

Computer Capers April 2008

www.buddyproject.org/capers

Book Cover Card of Thanks

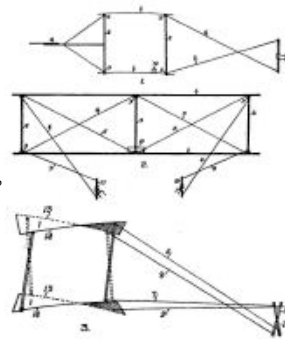
Celebrate Librarians' Day on April 4th by designing a card that looks like a book! What a novel idea! (Pun intended) You can then give it to your school librarian as a show of your appreciation for all that he/she does for you and your school. Use a word processing or drawing program to set up this card. Begin by setting the page as "Landscape". The front cover will be on the right side of a page and the back cover will be on the left side. Create a 2nd page that has the inside left and inside right of the card. Here are a few ideas to help you in the process: The front cover should have a catchy title that describes him or her in a creative way. Add your own drawing and designs, photographs or clip art. Be sure to highlight the "Author": a.k.a. the librarian's name somewhere on the cover. Next, inside the card on the left side, write an "About the Author" article that includes information that you know about him or her (you should know your librarian like a book!) Also try to add a photograph. On the inside right, create an area that looks like a typical greeting card: "Happy Librarians' Day!" along with a special note from you with your signature. It might even be fun to include a photo of you in this area. On the back, write up some creative "reviews" of the author and the book: i.e. "A Master at the craft of storytelling!" Again, focusing on what makes your librarian so important, special, etc. To help you with ideas, look at a few of your book covers at home. When all of your design and written work is complete, print out your card. Hint: After you print out the first page, flip it over and feed it back into your printer so that the 2nd page prints on the "inside of the card". Finally present your new "publication" to your librarian. What a wonderful way to honor them this month!

Indiana Language Arts Standard 4.4.9 Use a computer to draft, revise, and publish writing, demonstrating basic keyboarding skills and familiarity with common computer terminology. 4.5.6 Write for different purposes (information, persuasion, description) and to a specific audience or person.



Make a Wright Kite!

Looking for a fun project to do as a family that will allow you to enjoy the spring winds? Then go fly a kite! But not just any kite... a Wright Kite in honor of Wilbur's birthday this month. You can check out all kinds of wonderful information as well as two different free kite kits that have the original directions as well as a "not quite wright" modified version that is a little bit easier. Start at: <http://www.wright-brothers.org> Read about the processes they went through, learn about their successes and failures, then print out the set of plans you want to tackle and begin your work. Once your kite building is finished, wait for the perfect weather day to attempt your first flight. Record some data of your flights in a notebook - date, weather conditions, time of flight, and any helpful hints or ideas that you learned during the process. Remember patience is a must. When you are finished with your flights, take your handwritten data and enter them into a simple database with four fields: Date, Weather Conditions, Length of Flight, Notes. Use this database to keep track of your attempts each time you fly your kite. When finished, sort your data to find out which flight was the longest. Why do you think it was the most successful? Was it weather conditions or "pilot experience"?



Indiana Science Standard 6.1.6 Explain that computers have become invaluable in science because they speed up and extend people's ability to collect, store, compile, and analyze data; prepare research reports; and share data and ideas with investigators all over the world.

Earth Friendly Top Five

Take part in Earth Day on the 22nd of April by creating a "Top 5" list in a word processor of the things your family uses that are can be used over and over again — Recycled! Next make a list of five things your family cannot use again. Can you pick one item on the second list to work on changing the habit in your family? Could you use something different? How could you use it less frequently? Finally write that goal at the bottom of your page and print it out to hang somewhere as a reminder to everyone each day. Every little effort can make a BIG difference to our world. Give yourself a "High 5" for that!

Indiana Science Standard 2.1.7 Recognize and describe ways that some materials — such as recycled paper, cans, and plastic jugs — can be used over again.

