



Cloverbud Connection - December 2024

Dear Family

The December Cloverbud Connection Newsletter and Activity Guide is here! Each month, Cloverbuds (youth in grades K-2) in Barron, Burnett, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties can participate in 4-H project opportunities at home and connect with others in the 5 county area throughout the year. Families can choose how much or how little they participate! Throughout the year, there will be opportunities to have a PenPal, in-person gatherings, zoom connections, and an in-person Cloverbud Day-Camp celebration in August.

This month: Cloverbuds will learn about Being Yourself. They'll make creative creatures using a straw and thin paint, bring them to life with facial expressions and then think about what emotions they are feeling.

Cloverbud Record Books

Cloverbud record books vary by county. Please check your county's guidelines for record book completion. Ask your club leader or county educator for more information. Please save your Cloverbud's work in a folder for future use.

Share photos and feedback, get prizes!

Each month, all Cloverbuds will be mailed a packet with an activity for the month. If your Cloverbud(s) choose to participate in that month, share photos and feedback with your local educator for a chance to win fun 4-H prizes.

In Wisconsin 4-H we value:



Being Yourself: Find and share your authentic sparks and interests.



Belonging Together: Recognize, understand, respect, and appreciate each other.



Building Connection: Grow positive relationships with peers and adults.



Discovering Skills: Develop skills through hands-on learning to help you succeed and thrive.



Exploring New Opportunities: Open the door to new experiences, projects, and places.



Giving Back to Your Community: Make meaningful contributions through community service and leadership.

DECEMBER: Straw-Blown Painting (Being Yourself)

For more information or
previous newsletters:
go.wisc.edu/ygm2y



Questions? Contact:

Barron County:	Sara Waldron sara.waldron@wisc.edu
Rusk County:	Karrie Groothousen karrie.groothousen@wisc.edu
Sawyer County:	Donna Knuckey donna.knuckey@wisc.edu
Burnett & Washburn County:	Beth Rank beth.rank@wisc.edu



cloverbuds

Cloverbud Connection: December

Dear Cloverbud,

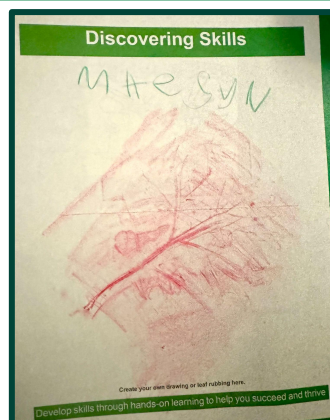
Welcome! This month you will learn about Being Yourself and making a straw-blown painting and creature. You also have the opportunity to sign up to be a 4-H Pen Pal!

In your envelope you will find googly eyes to transform your straw-blown paintings into creatures who can express their emotions. You'll need to draw a mouth and other facial features with a marker or crayon.

Don't forget to share a picture of you doing an activity or of a finished project with your County Extension office by the last day of December and you will get entered into a drawing for some 4-H swag.

We can't wait to see/hear about everything you have been working on!

From Sara, Karrie, Donna and Beth



Winner of November Drawing is Maesyn from Rusk Co. Don't forget to email us what you're working on by the end of each month! We would love to see you in the picture too!

This Month:

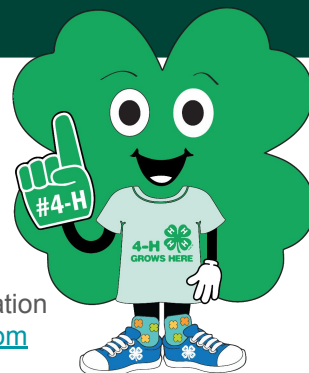
- Being Yourself
- Straw-Blown Painting

Reminders:

- Pen Pal Sign-up
- Share a picture of your work
- Save your work
- Have Fun!



Pen-Pal Program Registration
area2penpal.4honline.com



Being Yourself



Belonging Together



Building Connections



Discovering Skills



Exploring New Opportunities



Giving Back to Your Community

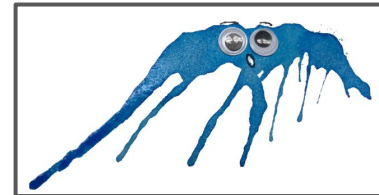


December Lesson: Straw Blown Painting

Let's create a masterpiece! Look at the the cool creatures you made with the straws. Think about their feelings. What do you think they're feeling? Are they happy, sad, angry, surprised, or something else?

Supplies:

- A rimmed baking sheet or shallow cardboard box
- Aluminum foil or a plastic bag (so nothing soaks through)
- White paper (watercolor paper works well but copy paper is fine)
- Watercolor paint or thin tempera paint
- Straw, one per person
- Fan to speed up drying, optional but helpful
- Googly eyes, optional but fun!
- Permanent Marker



Steps:

1. **Prepare your canvas:** Put aluminum foil on the baking sheet or box. Place the white paper on top of the foil.
2. **Add paint:** Put tiny drops of paint on different spots on the paper. Add a few drops of water to the paint to make it easier to spread.
3. **Blow the paint:** Use the straw to blow the paint drops. Try blowing hard, soft, and in different directions.
4. **Let it dry:** Put your painting flat and let it dry completely. You can anchor the paper with small rocks or tape and place near a fan.
5. **Create something new:** Once the painting is dry, you can cut out your favorite parts and glue them onto a greeting card. Or, if you used a big piece of paper, you can use it as wrapping paper.
6. **Make it come to life:** If you want, you can glue googly eyes to your straw blown paint pictures to make them look like funny creatures.
7. **Explore each straw blown creature's emotions:** Turn the page and circle emotions your straw blown creatures may be feeling.

4-H Connection Art is the top project statewide in Wisconsin 4-H. Within the category of Art, youth can explore visual arts, textile arts, and communication arts. There are statewide Art Camps open to youth as young as eight years old. There are also contests open to youth as young as Cloverbuds.



December Lesson: Straw-Blown Painting

Directions:

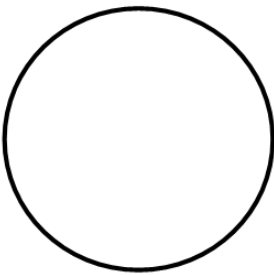
Draw faces in the circles to show two positive emotions and one negative emotion. Then write the name of the emotion above the line.

Example:

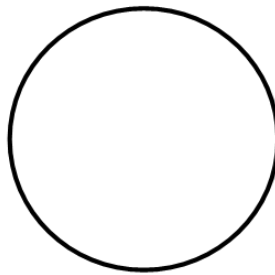


Anxiety

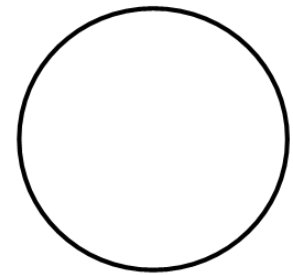
Emotion



Positive Emotion



Positive Emotion



Negative Emotion

Positive Emotions:

- Joy
- Happiness
- Love
- Hope

- Pride
- Satisfaction
- Relief
- Gratitude
- Serenity
- Inspiration

Negative Emotions:

- Sadness
- Anger
- Fear
- Anxiety

- Guilt
- Shame
- Disgust
- Envy
- Jealousy
- Boredom

Source: American Psychological Association (APA) For more information and resources on emotions for children, you can visit the APA's website: <https://www.apa.org/>

Directions:

1. **Look at your straw-blown creations:** Find the cool creatures you made with the straws.
2. **Think about their feelings:** What do you think they're feeling? Are they happy, sad, angry, surprised, or something else?
3. **Circle the feelings:** Look at the list of feelings in the yellow and red boxes above. Find the ones that match your creatures feelings and circle them or write the feeling below.

The Wisconsin 4-H Movement



Reflection: Do | Apply | Reflect

How might you comfort a friend or straw-blown creature if they are feeling sad?

What was your favorite part of making the painting?

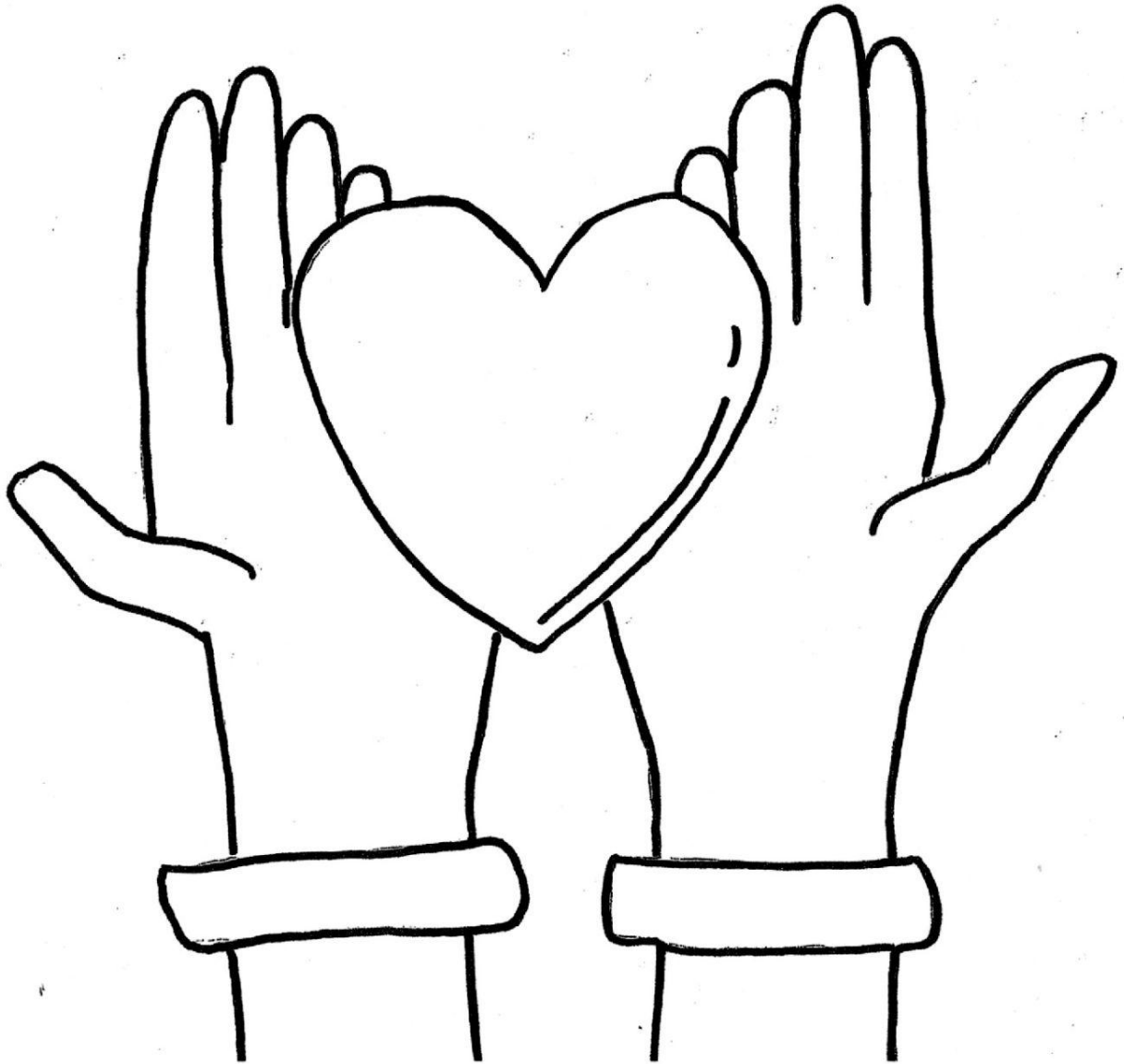
Draw a picture or write about what you did with your craft once it was completed.



SHARE

Insert or draw a picture of you with your straw-blown creatures.

Being Yourself

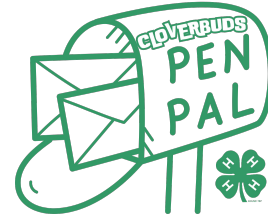


Artwork by Holly Elsinger, Grade 6, Washington County

Find and share your authentic sparks and interests



December: 4-H Pen Pals



Steps to Participate

- 1) **Sign up!** Register through 4-H Online by December 10 at <https://area2penpal.4honline.com>
- 2) **Match!** We will pair you with a friend from different club or county.
- 3) **Connect!** Write at least once per month with your new friend (you should receive and send at least one letter/picture per month).
- 4) **Make Friends!** Share fun facts, pictures and drawings about you with your pen pal. We will send you a PenPal kit with ideas and prompts with the name of your new buddy.
- 5) **Share!** In August, we hope many of our friends can meet at our in-person Cloverbud camp/celebration.



Connect with 4-H friends from around the area.

Our Pen Pal program runs from Mid December-August

****Must be enrolled in 4-H to participate in Pen-Pal Program**