

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 High Five

An article in the New York Times newspaper last week discussed the many ways people communicate non-verbally, including facial expressions, gestures and physical contact. One study mentioned in the article looked at the physical interactions in basketball games. The researchers analyzed how often players on each team in the NBA hugged or high-fived, and they found that good teams tend to be “touchier.” In groups, pick a photo of a person in the eEdition. Separately, write down an analysis of the photo. What do you think the person is thinking? What emotions is he or she feeling? Then rejoin your group and compare what each person wrote. Discuss the similarities and differences.

Learning Standards: Practicing verbal and nonverbal strategies that enhance understanding of spoken messages and promote effective listening behaviors; focusing on meaning and communication while listening, speaking, viewing, reading and writing in personal and civic contexts.

2 Polling

Politician Harold Ford Jr. is thinking about running for the U.S. Senate in the state of New York. To get an idea of whether or not people would vote for him, he used his own money to pay for a telephone poll. New Yorkers were called and asked questions about Ford and his potential rival, current U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. They were also asked if their vote would be influenced if various people endorsed Ford. In groups, design your own poll based on something in the eEdition. Ask several other students your poll questions. Then create a chart or graph that displays the results of your poll.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from multiple sources; using traditional and electronic means to organize social science information and to make maps, graphs, and tables.

3 Oscars

On Sunday, March 7, actors, directors, producers, costume designers and others will attend the 82nd annual Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, California. In honor of the Academy Awards, read movie reviews in the eEdition. Then write your own review of a movie you have seen. As a class, share your reviews. Talk about which reviews did the best job helping you understand what a movie was about and decide whether or not you’d want to see it. Which gave away too much information, and which were too vague? Revise your own review based on the feedback you receive.

Learning Standard: Planning and drafting texts, revising and editing their own writing and helping others revise and edit their texts in such areas as content, perspective and effect.

4 Ceiling

Artist Michelangelo Buonarroti was born on March 6, 1475. Michelangelo is best known for painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Italy. The ceiling painting, which is more than 130 feet long, is broken up into sections that depict various scenes from the Bible. Challenge your own artistic creativity by re-creating “scenes” from the eEdition in art form. Pick several articles and make a drawing or collage that represents them. You can have a separate section for each article, or one larger piece of art that incorporates them all.

Learning Standard: Identifying and using aspects of the craft of the speaker, writer and illustrator to formulate and express their ideas artistically.

5 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 prefixes “over” or “under” appear. Remember to leave a space before the prefix when you type it into the search window so that you only get the beginning of words!

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

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for Tomorrow