



PANTHER POST

“WE’RE ON A SAFARI OF LEARNING”



everychild. one voice.



Volume 5, Issue 8

April 2010

Collins Elementary
12424 Summerfield Blvd.
Riverview, FL 33579
(813) 672-5400

Ellen Cyr, Principal
Steve Sims, Asst. Principal
Sue Chapin, Guidance
David Kincaide, Social Worker

Helpful Information

- To report your child’s absence please call 672-5400 X 1.
- No student can be signed out after 1:30 pm.
- The Panther Post is published in 9 issues (Sept–May). It is a publication of Collins PTA.
- Email submissions and advertisements to pta@collinspta.net by the 3rd Friday of each month.

PTA Executive Board
2009-2010

Christine Lynch	President
Cheryl Wagner	VP Programs
Maria Egal	VP Membership
Vacant	VP Marketing
Debbie Wilson	VP Fundraising
Lisa Guillory	Treasurer
Kim DiCesare	Secretary

Website: www.collinspta.net
Email: pta@collinspta.net

Newsletter Editors:
Christine Lynch & Maria Egal
Publisher: Post & Pack

PTA Corner

By: Christine Lynch, Collins Elementary PTA President

Spring is finally here! Can you believe we are now into our fourth quarter here at Collins? Where has the year gone? Be sure to check out the school and PTA websites for all the happenings at Collins Elementary for our last few months. There are many exciting events being planned for the staff & children!

Congratulations to all the students on a job well done during the FCAT/SAT testing period. We know you performed at your very best and for that we are proud.

The last General PTA Meeting of the year is scheduled for April 22, 2010 at 6:30pm. This final meeting of the year includes a vote for your new PTA Executive Board 2010/2011. We are proud to have such a wonderful group of parent volunteers step up and be the voice of the children of Collins. This meeting will also include the final details of the year as we wrap up. Refreshments will be served.

Thank you to all the parents/families who came out to help make Collins beautiful on Saturday, March 20th. The day was a success! It is parents like you who make our school the BEST!

Again, we THANK YOU for your support to Collins. We are proud of our parents, students and teachers. Please do not forget to log in all of your volunteer hours. We value every minute of your time.

Have a safe and happy Spring Break! Enjoy!

Best Regards,

Christine Lynch, PTA President



GENERAL PTA MEETING

April 22, 2010

Cafeteria 6:30pm

Elections Meeting

Vote 2010/2011 PTA Executive Board

Come to the final meeting of the year! We have a lot of information to share as we near the end of the school year.

Refreshments will be served.

(Note: Quorum must be present)

BOOK FAIR

It is time for the Spring Book Fair at Collins!

Come to the Media Center beginning April 2nd to buy a new **BOOK!**

The Fair will end April 8th.

Please remember there is a 7% sales tax to all items purchased!



Guidance Corner

By: Sue Chapin, Counselor



March was another exciting month for our students at Collins Elementary. Our K Kids continue to read to their buddies and reinforce good behavior with special stickers. Reading is such an important component of learning. There are five main building blocks that can help your child be a successful reader. Remember, you are your child's first teacher and that reading does not usually come naturally to a child. It takes lots of practice. Phonemic awareness is the first steppingstone in learning to read. Read aloud to your child – play word games – sing songs and say poems, rhymes, etc. – focus with your children the sounds in a word. It is important for your child to recognize familiar written words and decode and identify unknown ones. Encourage your child to read to you, look for words around you, practice writing – drawing can help make it more fun! You can also help your child with fluency by rereading familiar books, listening to a book on tape, reading aloud to your child, make lists of common words, and gently help your child with words misread. Teach your child one new word a day with its meaning. Help break the word apart and then use it often when speaking. Give your child a dictionary as a special present. Help them discover the magic of how to sound out a word, break it into parts, its meaning(s), use in a sentence. Talk together and explore new subjects and interests. Make sure you ask questions as you read a story to your child. Have your child compare stories and retell the story to you. A great question to end the night with is “What have you learned today by reading?”

The word for April is *Courageous/Good Sport!* At Collins, we want our students to practice *doing the right thing in the face of difficulty and following their conscience instead of the crowd!* We help our students to use their potential to the fullest. Just as you do, we encourage our students to *strive for their best in all situations!* Please discuss with your child/children what being *Courageous/Good Sport* means throughout the month of April. Please feel free to use your *Courageous/Good Sport* ideas from the monthly calendar.

Remember, too, it is never too early for our students to begin creating their career path starting with career awareness. Talk with your child about family careers – create a career family tree. This will share family values, personal abilities, skills, interests, and other fascinating information. You might want to share about any stereotyping that was involved in your career path. Discuss with them the requirements necessary for and on the job. It is important for our students to learn how to make decisions, set goals, understand planning, and develop interests. This will help make the path to the world of work smoother.

Our new mediators will be soon be finished training. Mediation is such a great way to solve conflicts and students sent to mediation may gain lifelong skills and how to better solve conflicts. This is even more important in today's world! Our mediators are always fine-tuning their talents by helping our students to win/win in situations. They have developed fantastic mediation skills, useful throughout life!

Please remember to let our supporters – Mimi's Café, Sun City Pizza Hut, McDonald's (Casper's Corp.), Chick-Fil-A, and SweetBay know how much we truly appreciate their support.

We are so glad that you are part of our school. You are the Best!!!!

Sue Chapin, Counselor

February Perseverance

Students at Collins Elementary
sponsored by MiMi's Café, Casper's
McDonald's, and Chick-fil-A

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Lola Atkinson | Braham Raso |
| Madelin Bruce | Michael Rivera |
| Mia Cervetti | Tyrone Roberts |
| Thao Chau | Joshua Rowe |
| Julianna Dargie | Zachary Shavinore |
| Ashleigh Denney | Aiden Simmons |
| Sofia Distefano | Abigal Spano |
| Brandon Elders | Brianna Then |
| Dylan Evans | Lyndajzha Thomas |
| Jania Ferguson | Rochelle Thomas |
| Hunter Harrison | Diego Torres |
| Isabella Herrera | Julie Tran |
| Avery Hippard | Christopher Vails |
| Renetrice Jacobs | Jonathon Villazon |
| Aaron Jones | Katerina Wentzell |
| Ariana Keister | Sarah Westcott |
| Hayleigh Kittel | Shane Williams |
| Kara Lucardie | Kevin Yambo |
| Megan Maurer | SanJuana Zertuche |
| Jediah Mentore | |
| Lucas Morgan | |
| Grizzly Muniz | |
| Dylan Niner | |
| Adrian Perez | |
| Nick Perez | |
| Jasmine Puig | |
| Iziah Quarles | |
| Brian Quigley | |
| Giovanni Ramirez | |



February Terrific Kids

at Collins Elementary sponsored by the SCC Kiwanis Club, Casper's McDonald's, Ruby Tuesday and SweetBay

Erienne Aberin	Jennifer Pineiro
Xzavier Bergan	Brien Piske
Kerrigan Blakemore	Chris Plaza
Adrian Broco	Cassiel Ramos
Austin Buelna	Jaylen Reed
Madison Carney	Ginamarie Rescigno
Micah Covatch	Corey Rice
Matthew Cutcher	Zack Rice
Matthew Doll	Liliana Rita
Aiden Fiske	Sophia Rogan
Isabelle Gonzalez	Kalista Rojas
Grace Harrison	Georgia Romano
Brendon Herrick	Lyuis Ruiz
Jordan Johnston	James Santiago
Ronnie King	Bradley Santos
Gabi Knight	Maya Smith
Joniyah Lonon	Caylan Steed
Madilyn McMillan	Dylan Tripak
Brynn McQueen	Andrew Valentin
Camila Meiggs	Nicole Vega-Horvath
Neil Mejia	Duncan Viramontes
Josiah Mentore	Try'von Whitehead
Katherine Nelson	Jordan Williams
Madison Padilla	Brandon Zonata
Angela Pero	

Greetings from Collins Café,

We had a very successful Gold Coin contest on March 18 & 19. Each child had a chance to win a gold Shamrock at breakfast which was then redeemed at lunch for prizes ranging from pencils, bookmarks, fruit snacks, and even ice cream sundaes! Once again we all had fun with our students.

We will be having a few new items on our menus including Fiesta Macaroni, a new brand of frozen arctic ices that are served in a cup, and cheese quesadillas served with salsa! Yummy!

We will be inviting Dads for Lunch on Friday, April 2, 2010. Pizza will be served that day as well as other choices. Lunch prices will be \$3.50 which include the main entrée plus a choice of up to three sides and a drink. All Dads will receive a complimentary dessert! We look forward to seeing you!

With these tough economic times upon us, many more children are receiving free lunch. It is not too late to submit an application to see if you qualify.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 672-5400 ext. 227.

Have a wonderful Spring Break!

Till next time.

Always,

Susan Paszkowski, SNS Manager, Collins Elementary School



February Kindergarten Citizens of the Month at Collins Elementary

Sponsored by the SCC Pizza Hut

Rachel Brown	Joseph Joyner	Jordan Scott
Mariajosse Claudio	Alyssa King	Victoria Terrazas
Gabriella Johnson	Sirinya Reneau	Alicia Watson

SHOW COLLINS SPIRIT! COME EAT PIZZA!

EAST COAST PIZZA SPIRIT NIGHT



Why cook when you can have pizza? Show your school spirit and come to East Coast Pizza on April 6th. They have been gracious enough to donate 20% of ALL COLLINS SALES.

Don't forget to mention you are from Collins and you'll be entered into a drawing to win something special!

Look for the signs in front of the school as a reminder to treat yourself to pizza!

Book Exchange

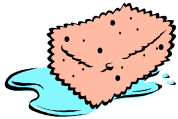


It's time to start cleaning off your bookshelves! The PTA is sponsoring a book exchange. Students will be able to bring in their gently used books that they don't read anymore and exchange them for something "new."

The collection period to bring in books will be from April 26th-May 4th. Your student will receive a certificate that they will be able to bring back on May 5th to pick out their new books. The classroom with the most books will receive a special treat. Please do not send in any books before the collection period starts as we will not have a place to store them.



Look for more details in a flyer that will be sent home later this month.



FIELD DAY

It is that time again for the annual Field Day at Collins Elementary! On Friday, April 9, 2010, all students will participate in various FUN activities!

Would you like to volunteer? Please notify Coach Christ and Coach M.

The following supplies are welcome to help make the day a success:

Sponges, Kool-aid mix, Bottled Water, Beads, Stickers & Cups. You may send all donations in with your child. **THANK YOU** for your support!

5th GRADE NEWS

The 5th Grade will be selling pizza, chips, candy & soft drinks on Conference Night.

Support the 5th Grade! Eat PIZZA!!

Hours: 4:00pm to 7:30pm

Would you like to volunteer? Contact the 5th Grade team.

Please be on the lookout for various Fundraisers to help the 5th Grade have a special end of the year Banquet & Field Trip.

Congratulations to our Fifth Grade!!!



Teacher Appreciation Week 2010

May 3-7th

The Teacher Gram is the perfect gift to show your teacher just how much you appreciate him/her! Each teacher will receive gifts based on total Teacher Gram donations. We would like for everyone to participate, as we have some really great teachers at Collins! This year's theme is "You Make a Difference"!



If you would like to participate in giving Teacher Grams, please complete the form below, seal it in an envelope with payment, and send it to school with your child.

\$3 Small gift _____

\$6 Medium gift _____

\$9 Large gift _____

Or, any donation amount available _____ cash ___check

Yes, I would like to volunteer during Teacher Week: E-mail: _____

Deadline: April 21, 2010

Teacher Gram

Teacher's Name _____

Student's Name _____

Message _____

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO.....

All of our volunteers who came out to help paint on March 20th...

All of our families who purchased a BRICK to leave your legacy....

Ms. Karen Sloan, grandmother of Jessica Wilson, who sewed
VESTS for our Student Council....

All of our parent volunteers who regularly work in the Media
Center.....

Raymow for our gorgeous flowers around the Marquee.....



BOX TOPS

Thank you very much for your participation in our Box Top program!

We raised \$1592.50 for the year!!

Keep them coming!

We are thankful to have your support in our BoxTops4Education program!

You are the BEST!!

SNO CONES

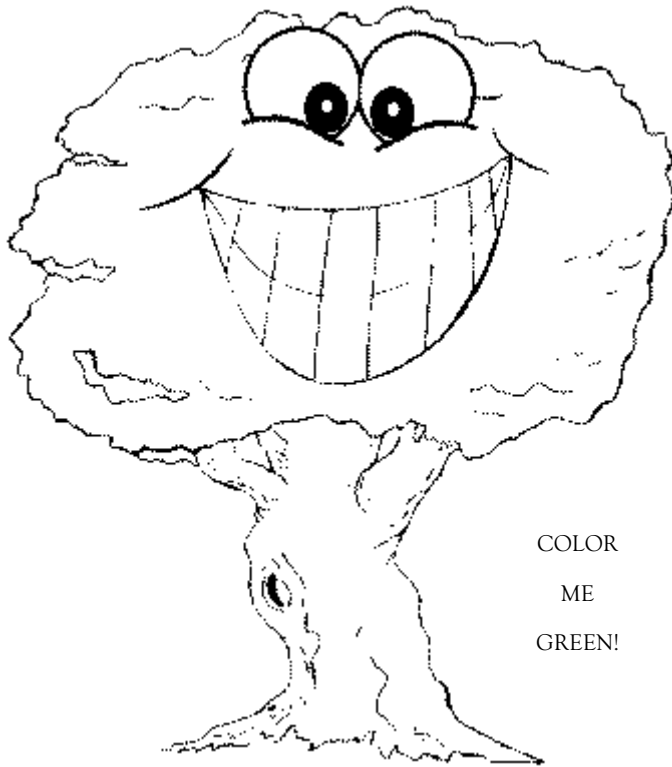
Collins PTA will be selling Sno Cones on

Thursday, April 1st during lunch and Friday, April 9th during Field Day.

Try our YUMMY new Spring flavors for only \$1.00.

What a tasty treat!!





COLOR
ME
GREEN!

Celebrate ARBOR DAY with a TREE!

Earth Day Word Search

E L C O N S E R V E H
 Y C W S R S A E E P T
 E Q O E O N U C R L W
 L A U L I I U Y E A O
 Y S R M O D L C T N R
 E F A T E G L L A T G
 M L E R H W Y E W U V
 T N E M N O R I V N E

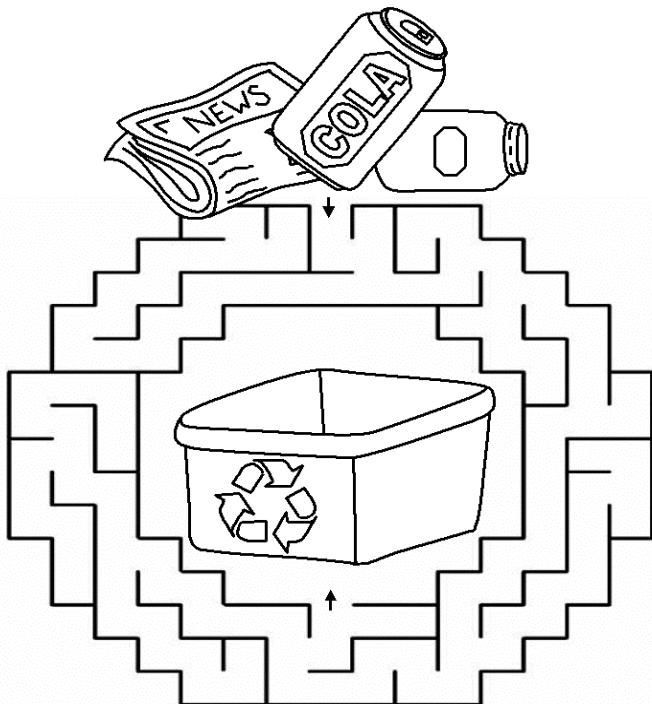
animal
 conserve
 earth
 ecology
 environment
 growth



plant
 recycle
 reduce
 reuse
 soil
 water

Earth Day Maze

Help get the recycling into the bin.



Dr. Kera Young, D.D.S.

Office: (813) 829-9075 Fax: (813) 236-9007
 Email: dr.young@youngsmilesdental.com www.youngsmilesdental.com

13131 Kings Lake Drive Suite #104 Gibsonton, FL 33534

Claiborne Young III, L.M.T., MA#44778

Office: 813-236-9006 Fax: 813-236-9007

"Be Laid in the Luxury of Personal Attention and Care!"


eyoung@youngsmiles.com
 www.youngsmiles.com

13131 Kings Lake Drive Suite 103 Gibsonton FL 33534

Character Counts at Collins!

_____ is amazing because

Sincerely, _____



Character Counts!!

Do you know an amazing person at Collins?

Tell them WHY!!

Simply fill out this form and turn it in to Mrs. Chapin.

Our school sure is the BEST in Hillsborough County!!



Just 4 Fun & Panther Trace CDD are implementing positive community activities throughout the year starting with a non-competitive basic skills sports session for boys & girls ages 3-9. The sessions will be held at the Panther Trace multi-purpose field Tuesday evenings.

Just 4 Fun sessions are designed for learning basic fundamentals, building self confidence, teamwork, and parent interaction. Every child of Just 4 Fun plays and every child wins. So what are you waiting for? Take time out of your day **Just 4 Fun!**

Football 8 week session Registration Tues. March 16, 2010 Awards Tues. May 4, 2010 5:00pm-5:50pm Ages 3-4 6:00pm-6:50pm Ages 5-7 7:00pm-7:50pm Ages 8-9
--

Soccer 8 week session Registration Tues. May 18, 2010 Awards Tues. July 6, 2010 5:00pm-5:50pm Ages 3-4 6:00pm-6:50pm Ages 5-7 7:00pm-7:50pm Ages 8-9

The Just 4 Fun fee is \$65.00 which includes a J4F t-shirt & medal, certificate of competition and 6 games. Early Registration is available online at dndjust4fun.com . All registration fees are non-refundable. <u>WE DO NOT ACCEPT PERSONAL CHECKS. CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.</u> For more information please contact Just 4 Fun (813) 446-3974. Sessions are held on the multi-purpose field at Panther Trace.

POST & PACK 9648 US Hwy 301 South
Riverview, FL 33578
(corner of Hwy 301 & Boyette Rd)

NEIGHBORHOOD POSTAL CENTERS

- Private Mailbox Rentals • Notary Services • Fax Services •
- Business Cards & Forms • Color Copies • Rubber Stamps •
- Boxes • Packaging Supplies • Passport Photos • Newsletters •

eBay Consignment **FedEx** Federal Express

We Carry Blue Mountain Arts Cards & Gifts Local, National and International Shipping

Watch Battery Replacement & Jewelry Cleaning

Packing Specialists We Pack For You!!

\$2.00 off FedEx Shipping per package (with coupon)

Phone: (813) 671-8820 Fax: (813) 671-8825

www.postnpack.com

Century 21

SHAW REALTY GROUP
Dennisse Nieves
Residential Property Specialist






Cell: (813) 727-2326
Office: (813) 671-5555
Fax: (813) 856-4502
dnieves_realtor@yahoo.com *Se Habla Español*
www.affordablehomeintampa.com



APRIL 2010

WORD OF THE MONTH: **Courageous/Good Sport**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
IMPORTANT REMINDER to sign the Agenda DAILY...				1 Terrific Kids 8:30 Book Fair begins Sno Cones - PTA	2 Great Citizens 8:30	3 Discuss with your child what courageous means.
4 	5 KCOTM Collins Cookie Dough orders due	6 East Coast Pizza Spirit Night	7 Report Card/Conference Night 4:00-7:30pm	8 Book Fair ends	9 Field Day Sno Cones - PTA	10 Identify people that you know who are courageous.
11	12	SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL			16	17 Encourage your child to checkout books that deal with "courageous."
18	19	20	21 Early Release	22 PTA Elections & end of year Meeting 6:30pm	23 Hat Day Grade 4: Battle of the Books	24 Discuss what it means and the importance of being a "Good Sport."
25 Scholarship warnings sent home this week.	26 Book Exchange drop off begins....	27	28	29 Grade 5 Patrol Picnic	30 NO SCHOOL	Did you ask the teacher if the classroom needs anything?
		Thank you to ALL our Collins Volunteers! You are the BEST!				

Home & School Connection

Working Together for School Success
April 2010
School Board

Susan L. Valdes, Chair
Doretha W. Edgecomb, Vice Chair
Jennifer Fallero
April Griffin
Carol W. Kurdell
Jack R. Lamb, Ed.D.
Candy Olson


SHORT NOTES
Memory tip

When your youngster needs to remember facts (dates in history, elements in science) for a test or quiz, suggest that he write them down in different-colored pencils. At test time, picturing his colorful list may help him remember the right answers.

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. *Tip:* Hand out awards such as Best Actress and Silliest Jokester.

DID YOU KNOW?

Kids with TVs in their bedrooms are more likely to be overweight. That's because they tend to be less active, watch more food commercials, and eat during shows. If your child has a set in her room, consider taking it out—her TV habit will probably drop.

Worth quoting

"My future starts when I wake up every morning. Every day I find something creative to do with my life."

Miles Davis

JUST FOR FUN

Teacher: Why were you late for school?

Natalie: Because of the sign outside.

Teacher: Which sign?

Natalie: The one that says "School ahead. Go slow!"



Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Excellence in Education

Guidance Services

Rhonda Harris, Guidance Services

Superintendent of Schools
MaryEllen Elia

Deputy Superintendents
Kenneth R. Otero
Daniel J. Valdez

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Wynne A. Tye

Sue Chapin, Counselor

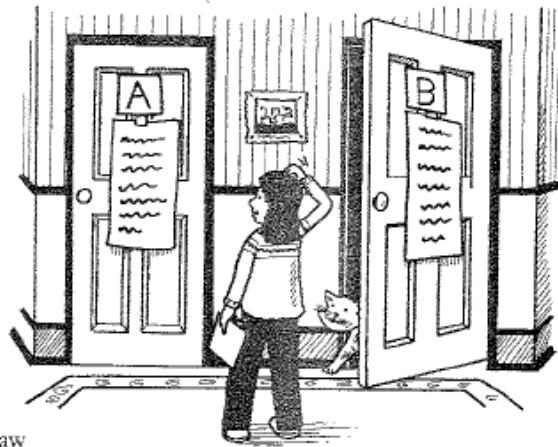
Good choice!

Your child faces dozens of choices every day. Should she wear jeans or a skirt? Will she get chicken or pizza for lunch? Talking to her about how to make daily decisions can help her handle bigger, more important choices as she gets older. Here's how.

Door A or B?

When your youngster must choose between two options, suggest that she draw two large doors on a sheet of paper.

Say she's deciding which state to write her geography report on. She might label one door "Vermont" and the other "Hawaii." Then, she can jot down the benefits of each option on its door. For Vermont, she could write, "I know more about it since my cousins live there." And for Hawaii, she might write, "I've always wanted to learn about Hawaiian volcanoes." After she has filled out both doors, she can choose the one she likes best.


Pros and cons

If your child is making a "yes" or "no" decision, have her list the pros on the front of a piece of paper and the cons on the back.

Perhaps she is deciding whether to try out for the school musical. A pro might be "good experience for becoming a singer," while a con might be "less time for homework." When her list is complete, suggest that she circle the reasons that matter most to her. She can add up the pros and cons, counting the circled ones twice. Which choice looks better? ♥

Reading on the road

Whether you're running a quick errand or driving to Grandma's, you can use time in the car to let your youngster practice reading.

- Have each passenger try to find all 26 letters—in order—on signs (road signs, billboards, store signs). The player names the letter and then reads the sign aloud. ("Azalea Lane," "Buy One, Get One Free.") Continue until someone reaches Z.

- Pack a special "reading bag" to keep in the car. Your youngster might put a book of fairy tales, a collection of short stories, and a few chapter books into a canvas bag. Suggest that he read a different story or chapter on each outing. ♥



A strong finish

As your youngster heads into the final stretch of the school year, keep him motivated to do well. Try these three suggestions:

1. Show your child that you take his "job" as student seriously. You might discuss things your jobs have in common (he counts pretend money in math class, and you count real money as a bank teller). Explain that his schoolwork is preparing him for the workplace.



2. Remind your youngster of his accomplishments. Maybe he got Bs in social studies the first two quarters and a C the third quarter. Suggest that he set a goal for his final report card ("I want to bring my grade back up to a B").

3. Encourage your child to find one new way to get involved at school before the year ends.

Maybe he could help out in the library or with the spring

picnic. You might also plan to volunteer before the year ends. Your youngster will be proud to see you at school hanging artwork in the hallway or chaperoning a class party.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Cut-out art projects

With this activity, your child can have fun making "cut-paper art" while learning about famous artists and illustrators.

■ Show your youngster the work of Henri Matisse in a book like *Oooh! Matisse* (Mil Niepold and Jeanyves Verdu) or *Henri Matisse: Drawing with Scissors* (Jane O'Connor). Then, she can make a Matisse-inspired project by cutting out colorful shapes from construction paper and gluing them onto white paper. She might spread them out or overlap them into objects like butterflies or flowers.



■ Read books by Lois Ehlert and notice the cut-paper illustrations (try *Leaf Man* or *Nuts to You!*). Let your youngster choose a subject for her own cut-paper project. For example, she might design a playground. She could draw and cut out a slide, a sandbox, and a swing, and glue them onto paper.♥

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.
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
340-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com

ISSN 1540-5621

© 2010 Resources for Educators, a division of Aspen Publishers, Inc.

Q & A

Everyday writing

Q: I think my daughter would be more comfortable writing if she did it more often. How can I encourage her?

A: Start by thinking about how you use writing in everyday life. Perhaps you keep a to-do list or communicate with friends by e-mail. Show your daughter the ways you write, and help her find reasons to write, too.

First, consider creating a family message center. Place a notepad, pens, and pushpins near a bulletin board, and encourage family members to post events ("Piano recital Saturday at 6") and fun notes ("Happy Friday!").

Then, suggest other ways for your daughter to write. She could put a list of snack ideas on the refrigerator, add personal notes to birthday cards, or write a letter to the editor. Or she might like writing in a diary at bedtime. Writing more often will help her gain confidence—and find reasons to enjoy writing!♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Internet safety

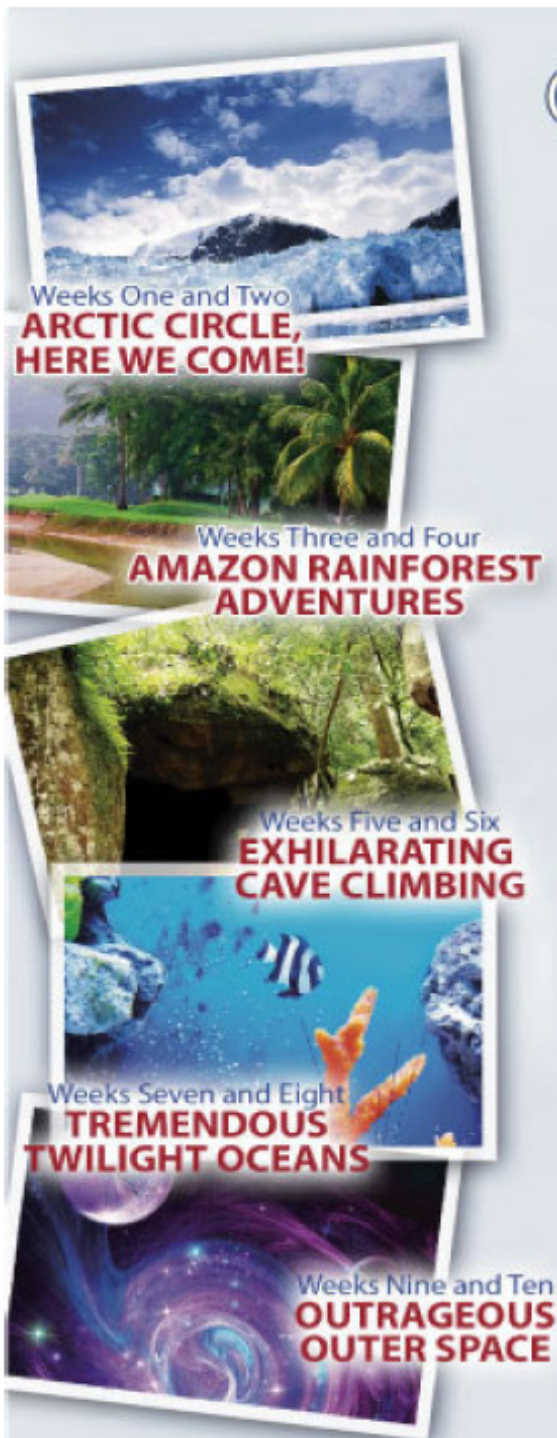
Lately I've noticed that more and more Web sites offer advertisements that I don't want my son Jake to see. I was having trouble finding appropriate sites, so I asked the school media specialist for help.

She recommended sites run by educational organizations or government agencies and explained that the Web addresses would end in .edu or .gov. She also showed me how

feature to set parental controls that block mature sites. Finally, she suggested that I review the browser's history from time to time and talk to my son if he had visited any sites that I didn't want him on.

Jake and I spent some time looking at education and government sites, and we found some he really liked. He's having fun playing educational games, and I'm happy knowing that he's visiting safe sites.♥





CAMP **EXTREME** DISCOVERIES

As we decipher clues, read maps, and travel together through cooperation and respect, discovering treasure is the ultimate goal! Join us as we travel through various extreme environments of our universe. We will unearth some great wonders of our voyage.

Summer Camp Includes

- Field Trips (Ray's Games, Buc's Stadium, Mosi, Bowling) • In-House Entertainment (Reptile Discovery, Mad Science, Aquarium) Virtual Field Trips • Healthy Meals & Snacks
- Computer Games • Wii • Swimming
- Outdoor Playgrounds • Parks • Basketball & Team Sports • Secure Internet Viewing

kids R kids
SCHOOL OF QUALITY LEARNING

Apollo Beach / Riverview

www.KRKsouthshore.com • **672-0400**

(Half Mile West of I-75 on Big Bend Rd) LLC #CHC 431747

VPK

Voluntary Pre Kindergarten 2010-11

Preparation for National Kindergarten Standards • Accelerated Pre-K Curriculum with Math, Science, Spanish, Music, Sign Language & More • APPLE Accredited • Gold Seal • Field Trips to Manatees • Must Be a Florida Resident • Limited Space!