

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Super Standoff Between Brothers

The Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers will battle for the NFL championship in the Super Bowl on February 3. And for the first time in NFL history, two brothers will be facing off as coaches of the two Super Bowl teams. John Harbaugh is coach of the Ravens, and led them to a 13-6 record in his fifth year as head coach. Jim Harbaugh is coach of the 49ers, and led them to a 13-4-1 record in his second year as head coach. John is the older brother at 50 years old. Jim, an NFL quarterback for 15 years, is 15 months younger. As a class, talk about what it would be like to face off against a brother or sister in a competitive way. Then discuss the kind of support families give children so that they can be successful. Finish by drawing a comic strip for the eEdition this week, showing the Harbaugh brothers getting ready for the Super Bowl.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

2 A Cat's Long Trip Home

Cats are not supposed to be animals that migrate. But tell that to Holly. Holly recently returned to her hometown of West Palm Beach, Florida, after her owners lost her two months earlier – and 200 miles away. Jacob and Bonnie Richter had taken Holly with them to an RV camping event in Daytona Beach, Florida, in early November, and she ran away from their trailer. On New Year's Eve, the 4-year-old cat appeared – staggering, weak and very thin – in a back yard less than a mile from the Richters' home. The pads on her feet were bleeding, and her claws were worn down, indicating the cat had had a long walk. Reunited with the Richters, she's doing fine now, but the mystery persists: How was she able to do it? Talk about ways animals can do amazing things. Then find an animal in the eEdition or online. Write an outline for a story about an adventure this animal might have.

Common Core/National Standard: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

3 Not Quite That Long

Subway's "footlong" sandwich isn't a foot long – not always, anyhow. The world's largest fast food chain calls its signature sandwich a "footlong," but a photo on Facebook on the Internet shows the sandwich next to a tape measure that shows it is 11 inches long. On top of that, the New York Post newspaper discovered that four of the seven Subway "footlongs" it checked were less than 12 inches long. As a class, talk about different things that are measured in feet. Then pair off with a partner and find examples in the eEdition. Use what you find to create three math word problems. Exchange with classmates and solve each other's problems.

Common Core/National Standard: Representing and solving problems involving addition and subtraction.

4 eEdition Prefixes

Electronic editions allow you to search their content for stories or topics that interest you. This ability to search also can help you build vocabulary and word skills. You can search, for example, to see how many times a word appears in the paper. Or you can search to see how many times a prefix appears. As a class, review how prefixes are added to the front of words to change their meaning. Then search today's eEdition to see how often the prefix "un" appears. Remember to leave a space before the "un" when you type it into the search window so that you only get the beginning of words!

Common Core/National Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology.

5 No Future Gretzkys?

Global warming and climate change are being talked about all over the world. And climate change has been so noticeable, even in the Arctic Circle area, that some villages have installed cooling systems to keep the ice cold in their outdoor hockey arenas. Nine of the 14 villages in the Nunavik region of northern Quebec in Canada have done this in the last five years. "We used to have natural ice in the

arena in October," one town official noted. Warning that natural ice for skating could diminish or even disappear throughout Canada, a recent study stated, "The ability to skate ... outdoors is a critical component of Canadian identity and culture. [Hockey great] Wayne Gretzky learned to skate on a backyard rink. ... Such opportunities may not be available to future generations of Canadian children." As a class, talk about the different ways global warming can affect nature and the environment. Then find a story about global warming in the eEdition or online. Use what you find to design a poster highlighting issues to think about for global warming.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow

news {..BOTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Fast Food: Is It Risky?

It's quite possible that eating too much fast food may increase your chances of developing the breathing disorder known as asthma or the skin condition called eczema. Researchers have concluded that teens eating three or more weekly servings of fast food have a 39 percent chance of becoming severely asthmatic, and younger children a 27 percent higher risk. On the other hand, eating three or more servings of fruit appears to reduce the risk. Fast food was the only dietary category suggesting an association with these disorders. Asthma can be a disabling condition, and very complicated medically. See what you can learn in your eEdition and online about this worldwide health challenge. Then design a poster to educate classmates about the risks and treatments of asthma.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

2 Discipline Too Harsh?

A group of civil rights organizations has charged that "overly harsh school disciplinary practices" are common throughout the state of Mississippi. In one district, the report notes, 33 out of every 1,000 children were arrested or referred to juvenile detention centers, and in another, such referrals even included second and third graders. Few of these referrals, according to the report, were for felony-level behavior, with "disorderly conduct" the most often cited offense. This kind of discipline has created a "school-to-prison pipeline," the report notes, and black students were disproportionately more likely to receive the punishments. As a class, talk about the kinds of discipline rules that are most important at schools. Then write a short editorial for the eEdition describing a rule you think would be a fair way to deal with a problem.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

3 Search & Learn More

An eEdition offers a variety of features that let you find information quickly and efficiently. And once you find something that interests you, eEditions let you learn more with search features. With the toolbars or Index, find the editorial page in today's eEdition. Click on the editorial cartoon to enlarge it. Study it to see what it is about and what point the cartoonist is making. Then use the Search or Advanced Search feature of the eEdition to see what stories appeared in the eEdition about this subject. Write a paragraph describing the issues that inspired the editorial cartoon. Then write how the features of the eEdition assist readers in gathering information.

Common Core/National Standards: Locating information from electronic resources; describing the impact of technology use on individuals at home, at school and in the workplace.

4 Put an End to Mold

If your basement gets flooded, it's important that it be dried out quickly. Pumping out the water is only the first step. Even more important is preventing the growth of mold. Mold spores can irritate skin, eyes, nose and airways, especially if you have asthma or other chronic lung diseases. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggests scrubbing visible mold off surfaces with detergent and water, and using a dehumidifier to keep mold from returning. Mold can be a serious health risk. In the eEdition or online, find a story about another health risk. Write a paragraph describing the risk, and what can be done to avoid it.

Common Core/National Standards: Citing textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.

5 Masterpiece Homecoming

A British art dealer considering the sale of a Matisse oil painting he had obtained from an 85-year-old man found that it had been listed as stolen 25 years ago. The painting had been taken by a burglar who had smashed his way into the Stockholm Museum of Modern Art in the European country of Sweden. The dealer learned this from checking the Art Loss Registry, a database of stolen, missing and looted

artwork. Now, a lawyer for the Registry has negotiated the return of the painting, which is titled "Le Jardin" ("the Garden") and is valued at \$1 million. It is not clear where the most recent owner got the painting. It will be up to Swedish authorities to determine what legal action, if any, will be taken. Art is valuable to individuals and communities in many ways. In the eEdition or online, find a story, listing or photo of an artwork. Think like an art critic and write a paragraph describing why this art would appeal to people – or what kind of people would like it.

Common Core/National Standard: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1 Fewer School Dropouts?

The percentage of students graduating on time at U.S. public high schools is at its highest level in 40 years. The National Center for Education Statistics estimates that 78 percent of Americans receiving high school diplomas in 2010 started four years earlier, a level of on-time completion not achieved since 1974. The statistic is attributed partly to the softer economy (fewer jobs out there), but also to a 10-point jump in the percentage of Hispanics – the nation's largest minority group – who are graduating on time. As a class, discuss what effect poor economic conditions have on the nation's high school dropout rate. Then find Help Wanted ads in the eEdition. Pick one and review the education requirements for the job. Write a paragraph describing how a person would get that education and training in your community or state.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

2 Sorry to Interrupt

Momentary distractions can cause major errors, and that could spell big trouble, especially for such professions as emergency room doctors or aircraft mechanics. Researchers warned in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology* that even short interruptions, such as glancing at a text message, can increase errors because this requires participants to shift their attention. This, the lead researcher noted, "can seem jarring when ... occur[ing] during a process that takes considerable thought." To reach this conclusion, 300 people were asked to complete a sequence-based procedure on a computer. Interruptions of as little as three seconds doubled the error rate. Being as wary as possible of distraction, see what you can determine from your eEdition and online about the pros and cons of text messaging while performing vital functions, such as driving. Write a personal essay stating your opinion.

Common Core/National Standards: Citing textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.

3 eEdition Word Search

Electronic editions allow you to search their content for stories or topics that interest you. This ability to search also can help you build vocabulary and word skills. You can search, for example, to see how many times a word appears in the paper. As a class, talk about the big news in sports this week. Then make a list of players, coaches or topics that are in the news. Search the eEdition for a day or a week to see how many times each name or word appears in stories. Then create a bar graph to show your results.

Common Core/National Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems; organizing data in charts, graphs and tables.

4 Web Self-Diagnosis

Americans have always tried to deal with their health issues at home, but now more do it than ever before, thanks to the Internet. The Pew Research Center reports that 35 percent of the nation's adults have used the Internet to diagnose a medical condition for themselves or others. About a third of the people surveyed said they did not seek a physician's opinion, and about 41 percent said a physician confirmed the self-diagnosis. As a class, discuss how many families have used the Internet to get health answers. Then find a story in the eEdition about a health issue. Write a short letter to the editor discussing the pros and cons of online self-diagnosis.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

5 Gesundheit!

If you haven't been inoculated yet for flu, it's not too late. People should remember, however, that it takes about two weeks for a flu inoculation to become fully effective, and even when it is effective, there's always the outside chance you can get the flu. So, in view of the current nationwide epidemic, if you haven't had your shot, do so immediately. In the meantime, medical experts advise, there are steps you should

take: (A.) Wash your hands, with soap and water or an alcohol-based preparation, as often as possible. (B.) Avoid touching your face, because seemingly safe surfaces may harbor the flu virus and you can pick it up on your hands. (C.) If you must cough or sneeze, use a tissue; infectious droplets from a vigorous cough can travel at 60 mph. See what you can learn from your eEdition or online about the current flu epidemic. Then design a poster offering tips for schools and students about avoiding the flu.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow