

HIGHLANDS HAPPENINGS

Volume 9, Issue 5

February 25, 2019

Happy (end of) February!

We hope you have enjoyed the month of Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, and President's Day. We experienced multiple opportunities for learning and growth for all students including special performances, field trips, and classroom experiences. You'll be able to read about several of these experiences in this issue of the Happenings.

I am happy to share with you some of our progress towards our School Improvement Goals for the year.

In regards to our math goal, teachers at all grade levels have reviewed winter MAP, benchmarking, and classroom assessment data to adjust and plan for math instruction for all students. Several teams have implemented flexible grouping among multiple classrooms, as appropriate, to be sure all students have access to challenging content that is at their readiness levels while also ensuring appropriate exposure to and familiarity with essential grade level content.

In terms of personalized learning, students continue to track their progress on multiple measures in portfolios and/or data folders. Teachers use leveled reading materials, both in print and electronically, to be sure students read texts that are at their instructional level. We want all students to experience success and to be challenged according to their individual readiness levels. All students also continue to participate in daily writing experiences in either narrative, informational, or opinion modes.

For our social emotional learning goal, all homerooms continue to conduct daily Morning Meetings to establish a sense of classroom community and to address relevant issues or concerns as they arise. We also continue our monthly Highlands Family assemblies and small group meetings. These assemblies and meetings allow students to interact with other students and teachers across the school and provide an opportunity for students to complete service projects for the people of our community.

Thank you for your continued support of your child's education. We look forward to continuing to work together.

Sincerely,

Brian Graber
Principal



Monthly Events

FEBRUARY**25 - Elementary School Store****26 - Kindergarten Registration
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. (LRC)**



FOURTH GRADE STUDENT WORK

4th Grade Informational Essay Introductions

Fourth grade students have been working hard on writing an informational essay. Here is a sample of the introductions they wrote. Notice how they used a “hook” at the beginning to get their reader’s attention and then they introduced the three subtopics that they explain later in the essay. They also worked hard at including descriptive language, expert words, and figurative language.



Imagine you are walking in the tropical rainforest. All of a sudden, you see a greenish brown creature hopping from branch to branch. That creature has the look of a fierce tiger and the speed of Usain Bolt. This creature is a red eyed tree frog! Today I will teach you about its diet, habitat and behavior.

-Written by Timmy S.

Imagine you were walking around in the beautiful, most colorful African rainforest, and all of the sudden, a 28-inch snake comes at you in milliseconds. You see it's wet, white fangs that have life-threatening venom dripping down its mad face. It looks as furious as a tiger. You wake up in the hospital the next day and you figure out the snake that bit you was not only a venomous creature, it was a bloodthirsty bush viper! The animal that you will learn about is the African Bush Viper. You will read about the habitat, diet and the behavior of the amazing creature - the bush viper!

-Written by Xander G.



Imagine you are in the middle of the rainforest, and you run into a tiger! Don't run away! You will startle it! Here is a tip: walk away as SLOWLY AS A SLOTH. Otherwise, the tiger will come at you. Did you know there are six species of tigers? That includes the Sumatran, Siberian, Bengal, South China, Malayan, and Indo-Chinese tigers. In this essay, you will learn about the Bengal tiger's habitat, life cycle, and diet.

-Written by Mia M.

There are thousands of animals in the rainforest. Each has its own different personality. One animal stands out from all the others - the toucan. They have a huge, kaleidoscopic beak and bright blue claws. Their beak is as colorful as the brightest rainbow ever. You will learn all about their diet, their interesting habitat, and their amazing behavior.

-Written by Natalya T.





PRESIDENTS DAY

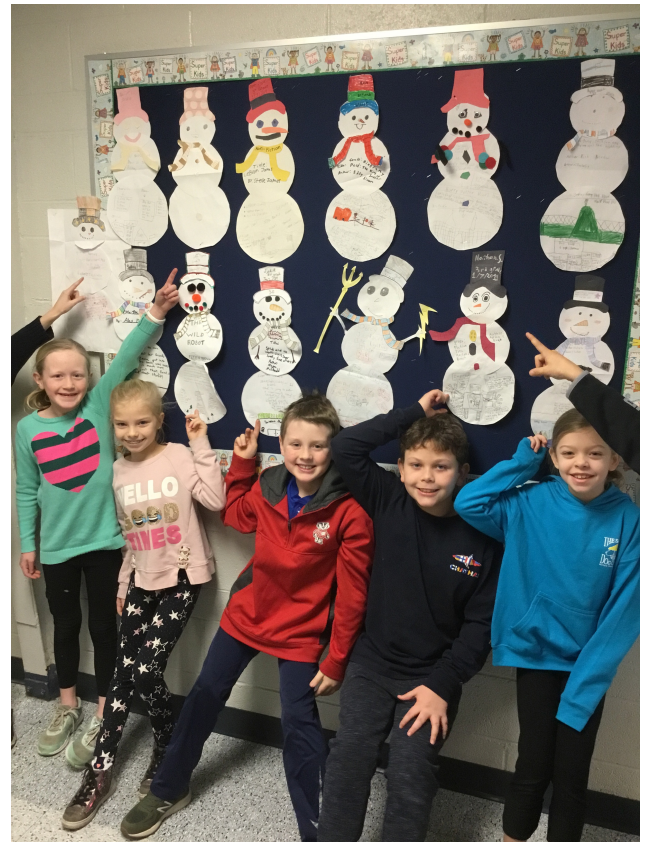
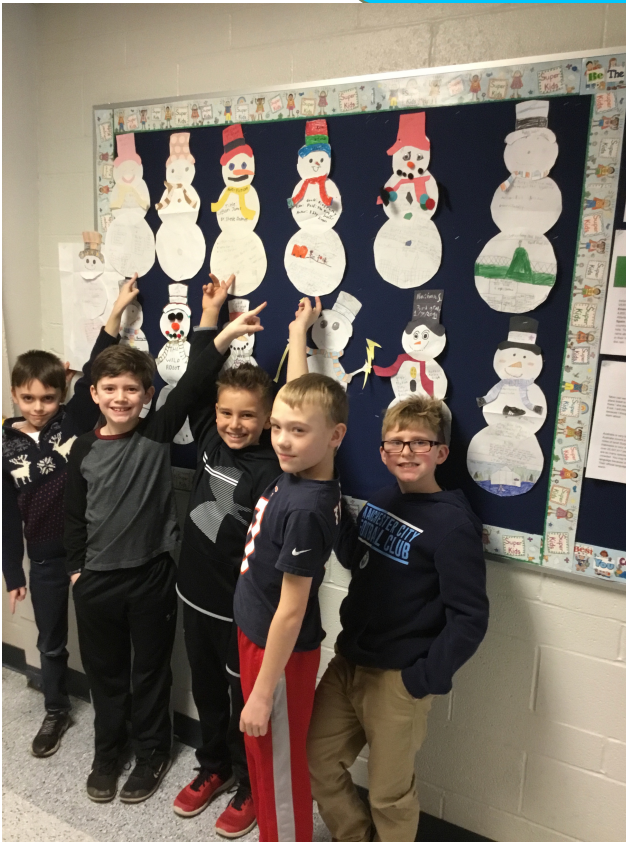


Fourth grade students had a blast at the DuPage Children's Museum field trip! Students attended a Geometry Workshop at the museum and each child created their own geometry box.

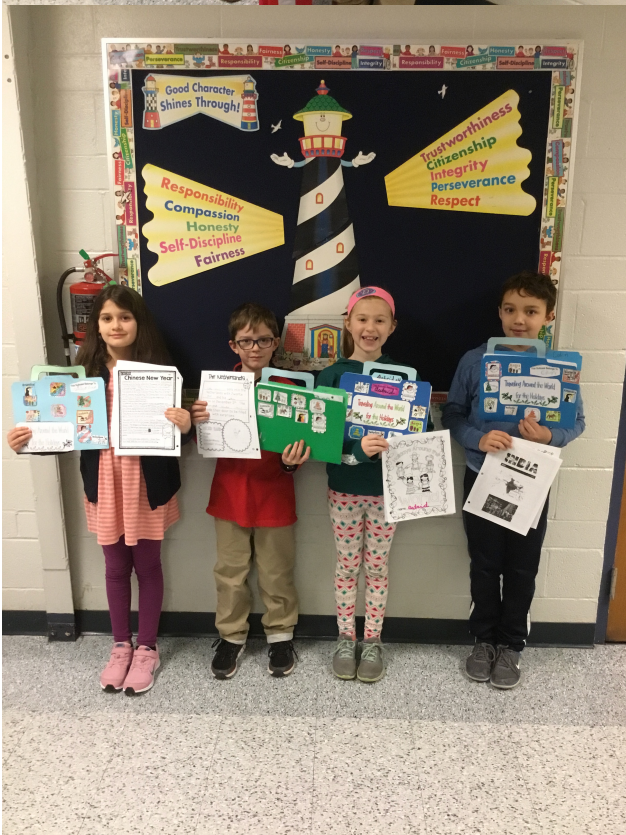




THIRD GRADE STUDENT WORK



In third grade, reading a "cool" book for RAH is as much fun as building a snowman!!



Third grade really enjoyed "Traveling Around the World" and learning all about the different holidays, customs, and traditions celebrated.



SECOND GRADE STUDENT WORK

LOVE IS...
what is love?

friendship
and what it means
to me...
It means that
he kind to other
people.

1 Mom
2 Dad
3 Grandma

A friend is
someone who...
you could do
anything with.

Name: [redacted]

LOVE IS...
what is love?

friendship
and what it means
to me...
It makes you
have buddies
that make you
cheer up when
you are sad.

1 My family
2 My friends
3 My sister

A friend is
someone who...
cheers you up,
comforts you,
plays with you,
asks if you
want to play.

Name: [redacted]

LOVE IS...
what is love?

friendship
and what it means
to me...
It's happy and
joyful.

1 friends
2 mom
3 dad

A friend is
someone who...
helps me,
plays with me and
shares with me too.

Name: [redacted]

LOVE IS...
what is love?

friendship
and what it means
to me... It means
that friends play
nicely with you.

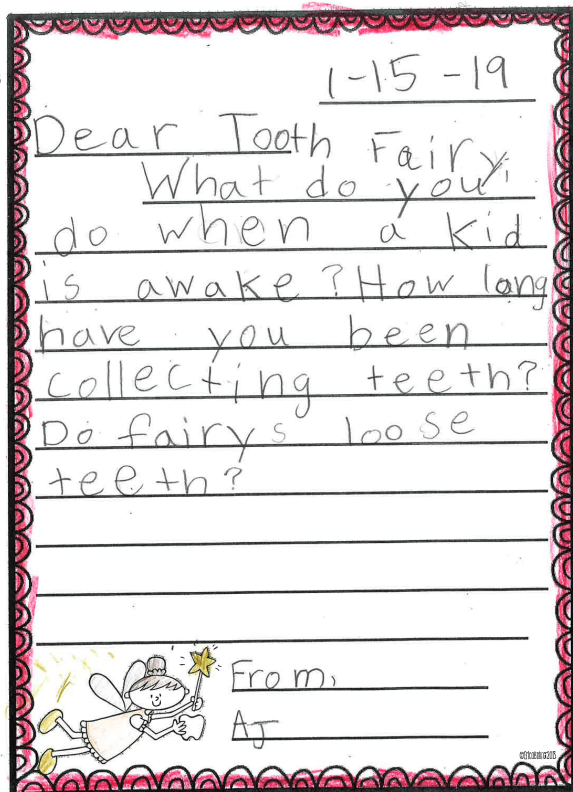
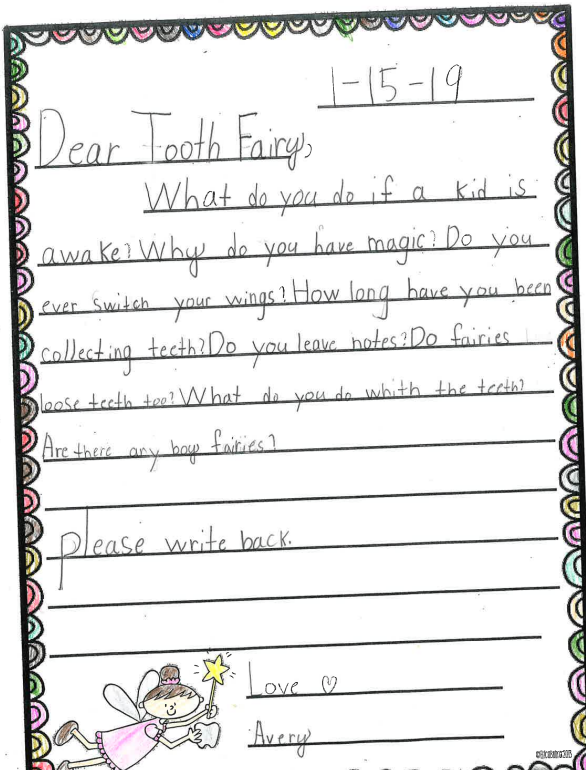
1 cats
2 dogs
3 family

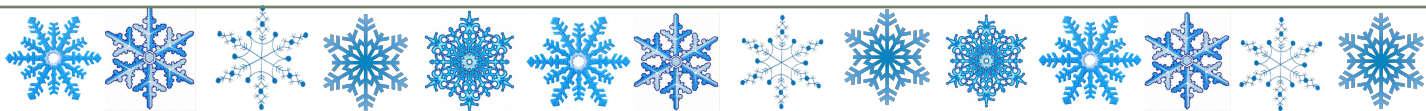
A friend is
someone who...
isn't mean
to you. A friend
is someone
you'd be
nice to you.

Name: [redacted]



FIRST GRADE STUDENT WORK





KINDERGARTEN STUDENT WORK

Name Alexa



Chameleons are

hiding experts.

They are reptiles

They can

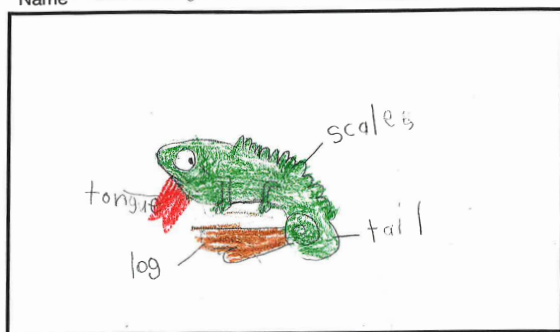
Camouflage.

Chameleons have

eyes that see

all around.

Name Elisa



Chameleons are

reptiles. They can

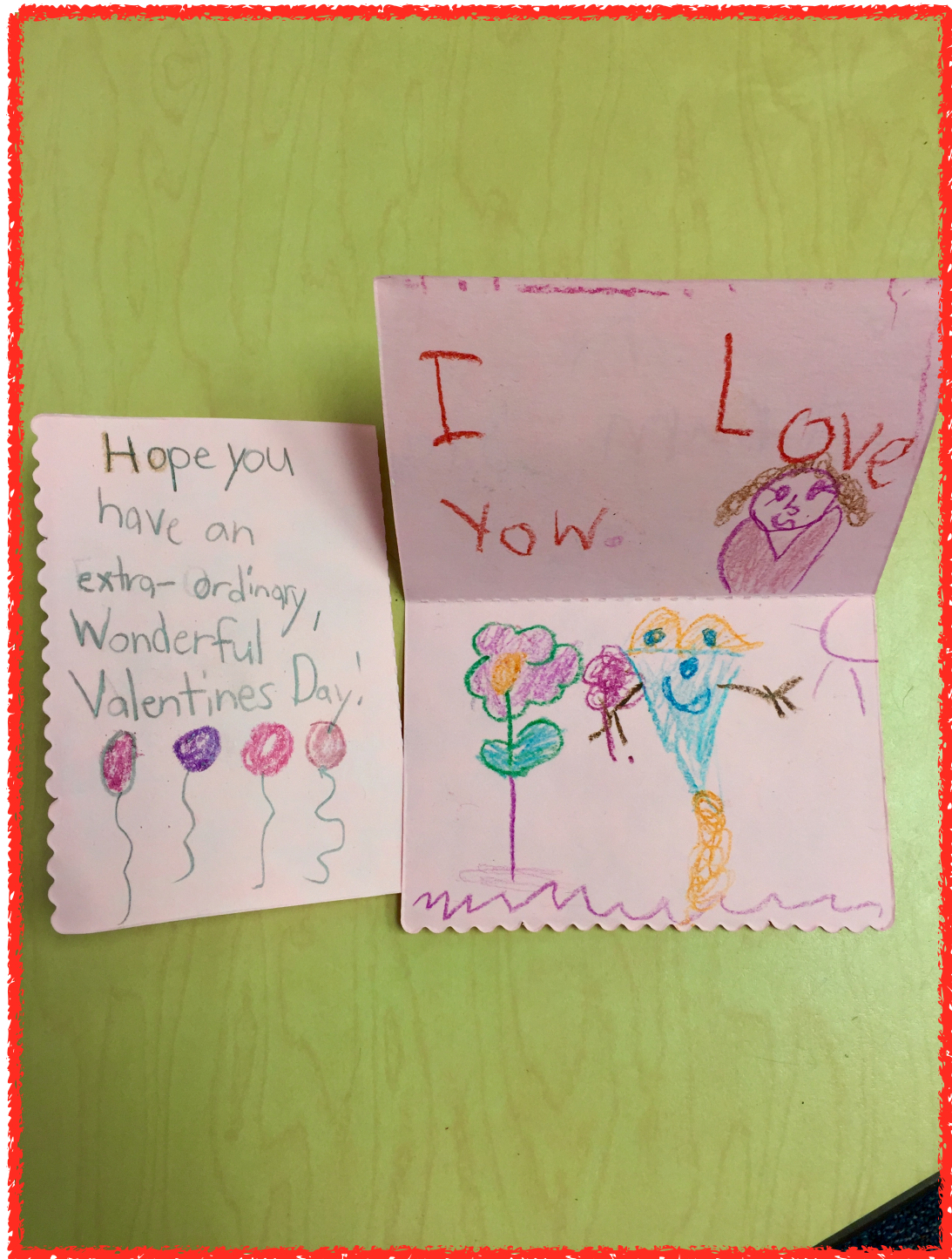
camouflage. Chameleons

have eyes that

see all around.



ART STUDENT WORK





REMINDERS

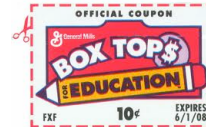
Winter Recess Policy:

Please remind students that they will have outdoor recess in dry weather, if the temperature and wind chill are 15 degrees or above. Please make sure your students are adequately clothed for outdoor recess. Hats, mittens, and scarves are needed for cold weather. We ask that children wear boots when there is snow on the ground.



Boxtops & Soup Labels

The head-to-head competition is still going on between homerooms. Please bring in your boxtops. The first competition will end on Dec. 14th.



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



Kindergarten Registration

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

February 2019



Highlands Elementary School
Mr. Brian Graber, Principal

SHORT NOTES

A parenting mission statement

Can you name the three most important things to you as a parent? Putting them in writing will help to guide your parenting. Fill in the blank in the sentence, "I'm raising a child who ____" ("is kind to others," "works hard in school").

Find learning treasures

A secondhand store offers more than clothing and household items—you can find learning tools there, too. Help your youngster look for gently used books or board games (check to make sure all the pieces are there). He might also find magnetic letters or numbers, arts and crafts supplies, and small whiteboards or chalkboards.

Practice cursive

If your youngster is learning cursive, suggest creative ways to practice. She could make nameplates for family members' bedroom doors or write greeting cards and thank-you notes in cursive. *Idea:* Encourage her to use cursive when she takes notes in class. It's faster because she doesn't lift her pencil off the paper after each letter.

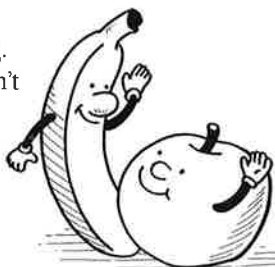
Worth quoting

"Joy is not in things; it is in us."
Richard Wagner

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What did the banana say to the apple?

A: Nothing.
Bananas can't talk!



Embrace empathy

When Claire notices a classmate on crutches struggling with his books, she senses his frustration and offers to help. She has empathy—she can understand and share others' feelings. Build empathy in your child with these ideas.

Read feelings

Learning to identify other people's emotions is the first step toward feeling empathetic. Take turns acting out a feeling for family members to guess. For example, open your eyes and mouth wide to show fear. Or slump your shoulders and look down to display sadness. *Variation:* Draw faces on paper plates, and guess the emotions.

Create an "empathy identity"

Notice ways your youngster shows that she cares how people feel. You might say, "I can tell you feel bad that your brother is sick. It was nice of you to bring him a blanket." You could also point out others



showing empathy, too—in real life and in books and movies.

Respond appropriately

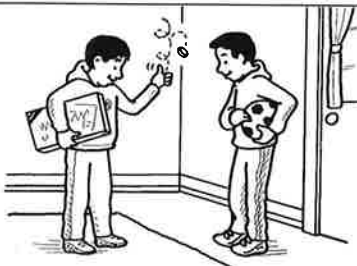
When someone is having a hard time (say, a friend's parents are getting divorced), your child may not know what to say. The good news? Sometimes people just want another person to listen and express empathy. Brainstorm honest responses like "I'm not sure what to say, but I'm glad you told me," or "I'm sorry this is happening. I'm here if you want to talk."♥

Let's collaborate!

Knowing how to collaborate with classmates will help your youngster work well and learn in a group. Try these tips to practice collaboration skills at home.

Balance speaking and listening. During family discussions, give each person a chance to talk. Your child should listen carefully so he can acknowledge what everyone says and build on their ideas. ("I liked what you said about ____, I think ____.")

Encourage compromise. If your youngster has a disagreement with a sibling or friend, such as whether to play indoors or outdoors, think of it as a learning opportunity. Ask them to think of a way they could both feel satisfied, perhaps by doing a jigsaw puzzle outside at a picnic table. Or they might flip a coin to decide which to do first.♥



Mix-it-up study methods

Fresh techniques will breathe new life into your child's study sessions. Share these ways to add variety and help him stay motivated.

Create a mural

Suggest that your child hang a big sheet of paper on a wall. On it, he can write and illustrate facts, concepts, and procedures he's studying. Say his math test includes rounding numbers, he might write the rule ("If a number ends in 5–9, round up") in big orange letters across the bottom and add examples



in green going sideways up the mural. Let him design a new panel for each subject. He'll have a handy study tool—and a colorful piece of art.

Play with clue cards

Encourage your youngster to make and play a card game with a study partner. He could write each concept on a separate index card and list three clues on the back. For

"electric circuit," clues might include "path," "current," and "conductor." He can shuffle the cards and stack them clue sides up. Players take turns drawing a card, reading the clues, and saying what's on the other side. Keep the card if you're right—the person with the most cards wins.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Write a picture book

Your youngster can use her imagination to retell a familiar story, then preserve her version in a homemade book! She'll practice experimenting with characters, setting, and plot as she writes.



First, let your child pick a story and think of ways she could put her own twist on it. She might write a plot based on *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Roald Dahl) but use herself and her friends for the main characters. Or maybe she'll pick a story set in another country, such as *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans, and have it take place in the United States.

Next, have your youngster write each sentence or paragraph of her story on a separate sheet of paper and illustrate it. Finally, invite her to read her book aloud to your family.♥

PARENT TO PARENT

Boost independence

Coaxing my daughter, Grace, through her routine on school mornings was no easy task. I decided that she needed to become more independent—and that our mornings could be more pleasant. So I've started having her get ready by herself.

I let Grace pick out an alarm clock and showed her how to set it. Then, on her closet door, we posted a list of her morning tasks, including getting dressed, brushing her teeth, and fixing her hair.

Now when we're both ready, we meet downstairs for breakfast before we head out the door. Our mornings are much easier, and I think Grace is proud of her newfound independence.♥



Q & A Time for a cell phone?

Q: My fourth-grader says some of his friends are getting cell phones, and now he wants one. Are cell phones appropriate at this age?

A: Most kids this age don't really need a cell phone, since they're supervised by adults who carry phones. And owning a phone, especially one with internet access, is a big responsibility. To decide when to give your son a phone, first think about your family's budget. Also, consider how well he

follows safety rules and takes care of his belongings. Those are good indicators of how he will behave with a phone.

If you feel he's ready, you might start with a lower-cost one with limited features. Then, create guidelines. Perhaps he may use his phone only to call or text family members and close friends.

Discuss consequences for breaking or losing it. And set times when his phone is off-limits, such as during family meals, in the hour before bedtime, and after lights-out.♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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