

Let Them Be Bored!

As the summer looms, parents try their best to lock in plans for camp,

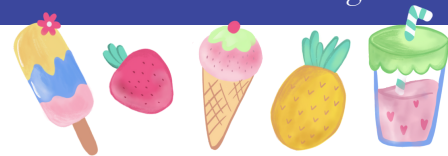
potential vacations, playdates, and activities to keep their kids busy during the long break. From Kirk's very own K-Camp to science, surfing, and even equestrian camp, the opportunities are endless for kids to be fully entertained and immersed in fun and learning this summer. But for everyone, whether it's a few days here and there, or a week or more in between events, or perhaps the whole summer, there will come a time when there is....dreaded drumroll please: **NOTHING PLANNED! Ahhh!!!!**

What will become of us? How will we cope? And then the words usually follow: "Momm/Dadddd.....I'm BORED!" So how can we, as parents, respond to the dreaded *b-word*? Child Developmental Psychologist, Dr. Siggie Cohen advises "Don't fear boredom. The age of screen time has created over-accommodation. Turn off screens. Let your kids be bored. Don't suggest, offer, buy more, plan for them...When they whine 'I'm bored' say, 'I know'." As we have seen all school year long, Kirk students are resourceful, creative, and inventive. Let's continue what the Kirk teachers have been doing to foster that spirit over the summer. One idea is to have our kids write a list of things they themselves want to do over the summer in their "free time," like start a diary, build a robot or invention out of random things in the house, start a club with friends, finish a series of books, etc. When your kids announce that they are bored, refer them to their list of activities (screen time not included). If they still can't figure out how to overcome their boredom, tell them that you understand that it's hard, but that you know that they are smart and can figure it out, and that you're excited to see what they come up with!



KIRK O' THE VALLEY

~ A SCHOOL COMMUNITY SINCE 1961 ~



How to Fold a Spiral or Swirl Tie Dye T-Shirt



For more recommendations on tie dye brands and how to fold more patterns, check out:

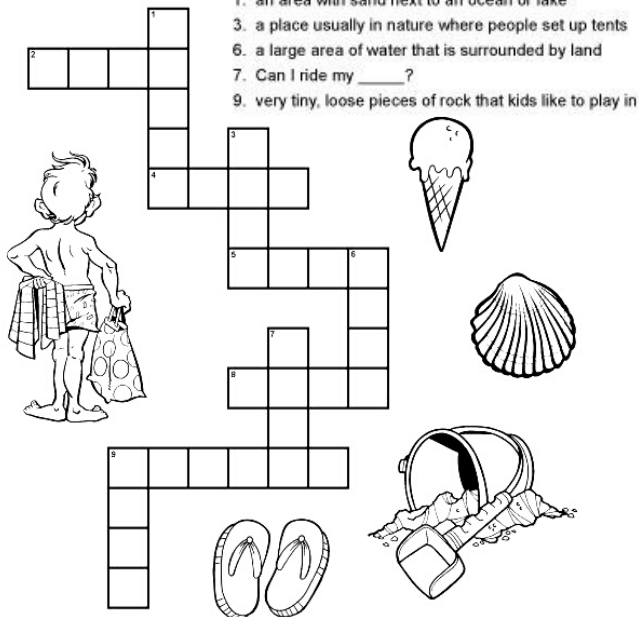
<https://sarahmaker.com/tie-dye-patterns/>

ACROSS

2. Let's build a _____ to help keep us warm.
4. hot weather or temperatures
5. a swimming _____
8. a usually long walk especially for pleasure or exercise
9. the warmest season of the year

DOWN

1. an area with sand next to an ocean or lake
3. a place usually in nature where people set up tents
6. a large area of water that is surrounded by land
7. Can I ride my _____?
9. very tiny, loose pieces of rock that kids like to play in



How to TIE-DYE for Beginners:

SET UP your work area - PREPARE your supplies - MIX your dyes - FOLD & TIE your garment - APPLY the dye - Let the dye DEVELOP - Rinse, wash, and dry, WEAR!

- Start by pinching a small section in the center of the shirt. Hold on to that small section while you twist the shirt clockwise.
- Keep twisting, keeping your fingers close to the surface of the table so the spiral stays flat.
- As you twist, the shirt will fold in on itself like a flat cinnamon roll.
- Secure the shirt with 3 or 4 rubber bands, crisscrossing them over the center of the disc. The tighter you bind the shirt, the more white areas there will be.
- Apply a different color of dye in each "wedge" created by the crisscrossing rubber bands. Apply the dye in rainbow order to get a rainbow spiral design.

Jumping into summer with some smiles!

Q: What do you get when you combine an elephant with a fish?

A: Swimming trunks!

Q: Why did the dolphin cross the beach?

A: To get to the other tide!

Q: Why don't oysters share their pearls?

A: Because they're shellfish!

Q: What kind of candy do you get at the airport?

A: Plane chocolate!

Q: What travels all around the world but stays in one corner?

A: A postage stamp!

Q: Why do fish like to eat worms?

A: Because they get hooked on them!

Q: What is a frog's favorite summertime treat?

A: Hopsicles!

Q: What do you call a fish that doesn't have any eyes (i's)?

A: A fsh!



FAMILY LIFE

Spring is well under way, and with it we have beautiful sunshine, blooming flowers, and an abundance of end-of-the-school-year stress. Are you feeling it? We sure are! As June approaches, family time seems to become a blur of projects, holidays, events, and strategizing for summer. Throw in a dash of pandemic uncertainty and it's a perfect storm of utter chaos. Consider this your reminder that it's okay to feel overwhelmed. It's even okay to tell your kids that you're feeling overwhelmed because that gives them the space to learn to identify those feelings in themselves. The best part of giving voice to the problem is being able to work together to find a solution.

At their meeting this week, Girl Scout Troop #3916 gathered to talk about how our physical wellness is linked with our emotions. They tackled two very simple projects that would be fun for any family trying to navigate this season of stress:

1. **Make your own stress balls!** It's as simple as filling a balloon with some Orbeez water beads and water (not too full) and then tying the balloon with a secure knot. Squish and fidget your stress away!
2. **Make a worry doll** to tell your troubles to before bedtime. Various forms of worry or trouble dolls are popular in Native and South American cultures. The idea is that at bedtime, the child tells their worry to the tiny doll and then places it under their pillow. Overnight, the doll will gift the child with the wisdom needed to overcome their problem, making the problem feel manageable in the morning. Traditionally, these dolls are made from wire and scraps of woven textiles, but there are plenty of variations online if you do a simple search. One technique uses wooden clothespins with painted faces and clothing made from wrapped yarn or scrap fabric.

The end is near, and soon we'll be enjoying the slower pace of summer with children exhausted from outdoor activities and hours in the water. Until then, grab that stress ball and try not to poke yourself in the head with that pile of worry dolls beneath your pillow.

KIRK LIFE

The long awaited registration for Kirk camp's 2022 summer program is open! It is for Tot Center - children entering second grade.

This summer's theme is *Imaginations Run Wild* and we are excited to offer another year of amazing activities including weekly themes such as:

- animal safari
- spectacular sports
- art adventures
- and more!



Sign up for a week, or two, or all seven! Three or five days-a-week options, as well as full day child care is available, if needed. Stop by the Kirk office if you need an application.

We look forward to a summer with your child filled with wiggles and giggles!

For nearly a year, the PTF and the Kirk 60th Anniversary Gala Committee dedicated countless hours to celebrate Kirk's milestone celebration. Our committee helped with everything from organizing our Casino Raffle including amazing class baskets created by our Room Parents to working with Mayor Eric Garcetti and other officials to recognize Kirk's 60th Anniversary. The Committee was honored to help present this Gala celebration that is only produced once every ten years.

We'd like to recognize our Gala Committee Chairs: Dan Everakes, Patty Onagan, and Fiona Ray. Members: Gina Beconsall, Stacy Brambila, Lorena Gonzalez, Jenny Grebow, Matt Grebow, Steve Infield, Sara Macaluso, Sam Macdonald, Rebecca Nurick, Jonathan Polk, Melissa Rafferty, Daniel Rodriguez, Morgan Ruiz, Molly Sauer, Andi Sisti, Sonya Wright, and Tricia Xavier.

We are grateful for EVERYONE who supported the 60th Anniversary celebration, and we look forward to *sailing* into the next 60 years!

PTF LIFE





KIRK O' THE VALLEY

~ A SCHOOL COMMUNITY SINCE 1961 ~

How Kirk Students Can Spring into Green

Although the weather has been a bit temperamental these last few weeks, it's hard not to notice that Spring is definitely in the air. Flowers are blooming, baseball season is upon us, daylight saving time gives us longer days to spend having fun outside, Easter is around the corner, and Earth Day reminds us all to think of what we are doing to help the Earth and be green (not just on St. Patrick's Day) all year long! There are lots of ways we can contribute to a greener world. We can plant flowers or even a tree in our homes just as some classes have done at school. One class took a trip to *The Tree People* where they learned about conservation, sustainability, and how to save and protect our environment with trees. They even got a tree to take and plant at home! You and your family can visit *Tree People* too, hike and enjoy the serenity of the trees, so that you can be renewed and inspired to protect trees as well. Another easy way we can be green as a student community is by recycling. After doing homework or artwork, we can set aside scrap paper to use for the future, or if the drawing simply doesn't make the cut, you can throw it in the paper recycling versus the regular trash. You can recycle your used printer cartridges by bringing them to Staples or Costco and even get rewards for it. Crayola has a marker recycling program called ColorCycle where you can send your old markers, but it's on hold for now because of Covid but something to keep in mind. The second graders have a nifty way of recycling little things around the house by using them every week on Engineering Tuesday, when they build something new and amazing using all the bits and pieces! The last and probably easiest way to spring into green right now is to simply take your socks and shoes off and plant your feet into some lush green grass. Sometimes, that's the best way to appreciate and enjoy the Earth and ground ourselves to it. Happy Spring!



Ingredients

- Butter or Crisco for greasing
- 3 cups (18 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 18 Peeps marshmallow bunnies
- Graham crackers and Pretzels for dipping

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Place oven rack in the middle of the oven. Place a spoonful of Crisco or pat of butter on a paper towel and grease the baking dish.

Pour the chocolate chips in the baking dish and spread evenly. Arrange the Peeps bunnies on top.

Place the baking dish in the oven, keeping an eye on the Peeps. Bake until the Peeps start to brown lightly, puff up big, and start to crack, about 6 to 7 minutes. Try not to over-brown the Peeps!

Serve warm with graham crackers and pretzels, or any other dippers you prefer.

Easter Peeps S'mores Dip



- Does February like March? No but April May
- Why is everyone so tired on April 1st? Because they just finished a long 31-day March!
- What season is best to go on a trampoline? Spring-time
- What do you get when you plant kisses? Tulips
- Why did the farmer bury his money? To make his soil rich!
- When is the most impossible time to plant flowers? When you haven't botany.
- What falls but never gets hurt? The rain

- What is the chick's favorite vegetable? Eggplants
- What type of bird should you never take to the bank? A robin
- Why is the letter A like a flower? The B comes after it!
- Knock, knock! Who's there? Beezer. Beezer who? Beezer buzzing, it must be spring.
- Knock, knock! Who's there? Rover! Rover who? Rover the rainbow!

Spring Funnies That Will Make You Giggle



FAMILY LIFE

Talking to Kids About Women's History

March is Women's History Month, and while many of our kids will be learning about strong women in the classroom, there's no reason why we can't expand upon those lessons at home.

Women's history shouldn't be limited to what's already been published and celebrated in textbooks. This month provides the perfect opportunity to talk about the powerful contributions of strong women within our own families and communities. The dinner table is a great place to get the conversation started.

Try asking your kids:

- Who are some female role models that you look up to?
- Why do you think there's a Women's History Month when there isn't a Men's History Month?

This month is also a great time to talk about the history of women in your own family. In our house, we'll be discussing the great grandma who learned to play piano by ear as a child so she could entertain guests in her parents' basement speakeasy, and the other great grandma who co-founded a free graffiti removal service in the LA area in the 1980s.

The Los Angeles Public Library has some fantastic features dedicated to historical women, including an online lecture called "Women in Skateboarding: Past, Present and Future." Visit www.lapl.org/womens-history to see the whole roundup.

Lastly, I encourage all of us to take a moment to celebrate the incredible female leadership within our own Kirk community.

KIRK LIFE

Ms. Idolor, Kirk O' The Valley's second-grade teacher joined our community in 2021. With over twenty years of teaching experience under her belt, Ms. Idolor believes in teaching children to love learning by encouraging them to have a growth mindset. Every child can achieve amazing outcomes, when they believe in themselves.

Her inspiration to become a teacher began when her daughter was about to start preschool. Along with a few good friends, she decided to homeschool their children and her love of teaching turned into a career when her daughter began the first grade.

When she's not in the classroom, you can find her outdoors working in her garden, walking her dog, hiking, going to the beach, and taking road trips up the California coast.

Welcome to Kirk, Ms. Idolor!

PTF LIFE

And, the winner is...OTTY!

Thanks to our students, teachers and staff for participating in the Kirk mascot naming contest. Otty's name was revealed during the March 2022 elementary school assembly, the first in-person school assembly in two years. It was a fun surprise for all when Otty joined the assembly and did the Kirk cheer with The Wizard of Oz cast. Thanks to PTF Board members Jenny Grebow and Sam Macdonald for coordinating the naming contest.



Mark your calendars! The PTF has two great events planned to celebrate Kirk O' The Valley being a school community since 1961. The 60th Anniversary milestone festivities include the 2022 Fun Run and Trike-a-thon on March 25 and the Kirk Gala - Casino Royale* celebration at the Hilton Hotel in Woodland Hills on April 30. Both events are fundraisers to support our students' and to ensure an extraordinary education at Kirk O' The Valley. Visit PTF.KirkSchool.org for up-to-date information. *For adults only.





KIRK O' THE VALLEY

~ A SCHOOL COMMUNITY SINCE 1961 ~

New Year, New Masks, Same Kids

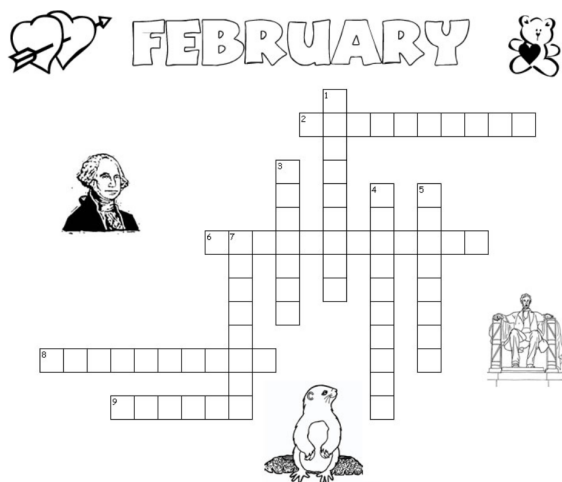
Omicron, Delta, KF94, N95, medical/surgical grade, ASTM Level 3...2...1....Happy New Year!!! Suddenly, it's 2022. Before this new year, all this lingo might have been tough for an adult to process and swallow, let alone an average first or fifth-grader. But as life has it, these words have quickly infiltrated our lives as parents, teachers, and students alike. For parents and teachers, new mask requirements means sifting through reviews, CDC recommendations, star ratings, pricing, county mandates, availability, and the worry that your children will keep that mask up over their noses and not saturate into a puddle of saliva, so that they are in fact comfortable, and most importantly, protected. For the students, the real champions here, it means one more change after almost two years of adaptations, modifications, and revisions to their normal school lives. These are changes that we cannot control, that will help us be healthy, that will help us get through this... changes that the Kirk students have resoundingly shown resilience and determination to adapt and get through (as an adult, I know that I have a hard time changing up my favorite comfy sweats after five years.) It's near impossible to imagine being my seven-year-old and having to constantly switch up a piece of fabric on my face, one that blocks expressions as important as the elation upon finding a rare Pokémon card and sharing that bliss with your BFF. It's tough man! These kids are, no doubt, rockstars. They are, no doubt, **KIRK STRONG**. So beneath the masks, whatever masks they may be, our kids remain exactly the same. They are strong, they are loving, they are determined. On Valentine's Day, why not show COVID-19 who's boss, and let's write what our faces and our hearts are feeling on our, well not sleeves, but masks. Take a marker to your mask, and write a message of love and appreciation to show everyone just how your spirit, joy, and love shine through, no matter how many layers are in front of your smile.

Lunar New Year Dumplings

February 1 marks the Lunar New Year, and this is a favorite holiday in our house! While there are so many traditions that make this holiday fun, I'm partial to the delicious food. Dumplings are considered a lucky food to eat during Lunar New Year to wish each other prosperity for the year to come. Simply put, we eat dumplings because they look like little bags of money! Another reason people love to make dumplings is because it is a family activity where even the kids can pitch in and help with wrapping.

Go for a traditional dumpling recipe (<https://thewoksoflife.com/dumpling-recipe-youll-ever-need/>) or fill your dumplings with a filling that you know your family loves - any meatball recipe works well, a tofu version, cheese, or how about cherry dumplings a la Russia. I've never met a dumpling I didn't love before. Here's a recipe for a traditional dumpling: <https://thewoksoflife.com/dumpling-recipe-youll-ever-need/>

Otherwise, pick up some dumpling wrappers and improvise! **Happy New Year!**



Across

2. _____ Day - A Holiday Celebrating Our Leaders
6. February is _____ Month (2 words)
8. The Sweetest Day
9. February's Season

Down

1. February 2 is _____ Day
3. President Abraham _____
4. Our first President (last name)
5. February is the _____ month
7. Happens every 4 years (2 words)

Why do birds fly south for New Year's Eve?

It's too far to walk.

What's a cow's favorite holiday?

Moo Year's Eve.

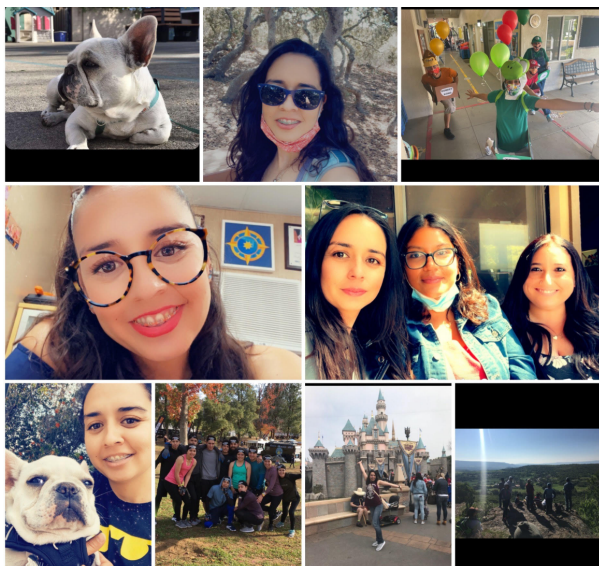
What do dogs say on New Year's Eve?

Woof.

Why do you need a jeweler on New Year's Eve?

To ring in the new year.





KIRK LIFE

Many of you see Miss Lorena daily in the office, but how well do you really know this incredible woman? In this edition of **Kirk Life**, we've asked Miss Lorena a few questions so you can be a Miss Lorena expert too!

When did you start working at Kirk? I actually started at Kirk at the age of fourteen doing volunteer hours for my health class. Then, Carol, the previous school Director hired me for Kirk's summer camp every year until I graduated high school. When I started college, Carol asked me to run the after school program. When I finished college, I was promoted to the office. I have been here ever since!

What is your favorite Kirk memory? There are so many memories made here each day, so it's hard for me to choose. I would say that seeing and hearing the laughter, the happy screams, and the stories from the kiddos daily are some of my best memories.

What is your favorite food? I enjoy food a lot! My favorite foods are shrimp ceviche, sushi, seafood, pasta, and you can never go wrong with tacos!

What hobbies do you have? I love most all outdoor activities, crafts, and cooking (among others)!

Do you have any pets? Yes! I have one troublemaker Frenchie named, Luigi.

Do you have a favorite place? I haven't traveled much, but I would be happy anywhere with warm weather and tropical views.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of Kirk families (and others in the area), the Family Rescue Center was able to help over **927 children** experience a magical holiday. The strength of our community really shows in times like this, and we are so thankful to everyone who donated, coordinated, and organized the Toy Drive. Special thank you to Miss Lorena, Miss Heather, Steve Infield, and Gina Beconsall.



The month of February will launch the PTF's "Celebrating Diversity at Kirk" program. We are thrilled to be celebrating Black History Month, where we will honor the incredible contributions the Black community has made. Students will learn about noteworthy Black figures from American activist Ruby Bridges to American ballet dancer Misty Copeland.

Check out the Breezeway bulletin board in February to learn more about how African Americans have contributed to the shaping of American history.



FAMILY LIFE

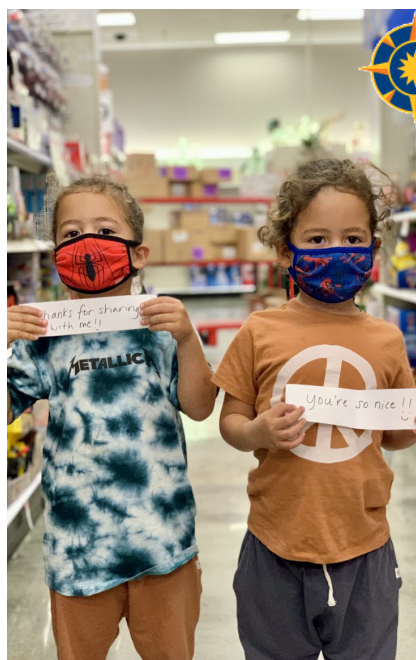
NO(micron)

Here we are again, facing a winter surge of COVID. Between the shorter days and the endless stream of bad news surrounding this pandemic, we could probably all use a bit of cheering up. We've rounded up a couple of the internet's happiest resources to help beat these winter pandemic blues.

1. **The 1-Mile Happy Walk:** Pull up the YouTube channel Walk at Home by Leslie Sansone, and find her video called 1.0 Mile Happy Walk. This short walk-in-place exercise hits the perfect balance of dance and exercise that the whole family can get in on. If you don't laugh with each other as you make your way through the Happy Walk, you might be doing it wrong.
2. **90SecondNewbery.com:** First, you pick your favorite Newbery Award-winning kids book and then you collaborate as a family to create a 90-second dramatization of the story using your smartphone.

No one wants to have to raise a family inside a bubble—we all benefit from being surrounded by community. At this stage of the pandemic, it's going to be little things like this that help us relieve the stress of family life. Remember that even though we're socially distanced, your Kirk Community is right here happy-walking in our living rooms alongside you.

PTF LIFE



KIRK O' THE VALLEY

~ A SCHOOL COMMUNITY SINCE 1961 ~

The Best Gifts to Give Our Classmates and Family During the Holidays (and Always)

Before Halloween was even over, stores began packing their shelves with holiday decorations and beefing up their toy aisles with the latest and greatest drool-worthy toys. The fat Target toy catalogue arrived in ample time for perusing, its pages stuffed with everything from My Little Ponies to Marvel and Mandalorian, LOL Surprise Dolls to Legos, Bluey and Blippi to Barbies and Beyblades, Pokémon to Paw Patrol, Roblox Nerf Blasters to Rainbow High. It's easy for kids and parents alike to get wrapped up (pun intended) in the rush of it all, but it's also just as easy to think about all the *invisible* gifts that we already have around us: the kind things that others do for us, the ways others share their talents with us, our own talents, and the fun, friendship, good times, and love we have with our family and friends. So, as Thanksgiving and the holidays approach, we can remind ourselves and others how grateful we are for all those non-material things that make our lives so wonderful and rich beyond what money can buy. One very fun and sneaky way to do this is with what the second graders in Miss Idolor's class call "Compliment Cards." Simply think of someone you would like to give a special compliment to, grab a small piece of paper, write a note complimenting them, and then give it to that classmate, friend, or family member. For example, if a classmate found your favorite sweatshirt on the playground and returned it to you, you could write the following compliment to them on the little paper saying: "Thank you for being a thoughtful friend and returning my shirt to me. I thought it was lost forever, but you found it, and I'm so relieved. You always look out for friends." These little notes are the best type of surprises and are guaranteed to make your friends and family smile just as much as those brand new toys and presents. And the great thing is, it's so easy to continue doing this even after the holidays, so that our friends and family are always reminded of how very special they are to us and how much we appreciate and love them. Happy Thanksgiving!

Sweater Pumpkins - Table Décor for Thanksgiving

1. Measure and Cut Sweater Fabric

Measure a pumpkin from the center top to the center of the bottom. This is the halfway-around measurement of the pumpkin. To this measurement, add about 4 inches.

2. Cover the Pumpkin

Turn the cut sleeve piece inside out. Tie off the cut end with a rubber band. Turn the sleeve inside out again. Pull the sweater over the pumpkin. Secure the opening with another rubber band or twine.

3. Make a Twine Pumpkin Stem

Place a dot of hot glue on the rubber band, then start wrapping the twine around, keeping it tight. Add a dot of hot glue to every other wrapped row. Once you're happy with the height of the stem, cut off the extra fabric.

4. Decorate with leaves, voila!

Tips:

- No pumpkins lying around? Try filling up the sweater with beans at Step 2.
- Try neutral tones of sweaters
- Try an old cable knit sweater - that texture!



Q: What do you call a frog hanging from the ceiling?

A: Mistle-toad

Q: What is a snowman's favorite food?

A: Brrrrrrrr-itos.

Q: Which one of Santa's reindeer has the best moves?

A: Dancer

Q: How good is Santa at karate?

A: He has a black belt

Q: How does Darth Vader enjoy his turkey?

A: On the dark side

Q: What do you get when you cross a bell with a skunk?

A: Jingle smells.

Q: A ginger man went to the doctor with a sore knee.

The doctor said, "Have you tried icing it."

Q: What kind of car do elves like to drive?

A: A Toy-ota

Q: How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

A: Nothing. It was on the house.

Q: Where does mistletoe go to get famous?

A: Holly-wood.

Q: What kind of music does elves like best?

A: Wrap music

Q: Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?

A: He was picking his nose.

Q: Why are Christmas Trees so bad at sewing?

A: They always drop their needles.

FAMILY LIFE

Family Life: Keeping the Season Simple

This time of year is always a blur, isn't it? Between Halloween and the New Year, we hop from one holiday to the next with very little time to stop and reflect upon what just happened. Add COVID-related complications to the mix, and things feel even more hectic.

Now consider that as chaotic and exhausting as the holidays are for the grown-ups, it's even harder on our kids. For them, the holiday season is essentially an endless stream of sensory overload, and they're still developing the coping skills we take for granted as adults.

The smart people at the Child Mind Institute offer four suggestions for helping our kids enjoy the fun so we can avoid the inevitable meltdowns:

- 1. Shift the focus away from receiving gifts and instead, involve them in the giving. Let them help with the process of deciding what to give and where to find it. That helps them to be more invested in the act of giving so that they'll be more likely to experience the joy in giving.**
- 2. Let the kids help out. They don't care if everything is perfect. They're far more likely to warmly remember helping to make the holidays festive.**
- 3. Don't give into the temptation to ignore the usual routines, and pay attention to early signs that the kids need to tap out.**
- 4. Remember that they're still kids, and keep your expectations in line with their age. Be sure there's room in the schedule for both physical activity and downtime.**

You can read more about the Child Mind Institute's recommendations for happy holidays with kids here: shorturl.at/mnzA3

PTF LIFE



KIRK LIFE

This month we are excited to get to know Miss Zinnia of Room 4 better! Miss Zinnia came to Kirk as a volunteer working on her early childhood education degree a dozen years ago, learning from the infamous Miss Becky and Miss Donna. Her favorite part about working at Kirk is the people and the children. "Kirk is home and you feel loved by everyone and you know everyone. I never have a moment where I don't want to be here. I love Kirk."

She loves being a Pre-school teacher because everyday is different. She gets to face new challenges and new experiences everyday. She also loves the honesty of four and five year olds, "you never know what comes out of their mouths." As seasoned preschool educator her favorite children's book is "The Ugly Pumpkin" and all the "Elephant and Piggie" books.

When not being a teacher she is a mommy to her son, Noah. She loves reading with him and playing on the trampoline. But when she gets some much deserved alone time, she loves to read books and watch her favorite shows. She also loves shopping and spending time with her family. Her family includes, two dogs Turtle and Coco and three turtles that have Pokémon character names that she can only remember half of the time.

Her favorite movie is "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York" because it's a classic and funny. You can enjoy watching it with anyone. "It was also a movie I enjoyed with my grandmother. It reminds me of her." Miss Zinnia loves chicken, chicken soup, and chicken Alfredo. If it has chicken in, she will eat it!!

This year's Scholastic Book Fair and BOOFest was extra special to many of our families, as this was an opportunity for new Kirk parents to be on campus beyond the blue gate for the first time. The PTF was overjoyed by the participation of our entire student body from the Tot Center to 5th Grade, and to see our

community come together IN-PERSON once again for these two fun-filled events.

We hope you'll join us in sharing the joy of the season with low income and homeless families through Family Rescue Center's November Thanksgiving Food Drive and December Toy Drive. Through donations of all kinds, the Kirk community continues to support the incredible work done by the Family Rescue Center and their mission to serve homeless and low-income families in our community.

As the months of November and December bring loved ones together, the Kirk PTF wishes a healthy and happy holiday to our extended Kirk Family.

Pictured are: Miss Melanie, Tot Center students and Clifford the Dog at the Book Fair; and 5th Graders Scarlett Stephens, Roxy MacMillan, Eleanor Almagor and Keeley Cross at BOOFest.





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 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**. Miss 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? Miss 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, Miss Heather!

PTF LIFE

Welcome Back To School!

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. 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.





KIRK O' THE VALLEY

~ A SCHOOL COMMUNITY SINCE 1961 ~

#KIRKSTRONG

A newsletter dedicated to all things Kirk

We are proud of all of our students and the growth mindset they have developed during this unprecedented historic school year. We hope that the coming months will be a time for fun with family and friends. As the school year ends, participating in an end-of-year reflection activity can provide children with time to process and celebrate all of their learning and successes from throughout the school year. This presents a great opportunity to deepen social emotional skills like identifying feelings while thinking about hopes and goals for the school year ahead.

Using art supplies, kids can draw or journal something they learned, or write a list of reasons they are proud of themselves. *What did you enjoy most this year? What's your favorite memory from this year?*

What are you excited to learn about next year?

STUDENT WORK



WELLNESS CHECK



For our very last Kirk kids art feature of the year, the theme is “togetherness” to celebrate the wonderful few months we’ve been able to share together on campus. What better way to represent community and friendship than to feature an inspirational collaborative art piece made by the third grade class. This project titled, “Intertribal Third Grade Village” (recycled material and clay) displays different Native American tribes represented in one village. As the students learn about Native American tribes, they also learn about how unity and fellowship connects us all. The third grade “tribe,” Seed and Sun, would also like to share their original poem: *“We’re all unique, But we’re one, The 3rd grade tribe, Seed and Sun!”*

COOK WITH US

Graduation Cupcakes

You will need:

- Plastic wine glasses or champagne glasses
- Candy
- Frosted cupcakes
- Graduation cap toppers

Instructions:

Fill your choice of candy in the wine glass, leaving the top third empty for the cupcake.

You can use any type of candy you wish - It would be fun to mix with our school colors!

Place frosted cupcake on top of the candy in the glass.

Push in the glitter cupcake topper.



May and June 2021



DID YOU KNOW...

Miss Hillary is the administrative director here at Kirk. She has been our fearless leader since 2015. Her involvement with Kirk began in 2008, when her son was in Kindergarten. She worked in the Kindergarten classroom, was a PTF president, and gradually took over administrative duties in the office.

What are your favorite foods? *Homemade Italian food and Sushi* **What are your hobbies?** *Traveling, cooking, reading, hiking and spending time with friends* **What is your favorite movie?** *Out of Africa, Blade Runner, and The Big Blue. Mainly because the music from these movies reminds me of a certain time in my life when I was living abroad.* **What is your favorite vacation spot?** *There are many, but the two that stand out are Florence because I lived there for five years and Belize because it is one of the most amazing places I have been to in my life.* **Do you have any pets?** *Two wonderful doggies who I love immensely, Bella and Dustin.* **What is the best part about your job?** *Working with Kirk kids every day!* **Tell us about a favorite Kirk memory.** *The Teacher Appreciation drive thru parade that the PTF coordinated last year in the spring. Seeing the line of decorated cars pulling in the parking lot filled with Kirk families holding signs and balloons for our teachers was something I will never forget. My heart just about burst with gratitude and appreciation for our Kirk community.*

.....

I can't help but look back on the six years our family has been a part of the Kirk Community, and I am so filled with gratitude and appreciation for everything I've learned over the years, everyone I've worked with, my incredible team, all of the Kirk families who make up this very unique and special community. I want to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to a few people who have had a profound impact on my life, and on so many lives here at Kirk. **Miss Hillary** you are an amazing leader and a true friend. I respect, admire and look up to you so much. And we just have so much FUN working together! To my Board, without you all, I am nothing! **Grace Dotson** and **Yuan San Ryan**, you have been the creative heart & soul of the PTF! I've loved working with both of you, your talent is incomparable! **Sonya Wright** -- you blew us away with the Trike-a-Thon you put together last year, as well as your outrageously fantastic centerpieces! **Steve Infield**, your sense of humor was always welcome, plus it was great having a Dad on the team. :) **Lucy Warren**, ever the voice of calm reason in our meetings, I appreciate the balance you brought! **Patty Onagan**, you are amazing, you taught us to dream big and reach for those lofty fundraising goals! I'm so proud to be passing the torch to you, and cannot wait to see where you lead us next year! **Miss Lorena & Miss Heather** -- where would the PTF be without you ladies? I've loved working with you over the years, and appreciate so much that you're both always willing to jump in and help out. And **Miss Shelly** -- your smile brightened everyone's day when you were in the office last year! Thank you for spreading joy! **Mr. Robert** and **Mr. Dave** -- I actually can't even thank you guys enough. I couldn't have brought any of my big ideas to life without you! Drive-thru tunnels! Giant spiders! Movie Night! And that was just this year, haha! Thank you for teaching me to use power tools, and being an essential part of my team! Although this is my last year as PTF President, our family has one more year at Kirk so I'm happy to say in true Kirk fashion that this is not goodbye, but see you later! Have a wonderful summer and I'll see you in the fall! - **Sally Wood, PTF President**

FUN & GAMES



Kirk Summertime Smiles



Q: What do you get when you combine an elephant with a fish?

A: Swimming Trunks!

Q: Do fish go on vacation?

A: No, because they're always in school!

Q: What's a shark's favorite sandwich?

A: Peanut butter and jellyfish!

Q: How can you tell the ocean is friendly?

A: It waves!

Q: Why did the robot go on summer vacation?

A: To recharge his batteries

Q: Why did the teacher jump into the pool?

A: She wanted to test the water!

Q: Where do sheep go to summer camp?

A: To the baa-hamas!

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT K-CAMP FOR MORE FUN AND SMILES THIS SUMMER!

PTF NEWS



KIRK O' THE VALLEY

~ A SCHOOL COMMUNITY SINCE 1961 ~

#KIRKSTRONG

A newsletter dedicated to all things Kirk

STUDENT WORK

Helping children to recognize and cope with emotions is one of a parent's richest responsibilities. Emotional intelligence is a necessity for healthy self-esteem, relationships, creativity, empathy and resilience. In many ways, our emotions are like the weather - and this can be a great way to encourage kids to think about their emotions. Are they feeling great like a clear sunny day? Or grumpy like a sky full of black clouds? Explore your family's weather report together. You can take turns giving an example of your own weather report and if you want to take it further, draw a picture of your weather.

WELLNESS CHECK



Here to welcome springtime is our nature themed Kirk kids art feature for the month of March. This colorful piece titled, "bird, bee, and butterfly," is by Julian Reeves (first grade). When asked why nature inspires him, Julian says, "I really like the colors of nature and doing art inspired by nature makes me feel very calm." If your budding artist would like a chance to be featured in our next newsletter, please email a scanned copy of your child's art to hollen@kirkschool.org with your child's name and grade. The theme for our next art feature will be "togetherness." The deadline for submission is 4/28/21.

You will need:

- Two 8-inch-round yellow cakes, chilled
- 3 cups white frosting
- 1 cup pink frosting
- Sweetened shredded coconut, sprinkles and candies, for decorating

1. Put one cake on a work surface. Using a serrated knife, cut the cake to form 1 bow tie and 2 almond-shaped ears.
2. Place the uncut cake in the center of an inverted baking sheet or a large rectangle platter. Arrange the 2 ears above the cake on the baking sheet and the bow tie directly below.
3. Using an offset spatula, frost the entire cake with the white frosting.
4. Transfer the pink frosting to a pastry bag fitted with a small round tip. Decoratively pipe the bow tie and the ears of the bunny. Sprinkle shredded coconut on the head and around the ears. Decorate the bunny with sprinkles, candies and additional pink frosting. And there you have it! The adorable Easter bunny cake of your dreams.

COOK WITH US



Cutest Easter Bunny Cake Ever

March and April 2021



FUN & GAMES

DID YOU KNOW...

Ms. Turner is Kirk's Science teacher and has been teaching here since 2015. However, Kirk has always been a part of her life as she grew up in the church and went to preschool in Room 4! **How did you get into science?** I have always been interested in science. I loved animals as a young kid. I had all kinds of different pets and loved going to zoos and aquariums. In fact, my high school was in the parking lot of the Los Angeles Zoo. **What is your favorite type of science to study?** Marine science will always be my favorite. I studied zoology in college and worked at a marine mammal rescue center. I even got to hand raise some sea lion pups. Besides smelling like fish and seals everyday, it was really fun. **What is your favorite thing to teach the kids?** I like teaching about ecosystems and animals and how we need to take care of our planet. Rocks, fossils, and volcanoes are always a blast. But I think insects and arachnids are some of my favorites. I used to want to write children's books about insects and spiders because I think that at an early age, we can learn to appreciate the beauty and amazing adaptations before we develop the fear of them. **What are your hobbies?** I love to be outside and be creative. I enjoy hiking, camping and seeing new places. I do all different arts and crafts. I spend most of my free time painting with watercolor or designing costumes and dresses with my mom.

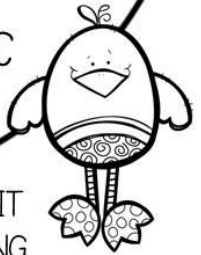
Easter Word Search

E	P	I	H	O		
B	A	S	K	E	T	E
D	S	P	R	I	N	G
H	T	A	S	B	L	G
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S	E	K	A	C		

EASTER
EGGS
BASKET
CAKE



RABBIT
SPRING
HUNT
HOPS



© 2013 Little Learner ToolBox

PTF NEWS

Our amazing Kirk teachers and staff have been very busy preparing the campus for the safe return of the majority of our students this month! The PTF has been able to provide assistance for COVID-19 campus improvements through the generosity of our Kirk families and community, who've supported our PTF fundraisers like the Halloween drive-through, Kirk Spirit Wear, Take Out Tuesdays, Menchie's Day, and other events. **Together we have helped to purchase (since September 2020):**

- HEPA filters for the classrooms
- Rolling Media Cart for Tech
- Specialized Document Reader for the Art Dept
- New Playground Structures for the front yard
- New Scooters and Rollers
- VIP Porta Potty Rentals for 4th & 5th Grades
- Pledged \$4,000 toward a classroom and/or shade structure in the Science House/Library Courtyard

The PTF will continue to fundraise to help keep our Kirk students, teachers and staff safe, healthy and happy! Thank you for your continuing participation and support!

March and April 2021



KIRK O' THE VALLEY

~ A SCHOOL COMMUNITY SINCE 1961 ~

#KIRKSTRONG

A newsletter dedicated to all things Kirk

WELLNESS CHECK



Returning to school after winter break brings lots of opportunities to reconnect with things you have missed. At Kirk, we understand that being a kid means you have lots of thoughts and emotions that might be exciting, confusing, or overwhelming. Mindfulness is stopping to notice only what you are feeling right now. Use this mindfulness exercise to spend some time reflecting on how your day has unfolded. Grab a blank piece of paper and draw some big bubbles on it. Take a minute to think of some moments today when you really noticed things around you. It may have been a warm smile someone gave you, something you ate or drank, or something in nature that caught your attention. Draw or write these moments of awareness inside the bubbles.

Ingredients:

Heart Treats

4 tbsp unsalted butter, 1 bag 16 oz mini marshmallows, 1 (18 oz) box Rice Krispies, 1 heart-shaped cookie cutter, 6 lollipop sticks, rainbow sugar crystals, milk, various colored food dyes

Instructions: Heart Treats

- Melt 1/2 tbsp butter with 2 drops of food dye.
- Fold in 1 cup of mini marshmallows until they are completely melted.
- Add one cup of Rice Krispies and stir until mixed well and all the cereal is completely coated.
- Butter your hands and the cookie cutter.
- Gently press a scoop of Rice Krispies mixture into the cookie cutter.
- Push it out onto the parchment paper. You should now have 1 Rice Krispie.
- Repeat for remaining treats and let treats cool completely.
- Once treats are cooled, press lollipop sticks into the bottom of each treat.

Instructions: Icing

Ingredients: Icing

1 1/2 cup powdered sugar & 2 tbsp milk

- Mix 1 1/2 cups of powdered sugar with 2 tbsp of milk.
- Drizzle over treats.
- Sprinkle rainbow sugar crystals over the fresh icing.

STUDENT WORK



For our January Kirk Kids art feature, the theme was “snow.” Please enjoy a marvelous submission from first grader Aidan Dillmann. Aidan says that he likes to make art because it “makes him happy.” If your budding artist would like a chance to be featured in our next newsletter, please email a scanned copy of your child’s art to hollen@kirkschool.org with your child’s name and grade. The theme for our next art feature will be “nature.” The deadline for submission is 3/1/21.

COOK WITH US



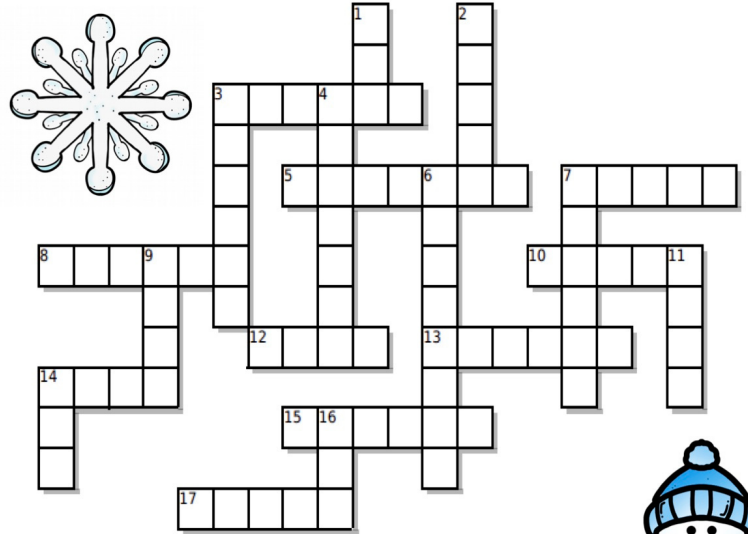
Heart-shaped Rice Krispie Treat Pops

January and February 2021



FUN & GAMES

WINTER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

3. famous snowman
5. time away from school (eg. Christmas)
7. neck warmer
8. frozen spike
10. winter footwear
12. breeze
13. type of glove
14. snow vehicle
15. coldest season
17. falls from the ski in winter

DOWN

1. head covering
2. hot chocolate mix
3. turns to ice
4. has a carrot nose
6. last month of the year
7. tool for scooping snow
9. more than cool
11. white fluff
14. glide over snow
16. frozen water

WORD BANK

Boots, Cocoa, Cold, December, Flake, Frosty, Frozen, Hat, Holiday, Ice, Icicle, Mitten, Scarf, Shovel, Ski, Sled, Snow, Snowman, Wind, Winter

DID YOU KNOW...

Miss Sarah has been Kirk's music teacher for the last 5 years. She is a talented musician and vocal performer. She started singing at the age of 4, but seriously started studying voice at 18. She also plays flute, piano, guitar, ukulele and the recorder! **Tell us about your musical education.** I received my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Performance with an Emphasis in Vocal Performance. I also spent 6 weeks in Salzburg, Austria studying Mozart and his opera, Don Giovanni. I currently meet with a vocal coach twice a month and voice teacher once a month. The learning never stops! **What is your greatest musical accomplishment?** If you were to ask me this question 5 years ago, I would say singing as a soloist in Carnegie Hall with the Mt. Sac Chamber Singers. Now, it's having the privilege of sharing my knowledge with my students and seeing them succeed and develop a love for music! **What are your hobbies?** I enjoy a good hike, writing poetry, drawing and cooking. During quarantine I have started learning belly dancing...so, that has been fun! **What is one of your favorite Kirk memories/experiences?** There have been so many, I simply can't pick one. I love flipping the pancakes during the Pancake Breakfast. Serving the Kirk Community is so fun.



PTF NEWS

The Peanuts Movie

Save The Date! Kirk's Carpark Cinema is coming!

Friday, February 12 and Saturday, February 13

Stay safe in your car and watch the adorable Charlie Brown with his whole gang of buddies, including Snoopy, in this heartwarming tale!

This is a FREE community event sponsored by the PTF. Look for an email with a link to reserve your spot soon! With special pre-show performances by our very own Miss Sarah!



KIRK O' THE VALLEY

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WELLNESS CHECK



We all need to learn how to take care of ourselves. Sometimes we just need to be distracted from the stressors of daily life and research suggests that laughter can help to lower stress levels. So why not play a funny game like Mad Libs, bake some cookies together, tackle a difficult puzzle, draw with sidewalk chalk, watch a comedy, or build a couch fort and have a pillow fight. Laughing together is a great way to connect and be present.

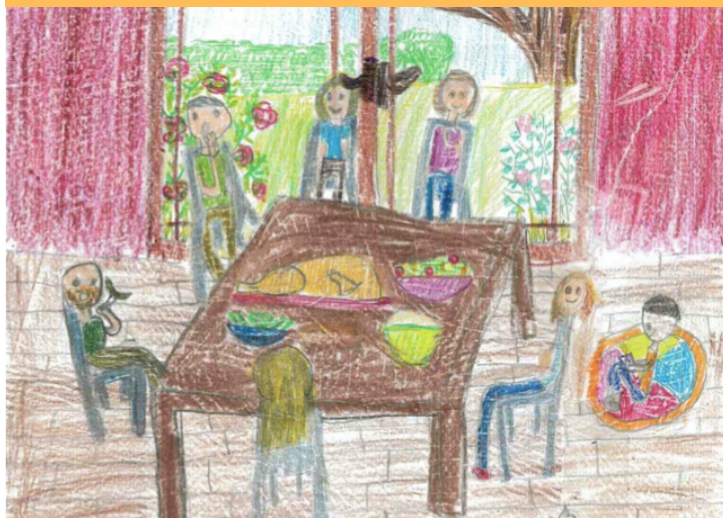
COOK WITH US



Fun Pumpkin Donut Hole Craft

- Package Orange Candy Melts (Craft or Cake Store)
- Green Fondant
- Plain Cake Donut Holes (Or try making your own!)
- Wire Rack

STUDENT WORK



Please enjoy this Kirk Kids' Art feature celebrating family and Thanksgiving from fourth grader, Magnolia Ireland. Magnolia says, "I am thankful for food, family, friends, pets, money, and my home." Despite the challenges we've all faced this year, there's still so much to be grateful for. If your budding artist would like a chance to be featured in our next newsletter, please email a scanned copy of your child's art to hollen@kirkschool.org with your child's name and grade. The theme for our next art feature will be, "snow" and the deadline for submission is December 16, 2020.

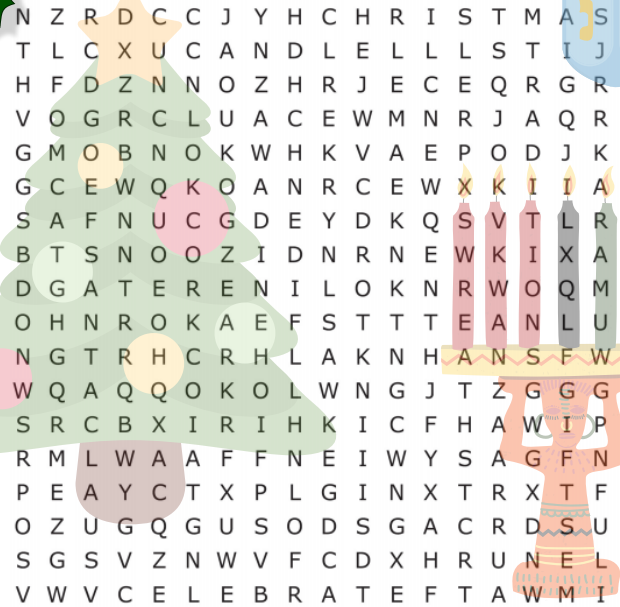
Use a pinch of green fondant to make tiny little stems to fit on top of the "mini pumpkins." Place plain donut holes on the rack while you warm up the orange candy melts in the microwave for 25 seconds and then gently stir. Complete melting in 10 second increments until the melts are smooth. Reheat the same way as needed to avoid burning. Pour slowly over the Plain Donut Holes to cover. Wait a few seconds and then top with the green stem before it dries. You can add dents in the side when semi-cooled or wait until completely dry and make lines with an edible pen. For a healthier version try peeled clementines with the fondant topping for decoration.

November and December 2020



FUN & GAMES

Holiday Word Search Challenge



- 1.) December 25th holiday
- 2.) Jolly man in red suit
- 3.) Hung by the chimney
- 4.) December holiday celebrating African American heritage
- 5.) Family customs passed down to next generation
- 6.) Kwanzaa candle holder
- 7.) Hung on a door at Christmas
- 8.) Jewish Festival of Lights
- 9.) Special Jewish candelabra
- 10.) Red and white striped Christmas sweet
- 11.) A wax light that is used as a ceremonial symbol of many holidays
- 12.) Number of days of Hanukkah
- 13.) Santa's vehicle
- 14.) Kwanzaa feast
- 15.) Gifts given on the last day of Kwanzaa
- 16.) Christmas songs
- 17.) Potato pancakes
- 18.) They pull Santa's sleigh

DID YOU KNOW...

Miss Christa has been at Kirk since 2003. In addition to being Kirk's resident technology expert, Miss Christa is also a classically-trained chef. She went to cooking school, worked in numerous restaurants and bakeries, and even ran her own catering company! **Why do you love to teach kids about cooking?** "Food is a great connector. All kids love to cook, if given a chance. They love to make a mess! At Kirk, we have run six pop-up kitchens, 100% powered by the kids. It was amazing to give the kids an event to run all by themselves. They worked so hard and I helped them believe they could do it. It was a real confidence-builder!" **What is your favorite food? What do you like to make?** "I like food that tastes like food. Hearty homestyle stews, pastas, vegetables. As for baking, I like making homemade cinnamon rolls and cheesecake." **What are you doing this year to encourage and teach the kids to keep cooking?** "We have our Kirk Cooking channel and we need everyone to subscribe! I am hosting Holiday food challenges. All Star Cooking show will be LIVE on December 7!"

To subscribe to the Kirk cooking channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV7xbTYdFvGcSn9FkuOECQ>

PTF NEWS

Giving Back to Our Community



Volunteer at the Family Rescue Center

22103 Vanowen Street, Canoga Park, CA 91303
<https://www.facebook.com/familyrescuecenter/>
<https://www.rescatefamilycenter.org/>
 (818) 884-7587

Volunteers are needed for two days prior to each event, as well as throughout the event. Please take a look at FRC's Facebook page or website for a link to sign up to volunteer - children are welcome! All volunteers must wear masks, and Covid-19 precautions will be taken including temperature checks upon arrival, required use of masks and gloves, etc.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Led by Kirk's Student Council

- Collecting food at Kirk until Friday, November 20
- Thanksgiving Food Distribution at Family Rescue Center Saturday, November 21, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Holiday Toy Drive

Led by Kirk's PTF

- Collecting New Toys at Kirk December 4-18
- Holiday Toy Drive Drive-Thru Event at FRC Saturday, December 19, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



KIRK O' THE VALLEY

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#KIRKSTRONG

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WELLNESS CHECK

DINNER TABLE TALK



Life is full of delightful treasures as we spend time at home with our families. Let's take a moment to appreciate what we do have.

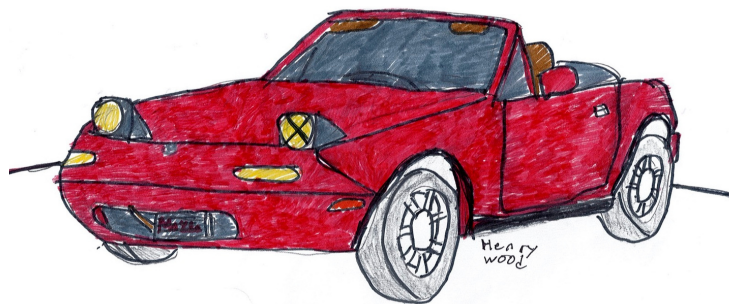
Ask these questions at the dinner table to see what you discover about each other:

- What are your top three things you loved about today?
- What are you grateful for?
- What are you proud of today?

ICE CREAM IN A BAG



STUDENT WORK



ZOOMING INTO THE SCHOOL YEAR

For our very first Kirk Kids art feature, please enjoy **"Zooming Into the School Year!"** by Henry Wood (fifth grade). When asked about what inspires his art, Henry says, "I love cars. I want to be like those people in Car and Driver [Magazine] who can draw REALLY GOOD cars! And I like to draw hard things. Sometimes I fail. When I do, I just start over and try again." If your budding artist would like a chance to be featured in our next newsletter, please email a scanned copy of your child's art to hollen@kirkschool.org with your child's name and grade. The theme for our next newsletter will be "Thankful." The deadline for submission is 10/21/2020.

COOK WITH US

Ingredients: 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream or half & half; 1 tsp vanilla; 2 1/2 tsp sugar; ice cubes; 6 tbsp kosher salt

Pour whipping cream, vanilla and sugar into a resealable sandwich bag, pressing the air out to tightly seal. Place this into another tightly sealed sandwich bag. Then fill a gallon-sized resealable bag half-way full of ice; add salt. Place the small sandwich bag into the middle of the ice, and seal the larger bag. Shake the bag for 5-10 minutes. Enjoy!

Check out the Kirk Cooking Channel YouTube for more great recipes!

September and October 2020



FUN & GAMES

LET'S
GO
ON
A



SCAVENGER HUNT

DID YOU KNOW...

Who has taught at Kirk the longest?

Miss Lucille started teaching at Kirk in 1975, forty-five years ago! A lover of poetry, she teaches reading readiness to the Pre-K students.

How are things different at Kirk than they were forty-five years ago? There have been so many changes. Physically, and mentally, and everything. Even the rooms have changed (we didn't have air conditioning!)

What is unique about Kirk? The big kids are so good with the little kids. Everybody in the whole place is like one big, happy family and I wouldn't give it up for anything in the world.

What is one of your favorite things about teaching? Seeing the kids' faces light up when they actually learn something. I feel like my life was worthwhile. I mean -- I'd do it for nothing... It keeps me young!

Go exploring around your house and find the **ten** items listed below. Once you find all of them, take a picture of yourself with all of the items and email it to media@kirkschool.org. Have fun searching!

1. Your baby picture.
2. A board game.
3. Find something that starts with the first letter of your name.
4. Find something that you made.
5. A doll or action figure.
6. Two things that are blue.
7. Find something with multiple numbers on it.
8. Find something that makes a beautiful sound.
9. Find your favorite book.
10. An item that has "Kirk O' The Valley" printed on it.

PTF NEWS

Kirk is getting a MASCOT!



The OTTER

Curiosity
Diligence
Friendship
Resourcefulness
Creativity

VS

The DRAGON

Wisdom
Leadership
Passion
Strength
Balance



We need YOUR VOTE!

VOTE ONLINE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13