



KIRK O' THE VALLEY

~ A SCHOOL COMMUNITY SINCE 1961 ~

## What's Poppin' for Kirk Students?

Do you enjoy pushing down those little round circles on top of fountain soda cups? Does your family rush to pop those precious little air pockets in bubble wrap packaging? If your answer is "Yes!" then you'll understand the latest craze to sweep through the Kirk community and the entire nation: "Pop-its!" As defined by one second grade student in Miss Idolor's class, "Pop-its are those awesome bendy fidget things that you push to pop...Can we go get one right now at the mall?" And, that's exactly what they are (well, minus the mall trip!). They're silicone fidget toys that make a satisfying little pop sound when the bubbles are pushed. They come in all sorts of cool shapes including unicorns, dinosaurs, video game controllers, llamas, and even mermaid tails and a Roblox Noob character. Beyond the basic colors are tie dye, rainbow, glow in the dark, and glitter designs. Pop-its come in sizes as small as mini key chains and as massive as the jumbo ones with over 1,000+ bubbles to pop! They are meant to relieve stress and anxiety, improve focus, encourage sensory development, help with ADHD, and simply entertain and amuse kids and adults alike. Pop-its are popping up everywhere for purchase. You can buy them in person at Westfield Topanga mall at a specialty kiosk, at Target, or at smaller toy stores like Karen's Toys. Online they're available at Amazon.com (don't forget to use smile.amazon.com to support Kirk), Target.com, and many other shops. But before you go out and purchase your new Pop-it, the young experts at Kirk advise: "Definitely get the Pop-its that feel firmer and don't feel super soft and wiggly if you want the ultimate popping satisfaction."

## Frankenstein Pretzel Rods - Easy No-Bake Halloween Treats

**Love a spooky Halloween treat? Try these super cute (and EASY) no-bake Frankenstein Pretzel Rods!**

### Ingredients:

- Pretzel Rods
- Black Gel Icing
- Green Candy Melts
- Candy Eyeballs

### Directions:

1. Melt green Candy Melts over a low-medium heat on the stove (try the double boil method). Pour melted candy melts into a tall glass.
2. Dip each pretzel rod into the tall glass of melted green candy melts. Let the excess drip off into the cup and then place the pretzel rod onto a cookie sheet lined with wax paper. Dry for 2 minutes, and then move the pretzels to a second cookie sheet lined with wax paper. (This ensures that your pretzel won't dry in a puddle of candy melts.)
4. After the pretzels have dried, dip a toothpick into the melted Candy Melts and use as glue to apply the candy eyeballs. Allow candy melts to dry.
5. Use the black gel icing to draw a spooky mouth and a stitch onto Frankenstein.
6. Use the black gel icing to draw hair onto Frankenstein.



**Who doesn't love a good joke? We sure do! Share these silly jests with your family and see who cracks up first!**

**Q: Why did the cookie go to the doctor?**

A: Because he was feeling crumbly

**Q: What do you call a famous fish?**

A: A Starfish

**Q: What goes 99-thump, 99-thump?**

A: A centipede with a wooden leg

**Q: What's brown and sticky?**

A: A stick

**Q: How do you catch a rabbit?**

A: Hide behind a tree and make carrot noises

**Q: How do you make a goldfish age?**

A: Take out the "g"

**Q. Teacher (on the first day of Kindergarten): "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers."**

A. Kindergartener: "How will that help?"

**Q: What do you call cheese that isn't yours?**

A: Nacho cheese

**Q: What do you call a Frenchman on the beach?**

A: Phillippe Flop (said with French accent)

**Q: How do you wake up a sleeping Lady Gaga?**

A: You poke her face!



## FAMILY LIFE

As parents, we're genuinely curious to know what our kids did all day. We want to hear all about the mess they made in the art room, their playground frustrations, and their success in math class. We're thrilled to have them back in the classroom after a tumultuous year, but now we have no idea what they're up to all day. Maybe this scene seems familiar: You've just picked the kids up and you wait until they're buckled safely into their seats before you ask them the big question: How was your day? I don't know about you, but when I ask my first grader, the response is almost always just, "Fine." Then she asks to take control of the music and there's no further conversation until we get home and she demands a snack. So how do we get these kids to share more? I'm certainly no expert, but I can tell you what we do in our house to encourage more open dialog. When we sit down for dinner each night, we ask each person at the table two simple questions: **What was the best part of your day? What was the hardest part of your day?** Few things make my daughter want to talk about her day the way someone else talking about their day does. The moment we start talking about our own challenges/successes at work, or happy social interactions that made our day, I am virtually guaranteed that there will be a wiggly 6-year old practically vibrating from the need to share her own experiences. Tonight's dinner questions opened up great conversations about the lockdown emergency at my wife's school, our daughter's glee about her first ballet class since pre-pandemic, and the trouble she had keeping up with her peers when it was time to line up to go home at the end of the day. Sometimes, she'll tell us that the best part of her day was being picked up after school, but even that opens the door for further conversation. Over the years, we've probably all added some tricks to our parenting arsenals to try to help our kids open up a bit more about their day. What works for one family might not work for everyone, but wouldn't it be nice to try to benefit from each other's ideas?

If you're willing to share some of your tricks, send me an email [charlottesmoms@gmail.com](mailto:charlottesmoms@gmail.com) and we'll compile them in our next edition.

## KIRK LIFE

Often she is the first set of eyes you see at Kirk. Let's take sometime and meet the person behind the mask, **Miss Heather**. Mrs. Heather joined the Kirk family 15 years ago when she and her daughter Samantha, now a senior at Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences High School, took a Mommy and Me class. She loves nights in snuggling with her rescue Pomeranian, Mia, and playing board games with her family. Ice cream tops her list of favorites and she will even eat it for dinner! She loves Disney movies, and *The Lion King* is her favorite. She and her husband danced to the song, "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" at their wedding. She is a big fan of cruises where she can visit many places and only have to unpack once! The buffets and onboard shows are the icing on the cake. Looking for a new book to read at story time? Mrs. Heather recommends *Are You My Mother?* and for the older kids, *Clementine*. She just loves her job and getting to spend time with everyone from the Tot Center to fifth grade. From her early years as a Kirk mom to helping all of us with our littles, she can't imagine being anywhere else. Thank you for your many years of dedication, Mrs. Heather!

## PTF LIFE

We hope that all of our students and families are enjoying their return back to school. It's exciting to see old friends and teachers, and to meet new ones. **Did you notice the "Teachers and Staff" bulletin board in the Breezeway?**



Well, the first five students that can email the PTF five fun facts that you learned about our Kirk staff and teachers and get them correct, will win a Kirk O' The Valley canvas pencil case.

Our Kirk PTF bulletin boards are a great way to get information about fun and cool things at Kirk! Who knows, maybe there'll be another contest.

Email: [PTF@KirkSchool.org](mailto:PTF@KirkSchool.org). Winners will be notified by email.

Pictured (L-R) are Finn Ryan, 2nd Grade; Erica Goldstein, Kindergarten; and Lily Lacombe, Tot Center, striking a First Day of School pose.

