

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Another 'Star Wars'

Got your light saber ready? The "Force" of the "Star Wars" movies is now with filmmaker J.J. Abrams. Abrams will direct "Star Wars: Episode VII," a new movie scheduled to reach theaters in 2015. This represents a change in plans for Abrams, who previously had directed the "Star Trek" movie "Star Trek Into Darkness." He had told reporters in the past he would not be involved with the "Star Wars" movies, but changed his mind. The "Star Wars" movies are some of the most popular science fiction adventure films ever made. In the ads and stories of the eEdition, find a science fiction or adventure movie you have seen or would like to see. Write a paragraph describing what you liked about it, or why you would want to see it. Draw a picture of the movie to go with your paragraph.

Common Core/National Standards: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task, purpose and audience.

2 Cheese That's Really Hot

A tunnel in arctic Norway is closed for repairs for a while, after 27 tons of burning cheese shut it down. That's right, cheese. A truckload of brunost, a brown cheese that Norwegians consider special, burst into flame in the 1.9-mile tunnel near Narvik in the European country, and it took four days to put out the fire. Brunost's "high concentration of fat and sugar is almost like [gasoline] if it gets hot enough," a police official explained. Fire and highway safety are important concerns in every community, because fires and accidents can cause injuries or even death. In the eEdition, find a story about a fire or traffic accident. As a class, discuss what happened and why it happened. Then write a short paragraph giving three safety tips that could prevent such an event in the future.

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 Valentine's Party

Valentine's Day is Thursday, February 14. Pretend you are planning a Valentine's party for this weekend. Scan the ads in the eEdition for foods or decorations you would like for your party. Then print out the ads for the items you would like to buy. Compare prices so that you get the most for your money, and write a paragraph explaining what you would purchase. Write a second paragraph describing how the eEdition helped you plan your Valentine's party.

Common Core/National Standards: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task and audience; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in use.

4 20 Questions

You can learn a lot from the stories of your eEdition. You can also learn a lot from the pictures. With a partner, find a picture that shows many objects in today's eEdition. Pick a part of the picture that you find interesting, but keep your choice a secret. Then challenge your friend to a game of 20 questions. Your friend can only ask questions that describe your object's position. For example, he or she can use the words front, back, inside, outside, right, left, over, under, next to or between. You can only say yes or no. When the object is named, switch roles.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; locating and describing the position of objects – front, back, inside, outside, right, left, over, under, next to and between.

5 At the Old Ballgame

Whether you watch sports on TV or not, your family probably pays for it anyhow. Live sports is the one big attraction TV and cable networks can offer that can't be matched by the Internet, so the networks agree to pay huge amounts of money for the right to show sports. And the only way they can meet the costs is to increase subscriber fees for cable TV systems – which applies to just about all subscribers, even

those who never watch the games. "Runaway sports rights" amount to "a high tax on a lot of households that don't have a lot of interest in sports," one industry official has said. Although almost everyone in the business agrees that the situation is not good, nobody has an easy solution. Some people have suggested that the government set rules on sports fees or require sports-free cable packages for people who don't like sports. In the eEdition find the TV listings for today. Pick out a sports program you would like to watch. Then pick out an entertainment program you would like to watch. Write a paragraph explaining which you would like to watch more, and

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 6-8

1 Welcome to Walmart

Walmart stores say they will be hiring 100,000 military veterans in the next five years, as part of a three-part plan to help the U.S. economy. Walmart, the world's largest retailer and this country's biggest private employer, says it will also spend \$50 million to buy more American-made merchandise in the next 10 years. And it is launching a program to help its part-time workers move into full-time positions sooner. In the eEdition, find stories about jobs and companies that employee people. Pick one and write a summary of what the company is doing and how its move is designed to help. Then write a letter to the company, indicating whether you support the company's effort or think it could do more to provide jobs or help workers. Make sure your letter is in the correct form for a business letter.

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

2 You Can Try Chicken Soup

For children between 6 and 12, over-the-counter remedies are unlikely to help overcome a cold – and for younger children they're of no value at all. A 2012 review by the Cochrane Collaboration reported that antihistamine-analgesic-decongestant combinations provide some relief to adults and teens, but "there is no evidence of effectiveness in young children." And even among older cold sufferers, there can be "adverse effects." Most physicians agree that a cold has a predicable life span, and not much can be done to change it. Symptoms can be reduced, however, and for children pediatricians advise lots of fluid (chicken soup can help) and the pain relievers acetaminophen or ibuprofen. With the eEdition or Internet, find stories about this year's cold season and how many cases are being reported. From what you find, write a summary of some causes and treatments for colds.

Common Core/National Standard: Citing textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.

3 Shop for Some Valentine's Gifts

Valentine's Day is February 14, and many people will be shopping this weekend for gifts and cards to give people they love. As a class, look for stories about Valentine's shopping in the eEdition. Talk about all the ways shopping at stores and malls benefits the community and people who live there. Then look through the Valentine's ads in the eEdition for items you might like to buy for relatives or other people you love. Pick items for three people (don't worry about the cost). Write a sentence for each explaining why you would give each person each gift. Then pick something you would like someone to give you for Valentine's Day and write a sentence explaining why.

Common Core/National Standards: Responding to a variety of oral, visual, written and electronic texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

4 ... And a Bottle of Rum (Not)

Acting "like a drunken sailor" is a metaphor that has been around for years. It is probably unfair to members of the U.S. Navy, but their superiors want to make sure it doesn't apply. The Navy will conduct random blood-alcohol tests, that are similar to a program already in effect in the Marine Corps. The aim is not to stop sailors from drinking, Navy officials said, but to see to their health and safety. This is part of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine Initiative. See what you can learn about this program through your eEdition and the Internet. Then write a short editorial for the eEdition, indicating whether you think the random testing is a good idea.

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 a task.

5 Teen Wins a Drink Change

A 15-year-old Mississippi girl's efforts have led to a change of ingredients in Gatorade. The sports drink uses brominated vegetable oil (BVO) to separate flavors, and scientific studies have suggested that BVO could have possible side-effects, including neurological disorders and altered thyroid hormones. When Sarah Kavanagh read about these studies online, she started a campaign on Change.org to

petition the PepsiCo company that makes Gatorade to remove the ingredient. Gatorade executives have not acknowledged a health or safety risk in BVO, but because of "customer feedback," began testing alternatives to the chemical, and is replacing it with a different one. BVO is banned as a food ingredient in the European Union and Japan, but is still contained in about 10 percent of drinks in the United States. As a class, talk about the different ways teens or pre-teens can make positive changes in communities or the nation. Then find a problem or issue in the eEdition your class could address or work to correct. Write a paragraph detailing what your class could do.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement; producing clear and coherent writing for a task.

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grades 9-12

1 Shake, Rattle – Gotcha!

Even though it rattles when shaken, that oxycodone bottle on the shelf may not contain any oxycodone at all. It may be a decoy pill bottle mixed in with the genuine ones. If so, it contains a tracking device that will enable police to locate a robber, if a pharmacy is burglarized. There has been a deadly increase in such crimes, and one of the items most sought by addicts is oxycodone, a powerful narcotic painkiller. To reduce the illegal trafficking of oxycodone, police in New York and other cities are now stocking pharmacy shelves with the decoys, which have been developed by an oxycodone manufacturer. Illegal drug use is a concern in every community. In the eEdition or online, find a story about illegal drug use, drug trafficking or other crimes connected to drugs. Write a paragraph expressing your views about the oxycodone decoy program.

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, purpose and audience.

2 Blood in the Kitchen

Recent innovations in kitchen equipment have revolutionized cooking – and added to hospital emergency room visits. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that cuts from slicers and choppers accounted for an estimated 21,699 visits to American emergency rooms in 2011, almost double the number only 10 years earlier. Knife injuries are not as difficult to deal with as those incurred from misuse of the immersion blender, “because of the whipping movement of the blade,” a New York physician has explained. “Watch out for the mandoline slicer,” warns a TV cooking show producer, “It’s got to be one of the most dangerous home tools.” Home safety is important to every family. In the eEdition or online, find stories about the Consumer Product Safety Commission and warnings it has issued. Write a summary of one warning.

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

3 Valentine’s Search

Valentine’s Day is Thursday, February 14, and this week the eEdition is full of news about how people are getting ready. Use the search functions of the eEdition to see how Valentine’s Day is being covered in the news. Search each day for a week for the words “Valentine,” “Valentines” or “Valentine’s” or the phrase “Valentine’s Day.” Log your findings and record how many times each word or phrase is used each day and whether the word or phrase is used in a story, event listing or photo caption. Make a chart to show your findings. Then pick a Valentine’s event or restaurant you would like to try with a relative, boyfriend or girlfriend. Write a paragraph explaining why you’d like this.

Common Core/National Standards: Using appropriate technology resources to access information and communicate electronically; describing uses of technology in daily life; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

4 Mercury Control

After four years of intense negotiations, the first legally binding international treaty aimed at reducing mercury emissions has been adopted by 140 nations. It must be signed later this year and ratified by 50 nations, and should go into effect in three or four years. The treaty crafted by the United Nations will limit emissions of mercury, which is used in chemical production and mining, and also control some products, processes and industries in which the highly toxic metal is used, released or emitted. In your eEdition or online, find a story about the mercury treaty or another effort to protect health or the environment. Write a summary of your story.

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 A Vaccine Backlash

Locating and killing Osama Bin Laden was of huge importance to the war against terrorism. But some of the methods used have had unforeseen, and possibly catastrophic, consequences. In order to get DNA samples from the Pakistani compound suspected of being Bin Laden’s hideout, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency used a phony vaccination program to give out a hepatitis B vaccine to residents

there. This has resulted in a severe backlash against vaccination in general in Pakistan, with the Taliban group calling it part of an American plot. Recently, nine polio vaccinators were shot dead as a result, forcing that program to be halted for weeks. An increase in deaths from measles has been attributed to resistance to a vaccine program in Sindh province. The deans of top public health schools in the United States have written to President Obama condemning the CIA ruse. As a class, discuss the actions of the CIA and whether you think they were justified in the effort to find Bin Laden. Then brainstorm guidelines for such behavior in future operations.

Common Core/National Standards: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement.

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