

December Brainwork

“Wear a smile and have friends; wear a scowl and have wrinkles.” George Eliot

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Design a new key to unlock your thinking this month. Take it out each morning and unlock your thinking so that you are ready for the day!	Celebrate Aardvark Week! Design a poster to honor this unique animal that lives in African grasslands, is 4 ft. long, and uses its 12” tongue to catch ants & termites.	Imagine a conversation between your snow boots and your bedroom slippers. What would they have to say to each other?	“WE SELL SMILES!” Make a list of businesses and companies that might have this phrase as their slogan.	While walking down a deserted country road at midnight, you see a “coruscation”. What might be causing it?
Dec. 9, 1969 – Doug Englebart of Calif. Invented the computer mouse. His employer got the patent; he didn’t make a penny from his invention! Design a new mouse for young children.	Dec. 10, 1804 – birthday of German mathematician Carl Jacobi. If you could get inside a mathematician’s head, would it look like? Draw a picture.	Edgar Allen Poe wrote about “tintinnabulation”. What does it mean? Draw a picture of what it looks like.	Do you spend more time pondering the past, the present or the future? Is one more important to think about than the others? Explain.	Dec. 15, 1877 – first patent for the phonograph awarded to Thomas Edison. How did this invention help mankind?
Dec. 16, 1903 – first meeting of the “Men Will Never Fly Society” to protest the Wright brothers’ test flight. What “Men Will Never...Society” might be formed in 2008? 2108?	The teacher spoke sternly to his students about their “contumacious” behavior. What might he have said to them?	I am greater than 200 and less than 300. I am divisible by 3 and 5. The sum of my digits is 15. Who am I? (285)	Which book character would you like to spend winter vacation with you? Why? What would you do together?	Dec. 21 - the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year and the first day of winter. Personify “winter”. What does it look like, think about and do?
Create a new song – “On the first day of winter my teacher gave to me...” Try to complete 10 verses.	Draw a winter scene using only squares, triangles & pentagons. Squares are 10 points, triangles 12 & pentagons 15. Try to create a scene worth 500 points.	What plans do you think Santa and his elves have for “R & R” (rest and relaxation) after December 25? Draw and/or write your ideas.	Dec. 26 is “National Whiner’s Day”. Make a list of all the things you would like to whine about.	Which would you rather be: A stoplight A flashlight A headlight on a limousine A light on a holiday display
List all the ways in which you think you will use numbers today; then check your list at the end of the day.	How do parents decide which toys to buy? List several criteria for evaluating a toy. Then select 5 toys you have seen recently and	The answer is “a penguin at the door.” What are the questions?	What might the year 2007 have to say to the year 2008? Write the conversation you imagine they might have.	Dec. 31, 1893 – Coca-Cola registered its trademark for “nutrient or tonic beverages”. Design a new container for Coke for the year 2008.

	evaluate them using your criteria.			
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May your joys this month be an adumbration of things to come in 2008!