

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

April 2019

Highway Elementary School
Nancy Bonner, Principal



SHORT NOTES

D.E.A.R. Day

This April 12, celebrate Drop Everything and Read Day with a reading campout—or “camp-in.” Pitch a tent in the backyard, or let your youngster make a living room fort. Then, take turns reading aloud, read silently together, or do both. *Idea:* Encourage regular reading by making D.E.A.R. a monthly tradition.

DID YOU KNOW?

Spending time outdoors can build your child's observation skills. Play “I Spy” with clouds (“I spy a cloud that looks like a rabbit”) and see who else can spot it, too. Or take a walk with a magnifying glass, and have your youngster look closely at plants and animals.

Online homework

If your youngster does homework online, you may wonder how to support him. Just like with pencil-and-paper assignments, invite him to explain his homework to you, and ask to look over his finished work before he sends it. Also, make sure he closes tabs he's not using for assignments so he doesn't get distracted.

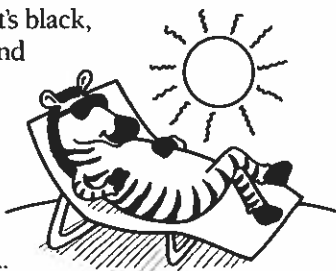
Worth quoting

“The shortest way to do many things is to do only one thing at a time.”
Richard Cecil

JUST FOR FUN

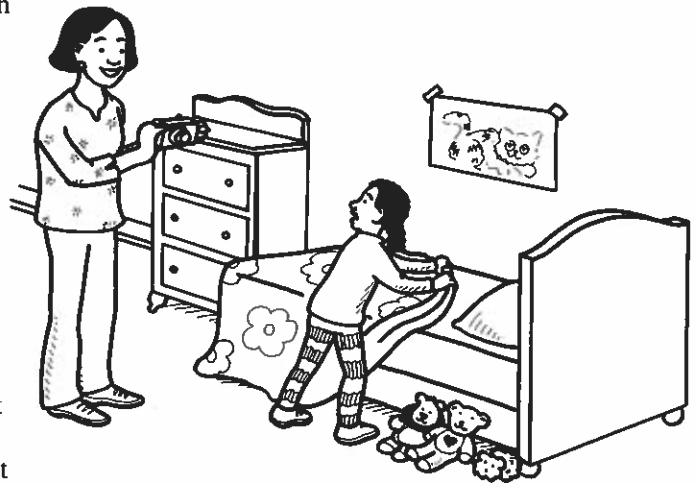
Q: What's black, white, and red all over?

A: A zebra with a sunburn.



Being responsible

Megan keeps up with her homework and is always ready for soccer practice on time. The reason? She has learned about responsibility from a young age. Consider these hands-on ways to help your youngster be responsible, too.



Part of the team

Show your child that everyone's responsibilities matter. Have her cut bookmark-sized strips of paper and write a family activity on one (eating dinner). On the others, she should write jobs that make it happen (plan the meal, buy groceries, cook, set the table). Now let her link the strips to make a chain. She'll see that dinner relies on everyone doing their job!

Around the clock

Help your youngster get in the habit of handling her responsibilities on time. Let her draw a clock on paper or poster board and add sticky notes labeled with

daily tasks. She might put “Homework” at 4 p.m. and “Walk the dog” at 7 p.m. Have her post the clock in a visible spot as a reminder.

Caught in the act

“Catch” your child being responsible, and tell her you noticed. (“That was responsible of you to throw away your trash.”) You could even snap photos of her responsible behavior (say, making her bed) and hang them on the refrigerator. Seeing the photos will inspire her to continue being responsible.♥

Review report cards

When your child's next report card arrives, use it to encourage him to finish the school year strong. Try these strategies for discussing it.

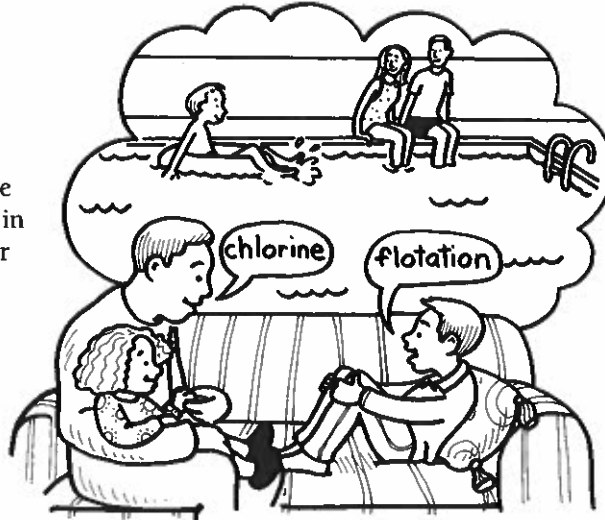
1. Give your youngster and his report card your full attention. For example, find a quiet spot, put away your phone, and turn off the TV.
2. Find reasons to high-five your child. Maybe he brought up his writing grade or the teacher commented on how well he gets along with classmates.
3. Talk about ways he could improve. If his math grade dropped, he might double-check work for careless errors. Or if he needs to be more organized, share strategies you use, like keeping office supplies in different-sized containers.♥



Build a rich vocabulary

Where will your child hear the word *stethoscope*? What synonym could he use for *hilarious*? Hearing and saying words in context is a good way for your youngster to learn and remember them. Consider these ideas to improve his vocabulary.

Match places with words. Ask your child to name a place in your community (*bakery, swimming pool*). Take turns saying a word you might hear or say there. When you run out



of familiar words (*doughnut, swim*), try to come up with less common ones (*aroma, chlorine*). The last person who thinks of a word picks the next location.

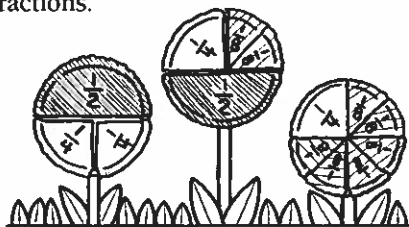
Use synonyms. Hold a conversation full of synonyms—words with similar meanings. Your youngster might say, “The *funniest thing happened* in the *cafeteria* today.” Then, go back and forth, replacing as many words as possible with synonyms. Examples: “What *hilarious incident occurred* in the

lunchroom?” or “I love it when *comical events transpire* in the *canteen!*” Tip: Keep a thesaurus or dictionary handy to find new synonyms.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Fraction flowers

Spring is in bloom—and so are these “flowers” that let your youngster explore fractions.



1. Have your child color three paper plates, each a different color.
2. She can use a ruler and marker to draw lines dividing the plates into fractions—one into halves, another into fourths, and the other into eighths.
3. Ask her to label each “petal” with its fraction ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$) and cut the plates apart on the lines.
4. Now let your youngster see which fractions are *equivalent*—or represent the same parts of a whole—by creating flowers with different color petals. For example, if she glues a purple half and two orange fourths onto a new plate, that’s a whole flower ($\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = 1$).♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Teachable moments

During a recent game of disc golf at a local park, our family had some fun conversations—and I think my daughter Esme learned a lot, too.

It started when Esme said she was going to “toss the Frisbee.” I pointed out that the disc wasn’t actually a Frisbee! I explained that *Frisbee* is a brand name that people use generically. Soon we were naming all sorts of products like that, such as inline skates (*Rollerblades*) and ice pops (*Popsicles*).

Then, as we played, Esme asked why there were three different types of discs in the game. That led us to a conversation about engineering, as we examined the discs and talked about how their designs affect how far, fast, or straight they fly.

All this made me realize that simple family outings can be learning opportunities!♥



Q & A

Handling complaints

Q: My son has been complaining a lot lately, even about little things. For example, he’ll gripe if we’re out of his favorite cereal or his sister moves his backpack. How can I handle this?

A: Try acknowledging your son’s feelings in a calm, upbeat voice. Then, encourage him to find a solution. You might say, “I know you’re disappointed about your cereal. What could you eat instead?”



Resist the urge to say, “That’s nothing to complain about,” which can discourage him from expressing his feelings. Instead, brainstorm ways to “flip” his thinking. For instance, he could say, “I

have cereal every day, so it might be nice to eat something different.”

With practice, he’ll get out of the habit of complaining—and make life more pleasant for everyone.♥

OUR PURPOSE

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

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Anne Chen
Principal

Lawrence Arena
Guidance Counselor

Mark S. McNeill, EdD
Superintendent of Schools

Meghan Heim
Guidance Counselor

April 2019

Dear Incoming Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians:

The orientation presentations for families of incoming fifth graders will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9th in the middle school cafeteria. Please join us to participate in the **required** internet safety presentation, meet members of the Barr PTA and grade 5 staff, take the opportunity to ask questions, and have a brief tour of the building.

As part of the transition from grade 4 to grade 5, all families – students and parents included -- must participate in an internet safety presentation. The parent presentation will be offered as part of this evening event so please make every effort to attend as it may impact your child's on-line access at the start of the school year. Your child will have an opportunity to visit the building and have a tour this spring and their required internet safety presentation will be held in the fall.

The evening's agenda, for parents only, is as follows:

6:30 p.m.....	Internet Safety Parent Presentation
7:00 p.m.....	PTA Meeting
7:30 p.m.....	Meet teachers, Tour of Building

If you have any questions regarding this program, please do not hesitate to email me. I look forward to seeing you on April 9th.

Sincerely,

Anne Chen
Principal
5-6 Academy for Excellence
annchen1@nanuetsd.org

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Dear 5th Grade Parent/Guardian,

The Nanuet School District requires students and parents to complete a new Student Network and Acceptable Use Policy when a student leaves one building and starts a new building. In addition to students and parents reading and completing this form, **parents of incoming 5th grade students are required to attend a "Digital Citizenship Workshop"**.

This workshop addresses student use of the internet, devices, and social media. We find that students entering middle school increase their online activity, use of social media sites, and commonly receive their first cell phone. Fifth grade students will not be able to use computers and have access to the internet until their parents or guardians attend this workshop. In Nanuet we value our Digital Citizenship curriculum and every student participates in corresponding lessons throughout the year. You can see parent resources for digital citizenship under the Parent sections of our websites. We feel that this parent workshop supports the curriculum students are getting in the classroom.

When you attend the workshop you will get a 5th grade AUP labelled with your student's name. This AUP must then be returned with both the student and parent/guardian signature. **It is required that all incoming 5th grade parents attend this meeting so the students can start the 2019-2020 school year with computer access. NO DATES WILL BE ADDED TO THE BELOW DATES.**

The following workshops are available for your convenience:

April 9 th	6:30 Middle School Cafeteria (before 5 th Grade Orientation Meeting)
May 13 th	6:45 G.W. Miller Library (before Elementary PTA Meeting)
June 11 th	6:45 Highview Library (before Elementary PTA Meeting)
August 28 th	1:00 Middle School Media Center (After 5-6 Academy Open House)
August 28 th	6:00 Middle School Media Center

Thank you,

Anne Chen
Principal, 5-6 Academy for Excellence

Get Involved Today!

Introduce your child to the exhilarating world of track and field. Learn skills of Hurdling, Long Jump, High Jump, or Throwing the Shot Put. Whether it's to find a new passion or to stay in shape for the next season, all are welcome. We are an individual sport with team competitions.

The Summer Twilight Series will be held at Nanuet High School beginning on June 20th at 6:00 pm. Events include Jumping, Throwing and Running.



Start your involvement today!!!



Nanuet Track Club



**Nanuet Track Club
Coach Sheri Dempsey
239 Ehrhardt Road
Pearl River, NY 10965**

Phone: 914-419-2308
E-mail: sdempsey@nanuetstd.org

Nanuet Track Club



Nanuet Summer Track Program

**Boys and Girls
Entering
Grades K-9**



Nanuet Track Club

Coach Sheri Dempsey
Phone: 914-419-2308

Nanuet Track & Field Summer Program 2019



The Nanuet Track Club is an organization whose goal is to introduce Track & Field to the children of the Nanuet School District. Introduction/orientation will be held June 20 and 24th at the Nanuet High School Track at 6:00 PM and practice until 7:30PM.

The Competitions will be Tuesdays and Thursdays at either Suffern Middle School or Nanuet HS on June 25th, July 9, 11, 16. The finalized schedule and instructions will be emailed to you upon receipt of your registration.

The Nanuet Track Club is open to any Nanuet School District student who will be enrolled in grades K-9 in the 2019-2020 school year. Our program will include activities designed to introduce young athletes to the wonderful world of Track & Field. No experience necessary, all abilities are welcome. All you need is a desire to improve.

The Head Coach and organizer of the Nanuet Track Club is Sheri Dempsey.



Nanuet Track Club Registration

Athletes should register via mail (postmarked by June 12th) with a fee of \$100.00. Check or money orders are payable to **Nanuet Track Club**. Registration should be mailed to

Sheri Dempsey
C/O Nanuet Track Club
239 Ehrhardt Road
Pearl River, NY 10965

Any late registrants will be charged \$125.00 for registration. The club fee includes insurance coverage, T-Shirt, meet registration and facility rental.



What do you need?

- Appropriate dress is required, and should include the following:
 1. Shorts and a T-Shirt,
 2. Running or basketball/tennis style sneakers—athletes will not be able to practice or compete without sneakers
 3. **WATER BOTTLE** with name labeled.
 4. The schedule and directions will be emailed to you upon receipt of your registration.
- **An adult must accompany any athlete under the age of 8 years old!!!!**

Nanuet Summer Track Club

Please fill out and return with payment

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Date of Birth _____

Family Email - Very Important _____

Grade (in 2019-20) and Age _____

Parents Name(s) _____

Allergies or Medical Concerns _____

T-Shirt Size
Adult (S,M,L,XL)
Child (S,M,L) _____

Emergency Phone and Contact _____

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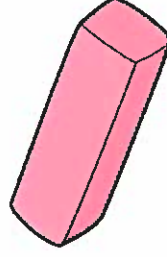
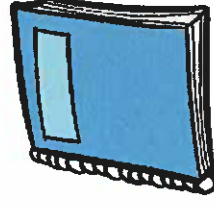
School Supply Drive



Nanuet Girl Scout Troop 40504 is working on their Bronze Award

We are collecting new or slightly used:

- Pencils
- Crayons
- Post It Notes/ Stickers
- Scissors
- Folders
- Notebooks
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Erasers
- Rulers



To donate to students from low income households in a New York City public school. Drop off boxes will be available at Miller, Highview and Barr schools or contact us at Troop40504@gmail.com to arrange pickup by May 31st 2019.

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SAVE
THE
DATE

Bingo!

KNIGHT

Friday April 12 @7pm

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Nanuet Elementary PTA