

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 2-5

1 Help From Dr. Elmo

Elmo, the lovable character from "Sesame Street," wants you to stay healthy. So this fall Elmo will be appearing with his human friend Gordon in TV ads teaching kids and families how to stay healthy and not get the disease called swine flu. In the ads, Elmo teaches the importance of washing your hands, sneezing into the bend in your arm and not touching your face to avoid spreading swine flu. With family or classmates, talk about ways to avoid spreading diseases like flu to others. Discuss the importance of staying at home if you are really sick and not exposing others to germs or viruses. Then draw a comic strip for the eEdition, showing characters doing things to stay healthy and not spread diseases like swine flu.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of oral, visual, written and electronic texts by making connections to students' personal lives and the lives of others; comprehending what constitutes good health and nutrition; using the craft of the illustrator to express ideas artistically.

2 A Thriller of a 'Thriller'

Last week, on what would have been pop star Michael Jackson's 51st birthday, thousands of singers and dancers got together to try to break the world record for most people dancing to Jackson's hit song "Thriller." Organizers of the event in Mexico City, Mexico, say 12,937 people danced together in an attempt to break the record for most people dancing the moves made famous in the Jackson's music video of the song. The Guinness Book of World Records will decide this week if enough of the people danced all the steps to break the record set in May by a group of 242 college students. With classmates, find activities in the eEdition that you would like to do together to set a world record. Pick one and design an ad for the eEdition asking people to join you in your record-breaking effort.

Learning Standard: Reading and writing with developing fluency, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing strategically and representing creatively.

3 Writing for Soldiers

Former Brigadier General Anthony Tata was a top soldier in the U.S. Army. And though he has retired to a career writing books, he has not forgotten America's soldiers. He has donated the money earned from his first book "Sudden Threat" to the USO, an organization that provides support and entertainment for military men and women around the world. As a class, look for stories about soldiers or the U.S. military in the eEdition. Find one about a soldier returning from duty in another country or starting a new career. Write a short letter to the soldier offering support in the new career.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; identifying and explaining how individuals demonstrate good character; writing fluently.

4 Section Fronts

Your eEdition allows you to quickly move from section to section to see what the top stories are. In the toolbar at the top or side of the page, pull-down menus allow you to look at the front page of each section to see what stories interest you. With a partner, find the pull-down menu that lets you move through the eEdition section by section. Look at the front page of three sections and write down the story in each section that is given the biggest display. Write a short paragraph explaining how having the ability to look quickly at section fronts helps readers find what they want to

Learning Standards: Using appropriate technology resources to access information and communicate electronically; describing uses of technology in daily life.

5 Artistic Penguins

Museums and cultural attractions are always looking for ways to raise money and gain support for their programs. The Newport Aquarium on the Ohio River in Newport, Kentucky, near Cincinnati has come up with an idea that's really something to squawk about. The aquarium is

Learning Standards: Describing positive and negative effects of humans on nature and wildlife; explaining ecosystem concepts and processes; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

selling artworks created by four penguins who live there. The works are created by having penguins named Marty, Steve, Paula and Simon walk through paint and then walk or slide over painting paper or canvas. The colorful paintings, which sell for as much as \$200 each, have proven very popular with art and animal lovers. And some people are even willing to pay more to have a private session with a Painting Penguin! In the eEdition, find a story or photo about an animal doing an interesting or unusual thing. Write a paragraph in your own words describing what the animal can do and why people find that interesting.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow