

From Our PTA President, Anna Hughes



Bird's Eye View

Matoaka Families,

Thank you to everyone for a busy and successful October. Matoaka's Annual Walk-a-thon was an amazing success. Our goal was \$7,000, and we raised over \$16,000! Wow! Thank you to Christine Tirone for chairing this event, along with many wonderful volunteers, moon fairies, and martians. We could not have done it without the support of our Matoaka families and staff.

Our Healthy Lifestyles week is November 5th-9th. Please look for more information coming your way about this exciting week at school. To get involved with Healthy Lifestyles, please contact Michelle Alexander at alexander@tncc.edu or Tryna Fitzpatrick at tfitz@hotmail.com.

There are lots of other fun things happening in November. We have Family Fun Night on November 2nd, Zpizza Spirit

Night on November 14th, and our Annual Veteran's Day Reception on November 12th. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, I just want to say thank you to the Dads that came out for our Matoaka Dad's Breakfast this year. It was truly awesome to see memories being made and we the PTA were happy to be apart of that event.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Anna Hughes
Matoaka PTA President

Calendar of Events

November

- 1 - 9: Treats for the Troops Candy Drive
- 2: Family Fun Night at the school, 6-8 p.m.
- 5 - 9: Healthy Lifestyles Week
- 6: No School—Election Day
- 12: Veteran's Day Celebration
- 14: Early Release Day
Spirit Night at Z Pizza, 5-9 p.m.
- 15: Early Release Day
- 16: Early Release Day
- 21-23: Thanksgiving Break
- 27: PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.





You Reached For The Stars at The 6th Annual Matoaka Walk-A-Thon!

After a rain delay, the 2012 Matoaka walk-a-thon launched into history on Monday, October 22nd. Thanks to the stellar efforts of the entire Matoaka student body, this year's Matoaka walk-a-thon was a HUGE success! Complete with astronauts, Martians, moon fairies, NASA lab techs, the Matoaka Cardinal and Matoaka Man, students participated in the most successful walk-a-thon yet! **Our goal was to raise \$7000 for school programs and activities but we surpassed that goal and raised over \$16,900! WOW!!!** Based on the feedback from everyone who attended, they all agreed that it was the best walk-a-thon yet and everyone had tons of fun during the milestone-setting event.

Thanks to the many generous donors, the PTA had lots of great prizes to award our star walkers and pledge collectors. The top grand prize winners for collecting the most pledge money are (in order): Rheis Granger, Bram Grosfield, Parker Dunn, Mika Kenney and Hannah Phillips.

The class bowling party was won by Mrs. Holloway's class for collecting the most pledge money and the classroom movie party was won by Miss Campbell's class. Both of these teachers also won a prize for having the winning classes! Each Matoaka student received a coupon from Chick-fil-A for a free treat.

The following classes were also awarded classroom parties for being the top class earners in their grade level after the grand prize classes: Mrs. Forgit, Mrs. Walls, Mrs. Harmon, Mrs. Heath, Mrs. Sydow and Mrs. Freeland.

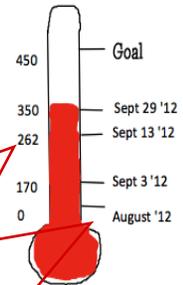
We'd like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations: Henderson Construction, Stensland Dental Studio, Johnny Timbers, Inc., Chick-fil-A, Bounce House, Core Six, Bruster's Ice Cream, Cici's Pizza, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Philly Pretzel Factory, Amory Music, Marvelous Nails, Barnes & Noble, Pumpkinville, Buffalo Wild Wings, Harris Teeter and Virtue Salon.

**A million thanks to our Matoaka Community for your support of this wonderful fundraiser!
Way to go Matoaka!!**



PTA MEMBERSHIP

Have you joined the PTA yet this year?



November is the perfect time, and here's why: we are holding a membership contest to reach our goal of 450 members! We currently have 377 so we know we can get there!

Here is how it works: On November 20th, the grade level with the most PTA members will win an in-school assembly by animal educators Zoo Pro Adventures. Additionally, the class with the most PTA members on that date will win \$50 in classroom supplies.

Each adult is counted as a separate member, so our \$10 family membership is a great way to join this year and get credit for 2 members. If you have already joined this school year, your membership will count toward the contest, so thank-you!

Look for our contest flyer with membership form to come home in folders the first week in November.

We had our **2nd Annual PTA Matoaka Dads' Breakfast** on Friday, October 12th. Approximately 550 people attended that morning. Guests enjoyed a delicious, healthy breakfast of bagels with cream cheese, muffins, fruit and Danimals yogurt.



Sue Bornschein, Erin Otis, Dan Fitzpatrick and Braz Brandt all worked together to coordinate a memorable "Morning Out With Dad". Thank you to all who contributed and volunteered to make this event a success.

Thank you also to our Community Partners that helped that day: Harbour Coffee, Martin's, Cooke's Gardens, Trader Joe's, The Fresh Market, Harris Teeter, Williamsburg Estate Services, Keith and Cindi Extton and Food Lion.

Healthy Lifestyles Week

**Matoaka and the PTA are celebrating Healthy Lifestyles Week
November 5th-10th with a variety of fun events and activities!**

We take healthy lifestyles very seriously at Matoaka—so seriously in fact that an entire week in November is dedicated to promoting and encouraging health and wellness. We have some fun and exciting events planned that our students are sure to enjoy!

Chef Chris from 2nd Street Restaurant of Williamsburg (and Matoaka Dad!) will be joining us again this year to cook up some tasty treats for our students using our fresh and local squash. The squash, provided as part of the PTA sponsored Local Produce Initiative, will also be featured on the lunch line.

Other activities will include visits from the OrganWise Guys, presented by SHIP and our Healthy Lifestyles Golden Apple Awards will be announced. Plus we will be sharing some fun surprises with the students including recipe contest opportunities and health-inspired gifts.

A very special thank you to Turkey Knob Orchard of Timberville, VA who was generous enough to donate an apple to every student at Matoaka in honor of Healthy Lifestyles Week! (www.turkeyknobapples.com)

SCHEDULE

Monday, Nov 5th: Share your healthy recipe with us. You might win a prize! Look for details soon

Wednesday, Nov 7th: Students receive an apple from Turkey Knob Orchard, plus visits from the OrganWise Guys

Thursday, Nov 8th: Chef demos and locally grown produce in the cafeteria

Friday, Nov 9th: Grow your own vegetables at home! More details coming soon

Saturday, Nov 10th, 9 a.m.: Fun Run & 5k—All students, staff, families and friends are invited to join Mrs. Bucklin for our “Cardinals On The Move” 5k and Fun Run, taking place on the Cardinal Way nature trail. There will be healthy snacks and fun prizes.

We have a Box Tops Winner!

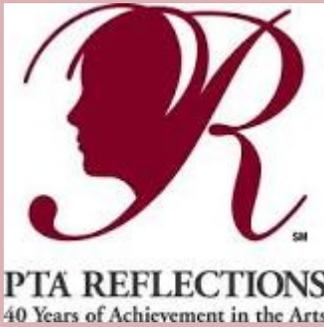
Congratulations to the Box Top trophy winner: Mrs. Erwin's class!

The top 3 classes for the first collection were:

Erwin	887
Smith	757
Macomber	698



We collected over 12,000 Box Tops in this contest, and we expect our December check to be over \$2500! Great job Cardinals! Please keep collecting for the next contest ending February 15. Find results for all classes at www.matoaka-pta.org.



PTA Reflections

The Reflections Committee is excited to report that 130 students submitted entries to the Reflections program this year!

We are so pleased that so many of our students have expressed their creative ideas with entries in literature, visual art, dance choreography, photography, and video production.

Thanks to all of the parents, teachers, and staff who encouraged all of our students to express themselves.

The first round of judging will be completed in November, and all of the participants will be informed of their awards at that time. Other upcoming events for Reflections include recognition at the December Holiday concert, entries on display in January, and an ice cream party for all participants in February.



Thank you to the Theater Company “Rags to Riches Theater for Young Audiences” for enchanting our children with Little Red Riding Hood in October! The actors, Lou and Melody Peters, were a big hit.

zpizza &
the pure one™



We're Raising money for the Matoaka Elementary PTA, ZPIZZA will donate up to 25% of the proceeds just by eating at ZPIZZA New Town

Wednesday November 14th
5pm - 9pm

Mention Matoaka that night and receive a free slice coupon for a future visit



FAMILY FUN & GAMES NIGHT
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2
6-8 PM

Come out for a night of fun & games with your family! Bean bag toss, rock climbing wall, hula hoops, ring toss, face painting and more!



New Town Dental Arts

SEBASTIANA SPRINGMANN, DDS

And

The Matoaka PTA

Present The

2012

Treats



For Our Troops CANDY DRIVE

Please join us in helping to send

Treats to our Troops!

Bring us your *excess, uneaten and unopened*
Halloween Candy

November 1st through November 9th
through your child's backpack or
by dropping at the front office.

Dr. Springman's office will be shipping all the candy we
collect to our Troops in Iraq and abroad. Giving them a
moment of enjoyment in support of their efforts and
needed sweetness!

Please contact Marbury Abella at
mabella201@yahoo.com with any questions.



Bird's Eye View



Matoaka Elementary School

PTA[®]
everychild. onevoice.[®]

Instill a Love of Learning in Your Child

www.schoolfamily.com

by June Allan Corrigan

The desire to learn is surely innate. How else to explain the fascination a baby finds in his crib mobile and later your car keys, cell phone, or even a bit of cereal? The natural curiosity your child has in the world around her, if fed and nurtured properly, will set her up for a lifetime of learning and discovery. Sometimes rote classroom learning threatens to destroy that inborn zest to absorb new things as children advance through school. Don't let it! Read on to find out ways you can actively keep your child's love of learning alive.

Wear Your Passion On Your Sleeve "These days there's so much talk about academic rigor and testing and accountability," says veteran educator Mike Connolly, author of Teaching Kids To Love Learning, Not Just Endure It. "But I think we'd be better off if we talked about academic vigor. What invigorates learning?" According to Connolly, it's the passion a teacher, parent, or coach shows in a subject that really gets kids interested in learning. For example: Are you passionate about politics? Bringing up the subject at the dinner table could help the fledgling social studies student in your house better understand governing systems. Have you enjoyed time spent in a foreign country? Talking about your experience can make a land come alive in a way the text from a geography book never will.

Provide Concrete Experiences vs. Abstract Ones While conversation is good, parents can really step up the game of instilling a love of learning in their children by providing concrete experiences. Parents have more time and resources to do this than regular classroom teachers do. "Start wherever possible with a direct experience as opposed to having kids just read about something or hear a lecture about it," Connolly says. If your child is learning about the forest and has never seen one up close, consider taking a weekend trip to a nearby wooded area to

explore the flora and fauna. Turn an otherwise mundane trip to the grocery store into a real-life application of what your child happens to be learning in math class. For example, have her guesstimate what five apples will weigh before placing them on the scale.

Make It Fun If you can coax a smile, you'll have them in the palm of your hand. This is especially true when dealing with younger children. "Teaching little ones is all one big game," says Barbara Lightfoot, a 1st grade teacher at Carter Elementary in Palm Desert, Calif. "You have to make it look like fun first and get them involved in making decisions about what they're going to learn." She suggests playing alphabet bingo to reinforce letters and the sounds of those letters. Then move on up to Scrabble Junior and other word games to help build vocabulary. "Teaching sight words with flash cards is one way to do it; however, if you play a game and make it a pleasurable situation, kids tend to learn more and they learn it faster because it's fun." Another trick up a 1st grade teacher's sleeve is using music to teach skills. "Singing and songs are really big language developers," Lightfoot says. Simple nursery rhymes, for example, increase vocabulary, teach syntax as well as grammar, and help kids learn the cadence of a language with little effort but much joy.

Open the Floor to Questions During his many years as a school principal, Connolly had the opportunity to observe countless teachers in action. It became apparent to him that the teachers who were most successful in engaging kids were the ones who invited their students to ask a lot of questions. He recalls one teacher who, before launching into a science chapter about the universe, had her students go home and write out five questions about things they specifically wanted to know. Most came back with far more than that. You can easily set up intriguing situations for your own young scholar, too. It can be as basic as going in the backyard and turning over a rock to see what lives underneath. Hold your tongue and brace yourself for a flood of questions.

That starts a discussion, Connolly says, and then together you can find a book to read for further learning about your discoveries.

Admit When You Don't Know the Answer

"Education starts at home," says Carol Wood, founder and owner of Total Learning Concepts, a private tutoring service in Gwinnett County, Ga. "Parents set the stage and the priority. The excitement and love for learning they display definitely spills over onto their children." No need to paint yourself as all-knowing, however—in fact, just the opposite. "Be open to admitting you don't know everything," Wood says. "It's not a weakness, it's actually a strength to be able to say, 'Gee, I don't know that. I'd like to learn about that.'" This illustrates to children that learning is a lifelong process and that there will always be exciting new paths to explore.

Make It Real In the quest to instill a love of learning, you'll make more headway by catering to your child's interests. While you might consider taking your child to a museum, bear in mind that not every kid is going to love tripping through an art museum, and another might yawn at the dinosaur exhibit. "If it's not something authentic to them, if it's not something they're concerned with or that they enjoy or they like, they're not going to do it," Lightfoot says. "You've got to hook them." Better to take the 8-year-old who's really into bugs to the insect museum and save the great masters for another day in the future. After all, if you're truly successful at creating an endless thirst for knowledge in your child, that day will eventually come!

Freelance writer June Allan Corrigan is a mother of two and a former kindergarten teacher who still substitutes on occasion. She resides with her family in La Quinta, California.

Color Charley Harper Chipmunks!



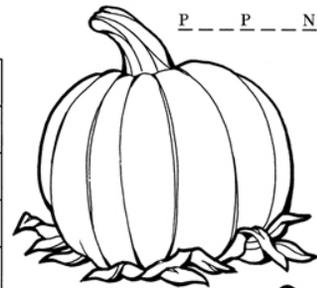
Bird's Eye View



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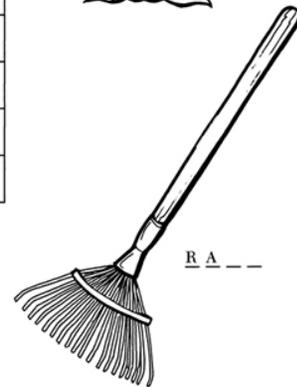
In Autumn



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Family Fun Ideas

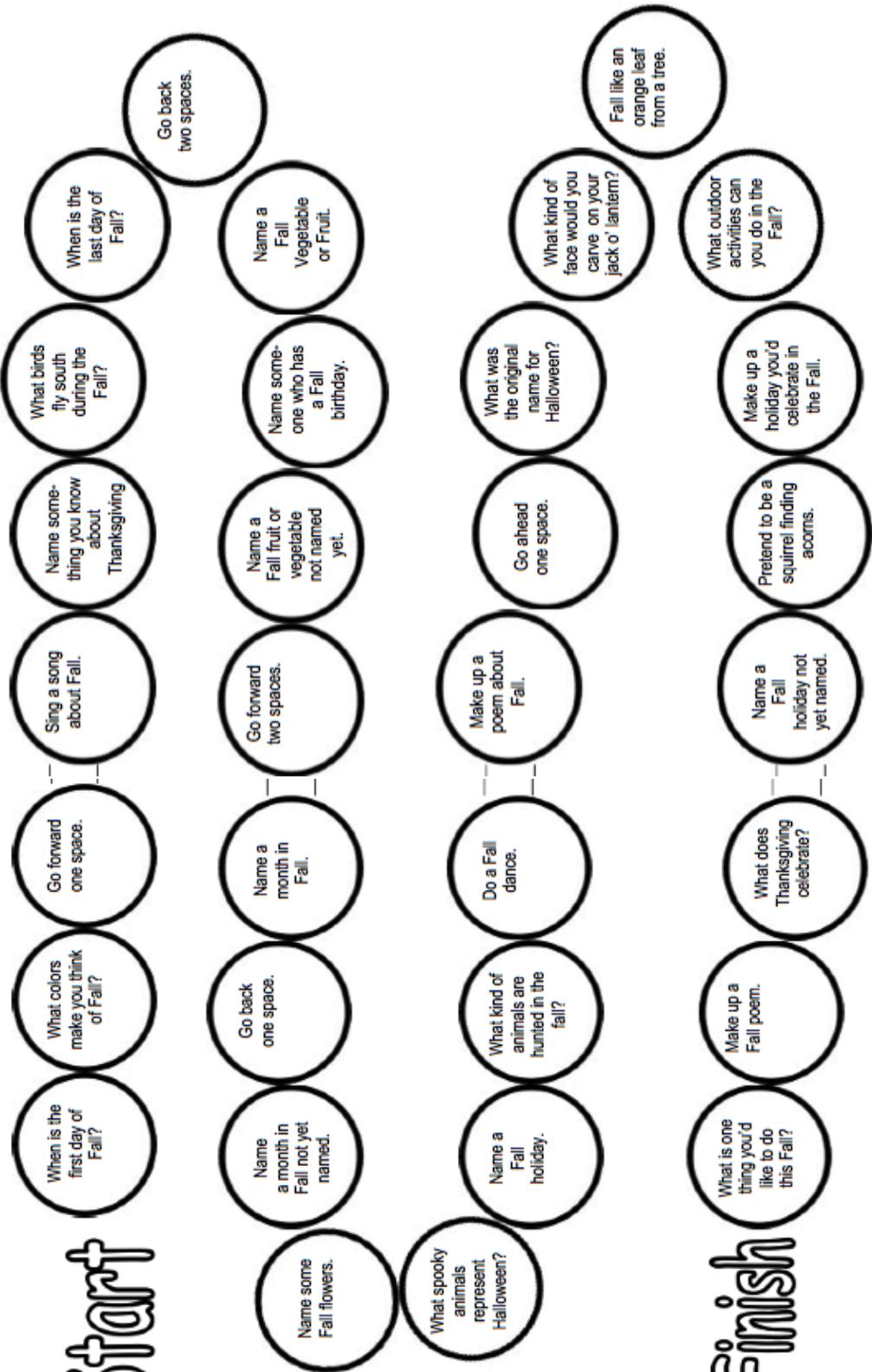
In addition to playing the Fall game I whipped up for you on the next page, here are some other ideas to share as a family:

- Walk outside and learn 3 new trees or plants or birds
- Feed horses or sheep at Colonial Williamsburg
- Go to a cemetery and make gravestone rubbings—can you find your birthday? Can you find a stone over 100 years old?
- Make a popcorn necklace and hang in a tree for the birds and squirrels
- Make a branch weaving: find a forked branch, wind string in middle and weave in pinecones, leaves, feathers, etc.
- Use paper leaves or paper turkeys to write what you are thankful for on them
- Spray spider webs with white paint (make sure the spiders aren't on them) and pick the webs up with black construction paper
- Make mushroom spore prints (make sure you are wearing gloves and wash your hands afterward) by removing the stems, placing caps face down on paper and covering with a bowl for 12 hours. Spray with hair-spray if you want it to not smudge!
- Make note cards from mums—paint mums with acrylics or poster paints and press onto cards.
- Rake leaves into the biggest pile you can, then take turns jumping in them. Rake again and carry a child in the wheelbarrow with the leaves. Rake again and throw leaves into the air. Rake again as another child hides in the pile. Rake one more time. Go inside for some tea and cookies. Laugh a lot. Repeat every weekend until the trees are bare.

FALL GAME!

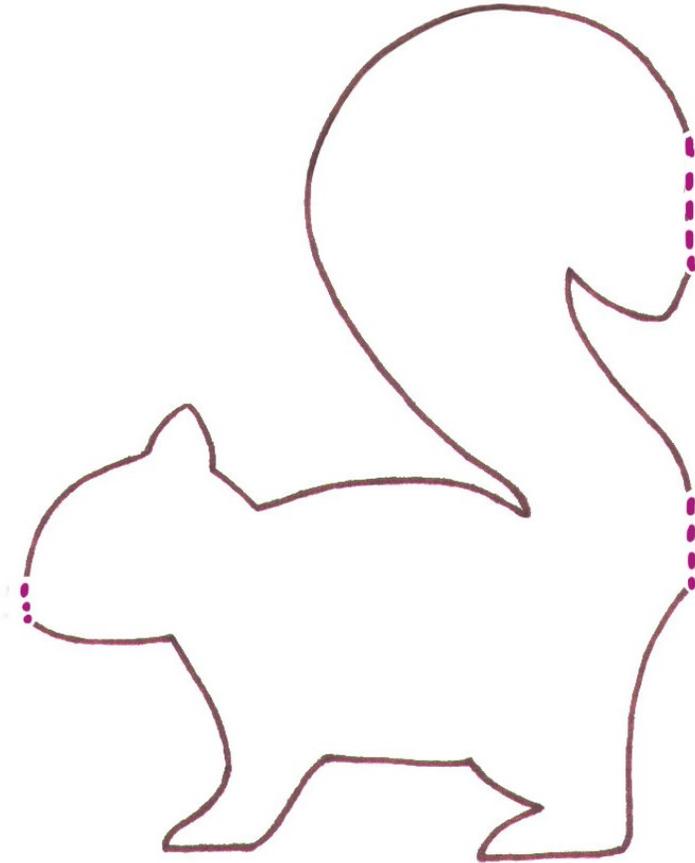
Roll the dice to see who goes first; use any marker you'd like and have fun!

Start



Finish

Crafty Kids

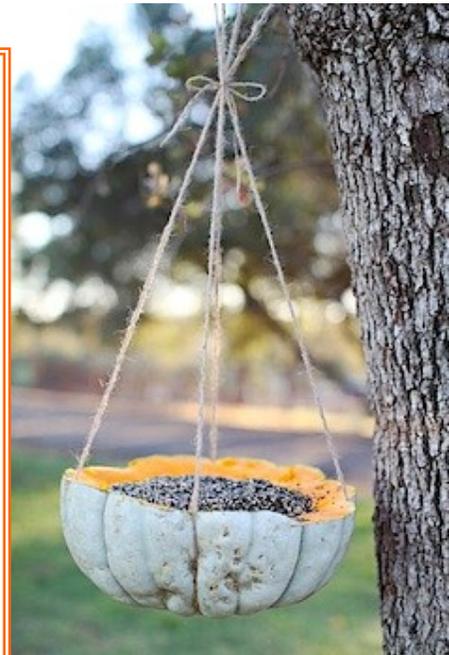


Make a wreath out of leaf rubbings you cut and paste onto a paper plate or a ring of cardboard. You could even rub leaves under paper squirrels (template at left) and see what a cute wreath they would make!

Using the template again, you could make a garland of squirrels—don't cut where the dotted pink lines are and your squirrels will remain attached on the folded paper.



What to do with all of those pumpkins and squash decorations that are beginning to mold? Besides throwing them in the compost, why not make a bird feeder of them? Just need some string and seed!



Earth Corner: Fall Nature Walk

The days are cool and crisp—why not let your feet lead you around the neighborhood or local park?



ABC NATURE WALK

Take a walk in a natural setting such as a park or the woods. Try to find something in nature for each letter of the alphabet. You may want to include small sketches of what you find.

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

What's hiding in the laundry?



These squirrels are really getting into mischief in the laundry! Believe it or not, hidden in this picture are a **spoon**, a **rabbit**, a **shoe**, an **egg**, a **slice of bread**, a **pencil**, a **horseshoe**, a **straw hat**, a **boat**, an **arrow**, a **bird**, a **nail**, a **fishing pole**, a **boomerang**, and a **snake**. Draw a line around each object as you find it.