

Narwhals

Some people call narwhals "unicorns of the sea" because of their long, spiraled tusks. These giant tusks are like spikes piercing the water in front of their noses. But the tusks aren't for fighting off predators. Seawater flows in and out of tiny holes in the tusks. The water helps narwhals sense if the sea is getting saltier or warmer.

Save!

Peering through the slits in my mask, I can see them barreling toward me, chips of ice and water flying from under the sharp blades of their skates. They race closer. And closer. Thwack! I hear a stick to my left, connecting hard with a puck. Whoosh! The puck slices its way through the air toward my head. Did the puck sail through the air to hit the wide net behind me? I carefully pry open my glove, one finger at a time. The puck is nested inside. Save!

All About Me

I am a

Book-devouring

Curly-haired

Goal-scoring

Dog-adoring

Pizza-gobbling

Coaster-screaming

Fourth grader!

To: Schoolboardmembers@ourdistrict.edu

From: ourclass@ourdistrict.edu

Subject: Cell Phones in School

Dear School Board Members:

We know that you are going to vote on whether cell phones should be allowed in school. Our teachers think that cell phones can be distracting and would help us cheat on tests. But we think there are more good reasons to have cell phones in school than reasons to ban them.

Cell phones can keep us safe. If there is an intruder in the school or someone who is sick or injured, a cell phone will let us quickly call for help.

Cell phones have great tools on them. We can use a cell phone as a calculator. Our class has few computers, but we can use cell phones to do searches for our research. Apps on our cell phones let us learn new languages, play educational games, and on and on! And cell phone games are exciting to use. They will make us more excited about learning.

Cell phones are good for other emergencies, too. What if we forget an important assignment? What if we leave our lunch at home? We can use cell phones to call our parents.

Having a cell phone at school prepares us for being adults. Adults carry phones to their jobs every day. They use them to check email, read the news, call people they work with, etc. We need to be responsible with cell phones, too.

Teachers would make us put away our phones so we don't cheat. There are many good reasons to use cell phones, and, because of these reasons, we think we should have cell phones in school.

Penguin Bodies

Most birds use their feathers to fly. Not penguins.

They can't fly, but they are good swimmers, even in the cold weather! Long outer feathers keep water away from their bodies. Under the outer feathers is a layer of down. Under the down is another layer—it's not feathers, it's blubber. Just like your winter coat, blubber keeps penguins warm in the cold waters of Antarctica. Most birds would not survive there.

Approaching Storm

At first, the cool drops of rain were a welcome relief, soaking my warm skin on a scorching day. But now I was beginning to worry. I could hear a noise like a freight train bearing down on me as the clouds gathered into a black tower stretched high into the sky. Bolts of lightning streaked across the sky, and huge claps of thunder urged me to run! I scanned ahead of me to find a safe place to wait out the approaching storm.

The Heart

The heart is an engine, pumping life-giving blood throughout the body. The heart's muscles squeeze together so strongly they could send a jet of water six feet into the air! Veins go to all the places in your body. The blood is like a delivery service, bringing essential nutrients to needy cells.

Thomas Edison

One of the most powerful inventors of all time, Edison had over 1,000 patents! He got his start making devices that would help him cope with his deafness. He was the driving force behind the invention of the phonograph. He also perfected the technology for the telegraph. His biography is fascinating!

Camp Invader!

Shocked and surprised, we froze! We didn't expect to see a brown bear pawing through our supplies. He hungrily sniffed the air. My father hushed us as we shook in fear. Finally, the bear snatched a treat from our campsite. He scuttled toward the woods to enjoy our marshmallows!

Amble Through the Park

On a nice walk in the park, you can see so many great things! A family of ducklings moves toward the little pond. Children call to their friends from across the playground. Butterflies fly from flower to flower.