

Volume 10 Issue 5

January 2013



Livorno E/MS Newsletter

Home of the Livorno Lions

VISION STATEMENT

“Livorno EM School empowers students to be life-long learners in a global society through an exemplary -based . In partnership with the community, our school will provide a learning environment which is nurturing, safe, and respectful, enabling each child to reach her/his fullest potential.”

Dear Livorno Elementary/Middle School Community,

This week brings the first semester of the school year to a close. With the end of the semester, we are saying a fond farewell to about ten students whose families are moving on to other locations. We anticipate that our enrollment will drop from eighty-two to the mid-sixties. Our staffing will remain the same, however, and we are looking forward to a great second semester.

We need your help: Camp Darby is getting some new families and they would greatly benefit if the school could have early contact with them before they arrive on base. If you or your unit knows of families moving to Camp Darby, please give my contact information (listed below) to the families and urge them to contact us. We can help with information about bus routes, registration requirements, and other important decisions regarding school-aged children. Families who will have high school aged children will be referred to Jennifer Kandell, our school liaison officer.

Thanks for continuing to support our school through PTSO activities and volunteering to help in classrooms. It is good to see so many of you on a regular basis and it enriches our children’s education tremendously.

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Inside This Issue	Page
From the Art Studio	2
Middle School activities	5
4/5 th Grade News	5
Health News	6
From the Music room	7

Special points of interest:
4/5 grade long term project.
Special happenings in the arts departments.

From the Art Studio with Ms. Sperl...
What we're up to in the Art Room:

Kinder: Recently, we finished painting Snowy Owls after discussing what we know about owls! Now we are learning about American artist James Rizzi and working in the "Rizzi" style to design another flying creature...a "Rizzi Bird"



Snowy Owl by AG

1st Grade: Finished creating their Snowy Owls and worked so very hard at listening to and following directions! Super Job

2nd Grade: We are also looking at the artwork of James Rizzi, but will be following the inspiration of his "Happy Rizzi House" in Brunswick, Germany and creating our own "Rizzi Cityscape"

3rd Grade: Constructing snowmen in snow is fun but doing so in clay, even better! Our snowmen are almost ready for their sparkle. Here you see works glazed and ready to be fired.



Snowman by MH



Snowman by EB

4/5 Grade: Our Southern Folk Art project, the “Ugly Jug” is almost finished. We are adding glaze and preparing for another firing in the kiln before these creations are complete.



by AF

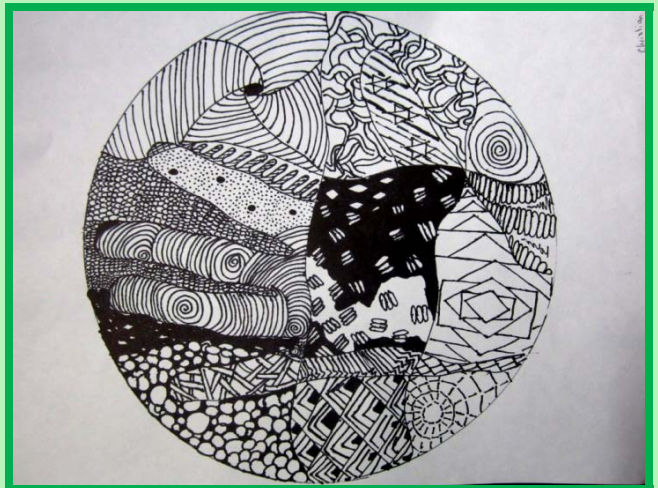


by BE

6-8th Grades: Learning the process of “Zen Doodles” and concentrating on **CONTRAST**, **EMPHASIS**, and **PATTERN** – we created a collection of tangles using our hand as an abstract subject matter.



by KB

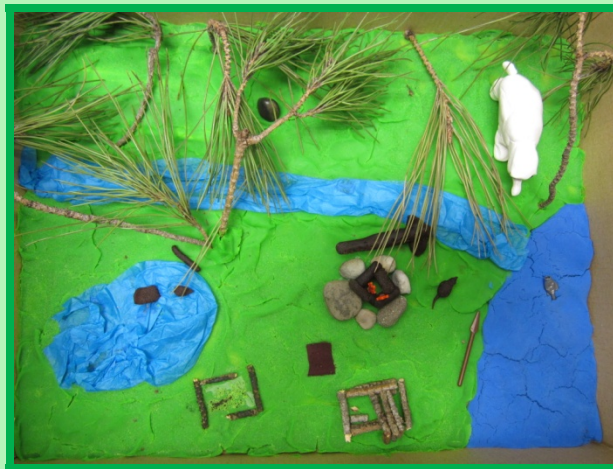


by CH

Humanities 6-8th: Students completed our exploration of Ben Mikaelson's powerful children's novel *Touching Spirit Bear*, and presented their final projects which were created with a variety of media...including Legos! Our students have enjoyed reading and discussing in depth this novel and the themes within it. One student even decided to email the author to express how much he has enjoyed the book and was lucky enough to receive a response!



The Island from Touching Spirit Bear
by AL



The Island from Touching Spirit Bear
by SG

Clay Animation / Video Class 7/8th: In the final phase of production – post-production, students are adding voice-over narratives, music, and editing their many photos of their clay animated fables.

LEMS Artists Online ~ Find Us Here:

Our virtual gallery on **Artsonia.com**: <http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=105920>

Our virtual video gallery on **Schooltube.com**: <http://www.schooltube.com/organization/223688/>

Our podcasts on **Podbean.com**: <http://lems.podbean.com/> (which can be subscribed to via iTunes)

Our middle school class website on **Edmodo.com**: www.edmodo.com/mssperl (Parents you are welcome to join Edmodo as a parent and you will be able to view our class site and keep tabs on work that is assigned)



Renaissance Activities

Mrs. Dawn Going, the gifted education teacher, has been working in tandem with Mr. Bruce Brown, a former Livorno High School teacher, to help enrich Mr. Pollard's 6-8 grade ELA-Social Studies classes. Both have partnered to provide mini-enrichment projects.

The latest project was to have the 6th graders compose "The Ancient (Athenian) Times" newspaper since the students were studying Greece. The paper covered politics, economics, the arts, travel, and fashion. Cartoons and sports were also highlighted.

The next project will center on the Renaissance's "Jack-of-all-trades" and talents – the far reaching genius of Leonardo da Vinci! After researching Leonardo and replicating a number of his inventions, we will visit the esteemed da Vinci Museum in town of Vinci. The kids will observe the fascinating inventions displays. What a great opportunity!



Middle School Study/Organization Skills

Beginning second semester, the middle school teachers will be implementing a study/organizational program across the curriculum. The first step will be to help students learn the importance of keeping an organized binder. Students will be required to have notes, handouts and returned work for each academic class in the binder. In addition to the binder, the planner is a critical component and will be completed each day with daily assignments for all classes. Binders and planners will be checked regularly, and students will receive a binder/planner grade.

These study/organizational strategies are taken from the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program. It is a program designed to increase school-wide learning and performance and prepare students to pursue a college path. We are asking parents for their support; please help to stress to your child the importance of developing these skills. Please make sure your child brings in a good quality 2-3 inch binder with a set of dividers (8-10) by February 4th.

Health Notes

Coming back to school after the Winter break felt like a “homecoming”—everyone energized, happy to see friends, and ready to settle back into routine. These past two weeks have flown by, and I can’t believe that we are hitting the “half-way” mark next week. Health class has been focusing on problem solving and positive communication. All of the classes- at different skill levels are asking the same questions. How can I listen- truly listen, and confidently share my opinions and ideas and be heard?

It sounds so simple, but it is a learned skill at the heart of every healthy relationship, and the key to success in school and any future career.

Children need to know that their feelings and opinions are valued. Make it a habit to ask your child for his or her ideas once a day, including them in what to plan for the weekend or what to make for dinner. Older kids may want to talk politics or share thoughts about events that are happening in the world. Ask them to help solve a problem. Once you ask, listen closely/don’t debate.

It’s that simple. and really, really HARD!



Notes from the Music Room:

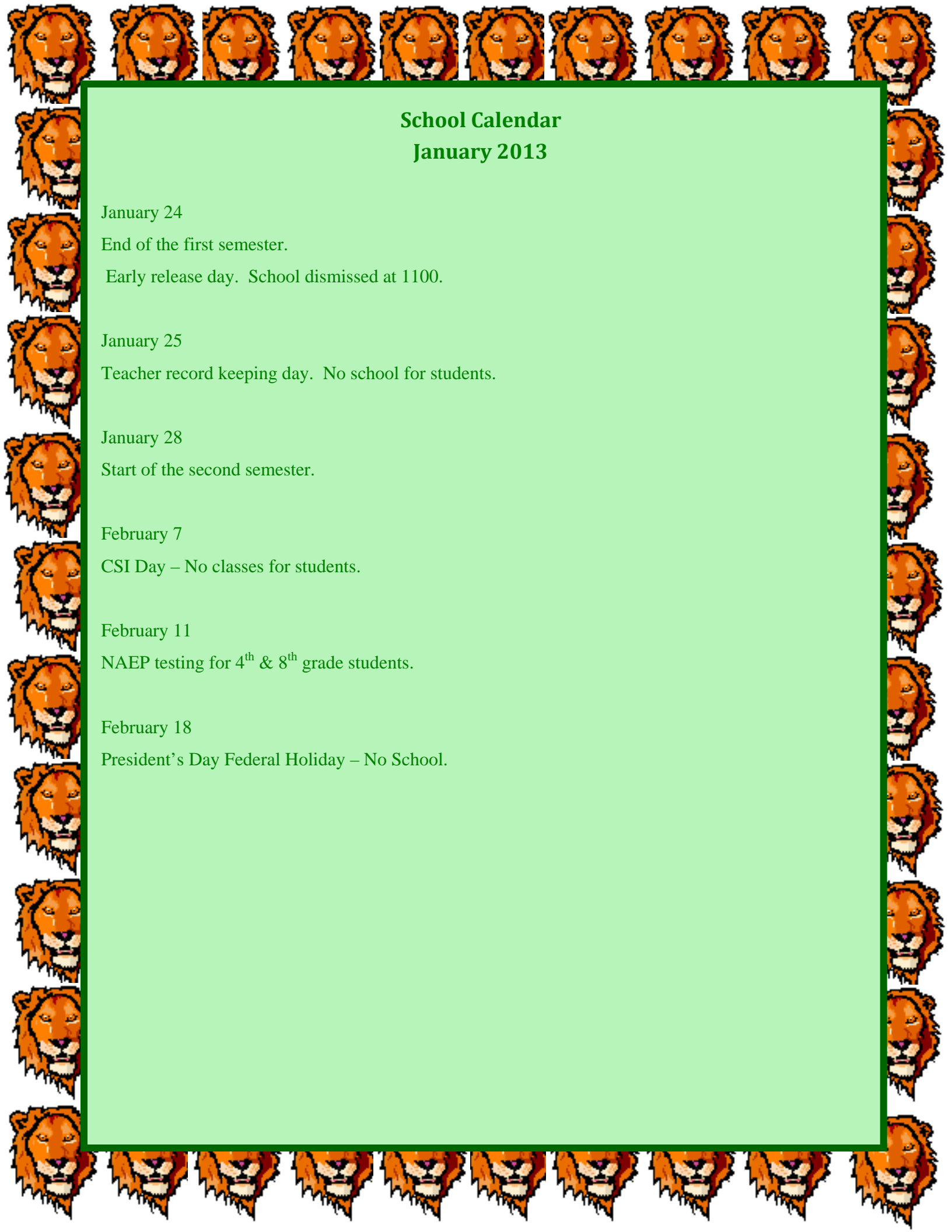
After a December filled with many concerts and presentations, the music students set their sights on preparing for their next series of concerts. Some of our students will be involved in performing with our sister group, Orchestra Pisorno. Other students are involved in learning the art of solo playing. Solo playing is a step above ensemble playing and demands much more from the student.

Meanwhile, in the elementary section we have been studying the lives of various composers and extracting from their studies many of the elements of music, such as melody, tone, rhythm, and interpretation. The most recent composer we have studied is Gioacchino Rossini. They centered their study around his opera "The Barber of Seville" and all of the problems he encountered producing it, and the great success that followed.

The Italian class spent time studying the many Christmas and New Year traditions that abound in Italy. They will be working hard to increase their vocabulary and their skills at verb conjugation.

The class will be given vocabulary study sheets, and you can help your student by going over these words with them. Starting with second semester, the 6th grade class will be starting an exploratory class in Italian once a week. The emphasis of the class will be a combination of conversation studies and Italian culture studies.





School Calendar January 2013

January 24

End of the first semester.

Early release day. School dismissed at 1100.

January 25

Teacher record keeping day. No school for students.

January 28

Start of the second semester.

February 7

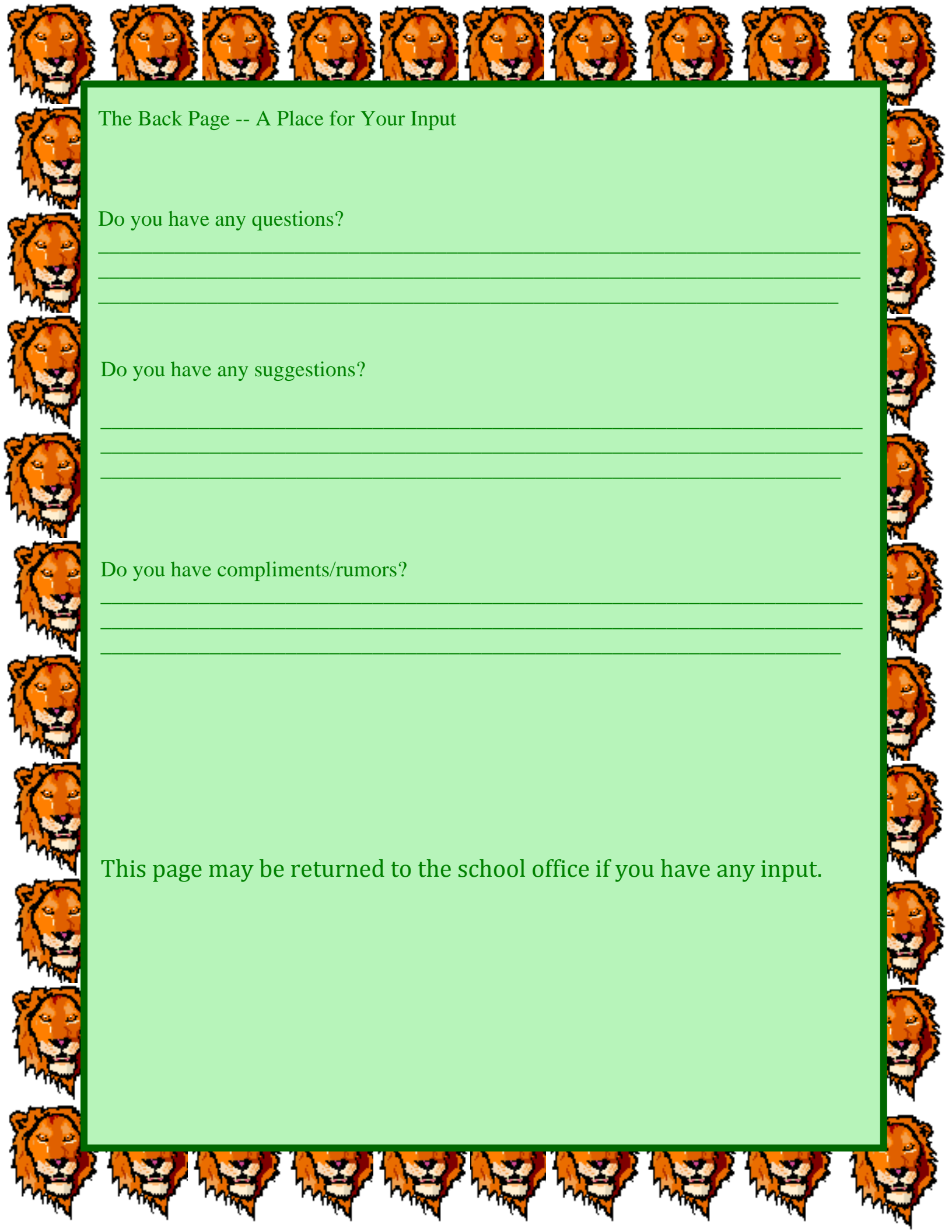
CSI Day – No classes for students.

February 11

NAEP testing for 4th & 8th grade students.

February 18

President's Day Federal Holiday – No School.



The Back Page -- A Place for Your Input

Do you have any questions?

Do you have any suggestions?

Do you have compliments/rumors?

This page may be returned to the school office if you have any input.