

THE JOHN H. FINLEY POST

Excellence Without Excuses

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Principal Odelphia Pierre
Assistant Principal Andrea Story
Assistant Principal Maria Penaherrera



Contents

Interview with Ms. Story	1
Upcoming Events/ Holidays	1
Let's Get More Organized	2
Learn a New Language	2
Cartoon by Garrett D.	2
Writing a Thank You Letter	3
Math Problem of the Month	3
Five Hobbies that Help the Brain	3
Shortbread Cookie Recipe	4
Help to Create Our Newspaper's Logo	4

Upcoming Events/ Holidays

- ♦ Jan. 15th Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Schools Closed
- ♦ Spirit Week:
 - Jan. 16th Hat Day
 - Jan. 17th Flag Day
 - Jan. 18th Opposite Day
 - Jan. 19th Slippers Day
- ♦ Jan 30th K-2 March for M.L.K Day

An Interview with Ms. Story by Malia B.

Malia B.: "Where are you from?"

Ms. Story: "I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York."

Malia B.: "Where are your parents from?"

Ms. Story: "My father is from Beckley, West Virginia and my mom is from Timmonsville, South Carolina."

Malia B.: "What schools/universities did you attend and for what degree?"

Ms. Story: "I attended Baruch College for my Bachelor's Degree and City College for two Master's Degrees."

Malia B.: "Why did you decide to work in the education field? Was there a special moment or person that inspired you? Why did you choose to become an assistant principal?"

Ms. Story: "I always wanted to be a teacher since I was a little girl. When I was a little girl I used to play school and I was always the teacher. I became an assistant principal because I wanted to be able to make changes in education and have a positive influence on struggling students. I also wanted them to develop a lifelong love for

education."

Malia B.: "What was one of your first jobs? What did you learn from that experience?"

Ms. Story: "One of my first jobs in education was the Addie Mae Collins Preschool Headstart. I learned that when working with both children and parents that you have to have a lot of patience."

Malia B.: "What are some of your hobbies and interests?"

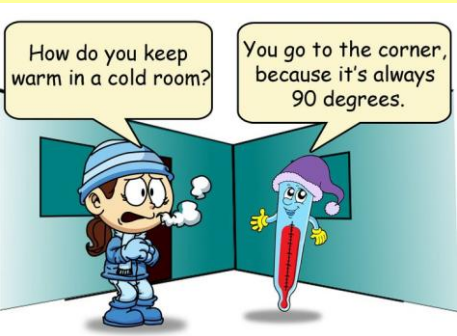
Ms. Story: "I love to shop and I also love to read as you can tell from the tons of books in my office."

Malia B.: "Is there someone you look up to and why?"

Ms. Story: "I look up to and admire my mom. She has always been a positive influence on me and motivated me in everything that I do."

Malia B.: "What is a fun fact about you?"

Ms. Story: "A fun fact about me is that I love to laugh and have a good time."

How to Be More Organized for School by Angela P.Learn a New Language!**English** - How are you?**Spanish** - ¿Cómo estás?**Arabic** - كيف حالك؟
kayf halk?**Chinese** - 你好吗?
Nǐ hǎo ma?**French** - Comment allez-vous?**Italian** - Come stai?**German** - Wie geht es dir?**Swahili** - Habari yako?

National Organization Month is in January, so it's time for all of us to think about how we can better manage our time, environment, and materials. Here are some tips that might just help you be more organized.

Time ManagementCreate a Weekly Schedule

Make note of the assignment on the day it was assigned and the day it is due. Everyday, work to complete the assignment.

Create a Daily Schedule

Plan how you spend your time each day. For example, write down when you will work on each subject (ex: "Math homework 4-5:30, Break 5:30 - 5:45, English homework 5:45 - 6:00). Plan for any breaks in your plan, but make sure that those breaks are not preventing you from completing your homework.)

Organize All Your School Environments

Keep workstations, lockers, and backpacks organized and clean them regularly.

Keep all your work in a single place like a large binder or a 5 subject spiral notebook with pocket dividers. This will prevent you from

leaving things behind and will be easy to carry around.

Be Prepared with the Right Materials

Make sure that everything is in its proper place. Items are much less likely to get lost if they are always kept in the same spot. This means putting all worksheets in the right folders.

Keep extra supplies such as pens, pencils, and paper in your desk, locker, and at home.

Create a Homework System

Creating a homework system or schedule will help you keep track of assignments and due dates.



Garrett D.

Writing a Thank You Letter by Allura C.

After receiving all those presents in December it is time to be appreciative and remind those who gave you something how thankful you are for their generosity and kindness. January is the month to make this happen because January is National Thank You Month! This month is the perfect opportunity to show our gratitude. Writing a handwritten note is very thoughtful. Here are some tips on how to write a note:

1. Keep it short and simple.

A thank-you note doesn't have to be long, it just has to say thank you. The average thank-you note contains 4-5 lines.

2. Write by hand.

Don't worry if you think your handwriting is hard to read. Your handwriting will hold charm for the reader because it is an extension of yourself and your kindness.

3. Start with a salutation.

Begin by writing, "Dear Paul, or Hello Paul." This makes it more personal than just launching into the note.

4. Express your gratitude.

Be specific by mentioning the gift or the good deed or time spent together. Instead of saying, "Thank you for the pottery." Try, "Thank you for the handmade ceramic bowl from New

Jersey."

5. Mention how you plan to use the gift or how much the kind gesture means to you.

For example, "The bowl goes perfect with my decorations and I plan to proudly display it on my writing table."

6. Reiterate your gratitude.

Close your letter by saying, "Thank you again for your generous and thoughtful gift."

7. Send it promptly.

It's best to send your thank-you note within 24-48 hours after an event or after receiving a gift. If more time passes or you simply forget to write a note, send the note as soon as you remember. After all, it's better to send it late than never at all.

These are seven things that are **very** important to include in your letter. If you want to write a letter, don't make it so long. If it is too long, it is not a thank you letter. Instead, it is just like an article.

Put it in a nice envelope that will **make the person happy**.

A thank you letter should show how thankful you are for that gift or card which you received from another person.

Math Problem of the Month

You want to start a necklace making business. You spend \$0.68 on string for each necklace and \$0.25 on beads for each necklace. You sell your necklaces for \$2.00 each. If you sell 30 necklaces, how much profit will you make?

Be the first to answer correctly and your name will appear in the next issue. Must show all work and explain your answer.

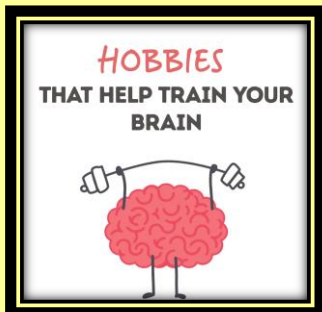
Turn in your answer to Ms. Fagan or Mr. Kroenert.

Answer from December's paper: 42% leftover



Five Hobbies That Help Your Brain

By Cire B.



Many of us have a New Year's resolution. Here are several that not only help you, but help your brain.

By learning new skills the brain creates new connections that make it work faster and better. Here is a list of 5 hobbies that will help you and reasons why.

- 1) **Play a musical instrument** – Playing a musical instrument improves higher level decision making skills, memory, and problem solving.

- 2) **Read!** – Reading reduces stress and helps increase intelligence.
- 3) **Exercise Regularly** – When you exercise regularly the cells in your body become flooded with a protein that helps with memory, learning, focusing, concentration, and understanding.
- 4) **Learn a New Language** – Learning a new language enables your brain to better perform mentally demanding tasks such as planning and problem solving.
- 5) **Work Out Your Brain** – Sudoku, puzzles, riddles, board games, card games, and some video games increase our ability to see things from different points-of-view and understand cause and effect.

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Recipe to Try:

Shortbread Cookies

Total: 1 hr 15 min Prep: 15 min Inactive: 30 min Cook: 30 min Yield: 20 cookies



Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

In the bowl mix together the butter and 1 cup of sugar until they are just combined. Add the vanilla. In a medium bowl, sift or mix together the flour and salt, then add them to the butter-and-sugar mixture. Dump onto a surface dusted with flour and shape into a flat disk. Wrap in plastic and chill for 30 minutes.

Roll the dough 1/2-inch thick and cut with a cookie cutter of your choice. Place the cookies on an ungreased baking sheet and sprinkle with sugar. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until the edges begin to brown. Allow to cool to room temperature.

When the cookies are cool, place them on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Put 3 ounces of the chocolate in a glass bowl and microwave on high power for 30 seconds. Stir with a wooden spoon. Continue to heat and stir in 30-second increments until the chocolate is just melted. Add the remaining chocolate and allow it to sit at room temperature, stirring often, until it's completely smooth.

Drizzle 1/2 of each cookie with just enough chocolate to coat it.

Ingredients

- ¾ pound unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 3 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 6 to 7 ounces of semisweet chocolate, finely chopped

**EXCELLENCE WITHOUT
EXCUSES!**

We're on the Web!
<http://www.johnhfinley.org/>

Help to Create Our Newspapers' Logo!

Our school mascot is the Panther.

We need a drawing of one for our school newspaper.

So take out those pencils and put on those thinking caps and start sketching some ideas! Our school colors are black and maroon, however, your drawing can be any color or colors.

Drawings are due Thursday, May 31, 2018. Afterwards students will vote on the drawing they like the most from our website.

Hand in your drawings to Ms. Fagan or Ms. Wynn.

Example

