

Computer Capers

March 2008

www.buddyproject.org/capers

Lucky Charm Chart

You'll need the Luck 'O the Irish to complete this activity. Can you create a chart that displays the different marshmallow shapes found in one cup of *Lucky Charms*® cereal? Begin by measuring out one cup of cereal and then sort the marshmallow shapes. Create a new spreadsheet and list the types of marshmallows going down column A (moons, stars, hearts, rainbows, balloons, lucky hats, pots-of-gold, horseshoes). In column B, place the total number of each marshmallow found in one cup. What shape had the most? Least? Did any have the same number? What shape is your favorite? Finally, create a graph of your data by selecting all the cells and then choosing the "create graph" feature. Be sure to label your graph as well as each of the axes. Enjoy the marshmallows and leftover cereal as a snack after you have successfully completed this project.



Indiana Mathematics Standard 4.7.4 Use a variety of methods, such as words, numbers, symbols, charts, graphs, tables, diagrams, tools, and models to solve problems, justify arguments, and make conjectures.

Happy Birthday Harry!

Harry Houdini was born March 24, 1874. To celebrate this magicians special day begin by doing some online research about his life. Use the information that you gather to design a creative timeline in the form of a birthday cake. Design your timeline using a drawing program. Begin with a horizontal line across the page that is set up as "Landscape" (this is the top of the cake.) On the top of the cake, place at least 15 candles, each representing an important time in his life. Beneath each "candle," write a short description and date. Finally finish drawing the bottom of the cake and even decorate it with "magical" symbols or clipart. Don't you think he'd be pleased with your creative tribute to his life on his special day?

Indiana Social Studies Standard 5.1.17 Create and interpret timelines showing major people, events, and developments in the early history of the United States.



Think Green



Spring is just around the corner and we'll soon start seeing some signs of spring... specifically GREEN! To jumpstart our minds, see how many "green" words you can identify and list using your computer's word processing application. Be sure you use a GREEN font, of course! Brainstorm with your family by looking around your house, outside, or at books. How many did you identify? Challenge: If you were to earn a little "green" cash for your work, how much would you get if each letter is worth one penny? Hint: At the end of each word place the value (i.e. grass-5, broccoli- 8) and sum up the results using your computer's calculator or mental math. What about if each word was worth 5 cents? (count by 5's going down your page). Can you combine the total amount for letters and words? Are you now text rich?

Indiana Language Arts Standard 2.4.1 Create a list of ideas for writing. 2.4.2 Organize related ideas together to maintain a consistent focus.

Indiana Mathematics Standard 2.1.1 Count by ones, twos, fives, and tens to 100.

Iditarod Math Challenge

Follow this year's Teacher on the Trail for the 2008 Iditarod and take the challenge of completing one math problem for each day. You can find her "Iditarod Math Problem of the Day 2008" at www.iditarod.com/teachers/lessons.html. Use a spreadsheet to compile your answers. It might be helpful to use a formula to solve some of the problems. You might also enjoy following along with daily updates from the race which begins on March 1st. Can you write a math problem of your own that uses data from the 2008 Iditarod?



Indiana Mathematics 5.7.7 Make precise calculations and check the validity of the results in the context of the problem.