe
Ethan Smith
Michael Solymosi
Julian Stuart
Alex Stuber
McKenzie Timm
Raygan Toth-Canen
Nevaeh Trobaugh
Oscar Villa

Fourth Grade

Distinguished

Carter Dupont
Olivia Kalicki
Olivia Limerick
Zachary Litteral
Andrew McCormick
Nathan Matanic
Chase Miller
Marshall Platz
Logan Richie
Hannah Thomas

Regular

Trenton Bajer
Micah Beeney

Timothy Bergan
Michael Braun
Hudson Doyle
Paul Farinella
Hanna Hayes
Landon Johnson
Rylee Johnson
Gillian Kennedy
Audra Kiszka
Eliana Lang
Jack Laskowski
Ava Leslie
Sophia Minnick
Evelene Peterson
Luke Rice
Madison Ring
Joseph Shoue
Aiden Swank
Harley Taylor
Steven Valentiny
Gabriella Ziolkowski

Fifth Grade

Distinguished

Angelina Amor
Will Brinkhoff
Wyatt Carteaux
Matthew Ciula
Alexander Kaser
Ryleigh Kepperling
Jeremy Kline
Preston Richard

Ryan Shoue

Regular

Isabel Allsop
Hayley Arick
Robert Blankenmyer

Emma Borton
Allison Bowlds
Alexandra Burkholder
Tatum Carrasco
Devon Craft
Madison Dare
Bryce Dittmar
Hayden Franklin
Cameron Gill
Alec Hathaway
Mia Hooten
Samuel Katowich
Nolan Klinedinst
Braxton Leed
Maya Marosz
Isabelle Matthews
Sofia May
Rhys Miller
Madisyn Muller
Maxwell Murray
Carlye Ort

Daniel Perez
Jackson Perry
Elias Peterson
Major Plunkett
Hannah Ranschaert
Connor Sternaman
Levi Stuart
Dakota Szakacs
Nathan Taylor

Larissa Tungate
Kory VanHuss

Sixth Grade

Distinguished

Amelia Capeles
Joseph Delinski
Colten England

Maggie Fitch
Lucy Franklin
Hailey Harness
Silas Kaser
Derek Orsund
Peyton Ring
Averie Sanchez
Leena Thomas
Jessica Wilk

Regular

Zachary Banaszak
Natalie Beem
Derick Bers
Gabriella Bishop
Bryant Bogunia
Katelynn Braun
Andrew Carlin
Mia Collins
Nathan Creed
Donavin Donihue
Sydney Edgerton
Lauren Fansler
Cora Farinella
Emma Gardner
Shane Gee
Connor Good
James Gouker

Chase Howe
Braydon Hudson
Madilynn Hudspeth
Zakary Kipp
Nathan Marshman
Cassidy McMahan
Owen Minnick
Madison Platz
Jack Porter

Hayden Richard
Alexia Rodriguez
Zoie Rutishauser
Wyatt Scott
Landen Sinnott
Daniel Solymosi
Luke Stuart
Conner Szuba
Jacob Taylor
Morgan Tibbs
Lydia Waelde
Noah Walden
Emely Walter
Xavier Warren
Isabella Woods

North Liberty Elementary
1st Semester Honor Roll

Third Grade

Distinguished

Dakota Brown
Logan Bryant
Brody Chapman
Ethan Craft
Avery Franklin
Jonathan Griesinger
Makinzie Kline
Makayla Laskowski
Alanna Meersman
Sienna Scott
Lucas Sternaman
Alex Stuber
McKenzie Timm
Madysen Whitmer
Delaney Williams

Regular

Dylan Albright
Beau Aschenbrenner
William Baker
Nicholas Beem
Shade Beuley
Thomas Boss
Tristan Bunnell
Isabell Clifton
Alexis Dare
Jake Duval
Diamond Edwards
Hope Felgenhauer
Liriel Geist
Harryson Givens
Brady Joachim
Brody King
Drew King

LeAnna Lardino
Jayden Leitch
Ian McNeil
Peyton McVoy
Taylor McVoy
Dakota Mills
Alexandra Moseberry
Abigail Norvell
Ryder Patrick
Carlos Pena
Alainna Pittman
Hudson Ross
Maxwell Roush
Grace Sharpe
Anna Shoue
Ethan Smith
Julian Stuart
Raygan Toth-Canen
Oscar Villa

Fourth Grade

Distinguished

Timothy Bergan
Carter Dupont
Olivia Kalicki
Nathan Matanic
Andrew McCormick
Marshall Platz
Logan Richie
Hannah Thomas

Regular

Trenton Bajer
Micah Beeney
Anton Braun
Michael Braun

Kaycee Denham
Hudson Doyle
Paul Farinella
Hanna Hayes
Rebecca Hostetler
Landon Johnson
Rylee Johnson
Benjamin Katowich
Gillian Kennedy
Canyon King
Audra Kiszka
Eliana Lang
Jack Laskowski
Olivia Limerick
Zachary Litteral
Ava Leslie
Chase Miller
Sophia Minnick
Evelene Peterson
Madison Ring
Sophia Romer
Joseph Shoue
Aiden Swank
Harley Taylor
Steven Valentiny
Gabriella Ziolkowski

Fifth Grade

Distinguished

Angelina Amor
Will Brinkhoff
Wyatt Carteaux
Matthew Ciula
Alexander Kaser
Ryleigh Kepperling
Jeremy Kline

Sofia May
Madisyn Muller
Maxwell Murray
Preston Richard
Ryan Shoue

Regular

Isabel Allsop
Hayley Arick
Robert Blankenmyer
Emma Borton
Allison Bowlds
Joseph Buckner
Alexandra
Burkholder
Tatum Carrasco
Devon Craft
Bryce Dittmar
Hayden Franklin
Payton Gapinski
Cameron Gill
Taylor Grimm
Alex Hathaway
Mia Hooten
Aden Johnson
Samuel Katowich
Nolan Klinedinst
Braxton Leed
Isabelle Matthews
Rhys Miller
Carlye Ort
Daniel Perez
Jackson Perry
Elias Peterson
Major Plunkett
Hannah Ranschaert

Connor Sternaman
Levi Stuart
Dakota Szakacs
Nikolas Szuba
Nathan Taylor
Isabella Tribbey
Larissa Tungate
Kory VanHuss

Sixth Grade

Distinguished

Derick Bers
Colten England
Lauren Fansler
Lucy Franklin
Silas Kaser
Jack Porter
Peyton Ring
Averie Sanchez
Jacob Taylor
Leena Thomas
Jessica Wilk

Regular

Zachary Banaszak
Natalie Beem
Gabriella Bishop
Bryant Bogunia
Katelynn Braun
Amelia Capeles
Andrew Carlin
Mia Collins
Nathan Creed
Joseph Delinski
Donavin Donihue
Sydney Edgerton

Cora Farinella
Maggie Fitch
Emma Gardner
Shane Gee
Connor Good
Hailey Harness
Chase Howe
Braydon Hudson
Madilynn Hudspeth
Riley Jones
Zakary Kipp
Nathan Marshman
Cassidy McMahan
Owen Minnick
Derek Orsund
Madison Platz
Alexia Rodriguez
Zoie Rutishauser
Wyatt Scott
Landen Sinnott
Daniel Solymosi
Luke Stuart
Conner Szuba
Morgan Tibbs
Lydia Waelde
Noah Walden
Emely Walter
Xavier Warren
Isabella Woods



NEED A DATE NIGHT????
But.....don't know what to do with the kids????
Let NLES SOLVE THAT PROBLEM!!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

On Friday March 18th from 6:30pm-9:30pm, NLES will be holding a **Lock-IN** for any NLES Student. There will be gym activities, movies, board games and art activities.

The cost for this awesome fun-filled – action packed – spectacular – sensational - event will be \$10.00 per NLES STUDENT.

The Concession stand will be open for the students to purchase snacks, drinks and pizza from Bruno's. There will be one free bag of popcorn for those attending the movies.

Students will need to be signed in and signed out by a guardian INSIDE the building.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Walden.

swalden@jgsc.k12.in.us or 574-656-8123

The funds raised during this event will go toward the costs for the 2016 Funfair, which is right around the corner. WELCOME TO THE BIG TOP!

In order to help us with the number of students who plan on participating, preregistration would be greatly appreciated. We would just like to get a head count....DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY NOW!!! Pre-registration money will not be accepted!

_____ plans on coming to the
Lock-in Friday March 18th.



FAMILY EVENT

Wednesday February 10, 6 – 8 pm

Ice Cream Social & Book Fair

Need a study break or just a sweet treat? Come join us at the NLES Family Event for some ice cream sundaes. This is a free family event. If you would like to donate something please just bring a dessert to share.

After you enjoy your treat stop by the Book Fair for another treat – Books!! You will also be entered in a drawing to win \$15 to spend at the book fair!! This is a great opportunity for parents to shop with their children for Valentine's Day or to see what your child is interested in. We hope everyone will come out for some ice cream and fun ☺

Questions contact Denise Scott 656-3959, smiles81675@yahoo.com



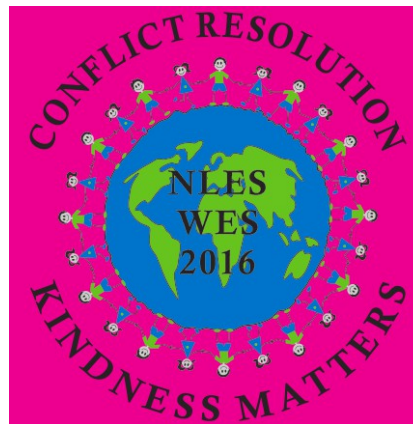
Conflict Resolution STUDENT Shirt Order

Orders are due by ****

***Checks Payable to your school office**

Student Name	Youth Size	Adult Size	Add \$2	Total
	S M L	S M L XL	2XL 3XL	

50/50 Cotton Blend PINK Shirt



Office Use Only

Cash: _____

Check: _____

Check# _____



NLES COIN WARS!

A Fight for Books!!

Monday February 1st --- Friday February 5th

NLES Coins Wars is a friendly competition where ALL the money raised will be used to purchase books for our school. Scholastic will also donate **one book for each dollar** we raise to the Kids in Distressed Situations and Kids in Need Foundation.

That's not all though ---- How would you like a popcorn party, extra recess, and new books for your class? Gather all your spare change, search the couch cushions, look under the car seats, dig in the piggy banks or do a few extra chores to help your class. Each classroom will be provided a "Coin Wars" jar where they can place their change in everyday and watch it grow.

On Thursday February 11th, we will announce the winners:

- The top class in each grade will receive an ice cream treat and one "No Homework for the Day" pass.
- The top class in the school will receive popcorn and an extra recess plus \$100 EXTRA to spend at the Book Fair.
- Each classroom will be able to spend the money that they collect at the Book Fair! The top class in each grade gets an EXTRA \$25 to spend.

Let the collecting begin!

** If you have any question please contact Denise Scott at smiles81675@yahoo.com or 360-1119. Thank you in advance for your support for this great program!

The Swoop Scoop

"Swoop" is a nickname for our Title I Program. Students in grades K–3 may qualify for extra reading support each semester thanks to a federally funded program for which JGSC qualifies.

Our groups are led by our dedicated **Swoop Crew**. Monday through Thursday, our instructional aides work within K–3rd grade reading classes. Some students work in the Swoop room in the afternoons for short periods. The students work in consistent small groups with reading lessons led by an instructional aide. Our Swoop aides are **Mrs. Craft, Mrs. MacLeod, Mrs. Tibbs, and Ms. Zoellner**. **Mrs. Amy Weiss is the Title I teacher at NLES**. Mrs. Weiss alternates between students in order to work with each student several times throughout the semester.

On January 21, we were excited to host Family Game Night. Over 50 children and 40 adults were here for bowling, board games, pictionary, Read-o, and a hot chocolate bar! Thank you to the families who came that evening! We have two more events scheduled for this year. Mark your calendar for the next one: Dr. Seuss Night on March 2! Fun photos below and more are up on the North Liberty Elementary Facebook page. :) -Mrs. Weiss, Title One Teacher



You are your child's most important teacher! Thank you for your support and teamwork! Mrs. Weiss

Gym-NEWS-ium

SPORT STACKING FUN

Sport Stacking is an exciting individual and team sport where participants of all ages and abilities stack and unstack 12 specially designed cups in specific patterns with amazing precision and dexterity. K and 1st grades participate in Freestyle stacking where they build their own creation and Task Card Stacking where they are required to build a pattern displayed on a task card. 2nd and 3rd grades participate in Speed Stacking and race against the clock to better their individual time or compete head-to-head in team relay stacking events.

Freestyle
Stacking
K-1st



Task Card
Stacking
K-1st



Speed
Stacking
2nd-3rd

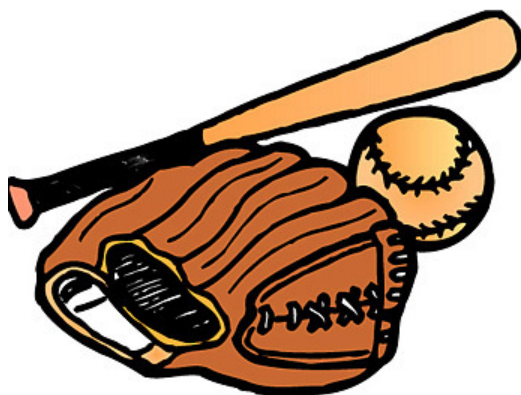


2016 PE Fundraiser Results

The PE students will be climbing the walls (Literally) in the very near future! As a result of the fantastic PE fundraiser last fall, NLES will soon be installing a brand new rock climbing traverse wall for use during PE classes. A *traverse* wall is where the students move laterally when *climbing*; going mainly sideways rather than up or down. The benefit of climbing is to build strength, flexibility, and coordination, but it also increases a student's problem solving skills, patience, perseverance, and courage. So when your student comes home from school and says their PE teacher had them climbing the walls today, it could be more truth than fiction in the near future. In fact, there may be days when Mrs. Brooks can be found climbing the walls too!

NLES PTO Lock-In SAVE THE DATE

If you like playing games, watching fun movies, or making amazing art projects, get ready!!! On Friday, March 18th, from 6:30 until 9:30, we will be rolling out some of the NLES students FAVORITE activities at our annual NLES PTO Lock-In. The schedule will be coming out soon so be on the lookout. If parents need a night out, a \$10 dollar donation will give your NLES student plenty of fun things to do with their NLES friends. We are looking forward to having another GREAT evening!!!



North Liberty Youth League

Registration for:

T-Ball 5-6 yrs. old

Transition 7-9 yrs old

Baseball: Minors 10-12 yrs old **Majors** 13-16 yrs old

Softball: Minors 10-12 yrs old **Majors** 13-16 yrs old

February 20th & 27th 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
VFW POST 1954 North Liberty

Registration forms available at NLYL.net

\$60 Registration fee for 1st child

\$50 Registration fee for 2nd child

\$40 Registration fee for each add'l child - in same household

March 9, 2016 – Deadline for all registrations or a \$20 late fee will be charged.

Sign ups **NEEDED** for:

ALL interested coaches!

Grounds crew and Umpires!!!

Concession stand volunteers!!!

For more information contact:

Jennifer Toth 910-0475

Sheree Rudecki 250-3322

Sarah Collins 220-0282

KRISPY KREME Donut Fundraiser -Available for pick up at Registration
\$8/ Dz Show your support for NLYL and buy some at Registration!!!

Trivia Night Fundraiser

April 9th @ VFW Post 1954

Doors open at 6 pm – Games start at 7 pm

\$10/person – MUST buy tickets in advance

Silent Auction items & 50/50 drawing

Light snacks will be provided - Cash bar

February 2016

John Glenn School Corporation

BREAKFAST



School Information: A full breakfast must include fruit or juice.
Full Pay: \$1.25 Reduced .30



Nutrition Tip:

Fifteen percent of Americans skip breakfast on a typical day, yet breakfast – including ready-to-eat cereal – contributes less than 20 percent of daily calories. Reference: NHANES data 2009-2010

Monday

Cereal
Pop Tart
Fruit
Juice

1

Tuesday

Breakfast Pizza
Fruit
Juice

2

Wednesday

French Tst Sticks
Fruit
Juice

3

Thursday

Mini Donuts
Fruit
Juice

4

Friday

Apple Cinn Tx Tst
Fruit
Juice

5

Dutch Waffle
Fruit
Juice

8

Breakfast Bites
Fruit
Juice

9

Cheese Omelet
Choc Chip Muffin
Fruit
Juice

10

Brk Chicken Sandwich
Fruit
Juice

11

NO SCHOOL
(Snow Make up)

12

NO SCHOOL
(Snow Make Up)

15

Breakfast Pizza
Fruit
Juice

16

French Tst Sticks
Fruit
Juice

17

Mini Donuts
Fruit
Juice

18

Apple Cinn Tx Tst
Fruit
Juice

19

Dutch Waffle
Fruit
Juice

22

Breakfast Bites
Fruit
Juice

23

Cheese Omelet
Choc Chip Muffin
Fruit
Juice

24



Brk Chicken Sandwich
Fruit
Juice

25

Apple Frudel
Fruit
Juice

26

Cereal
Pop Tart
Fruit
Juice

29





FEBRUARY 2016

North Liberty Elementary School

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 BBQ Rib/bun Crispy Cubed Potatoes Carrot Coins Baked Cinnamon Apples	2 Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes/gravy Sweet Peas Dinner Roll Diced Pears	3 Lasagna Roll Garden Bar Garlic Bread Golden Corn Mandarin Oranges/Pineapple	4 Hamburger/bar Oven Baked Fries Winter Blend Veg Strawberries Snickerdoodle Cookie	5 Mini Corn Dogs Baked Beans Tri Tater Baby Carrots Applesauce
8 Hot Ham & Cheese Potato Wedges Green Beans Juicy Orange Wedges	9 Chicken & Noodles Mashed Potatoes Rst Baby Carrots Dinner Roll Diced Peaches	10 Fish Filet Oven Baked Fries Corn Muffin Baked Beans Cole Slaw Applesauce	11 Cheese Pizza Garden Bar Golden Corn Apple Wedges Sugar Cookie	12 NO SCHOOL (Snow Make up)
15 NO SCHOOL (Snow Make up)	16 Chicken Patty/bun Sweet Potato Puffs Steamed Broccoli Mixed Fruit Vanilla Pudding	17 Soft Shell Taco Refried Beans Celery Sticks Golden Corn Banana Soft Pretzel	18 Teriyaki Chicken/rice Garden Bar Sweet Peas Apricots Fruit Muffin	19 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Green Beans Baby Carrots Fruit
22 Hot Dog/bun Baked Beans Golden Corn Raisins Sun Chip Snack Mix	23 Pasta/meat sauce Cheese Filled Bread stick Garden Bar Mixed Vegetables Fruit Cocktail	24 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes/gravy Dinner Roll Steamed Broccoli Mandarin Orange/Pineapple	25 Pulled Pork Sandwich Potato Wedges Carrot Coins Baked Cinnamon Apples	26 Cheese Pizza Garden Bar Green Beans Fruit
29 Deli Sub Sandwich Tri Tater Baked Beans Apple Wedges Juice	Chicken Smackers Green Beans Beets Dinner Roll Diced Pears Chocolate Pudding	Pepperoni Calzone Golden Corn Garden Bar Banana Carnival Cookie	Tangerine Chicken/rice Sweet Peas Roasted Baby Carrots Bread/butter Diced peaches	Scrambled Eggs Hash Brown Potato Celery Sticks Fruit Muffin Applesauce Juice

News

**Breakfast offered daily
in cafeteria**

Full Pay: \$1.25

Reduced: .30

Lunch

Full Pay: \$1.80

Reduced: .40

**Students must select a
fruit and or vegetable
with each meal.**

**February is Heart
Month!**

**Be good to your heart
by eating plenty of
fruits and veggie and
getting lots of
exercise!**

Home & School

CONNECTION®

Working Together for School Success

January

Walkerton and North Liberty Elementary Schools

Melanie Heiser, Counselor

SHORT NOTES

Wash up

To keep your family healthy, insist that everyone wash hands *before* handling food or eating, and *after* going to the bathroom, sneezing, blowing their nose, or playing with pets. Regular hand washing is the easiest way to keep germs from spreading.

Did you see that?

Here's a fun way to build your child's observation skills. Choose an object, such as a flowerpot, that you both can look at for 30 seconds. Then, face the opposite direction and take turns telling something about it. *Examples:* made of glass, contains red and yellow flowers, tall and skinny.

On the bright side

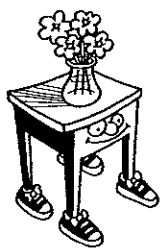
When discussing school subjects with your youngster, be upbeat. "Learning about butterflies is so much fun. This spring when we see one, you'll be able to tell me all about it." Your enthusiasm will motivate him to work hard—and to share what he learns with you!

Worth quoting

"I cannot do everything, but still I can do something."

Edward Everett Hale

JUST FOR FUN



Q: What has four legs but can't walk?

A: A table!

Build a reading habit

What's the best way to ensure your youngster's school success? Turn her into a reader!

Try these easy ideas to get your child reading throughout the day, every day.

Leave books around

Put books in the car for your child to read on the road. Stack kids' magazines next to her bed, or place a cereal box beside her breakfast bowl. To keep her interested, change the selections often.

Set the stage

Ask your youngster to memorize and act out a poem or song with you. You'll have fun rehearsing together, and she'll get reading practice as she learns her lines.

Search for fun

Show your child the weekly events calendar in the newspaper. Have her read through the listings to find activities the family could enjoy together, such as a winter carnival or an ethnic food festival.

Rework the routine

The new year is a perfect time to review your youngster's school routines and try to make them even better. Consider these tips.

Class notes. Have your child look over his system for organizing class notes. For the second half of the year, he could put notes for each subject in different colored folders.

Assignments. Is your youngster keeping track of assignments? Give him a new weekly planner for 2007 to go in his binder.

Homework log. To stay on top of homework, try this. On a piece of paper, have your child list each subject down the left side and the days of the week across the top. Then, he can check off boxes as he finishes homework for each class.♥



Enjoy a joke

Check out riddle, knock-knock, and joke books from the library. Ask your youngster to read you a few jokes each day. She'll get a kick out of making family and friends laugh.

Look online

Encourage your child to take advantage of online reading opportunities by exploring her interests. If she loves cats, point her to <http://kids.cfa.org>. If space travel is her passion, show her www.nasa.gov/audience/for_kids. Ask your school librarian for help finding sites your youngster will like.♥



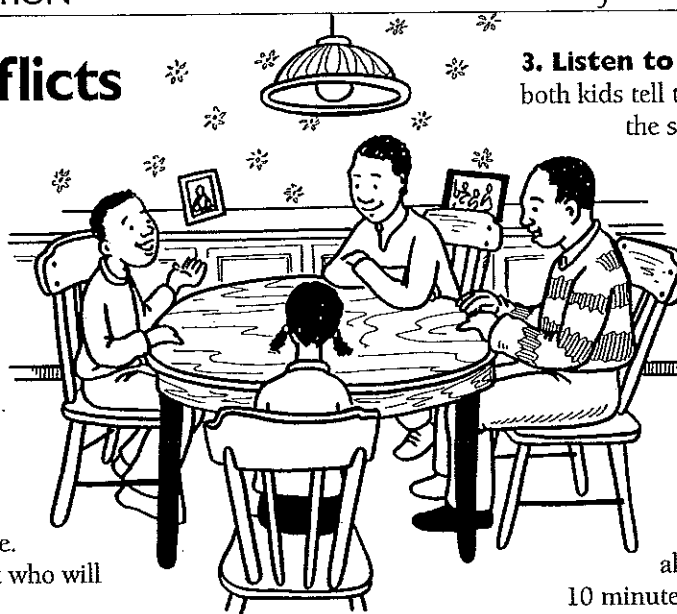
Solving family conflicts

"It's my turn for the shower!" "No, it's my turn!"

When your kids can't figure out how to resolve their conflicts peacefully, share this step-by-step plan. You'll not only solve the problem at hand, you'll also teach your children a way to work out future disputes.

1. Call a meeting. Pick a calm time and place to sit down together, such as in the dining room after dinner.

2. State the problem. Quietly describe the problem in a way that doesn't place blame. "I've heard Amanda and Adam arguing about who will use the shower first on school mornings."



3. Listen to everyone. Let both kids tell their versions of the story, using polite language. Sharing viewpoints will help each person see the other one's side.

4. Find a solution. Ask each child to suggest solutions. Help find one that everyone can agree on. Maybe they can alternate getting up

10 minutes earlier to shower first, or one of them could shower at bedtime instead of in the morning. ♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

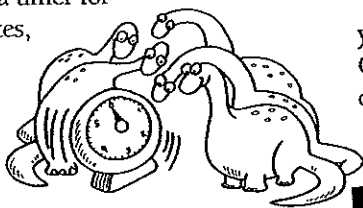
Thinking hard

Name five cities. Five kinds of dinosaurs. Five types of clothing.

Play the Game of Fives with your child, and you'll help stretch her thinking and vocabulary skills while having fun together. Plus, it's great practice for brainstorming, which she'll need for doing school projects.

Here's how it works. Have your youngster write five categories on a piece of paper, and you do the same. Trade papers, set a timer for three minutes, and fill in five items for each group. When the time is up, read your answers out loud.

You can tailor the categories to your child's age. For younger children, you might try vegetables, vehicles, or colors. For older children, you could use presidents, authors, or trees. ♥



Q & A

Time to connect

Q: My husband and I work long hours. How can we stay in touch with what our child is doing at school?

A: Try to carve out a little time each day to talk to your youngster about school. During these times, be sure to shut out all distractions (don't take phone calls or look through mail).

You may be able to check over your child's homework at breakfast. Or, at bedtime, you could ask questions about her school day



("What did you write your story about?" "What did you do in science?").

On weekends, try looking through your youngster's binder with her. Ask her to point out interesting things she has learned. Also, if your work schedule permits, you could call your child at a certain time each afternoon to check on her day.

Show interest in the social parts of school, too. Asking your child who she sat with at lunch and what she played at recess are good conversation starters. ♥

PARENT TO PARENT

Who's your hero?

For some time, my son worshipped a football star. While the player is a talented athlete, I was concerned that he wasn't the best role model because of his behavior off the field. So I sat down with Phillip to talk about what makes someone a hero.

I asked him what he admired about the football player. "He runs fast and scores a lot of touchdowns," Phillip said. Then, I mentioned some traits in people I admire: they help others, they stand up for what they believe. We talked about different people who might be considered heroes, such as a neighbor who tutors needy kids, or someone famous like Martin Luther King.

I guess my words must have sunk in. Yesterday my son came home and said, "Mom, I realize our principal is a real hero. She helps our school be great!" ♥



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 Aspen Publishers, Inc.
3035 Valley Avenue, Suite 103, Winchester, VA 22601
540-723-0322 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com

ISSN 1540-5621

Home & School

CONNECTION®

Working Together for School Success

February

Walkerton and North Liberty Elementary Schools

Melanie Heiser, Counselor

SHORT NOTES

Develop map skills

Teach your youngster to read a map by helping her create one of her own. Try walking the neighborhood together, and let her sketch out the roads, friends' houses, and other places. Then, help her use the map to show you the way to school.

Is it appropriate?

It can be difficult to tell whether a movie, video game, or TV show is appropriate for your child. You can find guidance at a nonprofit Web site that checks for sexual content, violence, language, and social behavior. Look for easy-to-scan ratings at www.commonssensemedia.org.

Go with whole grains

Did you know that whole grains provide fiber that discourages overeating? Try serving your youngster whole-grain cereals. You'll add nutrition to his diet—and fill him up. Tempt his taste buds by topping the cereal with apples, bananas, or another favorite fruit.

Worth quoting

"Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression."
Haim Ginott

JUST FOR FUN

Librarian: What's this?

Ben: It's that book I told you I never checked out!



Discipline solutions

Tired of handling the same discipline problems over and over again? Try these solutions to three common issues, and you're sure to see better behavior.

You've asked your child to do something, but he ignores you.

Make sure you have your youngster's attention. Slowly and clearly repeat what you want him to do. "Jason, I need you to take the trash out now." Make sure he gets started—and remember to thank him when he's done.

Your child argues with your decision, trying to wear you down.

Calmly say, "I am not going to give in, no matter how much you argue." Then, walk away to indicate that the conversation is over. In some cases, you may be willing to reconsider. If so, ask your child to write a letter explaining his side, and tell him you'll get back to him at a specific time.

You're shopping in a crowded store, and your child begins to act out.

Find a quiet spot—the restroom, an empty aisle, or even the car—and say, "Let me know when you're ready to behave." Then, wait while he calms down. If this doesn't work, leave for



home, and give your youngster a consequence for his behavior (not going to the playground, for example).

Remember: Children need the most love when they seem the least lovable. Even when your youngster's misbehaving, be sure to tell him, "I love you." ♥

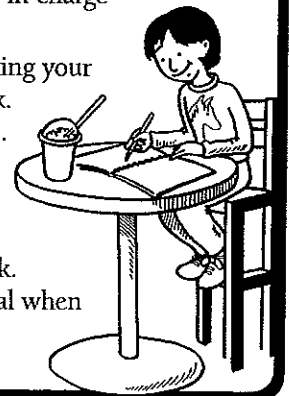
No-tears homework

Homework time can be easier. Use these tips to help your youngster do her work without a fuss:

■ Tell your child she can decide when to tackle homework within a set time frame—say, between 4 p.m. and dinner. Putting her in charge will motivate her to begin.

■ Shake up the routine by taking your youngster out to do homework. Try the library or a coffee shop. The novelty will make the task seem more like fun.

■ When your child works, sit nearby to read or do paperwork. Homework time will feel special when shared with you. ♥

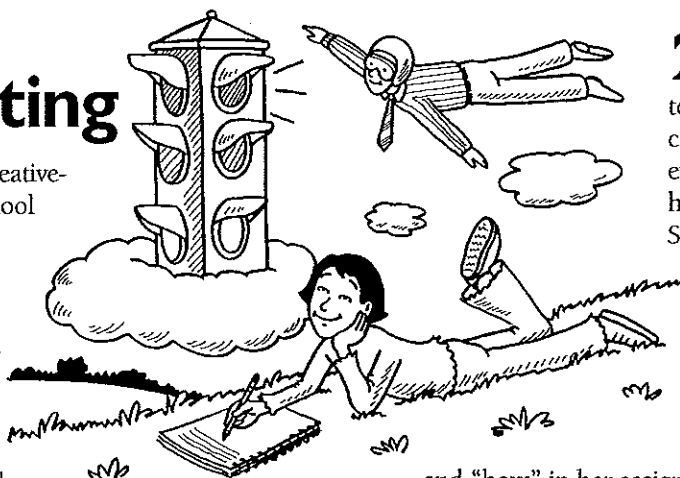


Keys to creative writing

Your youngster will have many creative-writing assignments during her school years. Use these strategies to get started with the next one.

Think of ideas

Help your child dream up story ideas by posing "what if" situations. For example, if you ask her, "What if people could fly?" she might come up with, "We'd need sky traffic lights." Or ask her to make up stories about household items ("Larry the Lamp was sad when he was dark"). Brainstorming will stretch her imagination.



2 Develop the plot

Encourage your youngster to picture her story. Have her close her eyes and imagine the events. Then, she can open her eyes and tell you the tale. She'll have a clear idea of what to write if she organizes her ideas first.

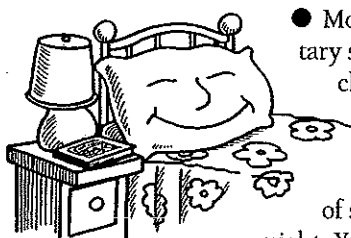
3 Write it down

Suggest that your child answer "who," "what," "where," "when," "why,"

and "how" in her assignment. Try providing a thesaurus (or access to www.thesaurus.com) so she can find more colorful words. When she has finished, have her read her story to you. This will help her catch any mistakes—and give you a chance to praise a job well done! ♥

Bedtime basics

When should your child go to bed? How can you get him to bed on time? Here are some answers that might help:



- Most elementary school children need at least 10 hours of sleep a night. Youngsters

who are well rested usually wake up easily and are energetic all day. If your child is sluggish or grumpy, he might need an earlier bedtime.

● Try to stick to a routine. Depending on your work schedule, you might consider dinner at 6:30, homework at 7, bath and pajamas at 8:15, bedtime story and a good-night kiss at 8:30. Having a schedule lets kids know what to expect.

● Make bedtime relaxing. After reading a book, you could put on quiet music to help your child settle down for sleep. ♥



Help for learning disabilities

Q: My son Ryan is struggling in school. I think he might have a learning disability. What should I do?

A: The first thing you should do is talk to his teacher. Explain your concerns, and tell her what you've observed. Ask if she has noticed any problems in the classroom. ("Does Ryan finish classwork on time? Does he seem to understand what he reads?")

If you're still concerned, you can request a meeting with the teacher, guidance counselor, and principal. You and the teacher may be asked to fill out some simple forms about your son's schoolwork and behavior. If they suspect a problem, they might have him tested. These tests will seem like games to Ryan, and the results will help you and the school find ways he can learn best. ♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Raise your hand!

My middle child, Ariel, was very shy.

When she was in kindergarten, her teacher told me she would probably outgrow it. But two years later, she still wasn't raising her hand or participating in class much. The teacher said Ariel seemed nervous about drawing attention to herself.

To help my daughter, I started playing "share and tell" at the dinner table

with my three girls. Each child had to raise her hand, wait for me to call on her, and then tell something interesting about her day.

It's a simple game, but everyone enjoys it. And Ariel is getting used to raising her hand and speaking in front of other people. At our last parent-teacher conference, her teacher said she is participating more in class. Plus, we have much more interesting dinners now! ♥



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 Aspen Publishers, Inc.
3035 Valley Avenue, Suite 103, Winchester, VA 22601
540-723-0322 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1540-5621