

# LYNX TRACKS

The Newsletter of the Lincolnville Central School

<http://www.fivetowns.net/lcs>

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## Developing Writing and Spelling at Home

Writing is a terrific way for children to express their thoughts, creativity, and uniqueness. It is also a fundamental way in which children learn to organize ideas. And learning to write well helps children to be better readers. When engaging in writing, young children often mirror what they see around them – adults and older children writing lists, notes, text messaging. They are observing the way writing is used in our everyday lives.

### Writing at home

Here are some suggestions that engage your child in the writing process:

- Have your child write instructions for taking care of the family pet. These will be useful as you plan summer vacations!
- Write a letter or thank you note to a relative. Talk through what your child wants to say before writing begins.
- Make a shopping list before going to the grocery store.
- Write an online review of a book or an item you recently purchased ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) or a recipe you tried ([www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com)).
- Talk about the presidential election and write a description of the kind of president you want.
- Find a picture in the newspaper and write an article to accompany it.
- Start keeping a personal diary, a household guestbook, or a baby book for a younger sibling.

### Does spelling count?

Early attempts at spelling are not the random swings they sometimes appear. Children's "invented spelling" gives us a window into what they understand about written language. A good teacher will be able to tell the difference between the misspellings that indicate normal literacy development and those that suggest a possible learning disability. If you have questions, talk to your child's teacher or a reading specialist. *Writing tip: Stay positive!* Kids who are worried about spelling every word correctly will often stick to a small group of words they can spell, or may avoid writing altogether.

### What should I write about?

Help your child get their thoughts together in an organized way. Especially when a child starts writing, he may need help planning out what he wants to say.

*Writing tip: Get organized!* Use sticky notes to help organize ideas. Put each idea or important word on a note, and lay the notes out on the table for easy rearranging. This helps with planning and organization.

### Writer's strike

If your child avoids writing, use materials and tools that support both the thinking process and the physical act of writing:

- Use wide lined paper which helps kids line up and space their letters
- Use a whiteboard, which allows them to easily erase and try again
- Use a keyboard, which also allows kids to easily edit .

For more information about kids and writing, visit:  
<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/c37/>

### Dates to Remember

- 01/25 - Lego Club 3:00-4:00 PM
- 01/25 - Martial Arts 3:00-4:00 PM
- 01/26 -Afterschool Skiing
- 01/29 - Busline BB LCS vs. Islesboro - Boys only - 5:00 PM
- 01/31 - Crafty Kids 3:00-4:00 PM

### PTO UPDATES

We are still collecting box tops. The next drawing for a LCS hat will be Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The PTO has been able to fulfill teacher's wish lists and support the k-2 Steam Days by reimbursing teachers for supplies that they purchase. Thank you for your continued support!

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade High School Course Registration

There will be an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Course Registration Informational Meeting with the High School Guidance Director on **Tuesday, February 6th from 5:30-7:00** in the Walsh Common here at LCS. Before the meeting, a meal will be provided for all students and family members who attend the session. Students must leave their laptops here at school the afternoon of February 6th. All eligible students will be able to bring their laptops home after the presentation.

Students will be provided a Power School password so they will be able to access Power School during the instruction. Ms. Richards will give all 8<sup>th</sup> graders their passwords before February 6th.

During the meeting, free childcare, for younger siblings, will be available in the Art Room. Please let the Guidance Counselor know if you will be using the childcare option as soon as possible as the high school is bringing National Honor Society students to carry out this duty. If you have any questions call the Guidance Office at extension 110.

**\*\*\*Note: In the event of inclement weather, the snow date is set for Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at the same time and location.\*\*\*\***