The Year I ...

What happened the year that you were born? What was going on in your town when you were five? Were there important events going on in your state or country a few years ago? You will choose a time in your life that was important; the year you were born, the year you were adopted, the year you moved, the year your baby brother or sister was born. Once you’ve decided on an event, you will interview people who knew you then as well as researching major events that occurred during that year.

Procedure:
1. Interview someone who knew you during the time you chose; a parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt/uncle or even a family friend. Write down or record what they say so you can include it in your essay about yourself. Here are some suggested questions: What were you like during your that year? What was going on in the lives of your family? What was going on in the United States and the world, during your first year of life? Were there any special events, besides your birth, that were exciting/sad/joyful/scary, etc.?

2. As you complete your research, record your information using the research form. Include all information you will need to prepare a Works Cited page using Noodle Tools. The 6th graders will use a different tool for their Works Cited page.

3. In the library, consult online periodicals such as Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report for the month and year you were born. As you conduct your research, you can look for commercials, slogans, births, deaths, sports news, top movies, books, plays, top music/musicians, financial, political information (who was president, etc.), national news, international news, and religious events.

4. Search for your year on the Internet, using the sites listed on the Project page. Many of these sites give information for your birth date throughout history. To find more details for the month and year you were born, search your birth date and the following days for one month and choose only those events that occurred in your birth year. Use the My Year Project Page on the DataQuest site for approved web pages.

5. Weave all of the information you find together into an interesting, organized story and include a works cited page at the end.

6. Use Google Docs to create your story. Open a new document in your DataQuest folder and name it Birth Year and your name. For example, my story would be called Birth Year Donna or Donna’s birth year.

7. Add your works cited information at the end of your essay.

8. If you would like, add pictures of yourself during this important year of your life. Be sure to ask your parents before bringing your pictures to school.
Dear Parents,

We are starting a project where your child will be researching events that occurred during a year in his or her life. I have included a copy of the project details that the students have already seen. I have also included the rubric so that you can see how they will be graded on this project. They will need to interview someone who knew them during that year. The person could be a parent, family friend or other relative. They will also be allowed to use pictures of themselves to illustrate their essay. Please help them find photographs of events during the year that they chose. You can make a copy or send the pictures to school and I will make a copy and send the originals home so that nothing happens to your precious pictures. Share with them your memories of what was going on in your lives, in your town, around the US and the world during that year. The kids should take notes as you speak so that they can include the information in their story. They will be allowed to use their phones to record the interviews which they will transcribe at school. I have found that it is a great tool to help the students remember what was said. The footage will not be used in any way except for the students to take notes from.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to email me (knottdm@wmlcps.org). Thank you for your help. Please sign the attached form and have your child return it to me.

Donna Knott
Librarian
Montross Middle School

My child and I have read the specifics of the project and understand what is expected. We will work together to find the information needed.

Student signature

________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian signature

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