

Computer Capers

February 2008

www.buddyproject.org/capers

Weather Watcher

Celebrate National Weatherpersons Day on February 5th by becoming a Weather Watcher for a day. Choose a weekend day in February when you are free enough to check the temperature and current conditions every few hours from approximately 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Set up a spreadsheet to record your data. Use column A for tracking the "Time." Place the time from morning to evening in column A using 2 hour increments, (times when you know you can check the current conditions and then record). Use column B and C for the "Predictions of Temperature" and "Conditions." Column D and E will be the data that www.weather.com predicts for each of those hours. Finally, column F and G will be for the "Actual Temperature" and "Actual Conditions" that you observe. Once you've set up the framework of your spreadsheet, complete columns B and C with your own predictions as to what the temperature and conditions will be for each of the times listed. Next, check out what weather.com has predicted (type in your zip code and then choose "hour-by-hour") for each of those hours and enter that as well into column D and E. Finally, be a weather watcher and gather current data at every time listed and record the actual temperature and conditions and place them in columns F and G. When you are finished completing your spreadsheet, take a look at the results. What was the difference between your prediction and the actual data? Look at the weather.com prediction and compare it to the actual observed data? Who predicted more accurately? Can predictions be perfect? Why or why not? Do you think you'd like to be a meteorologist someday? Why or why not?



	My Pred.	My Pred.	Weather	Forecast	Actual	Actual
TIME	Temp.	Cond.	Temp	Cond.	Temp.	Cond.
8:00						
10:00						
12:00						
2:00						
4:00						

Indiana Social Studies Standard 4.2.4 Use numerical data to describe and compare objects and events. Mathematics 4.6.1 Represent data on a number line and in tables, including frequency tables.

U.S. Currency History

In honor of Presidents Day this February, take a look at how the U.S. honors certain past presidents by placing their faces on U.S. Currency. There are seven current bills that the U.S. still has in circulation. Do some research online or at the library on each of these bills, their history, what president is featured and why, what they look like, how this currency has changed, and any interesting facts. Create a slideshow of your findings. Include a slide about each bill as well as a title slide and concluding slide. Can you find an image of the front and back of each bill to include on the slide? What bill did you find the most interesting? Why? Finally, add one more slide to your presentation: Propose A New Bill, designed by you. If you were to bring into circulation a new bill, what denomination would it be? Why? Who would it honor? What would be unique about the design? Be sure to include an image of your design on this slide as well. Finally, put your "money where your mouth is" and present your slideshow to your family or your class.



Indiana Language Arts Standard 6.7.13 Deliver persuasive presentations that: • provide a clear statement of the position. • include relevant evidence. • offer a logical sequence of information. • engage the listener and try to gain acceptance of the proposition or proposal.

Leap Year Day Log

Create your own little piece of history on Leap Day this year by keeping a log of all that took place in your family's life on this unique day. Use a word processor to compose your entry. You might divide it into segments: Morning, Afternoon, and Evening or even get more specific and log by the hour. When you have finished with your Leap Day Log, print it out and place it in a special spot for safekeeping. It will be so interesting to look back and see how you spent your "extra" day in 2008.



Indiana Language Arts Standard 2.4.5 Use a computer to draft, revise, and publish writing. 2.5.1 Write brief narratives based on experiences that: • move through a logical sequence of events (chronological order, order of importance). • describe the setting, characters, objects, and events in detail.