

# Chamberlin Hill Intermediate School



## March Newsletter

### A note from Principal Stephenson

Beginning Monday, all students are invited to sell Shirley's Gourmet Popcorn and Nuts. We are having this fundraiser to help with our Leader in Me expenses. Items that we purchase with this money include: supplies for student leadership teams, student leadership shirts, service field trips (bus fees), leader luncheon food, and much more. Even though participation is voluntary, we hope you will continue to support The Leader in Me at CH. The class that raises the most money will win a popcorn party.

- Sale Dates: March 5th-15th
- Checks Payable to: Findlay City Schools
- Pick Up Location: Chamberlin Hill North Gym Doors (behind school)
- Pick Up Date: March 22nd 4:00pm-6:00pm

### A note from The School Counselor

Spring is around the corner, but isn't here quite yet. As the weather warms up, children can become restless and have more behavior issues. One way to be proactive is to do as many outdoor activities as the weather permits (household chores will be there when the weather isn't so nice, they can wait). The warm sun and Spring like breezes helps all of us feel less grumpy. Giving children positive attention can help prevent behavior problems. Playing games, working on crafts or doing home projects together can provide a special bonding time as well as teaching time. Even if your child had less than perfect day, give him/her your undivided attention for at least 30 minutes or more. Be sure to listen to your child and really hear what they are saying. Be sure to have clear household rules with negative and positive consequences. By posting the rules on the refrigerator or another prominent location in the house, will help reduce/eliminate some arguments. When a child wants to argue, stay calm and keep your voice down. State what he or she needs to do and then start to walk away. If they begin to scream or throw a temper tantrum, stay to be sure they are not hurting themselves. When they are quiet and still, repeat what they need to do. In the heat of the moment, remind them of their calm down strategies. The real key is keeping cool and collect yourself.

### Important Dates:

March 5th: Popcorn Sales Begin

March 7th: JSN Ice Skating  
4:00-5:30

March 9th: 2-Hour Delay  
(Teacher In-Service)  
6:30-8:30 PTO  
Mother/Son Mystery Night  
@ Chamberlin Hill

March 13th: 7pm PTO Meeting

March 15th: Popcorn Sale \$ Due

March 22nd: 4-6 pm  
Popcorn Sale Pick up @  
Chamberlin Hill Gym North  
Doors (behind school)

March 23rd: Report Cards  
go home

March 26th-March 30th:  
No School Spring Break



# Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

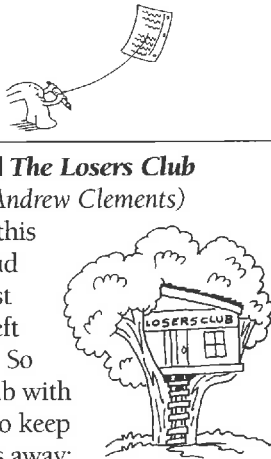
March 2018

Chamberlin Hill School  
Mrs. Lyndsey Stephenson, Principal

## Book Picks

### ■ *The Losers Club* (Andrew Clements)

In this laugh-out-loud story, Alec just wants to be left alone to read. So he starts a club with a name sure to keep the other kids away: "The Losers Club." Now the sixth grader can't understand why so many of his classmates want to join him.



### ■ *Who Was Albert Einstein?* (Jess Brallier)

This illustrated biography explores the life of physicist Albert Einstein. Einstein was a shy child who struggled in school but grew up to be one of the world's most famous scientists and thinkers. (Also available in Spanish.)

### ■ *Lily's Mountain* (Hannah Moderow)

Unwilling to accept that her father died while climbing Mt. Denali, 12-year-old Lily embarks on a mission to rescue him. Along the way, she uses the many outdoor skills her dad taught her to overcome physical and emotional challenges. A fast-paced adventure tale.



■ *The Animal Book* (Steve Jenkins)  
Does your child know that most of the animals on earth are insects? Or that there are more extinct animal species than living ones? This almanac features hundreds of creatures and interesting facts about where they live, what they eat, how they defend themselves, and more.



## Write with a purpose

Whether your youngster is running for student council, writing a story for younger children, or leaving instructions for a pet sitter, keeping her purpose in mind will help her communicate clearly. This advice can help her keep her eye on her goal throughout the writing process.



### Keep it front and center

Encourage your child to write her purpose on a sticky note and put it where she'll see it as she works. For instance, maybe she's writing a campaign speech. Her purpose might be "To persuade others to vote for me." This will remind her to include information about how students would benefit from selecting her as their candidate.

### Choose words carefully

The words your youngster uses can help her achieve her goal. Say she's writing a story to read to a kindergarten class. Picking words little ones will understand (*happy* vs. *elated*) will make her story more entertaining for them. Or if she's

writing instructions for a neighbor who's watching her pet iguana over spring break, she could describe the animal's personality (*timid*, *playful*). That will tell the sitter how to approach him.

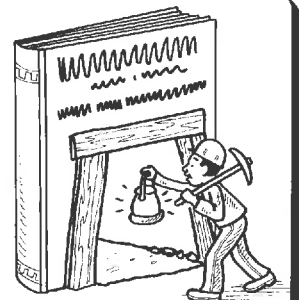
### Revise

Suggest that your child reread her writing to make sure every sentence is in line with her purpose. She might add missing points or take out anything that doesn't fit. For example, in a letter to her grandmother, she may realize that she should write about her piano lessons rather than mentioning her favorite video game twice. ■

## Dig deep

As your child gets older, he'll be expected to think more deeply about books. Talk together about what he reads. You may not realize it, but the questions you ask can encourage higher-level thinking on his part! Here are two ideas:

- Pose questions that require more than a one-word answer. *Example:* "How did the main character change as the story went on?" instead of "Who is the main character?"
- Choose questions that can't be answered by what's in the story alone. Questions that start with "Why do you think..." or "What if..." are good options. ("Why do you think the author ended it that way?" or "What if the story took place 100 years ago?") ■



# The “extra! extra!” benefits of newspapers

Sharing the newspaper every day is an easy way to encourage your youngster to read regularly. Consider these ideas.

**Sports recaps.** Start by watching a game together. The next day, pick up the sports section, and look for a story about the game. Which highlights does he think the reporter captured well? What would he have added if he were the writer?



**Entertainment reviews.** Does your child agree with reviewers’ opinions? After you see a movie, play, or museum exhibit, let him read a review of it in the newspaper and tell you what he thinks.

**Comic strips.** Have your youngster choose a comic to read aloud each day at breakfast or dinner. He could use a different voice for each character. At the end of the week, let family members vote for their favorite strip.

**Calendar of events.** Your child can use the newspaper to plan family outings. Encourage him to look for free community offerings like a farmers’ market or a parade. Then, let him announce the time, date, location, and other details. 📅

## Fun with Words

### What’s in a contraction?

Words like *it’s*, *she’ll*, and *wouldn’t* add variety to our language and make writing flow smoothly. These *contractions* are formed by combining two words, with an apostrophe replacing one or more dropped letters. Enjoy these activities.

#### Talk and listen

Play a game over dinner: no contractions allowed during your conversations! Your child will need to choose her words carefully—and listen closely to others to make sure they don’t use a contraction. Who can go the longest? She’ll see that without contractions, speech can sound awkward or choppy.

#### Read and write

Ask your youngster to read a page from a book

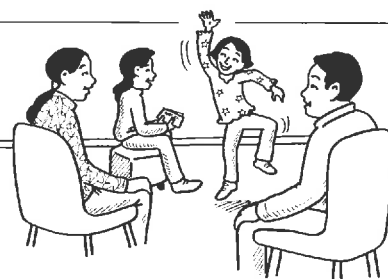


out loud, replacing each contraction with the two words that form it. For example, if she sees *you’re*, she would say *you are*. Then, have her write each contraction on one side of an index card and the two words that form it on the other side. This will help her remember the correct spelling. 📇



### Three cheers for improv

“Improv” lets your child practice speaking and thinking on her feet. Short for *improvisational theater*, improv involves acting without a script or planning ahead. Try these suggestions for a fun family night.



#### Guess the character

Each person secretly picks a storybook character (Curious George, Rapunzel). Set a timer for 5 minutes, and take turns being the character you picked. “Curious George” might run and jump around, then say, “I got in trouble today, as usual, but my friend with the yellow hat rescued me.” And “Rapunzel” could act out brushing her long hair while saying, “I can barely hear you up here in my tower!” When the timer goes off, try to guess each other’s characters.

#### One word at a time

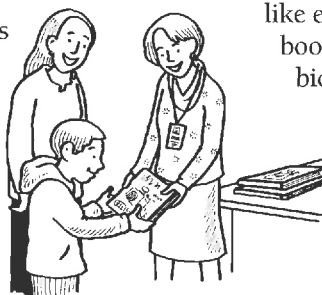
Work together to say an outrageous sentence. On each turn, a player may say only one word. The first person might say “I,” the next player could say, “saw,” and so on. (“I saw a big green dragon eating a cheeseburger on the bus.”) After the last word is said, everyone acts out the sentence. One player might be the dragon, another could drive the bus, and everyone else could be passengers, for example. 🎭

## Q&A

### Challenging a strong reader

**Q** My son reads above grade level. But the books he picks out are either too easy or the subjects are too mature. How can I help him stay challenged and find appropriate books?

**A** Start by talking to his school librarian. She will be able to suggest books on your child’s reading level that are appropriate for him. Perhaps classics or historical fiction would be a good fit.



Or nonfiction may be a good choice. Your youngster can look for books with advanced vocabulary that match his interests. Is he a shutterbug? He can check out photography books. Does he like engineering? He might enjoy books about how things work or biographies of engineers.

Keep in mind that it’s okay if your son occasionally wants to read easy books or reread old favorites. Reading for fun is an activity that he can enjoy all his life. 📖

#### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children’s reading, writing, and language skills.

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