

Richard Chronicle

Promote Innovation → Maximize Potential → Embrace Community

Mary MacDonald-Barrett, Principal

March 2017

Dates to

Remember

3/29/2017 Evening Conferences

3/30/2017 No School AM/PM/Evening Conferences

April 1-9, 2017 Spring Break

<u>4/11/2017</u> M-Step Testing begins

<u>4/14/2017</u> No School-Good Friday

4/22/2017 Progressive Dinner

4/25/2017 Instrumental Concert-Kerby

5/2/2017 Kindergarten Transition Day

5/10/2017 Spring Concert K,2,4,Choir

5/19/2015 A.M. School Only

5/24-26/2017 5th Grade Camp

5/29/2017 No School

Please go to our website for additional information and flyers.

Dear Richard Families and Friends,

March has been a very busy month at Richard! We have been celebrating March as Reading Month with a variety of activities throughout the classrooms, along with the Magic Bookshelf assembly and two visits by authors. Children have been participating in independent and group reading activities. In addition, our PTO sponsored a Read-a-Thon that was rewarding for everyone involved.

Great news! Our Michigan Green School application was received and reviewed. Because of the hard work from the staff, students and parents, Richard Elementary School has received the 2016-17 Michigan Evergreen School designation, by completing energy saving and environmental tasks. The efforts we made to complete the tasks are very impressive. We hope to continue with the energy saving and environmental tasks and hope to encourage others to follow. We are so proud of everyone's efforts on this and thank our engineer Randal Baker and our entire Green Team Committee!

We wish Mr. Randal Baker the best with his new position as Custodial Supervisor for the district. We are happy for him and happy that he will stay in touch with us at Richard. For the time being, Mr. Phil Dillon will be taking the position at Richard. We welcome Phil who brings a wealth of experience with him to provide a smooth transition for us.

We are getting ready for parent/teacher conferences on March 29 and 30. Please make sure you have scheduled a conference. Report Cards for all students will be sent home on March 22. Please watch for them to come home.

Thank you to all of you who continue to volunteer and participate in a wide variety of activities to support our students' learning at school and at home. We truly are a successful learning community.

Warmly,

Mary MacDonald-Barrett

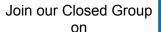
Principal

Follow us

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW US ON.

@RichardRaccoons





Facebook : Richard Families





The PTO progressive dinner will be held on April 22nd. Thank you Angela Wohlfarth and Helena Carrol for all of your hard work in planning and organizing this fun evening. We are still in need of host houses, even those who can only seat 6-8 people. The dinner and wine will be provided to the hosts. Please contact Angela or Helena if you can help host.

Thank you

Jodie Reynolds and the many other volunteers who helped make this year's noontime enrichment a great success.

Richard Read-A-Thon

The students are enjoying their first Richard Read-A-Thon. Thanks to Jennifer Legault for organizing this wonderful event to raise money for Chromebooks for the school.

Conferences

The PTO is once again looking forward to providing meals to the teachers on their conference days. Please consider a donation of food or paper goods on the sign up: <u>http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aa9a72eabfa7-conference1</u>

TCBY Dates

April 11th and Tuesday May, 30th



Box Tops We need your Box Tops!!

November Winners

Mrs. K. Schmitz class– 933

March Winners

Mrs. Aldrich's class Mrs. Krieger's class







HELPING CHILDREN Understand Autism

S ince one in every 68 children is diagnosed with autism, your child is likely to encounter a number of children with the disorder. How you respond to your child's questions significantly impacts your child's understanding of this complex disorder, as well as his or her acceptance of individuals with different abilities. Here are some suggestions to help your child understand autism.

Be honest. If you don't know a lot about autism, tell your child that you don't know but are willing to find out. Take advantage of your child's curiosity and seek resources to help. Many children's books explain autism in a way that young children can understand. Websites contain helpful information for children, parents, and providers.

at the airport over the background noise? Tony is hearing all of the background noises in the classroom and has difficulty paying attention to just your voice. Why don't you sit down and face him when you talk to him?"

Talk to the child's parent. Ask the parent for suggestions about how to help your child to interact in a way that

Know that every child is

different. Autism is a spectrum disorder, so no two children with autism are alike. A child with autism might have areas of exceptional talent, as well as areas of deficit. Help your child understand that autism presents itself in variable ways.

Put a positive spin on it.

Be careful not to describe individuals with autism as lacking in some important way. Focus on the positive and describe what your child can

do to help. For example, say, "Tony is an excellent artist. You can talk about his drawings with him by asking him specific questions."

When relaying an area of challenge for the child with autism, help your child relate to the experience. You might say, for example: "Remember how it was hard to hear me



will engage the other child. You can also learn about the child's interests and then share suggestions with your child about conversation starters.

Parents of children with autism seek good peer role models for their children in order to improve their language and social skills. Finding willing peers to interact with their children is challenging, so this could be a good opportunity for your child to be a good influence.

Encourage interaction. If the child acts out or must leave a play date early, reassure your child that this does not mean that he or she did anything wrong. Schedule future play dates so that your child can see the positive effects of his or her interactions over time.

This *Report to Parents* was written by Melanie I. Bloom.



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REQUIRED ONLINE REGISTRATION

Is your email current with the school district? Have your phone number or emergency contacts changed?

If you need to update your email or phone number with the school district, log in to ParentPortal MISTAR and click on "My Information" in the upper right corner.

You can also email <u>ParentConnect@gpschools.org</u> from your email account we have on file, or call 313-432-3131 from your phone number listed in our records, which enables us to verify who you are. Please provide: 1) your name, 2) your child's name, 3) present school name, and 4) your old and new email addresses as soon as possible.

Parent Question #1-What month were you born in?

INPORTANT

PICK-UP & DROP OFF PROCEDURES

We have had numerous complaints about pick-up and drop-off in the front of the school and in the circle behind the school. If you must drive your children to school, please pull all the way up, STOP, DROP your kids off, and ROLL along. When parents sit in cars, it blocks others from dropping off their children. Do not park in front of the school or in the back circle, these are "NO PARKING" zones. Leaving your car to visit with other parents or to walk a child to the door, is not permitted Children



have been dropped off in the middle of the street because of the parked cars that are taking up drop-off spaces!

Have patience, be polite, and above all keep our school drop-off and pick -up areas safe!

CONGRATULATIONS MARCH WINNERS

Golden Note Award Winners:

- K-1: Mrs. Tawile
- 2-3: Mr. Swansey
- 4-5: Mrs. Aldrich



Golden Shoe Award Winners:

- K-2: Mrs. Brown /Cantalupo
- 3-5: Mrs. Aldrich



Golden Paintbrush Award Winners:

Mrs. Tawile Mrs. Murphy Mrs. Briggs



Golden Book Award Winner:

Mrs. Aldrich



Month:

Kassidy B. Charlotte M. Caleb G. Sawyer W. Jack O.



Parent question # 2: What is your middle name?











Gym: Mr. Ciaravino

March MADNESS has begun! We are playing basketball and volleyball with spring training around the corner! Stay active, eat healthy, and get enough sleep.



Music



We are continuing to prepare grades K,2,4, and the choir for our spring concert on May 10 at Brownell.

Some of our 5^{th} graders who participated in the Composer Scavenger Hunt have completed the hunt; 5^{th} grade will be moving on to the drum unit – a favorite!! – as soon as the drums arrive from their current school .

Spanish: Senorita Zamudio



It is that time of year again when Spanish says *Adios* to Richard for the school year. Third graders had a great first year. They were able to retell stories in Spanish and write their own sentences. Fourth graders did a fine job too. They bundled up what they learned about weather, clothing, family, and put it together in a skit about Peru's culture. Fifth graders concluded their last year of elementary Spanish with a *fiesta*. Some of their accomplishments in fifth grader were giving directions, describing their community, writing Spanish stories similar to the ones of the great Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marguez.



<u>Art:</u>

We have been very busy in the art room! The kindergarten has been learning about the color wheel and creating art inspired by Kandinsky. They also created clay candy bowls that are ready to be glazed! First grade has started their spring art projects, including chocolate bunny paintings, cherry blossom designs, and clay bunny bowls. Second grade continues their study of Vincent van Gogh and have started painting sunflowers in a vase. Next, they will create sunflowers out of clay. All clay will be sent home at the end of April! Please visit the third floor of Richard to view the artists on display for the month of March.

I am so proud of our Richard artists as they continue to surprise me with their creativity. Fifth graders are starting their monster doll project. Fourth graders are working on their Picasso portraits. Third graders are working on their Incan/Mayan/ Aztec Empire metal masks. In addition the fifth grade bells are done and hidden away until their graduation day.



Library



Kindergarteners have been gathering facts about mice, taking notes at "observation stations" that featured non-fiction books, photographs, videos, and a real live mouse! We'll write and illustrate our own informational book and dedicate it to our mascot, Leo the Library Mouse. **First graders** have been exploring the wealth of information and learning tools available on *World Book Kids* online. **Second graders** are back to call numbers this month, marveling at how much one can know about a book from a few letters and numbers on a spine sticker. We located and celebrated our favorite Dewey (non-fiction) subject codes and will take a "Bio Break" in the final library "neighborhood" of our yearlong study.

Bookmark Winners





Grayden W, Makenzie W, Grace B, Jake C, Sofia B, Vivian R.

M-Step Testing Schedule

<u>Grade 5</u>

All A

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ELA: April 11,12,13

Math: April 18,19

Social Studies: April 20

Grades 3 & 4

ELA: May 2,3

Math: May 9,10

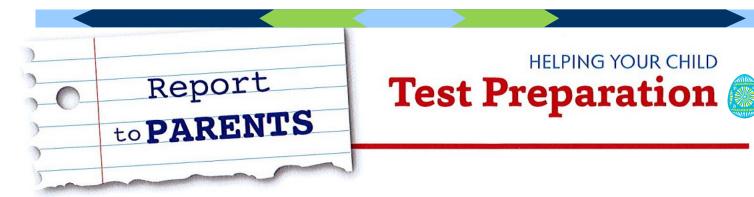
Science: 4th Grade only—May 11



All A

M-Step Information

- Students in grades 3-5 will be assessed on Michigan's current content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.
- Since Michigan moved from fall testing in grades 3-5 to spring testing, students will be tested on content learned during the current school year versus the prior year.
- Parent Question #3: What is your favorite color?
- Students in 4th grade will be tested in science; students in 5th grade will be tested in social studies.
- Language arts testing for students in grades 3-5 consists of reading and writing.
- M-STEP testing dates: April 11– May 27.



N hether you've been out of school for five years or 15, the thought of taking a test probably still makes your heart race. Now imagine what its like for your child. As a parent, you can help.

THE PHYSICAL

Get them fed. The more nutritiously your children eat, the better they will do in school. Properly fueled and with stable blood sugar levels, their concentration is enhanced. Always give them a healthy breakfast while cutting back on high-sugar cereals, pastries, and undiluted juices (which

can have the same sugar content as sodas.) Most kids are ravenous after school, so before they settle down to study, provide a healthful, non-junk food snack to carry them through to dinner.

Get them moving. Exams cause stress, but, sports, exercise, and dancing can relieve it. Physical activity that gets students completely away from academics for a few hours each day can actually help them perform better on tests.

Get them breathing. Teach your kids a simple breathing exercise that you'll

do with them once or twice a day and in times of stress (as in right before a test): Take a deep breath, hold to the count of three, then exhale slowly through the nose to the count of 10.

Get them to bed on time. Elementary and middle school children need up to 10 hours of sleep each night to do their best in school. They also need to curtail the excitement from video games, television, movies, and texting for at least 30 minutes before sleep.

THE MENTAL

Practice their confidence. Ask the teacher or principal if there are practice tests or worksheets your child can work on at home before the big day. These can help your children get used to how the questions are worded and how to properly fill in test sheet bubbles.



Put piecework into action. Pre-exam cramming does not work. In fact, four 15-minute periods of study are actually superior to one continuous hour when it comes to memory retention. Therefore, see to it that your child preps for tests in small bursts, in some small way, every day.

Unplug already. When it comes to distracting videos, television, telephones, or social media (basically anything with a screen or speakers that's not directly related to school work), study time is the time to turn the devices off.

THE EMOTIONAL

Offer super support. As much as you value good exam grades, it's more important that kids understand that your love and respect for them is not dependent on their test scores.

Review results together. Once the graded exam comes back, sit with your child and review what went right, what didn't, and how to do better next time. This is not the time for you to lecture. Subtly prompted, your child should do most of the talking.



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RP 31:8



Its Springtime!!! From your Elementary Library Media Specialists! (click on each image for a link)

Have fun exploring this month's digital picks. This month, we take a different approach with our digital resources, emphasizing the moderate, responsible use of technology. Take some time to visit these online resources and discover some strategies to take charge of technology and its presence in your life.



https://thefamilydinnerproject.org/

See if this 4-week program can help you reclaim dinner time for family sharing. This website is filled with recipes, suggestions and resources and age-appropriate games to play during meal time.

> https://www.commonsensemedia.org/device-free-dinner Check out this website for great dinner time conversation

Common Sense Media #DeviceFreeDinner

media

starters and technology-free activities. Turn dinner into a time spent sharing rather than one competing with devices and distractions.

common sense

Recently, reports in the news have address the addictive nature of technology for children and adults alike. Visit the Technology Addiction resource page of Common Sense Media and explore questions according to different age groups. Find well-researched answers to concerns you may have about your child(ren)'s technology use - and maybe your own!.



https://www.getepic.com/

Web-based, app for the iPhone and iPad. \$4.99 monthly subscription. Free for educators. Have instant access to thousands of ebooks for children without the inconvenience of waitlists. Scan and page through collections of fiction and nonfiction books.



See what all the excitement is about - GoNoodle website (free) turns movement into a game and makes it easy to be active, the kid way-silly, energetic, playful, and fun. Just press play on hundreds of custom-created videos and get kids running, jumping, dancing, stretching, and practicing moments of mindfulness.

Elementary Library Media Specialists

- Danielle Gostomski: Kerby, Mason, Poupard
- Amy Hermon: Defer, Maire, Monteith, Richard
- Sherry Martin: Ferry, Mason, Poupard
- Cheryl Quinlan: Defer, Maire, Monteith, Richard
- Rachel Walpole: Defer, Richard, Trombly •



RICHARD SCHOOL POLICY

It is important to Richard School that we provide a safe environment for our children; however, we would like to retain a warm, inviting atmosphere for our parents. We want to encourage parents to volunteer in our school, while simultaneously keeping track of all visitors to our building. Please help us by following these guidelines:

- Please use the buzzer system at each door to enter building.
- All visitors must check in at the school office. This includes parent volunteers and other service personnel.
- If you have forgotten items to bring to your child, such as lunches, homework, musical instruments, etc., please deliver them to the office. We want to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum. All messages will be delivered at 11:40 or 3:20 on Monday and 11:20 or 3:20 Tuesday through Friday.
- If your child needs to be dismissed early, please alert the teacher via a note or email as to the time to
 ensure your child has all necessary homework/materials ready at their dismissal. When you arrive in
 the office to sign your child out, the secretary will then call to have your child dismissed.

Students will not be called down to the office until the parent has arrived at the school.



Tentative School Calendar 2017-18

A tentative calendar has been slated for the upcoming 2017-18 school year. Due to the state mandate stipulating that all districts within the county follow the county calendar, our spring break will remain the first week of April. The district will continue to have Good Friday off.

9/5/2017	1st Student Day
11/7/2017	Election Day-No School for Students
11/22/17-11/26/2017	Thanksgiving Break
12/23/171/2/18	Holiday Break
1/15/2018	MLK Day-No School
2/16/18-2/25/2018	Mid-Winter Break
3/30/18-4/8/18	Spring Break
5/28/2018	Memorial Day-No School
6/15/2018	Last Day of School-AM only

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

The weather in Michigan is unpredictable, to say the least. Remember to dress for the weather. Be sure to



steer clear of the mud and puddles.

Recess play tends to get more rough as the weather gets nicer. Be mindful of the playground rules. Enjoy recess, without getting hurt or hurting someone else.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones are not recommended for elementary students use. If a student does have a cell phone at school, its ring and vibrate



functions must be turned off. Telephone calls and texts must not be sent or received during the school day. The district/Richard is not responsible for loss, theft, damage or vandalism to student electronic devices as well as other student property. Parent question #4: What is your favorite food?

DRILLS & PROCEDURES

NOONTIME ENRICHMENT Bricks for kids!



LOST AND FOUND

Make sure to check out all of the Lost & Found on the tables in the hall during conferences. Items will remain out until our Spring break. Any items remaining will be donated to charity.





State law requires schools to conduct a specific number of emergency drills (tornado, fire, lockdown) during the school year. These drills are typically unannounced. The city works with the school on all of these drills, and a police presence is expected. Parent question #5: Do you read the newsletter regularly (be honest). During these drills the office is instructed to not answer the phone or door buzzer.



Encourage Your Child's Creativity to Flourish

Creativity has been called a key 21st century skill. That means it—along with skills like communication and critical thinking—will help students navigate the increasingly collaborative and information-rich world that awaits them once they leave school. The arts have been shown to boost students' academic performance, perseverance, self-confidence, and more. Here are strategies for supporting your child's creativity.

Take stock of your toys. Flashy electronic toys are fun, but they don't offer children opportunities for open-ended, imaginative play. Make sure to have basic art supplies—paper, crayons, glue, clay—at home, along with toys like building blocks, puzzles, or costumes for dress-up.

Cut the screen time. Set limits on TV and iPad time. Try designating a certain time during the week when your entire family will put down cell phones and work on a creative project.

Embrace mistakes. Children who are afraid of failure are less likely to think creatively. Teach your child that mistakes are opportunities for growth. Ask, "What could you do differently next time?" Be patient with your child—and model patience as he or she learns new skills or tries a new project.

Encourage curiosity. Don't squelch kids' natural curiosity by being frustrated when your child asks lots of questions. Embrace it! Ask, "What if" questions, and encourage your child to use his or her imagination.

Offer constructive praise... Too much praise can make a child "hooked" on success. Instead of offering general praise ("You're so smart!"), offer specific feedback that praises your child's effort or the process he or she used ("You found a great way to paint that scene," or "I can tell you've been practicing.") Offer non-verbal praise (a hug



or a thumbs-up), or implicit encouragement by displaying your child's work on the refrigerator.

...but step back sometimes. If a child feels constantly watched, he or she may be less likely to try new ideas. Give your child space to play on his or her own. Wait until your child is finished drawing to ask what he or she has made.

Look for community resources. Check your local library, museum, or community center for art

classes or workshops to try new creative skills. Keep an eye out for poster or story contests offered by community organizations, too. Or, try teaming up with a neighbor or friend to host an art playdate. Some projects can be time-consuming or expensive, but working together with other families can help ease the burden.

Web Resources

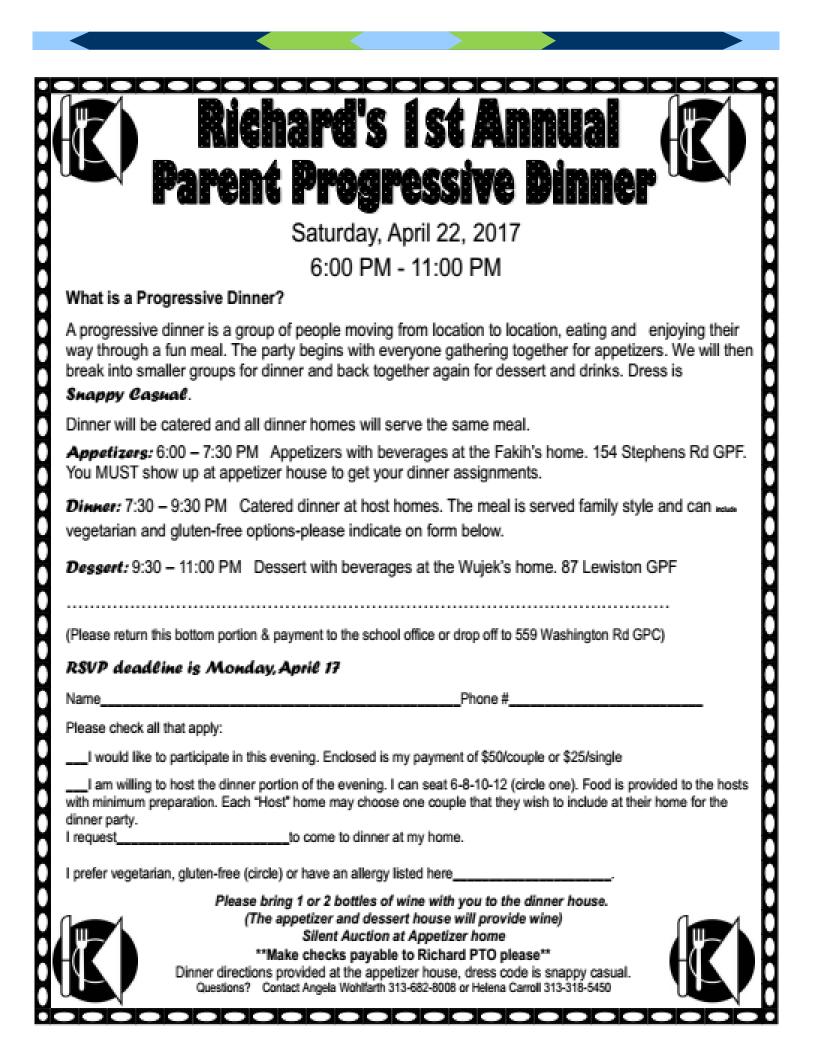
Visit Crayola's **Creative Parenting Web page** for activities and tips to spark creativity at home. *bit.ly/creativeparenting*

The **Tinkerlab** offers dozens of hands-on art, science, writing, and craft ideas for families to try. **tinkerlab.com/**

At **The Artful Parent** blog, explore interviews with children's art experts along with lists of the best supplies. *artfulparent.com/*



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Oh the Places You Will Go When You Read a Good Book!





































5th Grade Camp May 24-26

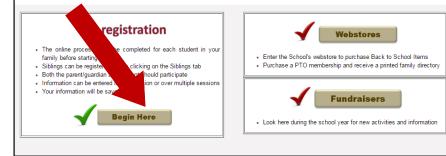




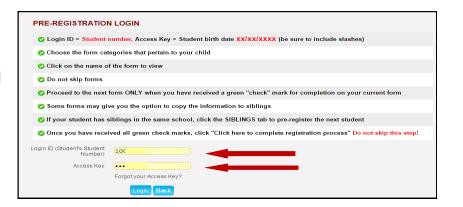
It is only a few clicks. Click on Richard

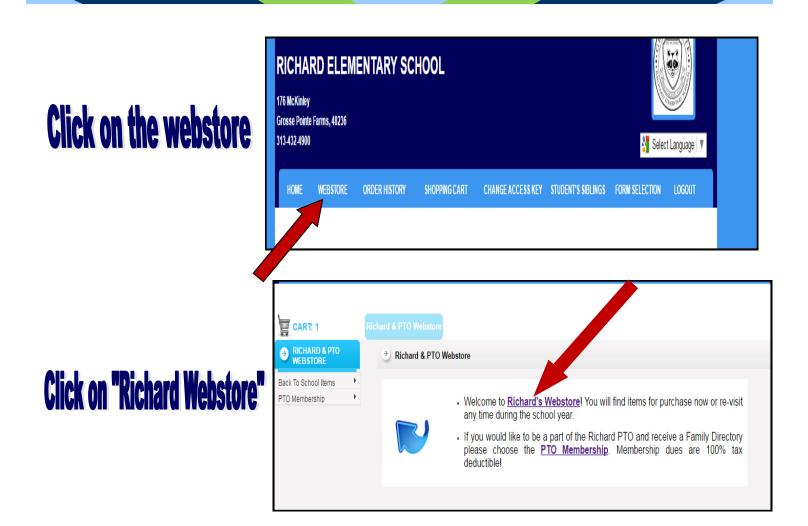






You need your child's student ID & birthdate to log in. Call the office for assistance if needed.





Check the box & click on the "add to cart" box.

CART: 1		Richard & PTO Webstore				
RICHARD & PTO WEBSTORE		👌 Richard & PTO Webs	store > Back To School Item	15		
Back To School Items PTO Membership) }	A-la-Carte Items Camp				
		V tr name	ltem Detail	Item Description	Stock Quantity	Item Price (USD)
		5th Grade Camp Copneconic		May 24-26, 2017 More Information coming!!	NA	179.00

Continue with the prompts for check out.

We have been trying to boost the popularity of our newsletter! It is jam packed with useful information and also lots of fun stuff too. Keeping up to date with the newsletter, and also be-

coming familiar with our website will definitely keep you in the loop for future happenings and important information.

Here is your challenge. There are five hidden questions for parents in the newsletter. Please return your answers to the office by April 21st. This challenge can help win a pizza party for your child's classroom. I am hopeful to get 100% participation. (1 per family) Let's see who is reading and keeping up with Richard. Thanks for playing!

WIN A PIZZA PARTY FOR YOUR CHILD'S CLASS

Find the hidden questions for parents only. Fill out this slip with the answers. The 1st class to have 100% return will win a Pizza Party!

Parent Answers:

Dear Parents.

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2		
3		
4		
5		
Parent Signature		
Print student name	Teacher	











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Three Types of Parents

CONSULTANT	HELICOPTER	DRILL SERGEANT
This Love and Logic parent provides guidance and con- sultant services for children.	This parent hovers over children and rescues them from the hostile world in which they live.	This parent commands and directs the lives of children.
 The Love and Logic parent provides messages of personal worth and strength 	1. provides messages of weakness and low personal worth	1. provides messages of low personal worth and resistance
2. The Love and Logic parent very seldom mentions responsibilities	 makes excuses for the child, but complains about mishandled responsibilities 	2. makes lots of demands and has lots of expecta- tions about responsibility
3. The Love and Logic parent demonstrates how to take care of self and be responsible	3. "takes on" the responsi- bility of the child	3. tells the child how he/she should handle responsibility
4. The Love and Logic parent shares personal feelings about own performance and responsibilities	4. protects the child from any possible negative feelings	4. tells the child how he/she should feel
5. The Love and Logic parent provides and helps child explore alternatives and then allows child to make his/her own decision	5. makes decisions for the child	 provides absolutes: "This is the decision you should make!"
6. The Love and Logic parent provides "time frames" in which child may complete responsibilities	 provides no structure, but complains, "After all I've done for you" 	6. demands that jobs or responsibilities be done now
	Continued	

2207 Jackson St, Golden, CO 80401

800-338-4065

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Three Types of Parents, continued.

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CONSULTANT	HELICOPTER	DRILL SERGEANT
7. The Love and Logic parent models doing a good job, finishing, cleaning up, feeling good about it	 whines and uses guilt: "When are you ever going to learn. I always have to clean up after you." 	7. issues orders and threats: "You get that room cleaned up or else"
8. The Love and Logic parent often asks self, "Who owns the problem?" helps the child explore solutions to his/her problem	8. whines and complains about having an irresponsible child who causes "me" much work and responsibility	8. takes over ownership of the problem using threats and orders to solve the problem
9. The Love and Logic parent uses lots of actions, but very few words	9. uses lots of words and actions that rescue or indicate that the child is not capable or responsible	9. uses lots of harsh words, very few actions
10. The Love and Logic parent allows child to experience life's natural consequences and allows them to serve as the teacher	10. protects child from natural consequences, uses guilt as the teacher	10. uses punishment; pain and humiliation can serve as the teacher

People who are really successful implementing this skill purchased <u>Helicopters, Drill Sergeants & Consultants</u>

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2207 Jackson St, Golden, CO 80401

800-338-4065 www.lo

www.loveandlogic.com

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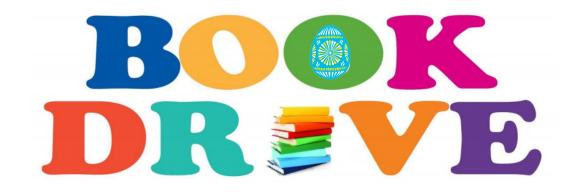
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Want to donate all those books you read in

March?

Richard Elementary School PTO is asking for your help! We are collecting NEW or GENTLY USED books to help the SOAR Reading Literacy Program through ESYSF in Detroit.

In Spring of 2015, less than 12% of Detroit Public School 3rd grade students met the Michigan Standards in English Language Arts.

SOAR has teamed up with East Side Youth Sports Foundation for a sports literacy program for Detroit 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders next Fall. The after school program consists of a 30-minute soccer program

held at The MAC by ESFC followed by a healthy snack

and 1 hour literacy program at St. Philomena Church.

They need 1,000 books to start this program and we can help!

Drop your books off at Richard during the month of April

"The more you**read** the more **that you know**. The more that you **earn** the more **baces** you'll go." Richard Elementary School 176 McKinley

Phone: 313-432-4900 Fax: 313-432-4902 webmaster: linda.fiscus@gpschools.org

On the web at http:// gpschools.schoolwires.ne t/gprichard/site/

Grosse Pointe Public School System www.gpschools.org

Our Vision: One GP – where everyone learns, every day

Our Mission: Promote Innovation → Maximize Potential → Embrace Community

Chronicle Contest!

In every issue of the Richard Chronicle, there will be a contest to find the secret pictures. When parents and students read the chronicle, they will need to count the number of secret pictures they find and submit their count to the office. The picture for March is:

February winners: Isabella H.

Print and use this sheet or fill out your own.

8	<u>-</u>
	Students Name
	Teacher
	How Many?
	Please return to the office by: April 15th.