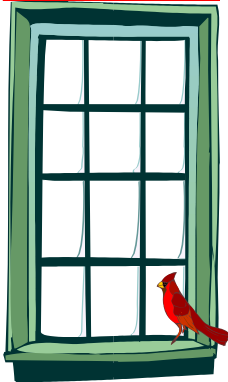


February  
2011



MATOAKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# Bird's Eye View

## From Our PTA President, Leanne Conrad

Congratulations to Matoaka for receiving the 2010 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence!

Thank you to all the students, parents and teachers that came out to the W&M basketball game in January. We estimate that there were 250 people from Matoaka that attended the game. It was a fun evening with the Matoaka cardinal mascot in attendance and Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Hurley entertaining the entire arena with the chicken dance during a game timeout. Some programs and events that are happening in the PTA this month include a family dinner before the Science Fair on Feb. 10th. We

hope to see you there!

PTA volunteers continue to help Ms. Daniel, the Reading Specialist with the reorganization of the book room, as well as helping Mr. Spence transform the wedge. The PTA in conjunction with the school has purchased some items for the wedge to create "The Living Wedge". The PTA also formed a Cafeteria Task Force in December. The task force is making progress on a parent survey that we hope to distribute to parents soon and is meeting in February with county nutrition experts.

Our next PTA meeting is Thursday, Feb. 24th at 7

p.m. If you are interested in a position as an officer or as a committee chair next year, this would be an excellent time to come to a meeting. We will begin the nominations process at this meeting. Hope you can make it!

Sincerely,  
Leanne Conrad,  
PTA President

**CAN'T HIDE THAT  
CARDINAL PRIDE!**

## Calendar of Events

February	5:	Super/Natural Free Films, 11 AM
	10:	Science Fair
	12:	Super/Natural Free Films, 11 AM
	17 :	Barnes & Noble/California Tortilla Spirit Night
	20:	Super/Natural Free Films, 11 AM
	22 :	Deadline for March Bird's Eye View Newsletter
	24:	PTA Meeting, Media Center, 7 PM
March	17:	PTA Meeting, 7 pm (Nominations Committee formed)
	22:	Cultural Arts Program, Mulan, 9:45 AM
	22 :	Deadline for April Bird's Eye View Newsletter

## Spirit Night

On Thursday, February 17th we will be holding a California Tortilla & Barnes & Noble Spirit Night, 5 PM to 7:30 PM.

Mention Matoaka at California Tortilla & we'll receive 15% of the proceeds.

After supper there will be singing presentations by students in the 2nd Grade as directed by Mrs. Neely, beginning at 6 PM staggered in 10-15 minute increments.

In addition, there will be a story time with Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Hurley at 6:30 and 7:00 PM.

Come join us for food, fun, singing and reading!

### **Character Trait of the Month:** **Honesty**

Honesty means being truthful and sincere.

I show honesty when  
I do my own work.

I show honesty when  
I return things  
that belong to others.



## Yearbook Alert!

The last date to pre-order copies of this year's Matoaka Elementary School yearbook is **March 1st, 2011!**



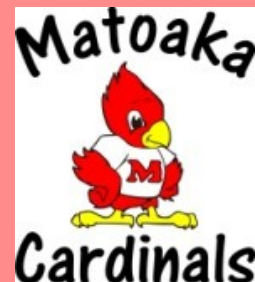
**ORDER YOUR CHILD'S BOOK TODAY!** To order, use the Lifetouch order form or send an envelope to school with \$22 for each book (cash or check payable to Matoaka PTA) and please include your child's name and teacher. Books will be delivered to the students in June. A limited number of unsold books, if any, will be sold for \$25 (cash only) following fulfillment of pre-orders. Pre-orders are recommended to ensure that your child doesn't miss out!!!

Newsletter submissions can be made via email at [loralee13@verizon.net](mailto:loralee13@verizon.net). The deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 22nd of each month. Don't miss the opportunity to spread the word to family, school, staff and PTA members about what's going on in and around our school.

### **Attention Matoaka Families**

Do you have "gently" used Matoaka Spirit Wear T-shirts that your kids have outgrown and you just don't know what to do with? You can donate them back to the PTA so we can sell them at a reasonable price.

A drop-off box will be located in the front office. We greatly appreciate your donations in support of our PTA programs!





## EIGHT W-JCC SCHOOLS RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE FROM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Honoring Of Eight W-JCC Schools is Division's Best-Ever Showing  
Williamsburg, VA, Jan. 20, 2011

**Matoaka Elementary School** was among 110 public schools announced by Gov. Bob McDonnell today as having earned the 2010 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence. The award is the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program created by the Board of Education in 2007 to promote advanced learning and achievement.

"The schools and divisions earning these awards have high-achieving students and teachers and leaders who are committed to innovation and offering new opportunities for learning," Gov. McDonnell said. "I look forward to meeting some of the students and educators behind these success stories and congratulating them in person for their accomplishments."

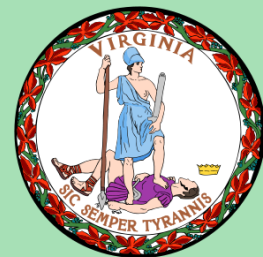
To qualify for the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, schools and school divisions must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve applicable excellence goals for elementary reading, enrollment in Algebra I by grade 8, enrollment in college-level courses, high school graduation, attainment of advanced diplomas, increased attainment of career and industry certifications, and participation in the Virginia Preschool Initiative.

The Virginia Board of Education also recognized Jamestown High School, Clara Byrd Baker Elementary, James River

Elementary, Matthew Whaley Elementary, and Stonehouse Elementary along with 319 other Virginia public schools with its Board of Education Excellence Award in conjunction with Gov. McDonnell's announcement. These schools and divisions also have met all state and federal accountability benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and have made significant progress toward goals for increased student achievement and expanded educational opportunities set by the Virginia Board of Education.

The Board of Education's Competence to Excellence Award was given to 289 schools in Virginia, including W-JCC's Norge Elementary and Rawls Byrd Elementary. This award is given to schools that have met all state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and are making progress toward the goals of the governor and the board.

"We are so very proud of the efforts of our students, the faculty and staff, and parents," said WJCC Acting Superintendent Scott A. Burckbuchler. "These recognitions attest to the quality of WJCC and the people who are dedicated to our students' success. My sincere thanks and admiration to all who made this happen."



## Counselor's Corner

National School Counseling Week is 2/7-2/11. One of our goals is to inform our school community of the Guidance and Counseling services we provide. They include the "four C's"-- Classroom guidance; Counseling individuals and small groups; Consultation with parents, staff, and community programs; Coordination of school-wide initiatives such as character education, bullying prevention, volunteers, and career day.

We enjoy visiting your child's class to deliver guidance lessons throughout the year. Some of the topics we cover are: friendship, acceptance, conflict resolution, anger management, perseverance, self-confidence, study skills, career awareness, and test-taking. You can view the state and division standards from the school's website under our guidance page.

We also provide individual and group counseling for students who have personal-social needs that may ultimately interfere with their learning. Students may be referred for counseling by a parent, teacher, or self-referral. Parental permission is obtained for on-going counseling.

Please feel free to contact us regarding your child at any time. Mrs. Smith is the full-time counselor working with Kindergarten, Second, Third, and Fifth grades (smithj@wjcc.k12.va.us). Mrs. Fisher is here in the mornings and works with students in First and Fourth grade (fisherl@wjcc.k12.va.us). You can also reach us by calling the school at 564-4001.

*We absolutely enjoy serving such a wonderful school community!*

### UPCOMING LOCAL EVENT

Mrs. Smith, one of our school counselors, will be "competing" with other dancers and their professionals at the annual "Dancing with the Williamsburg Stars" benefit to support Big Brothers/Big Sisters & the Rita Welsh Literacy Center. It will be held on Saturday, March 5th at the Phi Beta Kappa building at W&M. Tickets are available by calling the box office at Phi Beta Kappa, or e-mail Mrs. Smith at smithj@wjcc.k12.va.us.

Come out  
to see her  
salsa for  
charity!



Knock, Knock. Who's There?  
Arthur. Arthur who?  
Arthur any chocolate candies left for me?

What is a ram's favorite song on  
February 14th?

I only have eyes for ewe,  
dear.



## The Origin and History of Saint Valentine

Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14th every year. It is a day to display affection. People send cards, called valentines, to their friends, family, and loved ones. Verses on valentines often rhyme and express love and affection. Sometimes valentines contain humorous pictures or puns - but almost all ask, "Be My Valentine."

Valentine's Day falls on the feast day of two different Christian martyrs named Valentine. The customs of Valentine's Day has nothing to do with the lives of the saints. It is believed that the customs come from an ancient Roman festival called Lupercalia which took place every February 15. The festival honored Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage - and Pan, the god of nature.

Valentine's day is a great day to celebrate our friends. School children decorate their classrooms with bright red paper hearts. They exchange gifts, candy, flowers or "valentines."

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- **Matoaka Science Fair Dinner**, Thursday, Feb. 10th. The PTA is sponsoring a dinner (still working on the menu) before the science fair. We are looking for volunteers to help set up and dish out the food from 4:30 - 5:45 pm.
- **The Living Wedge Project**. Christian Dunn is looking for volunteers to help transform The Wedge at school into a museum experience for the students. She is currently working on transforming the columns into trees and would like some volunteers to help with the project.

If you can help with any of these undertakings,  
please contact Leanne Conrad, PTA President,  
258-5817 or [elconrads@aol.com](mailto:elconrads@aol.com)



# PTAC Reflections Award Program



2nd Grader Danielle Eaton, 3rd Grader Sophia Liu, and 4th Grader Nikhil Chopra were recognized at the PTAC Reflections Award Program on January 24, 2011. The event, sponsored by the PTAC, recognized the students from all WCJJ schools whose Reflections creative arts entries received Outstanding Awards from their individual schools. These entries were sent on to the PTA District for another round of judging as part of the National PTA Reflections contest.

We are very proud of all of the students who participated in the Matoaka PTA Reflections Program this year:

- Nikhil Chopra, 4th Grade, Outstanding Award for Photography
- Jennifer Tisdale, 3rd Grade, Award of Excellence in Photography
- Danielle Eaton, 2nd Grade, Outstanding Award for Visual Arts
- Claire Waldron, 2nd Grade, Award of Excellence for Visual Arts
- Sophia Liu, 3rd Grade, Outstanding Award for Visual Arts
- Madeline Moniak, 3rd Grade, Award of Excellence for Visual Arts
- Jessica Shi, 3rd Grade, Award of Excellence for Visual Arts

The Reflections program is a creative expression program coordinated by the National PTA. Local schools hold their own contest each fall, as we did at Matoaka. Later this spring, all of our student entries will be on display at school; and next year's contest theme will be announced before the end of the school year.

If you are interested in seeing last year's national winners at the elementary school level, you can see them at the following link:

[http://www.ptareflections.org/cs/program\\_gallery/division\\_winners?cat=5&div=primary](http://www.ptareflections.org/cs/program_gallery/division_winners?cat=5&div=primary)

**Groundhog Day**, celebrated across the United States and Canada, on February 2, is purely a North American tradition. It is based on a belief that on this day the groundhog, or woodchuck, comes out of hole after winter hibernation to look for its shadow. If the shadow is seen, the groundhog foretells 'six more weeks of bad weather' and thus a lingering winter. But spring is coming if no shadow is seen. This weather prediction owes its origin to the European tradition of Candlemas. There is an old European supposition that a sunny Candlemas day would lead the winter to last for 'another six weeks'. The Germans added the belief of an animal, initially a hedgehog, being frightened by his shadow on Candlemas would foretell that winter would last another six weeks. This belief was brought in America during the 18th Century by the German settlers and they adopted the groundhog as their weather predictor.



# WILLIAMSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS AT THE MOVIES!

In conjunction with

*The College of William & Mary's 2011 Global Film Festival*



filmfestival.wm.edu

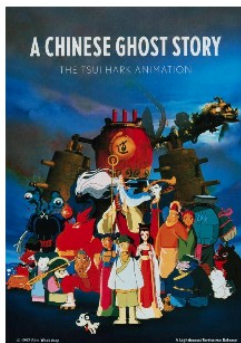
## SUPER/natural

January 29<sup>th</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> – 11am

THE KIMBALL THEATER -Duke of Gloucester Street, Merchant's Square

### SUPER/natural Family Filmmaking from Asia Godzilla, Ghost Stories, Dream Worlds, and Moving Castles

*\*All Films are English-language Versions\**



The festival's 2011 theme is "SUPER/natural" and the series features Asian fantasy and anime filmmaking (in English-language versions). Come out and experience this rare opportunity to see Asian family film landmarks and overlooked gems on the big screen and in our local historic movie theater. Spend these special family days at the movies while also showing your school spirit by making a voluntary donation to your school or alma mater's donation bucket.

**DATES:** Saturday, January 29th, February 5th and 12th, and on Sunday February 20th  
**TIME:** 11:00 a.m.

**COST:** FREE tickets but voluntary donations to local PTAs will be accepted at the showings.

Get your free tickets for each screening at the Kimball Box Office or other Colonial Williamsburg ticket booths or by calling 1-800-HISTORY.

When tickets for any film screening become "sold out," do not despair—JOIN THE RUSH LINE! If a show "sells out" (i.e. all the free tickets get distributed ahead of time), it will still be possible to get a seat by using the "Rush Line." In past years, there have ALWAYS been empty seats at "sold out" shows. Thus, we will have a first-come-first-seated "rush line" to fill those seats. Ten minutes before a sold out show, we will begin seating people from the rush line until all remaining seats are full.

For more details go to: <http://filmfestival.wm.edu>,  
or contact Festival Director Tim Barnard, [tbarn@wm.edu](mailto:tbarn@wm.edu)

# Do you know a super teacher at Matoaka?

## NOMINATE A SUPER TEACHER FOR THE VIRGINIA LOTTERY SUPER TEACHER AWARDS

January 3 - February 14, 2011

Eight winning teachers will receive \$2000 credit at The Supply Room Companies and \$2000 from the Virginia Lottery.

Anyone can nominate a teacher. Any adult, 18 years or older, may nominate a teacher and they may nominate more than one teacher. Nominations can be submitted by mail or online.

Winners are selected on the strength of your nomination. All nominations must include a 500 or fewer word essay. Teachers will be judged on the following criteria:

- Passion and commitment to the teaching profession
- Innovation and creativity in the classroom
- Efforts to involve parents and families in their students' education

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE NOMINATIONS: To nominate a teacher online visit [www.valottery.com/teacher](http://www.valottery.com/teacher) and follow the instructions.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAILED IN NOMINATIONS: To nominate a teacher by mail, please use the form on the next page and mail it to:

Virginia Lottery  
Super Teacher Awards  
900 E. Main Street, 13th Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

**Nominations must be postmarked  
or submitted online by 2/14/11.**

### Did You Know.....

Child Nutrition Services has a new web based system where you can check your child's cafeteria account balance and view what they have purchased on a daily basis from the cafeteria. It is a wonderful new service called Cafe Prepay. Go to [pay4lunch.com](http://pay4lunch.com) to enroll!





# Nomination Form

## TEACHER INFORMATION (please print)

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade/Subjects: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR INFORMATION (please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please type or print your essay on a separate sheet of paper using 500 words or fewer.
- Type or write your name and birthdate at the top of both the nomination form and the nomination essay page.
- Please retain a copy of the nomination for your records, as materials will not be returned.
- Please DO NOT submit any additional materials. They will not be used in the judging process.
- To nominate a teacher online, visit [www.valottery.com/teacher](http://www.valottery.com/teacher) and follow instructions.
- Find official rules at: [www.valottery.com/teacher](http://www.valottery.com/teacher)
- Please mail completed nomination forms to:

Virginia Lottery  
Super Teacher Awards  
900 E. Main Street, 13th Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219



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**ABOUT THE VIRGINIA LOTTERY** The Virginia Lottery generates approximately \$1.2 million per day for Virginia's K-12 public schools. Operating entirely on revenue from the sale of Lottery products, rather than tax dollars, the Virginia Lottery raised more than \$430.2 million for Virginia's public schools in fiscal year 2010. That represents about 8 percent of state funding for public education in Virginia. For more information, visit [www.valottery.com](http://www.valottery.com). Follow the Virginia Lottery on Facebook and Twitter. Please play responsibly.

## **Games, Activities Motivate Children to Care for Others**

To become caring, sensitive people, children must learn to see and think of others' feelings and needs. Children are naturally self-centered. It's as if mirrors surround them. They can only see and think of themselves. To become caring, sensitive people, they must learn to see and think of others' feelings and needs. To help your child become more aware of things outside himself:

- Play "The Noticing Game." Do this when you're traveling or at an unfamiliar place. Without a warning, ask your child to close and cover his eyes. See how well he can describe the room or scene. Let him initiate the game with you another time.
- Put yourselves in pictures. Find pictures in magazines of diverse situations. Take turns looking at a picture and describing how that person might feel. Start at the physical level. Imagine what people in the picture see and hear. Are they cold or warm? Then imagine how they feel emotionally.
- Look and listen for needs. Have family members notice the people in need they see throughout the day. Talk about how each of you can help.
- If your child sees a friend who is discouraged, he could offer support. If he has a classmate who is insecure, he could give a compliment. If he sees a child at school who seems lonely, he could take time to talk. He could include that child in activities.
- Praise your child for making an effort to help those in need.

—Copyright © 2011 Parent Institute



Like many families today, your lifestyle may be too hurried, too complicated—too much! It doesn't have to be that way. If you're ready to scale back and **begin living small**, these steps can get you started. By doing so, you can **create a lifestyle that is more enjoyable and more meaningful** than you ever thought possible.

**Make your home a place everyone enjoys.** Most families spend lots of time, money, and energy making their home comfortable and attractive. Yet they spend their evenings and weekends running from place to place, avoiding the home they love. Try these ideas for spending more time at home: Host neighborhood volleyball games every Friday night; Fire up the grill and have a potluck dinner; Board games and card games can be more fun than going to a movie (cheaper, too); Camp overnight in the yard—Invite friends to pitch a tent and join you.

**Make family dinners a priority.** Meals around the kitchen table are healthier, more economical, and more enjoyable than anything you can get from the drive-thru. Dinnertime is a chance to relax, interact with family, share some laughs, and make plans. Be prepared by following these steps:

- \* Make a list of five easy-to-prepare meals that your family enjoys.
- \* Keep the kitchen stocked with the ingredients for each of these meals.
- \* When you prepare a meal, make extra for the freezer.
- \* Get everyone involved in meal preparation and cleanup.

Chris Klein is the author of *The Simpler Family: A book of smart choices and small comforts for families who do too much* (Robins Lane Press, 2001). ([homemade simple.com](http://homemade simple.com))



## Earth Corner: What YOU can do to help wildlife and plants

When most people hear the term endangered species they think of manatees, grizzly bears, whales, and other charismatic species. However, the current endangered species list contains almost 1300 plants, birds, fish, mammals, and other species that might live or migrate through your area.

Private citizens can play a critical role in protecting our country's wildlife and plants. Pulling invasive weeds that are forcing out native plants, rebuilding crumbling river banks, planting native trees—these are things we all can do to help improve our lands so they provide a better place for wildlife and humans to live. All endangered and threatened species need your help, from the familiar and famous species, like the gray wolf, to the lesser-known but equally important species, such as the Karner blue butterfly and the western lily. Here a number of ways you can make a difference—choose one or two and see what happens!

—ideas obtained from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website

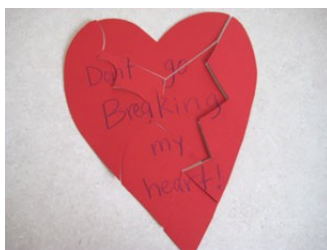
- Don't put hazardous substances down the drain or in the trash. Things like paint thinner, furniture polish, and antifreeze can pollute our water and land as well as wildlife. For information on how to dispose of hazardous material properly, see the EPA's guide to safe management of household hazardous waste—<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/househd/hhw.htm>
- Use cloth, not paper, napkins.
- Keep your cat indoors. Roaming house cats do tremendous damage to birds and other wildlife such as field mice, frogs, squirrels, and lizards. Putting a bell on your cat helps, but keeping the cat inside is better.
- Don't leave water running. Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth or washing your face. Install water-saving devices, such as low-flow showerheads, to save water and save money.
- Plant native trees and bushes with berries or nuts that provide birds and other creatures with food and a place to live. To learn how you can make your backyard wildlife-friendly: [www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat](http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat).
- Contact your County Cooperative Extension Service or local native plant society for help in identifying native plants. Native species adapted to local climate conditions require fewer resources and less care to flourish.
- Keep litter, pet wastes, and leaves out of street gutters and storm drains. These outlets drain directly into lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands. Pet wastes contain bacteria and viruses that can threaten fish, wildlife, and people.
- Grow plants that are natural insect repellents among your flowers and vegetables to help keep unwanted insects away. For more information: [www.epa.gov/seahome/lawns.html](http://www.epa.gov/seahome/lawns.html)
- Pull weeds instead of using herbicides.
- Plant a butterfly garden. To get started, visit the North American Butterfly Association's website: [www.naba.org/pubs/bgh.html](http://www.naba.org/pubs/bgh.html)







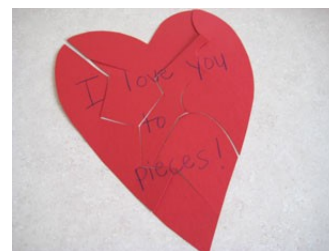
### Puzzling Valentine Cards



Here's an interactive card that is perfect for Valentines. Though, this card may require your Valentine to do a little thinking!

Start with an envelope that says, "Don't be puzzled Valentine ...". Then cut out a large heart and write a fun message on it. You can write anything you want them to figure out. I wrote, "Don't go breaking my heart" and "I love you to pieces" on a different one. Cut up your heart into lots of pieces and place them into the envelope.

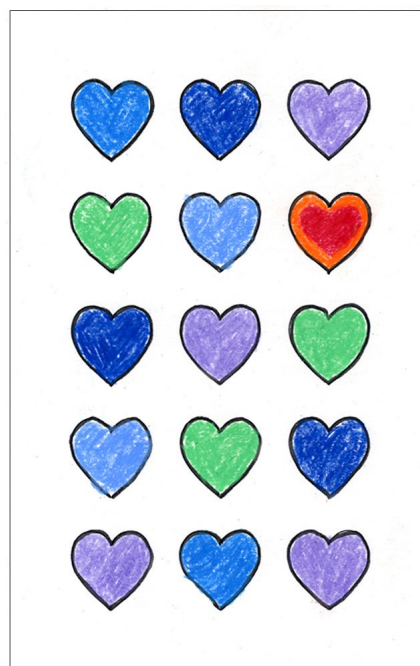
—[www.makeandtakes.com](http://www.makeandtakes.com)



### "Focal Point" Valentine

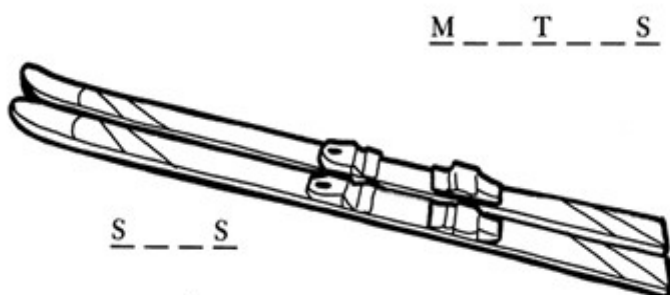
This is an exercise to have children think about how they can make their art have a focal point by using different colors, patterns, values, etc.

1. Give each child a piece of paper, pencil and cardboard heart to trace. Have them trace lots of hearts, either in a row or randomly spaced.
2. The hearts are then traced with a black marker. Have the child choose one heart that is to be the focal point of their picture. When coloring, that heart needs to be different from all the others. It could be that one uses warm colors and the rest are cool, or the colors are all similar but one has stripes in it. Or one could have dimension added and the rest are flat. I personally like colored pencils for this project, and if you can afford them, the *Prismacolor* brands are the best. It's a simple but good exercise, I think, and you also have an interesting Valentine card when you're done.



—[www.artprojectsforkids.org](http://www.artprojectsforkids.org)

# In Winter



W \_ \_ \_ T H

M	I	T	T	E	N	S	E	B
H	K	A	H	J	O	N	I	W
P	S	K	I	S	C	O	F	R
A	L	B	S	U	L	W	Q	E
T	E	D	M	B	E	M	Z	A
H	D	N	F	M	V	A	D	T
S	P	A	C	G	T	N	I	H



S \_ \_ \_ M \_ \_

