

Computer Capers

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www.buddyproject.org/capers

“I Spy” Something Special

Create a one-of-a-kind gift for your mom this Mothers’ Day that is both meaningful and fun. Begin by gathering some small items that describe your mom or are special to her or have some creative association with her (e.g., her favorite candy, a piece of jewelry, a beautiful flower). Arrange the items on a piece of cloth, decorated paper, or blank canvas, then take a digital photo of the display. It helps to take your photograph in a bright room or outside for best lighting. Download the photo to your computer and insert it into a new word processing document. At the top of the document, create a header that says: “I Spy Something Special for My Mom on Mother’s Day.” Beneath the photo, list all of the items to be “found” in the photo, and, next to each, write an explanation as to why you included that item, using several adjectives. You might even format these as a checklist. For example:

- Chocolate: because you are so sweet,
- Jewelry: because you are rare and valuable,
- Flower: because you brighten our family, and
- Cinnamon: because you spice up our family.

Once your document is complete, print it on a nice piece of photo paper or cardstock and place it in an envelope. I’m sure your mother will enjoy “spying” all of the special items you have chosen to include in her special greeting card.

Indiana English Language Arts Standard 2.4.2 Organize related ideas together to maintain a consistent focus. 2.4.5 Use a computer to draft, revise, and publish writing. 2.5.5 Use descriptive words when writing.



Perfect Pooch Proposal

Have you always had the dream of becoming a dog owner? There is nothing like the unconditional love and companionship of a dog, but with the joy also comes a lot of responsibility. To show your interest and enthusiasm for this possibility, write a proposal to your parents or caregivers explaining to them why you think you are ready for a dog. Begin by doing some research. What kind of dog would you choose, pound dog or pure bred? No matter which adoption approach you prefer, you can learn a lot about breeds at www.westminsterkennelclub.org. This site has a wonderful database to investigate all the characteristics of dog breeds. (The first Westminster Dog Show happened in May 1877 and has since become the greatest dog show in the world.) After you choose a dog, you will need to choose a name. How will you decide on the name? What is the meaning of the dog’s name you chose? Finally, include in your proposal all the ways you will care for your new pet. In a spreadsheet, list items that need to be purchased and calculate the total cost. Insert this data into your proposal. After your research and writing are complete, proofread, edit, print it out and present it. How do you think your parents will respond?

Will it be the beginning of a career in dog training? Perhaps your dog could become a winner someday at a prestigious dog show like Westminster’s.



Indiana English Language Arts 7.4.5 Research Process and Technology: Identify topics; ask and evaluate questions; and develop ideas leading to inquiry, investigation, and research.

Commemorative Comic Strip

Be a good citizen and celebrate this Memorial Day by creating a comic strip that signifies the importance of this day in our nation’s calendar. Create pictures to show how you and your family remember those who have died while serving our country. Use a drawing or painting program to draw your first “box.” Illustrate, using the “tools,” to tell the first scene in your story. Continue until your story strip in pictures is complete. (Hint: If parts of the scene are the same from frame to frame, you can copy and paste those items so that you don’t have to re-draw them.) Finally, print

your strip and hang it up for all to enjoy. It can serve as a colorful reminder to be thankful to those who have lost their lives protecting our freedom.

Indiana Social Studies Standard 3.2.5 Roles of Citizens: Explain the importance of being a good citizen of the state and the nation. Identify people in the state who exhibit the characteristics of good citizenship.

