Dear readers — November is Thanksgiving! I am very thankful for YOU and all of our Connect123 readers. Kids read us, teachers read us, parents read us, even grandparents read us! Who do you read Connect with? Be sure to share the fun of reading with someone in your family this month. There is a whole article on ways to celebrate Thanksgiving with others in your family. It's called Thanksgiving Together. November is also a month to remember our Veterans. Be sure to take a look at Page 2 to learn about Operation Gratitude. This organization helps people show their gratitude to a Veteran and/or others that serve our communities. Hand-written and drawn thank you notes are treasures. Take a few minutes this month to thank the people who make a difference in your life. Your gesture of gratitude will be a gift of joy to the people you send them to. Thank YOU!

From the Desk of Woodword

THANKSGIVING TOGETHER
Thanksgiving is about Pilgrims, people and history — and turkey! But the best part about Thanksgiving is getting together with family and friends. Read more about it inside!
Turkey trails
Start at the beginning of Trail A. Have a family member or friend start at Trail B. Who can reach the finish line first?

Zany turkey day tale
Pass the giggles! Ask a family member to give you seven nouns, one plural noun, one verb and one adjective. Then, fill in the blanks and read the story aloud. Let the laughter begin!

One Thanksgiving, we invited a ________ to the big feast. It was a huge mistake.

Our guest had horrible _________ manners, and enjoyed smearing ________ in people’s hair. Our guest then decided to _________ around Uncle Lou and cover Aunt Madge with _________.

Later, our delicious _________ pie ended up in our _________.

This year, we invited a ________. Hopefully, our new recipe for _________ stuffing is a success!

Standards link: Grammar: Identify and use nouns, adjectives and verbs in writing.

Standards link: Reading comprehension: Follow simple, multiple-step written instructions.

Make Thanksgiving dinner place cards
Stuff You’ll Need:
- Manila file folders (one per person)
- scissors
- glue stick

1. Cut off the folded end of a file folder to make a strip about 3-4 inches deep. Make one for each person coming to Thanksgiving dinner.

2. Cut out the letters from the newspaper that spell each person’s name. Glue them onto one side of the place card.

3. Decorate the place cards with pictures from the newspaper.

Standards link: Reading comprehension: Follow simple, multiple-step written instructions.
In the month of November, we celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. A non-profit organization called Operation Gratitude lets you celebrate both at the same time by thanking the people who keep us safe.

Thanking Those Who Protect Us
Operation Gratitude collects thank you letters, cards, handmade gifts, snacks, pictures and more and sends them to:
- U.S. Troops
- First Responders
- Military Veterans
- Military Families
- Wounded Heroes & their Care Givers

The gifts and notes are boxed into care packages and sent to the people who bravely serve our country and communities. You and your family can take part in this special way to show thanks.

How to Send a Letter
Below are some of the Operation Gratitude guidelines for letters of appreciation. Visit www.operationgratitude.com for more information on the letters and where to send them.
★ Express your thanks for their selfless service.
★ Share a little about yourself: family, hobbies, work, school, pets, travel, etc.
★ Children’s letters: Include first names only and do not include addresses.
★ Can’t find the words? Consider artwork instead.
★ No glitter or confetti please!

“I would like to thank this group for the care package sent. Reading the comics was something that took me back to a normal routine of home. This was very much appreciated.”
- J.G.

“I truly appreciate the love and concern that you’ve shown myself and my unit. Thank you very much for the care package.”
- A.F.

“I really appreciate the effort you put into making sure that a soldier like myself feels appreciated while doing this job. Sometimes it becomes hard to remember why I chose this profession but when I hear from people like yourself and the others that wrote it makes it a little clearer. So once again thank you.”
- TSgt. C.
How to draw a TURKEY

1. What did you eat on Thanksgiving, and who did the cooking?
2. How did you celebrate Thanksgiving?
3. What were you thankful for?
4. Did you have a pet?
5. What were your hobbies?
6. Did you watch television? What was your favorite show?
7. What chores did you do around the house?
8. How did you get spending money?
9. What did you like to spend it on?
10. What was your favorite story your grandparents told you?

ANSWERS

Read the book, watch the movie — or do both

What would you rather, read the book or see the movie first? There have been a lot of movies this year that are based off of books: "The Tale of Peter Rabbit," "The War with Grandpa," "A Wrinkle in Time" and "Christopher Robin" just to name a few. The second "Fantastic Beasts" movie and "Mary Poppins Returns" are coming out soon. Did you know that there are eight books in the Mary Poppins series? They were written by British writer P.L. Travers and published over a 64-year period of time. The books center on the magical English nanny, Mary Poppins who is blown by the East wind to Number 17 Cherry Tree Lane, London, and into the Banks' household to care for their children. Encounters with pavement-painters and shopkeepers, and various adventures ensue. P.L. Travers said, "A writer is, after all, only half his book. The other half is the reader and from the reader the writer learns."
World Kindness Day!

November 13 is World Kindness Day! Join people around the world on this day and commit random acts of kindness!

There are many simple ways to celebrate World Kindness Day. Read the list below. Choose one thing you could do. Draw a picture or write a sentence about the action you pick.

- Be generous with your smile!
- Give 10 hugs in one day!
- Start a conversation with a new student or someone who looks lonely.
- Smile at people who look sad.
- Write a nice note to someone having a bad day.

Standards link: Social studies: Students understand the importance of individual action and character.
The Lion and the Mouse

This famous Aesop fable tells of the importance of kindness.

Late one night in the jungle...

GOTCHA!

Please don’t eat me, sir!

And why not?

If you’ll be so kind as to set me free, I’ll pay you back by helping you some day!

YOU? Help ME? HA! HA! HA! Haaaa-ha HAAha!

HELP! HELP! Someone PLEASE help me!

It’s you! Oh my gosh! Hunters tied me up! They’ll be back any minute!

Thanks, little buddy!

Don’t you worry! I’ll chew through those ropes in no time!

1. What unexpected acts of kindness did the lion and the mouse each do?

2. How did acts of kindness change both their lives?

Standards link: Civics: Know character traits that contribute to the health of American democracy.

Kindness news around the world

On the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation website, you can ______ about acts of kindness being done by _______________ all over the world. They have discovered that acts of kindness are not just for people, but for the ____________ as well, as this story from the Philippines reveals...

In the Philippines, we have a word for __________________ , it is called BAYANIHAN! When we say bayanihan, people of all ages come together to __________ for a common cause. On April 22, 2006, 300 young people __________ a lake clean-up along Sampaloc Lake, largest of our city’s __________ lakes.

We chose the largest and most heavily ___________ of the seven lakes and invited the local community to participate in the event.

Saying goodbye

Losing a loved one is always sad. Sometimes it hurts so much that we wish we could just forget.

“Don’t forget,” says Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores of Hospice. “Remember the good things. Yes, it will hurt to remember. It’s important to cry and share your feelings with people who care about you.”

Hirshfeld-Flores knows a lot about dealing with loss. She and others at Hospice help people deal with the deaths of loved ones.

If you are feeling very sad, Hirshfeld-Flores says you should talk to an adult you trust.

Hospice offers groups for children. Children in these groups talk about their feelings and learn how to remember a loved one in a positive way. To find out about children’s groups in your area, contact your local Hospice office.

Cross out or “POP” the balloons with the letters that spell FEAR. What do the letters on the remaining balloons spell? Can you figure out who is holding which balloon?

Standards Link: Health: Students know strategies to manage feelings caused by separation or loss.

Lasting memories

Make a “Memory Book” about someone or something you have lost. In your book, include:

- poems and stories
- pictures
- words

Think about the good memories while you make your book.

Look at this memory book page. Match the pet to its memory book.

Standards Link: Health: Students know ways to manage loss.

Special thanks to:
Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores, MFT
Bereavement Services Manager
Hospice By The Bay
(415) 526-5549
**Missing vowels**
The vowels are missing from this famous quote about kindness. Can you replace them all?

```
A=_placeholder
E=_placeholder
I=_placeholder
O=_placeholder
U=_placeholder

“H m n k ndn ss h s n v r w k n d
th st m n r s ft n d th f b r f
fr p pl An t n d s n t h v
t b cr l t b t gh.”

—Franklin D. Roosevelt
32nd President of the United States
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Standards link: Reading comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

**Light a candle**
For centuries, in almost every part of the world, lighting candles has been a way to remember loved ones.

Garrett wants to burn a candle for three hours each night for one week to remember his dog Shep. Each candle is labeled with the number of minutes it will burn. Does he have enough candlelight for one week?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candle</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standards link: Reading comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

**Say thank you**
Your parents are always reminding you to say it. Now you can amaze them by saying **Thank you** in seven different languages!

- **Tak** (takg)
- **Gracias** (gra-see-us)
- **Merci** (mehr-see)
- **Kiitos** (kee-toas)
- **Danke** (dahn-kah)
- **Arigato** (ahree-gah-tow)
- **Dziekuje** (dsyne-koo-yeh)

Standards link: Reading comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

**ANSWERS**

**A Dog Named Hakur:** A holiday story from Nepal

by Margarita Engle

It’s the Festival of Lights in Nepal, and today is the day to honor dogs!

**“Thank you, Thanksgiving,”** by David Milgrim

In this Thanksgiving story, a little girl goes on a last-minute errand for her mother. Along the way, she thanks all the familiar things she loves.

**“The Day You Begin,”** by Jacqueline Woodson

A poignant, yet heartening book about finding courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone.

**“In Plain Sight,”** by Richard Jackson

Generations connect in this sweet, playful picture book.

**“Gracias/Thanks,”** by Pat Mora

A young boy (biracial Mexican/Caucasian) tells about some of the everyday things for which he is thankful.

**Learning buddy sign here**
I have completed ________ activities with my learning buddy.

Learning buddy’s signature __________ Date
Have you been seeing elephants and donkeys everywhere? These are the symbols for the two biggest political parties, Republicans and Democrats.

The elephant is the Republican symbol. Twenty years after the Republican Party formed, a cartoonist used an elephant to symbolize the party, as it had become the biggest political group in the U.S.

The donkey is the symbol for the Democratic Party. In 1828 Andrew Jackson started the Democratic Party when he was running for president. The people who did not want Jackson for president called him names. They said he was as foolish as a donkey. Instead of getting mad, he turned the donkey into his symbol and won the election!
On your marks, get set, go! The race has begun. But wait! These racers are giving speeches and shaking hands. Why aren’t they running?

They are running – running for office, that is.

This fall, Americans 18 years old and older will vote for people to fill elected jobs such as governors, senators, representatives, city council members, school board members and more.

Look through your newspaper to find the names of people running for offices. Cut out their names and the names of the offices they hope to win. Who else is trying to get elected to these offices?

### ELECTION 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANDIDATE</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>PARTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the person running for office</td>
<td>Which job do they want?</td>
<td>Republican, Democrat, Reform, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The right to vote makes our form of government in the United States a

To find the word that goes in the blank, write down each letter you pass along the correct path of the maze.

Standards link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple directions.

Standards link: History/Social Science: Students understand the institutions and practices of government within the United States.
Fake plants vs. real plants

Student Jaiden Krishan, 4th grade, takes a scientific look at photosynthesis and its effect on the air.

QUESTION:
Can living trees/plants provide enough oxygen to really notice?

BACKGROUND
When I was 5 or 6 years old, I read the book “The Lorax” by Dr. Seuss. The story was about what happened to the world when a man came to town and chopped down all the trees. The air got gassy and nasty, all the animals got sick and left... It was no place to live. That's what the little man, “the Lorax” said.

The same thing was happening in real life... as trees get chopped down. Air quality goes down. Life quality goes down. The Lorax was right!

In China and India, they are chopping down many of the trees to build roads and houses and buildings.

As a result, people need to go to oxygen stations to get enough oxygen to breathe.

MOTIVATION
I wondered why the air was so bad, with all the gas and pollution, when people chopped down the trees.

I learned about something called photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is a process where plants take in water and carbon dioxide and make sugar for themselves and produce oxygen for people to breathe.

EXPERIMENT & OBSERVATIONS
Place a fresh leaf in a cup of water. Bubbles form in a water glass on the leaf. Oxygen being produced! What effect could a whole plant, or group of plants, have on the air?

- Fire needs oxygen to burn.
- In low oxygen, a flame will go out.
- Even in low oxygen, a single plant can produce enough oxygen to keep a flame burning.
- The bigger and greener the plant is, the more oxygen it will produce.

METHODS
Place candle with nothing, fake plant or real plant in the jar. If a plant is included, spray plant with water.

Light a tea candle under the bell jar and seal with Vaseline.

Using a stop watch, determine how long the candle stays lit. It requires a precise measurement.

Three conditions tested:
- No plant
- Fake plant
- Real plant

“Unless someone like you cares a whole lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”
— The Lorax, Dr. Seuss, 1972
CONCLUSIONS

I proved the hypothesis: real plants produce oxygen that can make a difference (the Lorax was right!). Plants with most leaf area produce more oxygen. Analysis shows that different plants produce different amounts of oxygen. Most plants produce oxygen in full sun light, but some plants do not release oxygen in sunlight, for example Aloe Vera. Some plants produce oxygen in shade.

Some plants produce different amounts of oxygen. For each new experiment, I had to use a new candle because the amount of melted wax changed the length of time the candle would burn. I would suggest expanding this study with many more plants to understand which plants will be useful for creating healthy indoor air.

LESSONS LEARNED

In our early trials, I did not seal the jar with Vasoline. I noticed the flame went from red to blue then back to red, showing that oxygen was leaking into our system. In further trials, I started sealing the jar with Vasoline. I noticed moisture inside the jar, so after each experiment, I cleaned the jar to ensure it wasn’t blocking the light.

For each new experiment, I used a new candle because the amount of melted wax changed the length of time the candle would burn.

Full Experimental Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Type</th>
<th>Time Flame Stays Lit (seconds)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basil</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace Lily - Sunny</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace Lily - Sunset</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pothos - Sunny</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primrose - Sunny</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aloe Vera - Sunset</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yellow patterns

In each row, circle the yellow fruit that should come next to continue the pattern.

My letters

Y is for Yellow

Y is for yellow

How many words or pictures can you find on this page that have the sound that the letter Y makes in the word yellow?

Learning buddies: Read the two phrases aloud. Have your child read with you. Trace the uppercase and lowercase letter W. Say the letter as you trace it.

My numbers

10

How many yaks?

How many yardsticks?

My rhyme time

A tisket, a tasket,
A green and yellow basket;
I wrote a letter to my love and on the way I dropped it.