

# Mardi Gras

CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

## START SOMETHING extraordinary

NOTHING BUILDS LASTING BONDS LIKE A GOOD CONVERSATION. GET CONVERSATIONS STARTED IN YOUR CLASSROOM WITH MARDI GRAS® CONVERSATION STARTER NAPKINS.

### MUNCHY MATH

#### NONSTANDARD MEASUREMENT

A Mardi Gras® Conversation Starter Napkin and a handful of pretzel sticks equal a tasty review of measurement. Students use the pretzels to measure the length, width, diameter, or perimeter of their folded, unfolded, and partially folded napkins. Group finished? Invite them to munch on the pretzels and chat—using the conversation starters, of course.



### IT'S MONDAY!

#### ORAL LANGUAGE

Shake up and wake up your sleepyhead students. Project a Mardi Gras® Conversation Starter Napkin on the board and get the convo started with student pairs, small groups, or the entire class.

### SAY WHAT?

#### WRITING DIALOGUE

Divide students into small groups and give each group a napkin. Have group members take turns responding verbally to the prompt while the other members write and correctly punctuate the response.

SONYA QUIPPED,  
"NO TESTS, EVER!"

TRAVIS EXCLAIMED,  
"HOMEWORK IS FORBIDDEN!"



### AS THE FACTS UNFOLD

Grab students' attention with factoids both gross and fascinating:

- Edible napkins? Yep. Ancient Greeks used bread to wipe their hands.
- During the middle ages dinner guests wiped their hands and mouths on a shared cloth towel. Only the guest of honor had a towel all his or her own.
- Cloth napkins became trendy in the sixteenth century but—get this—they were rarely washed.
- The first paper napkins were unfolded in England in 1887.



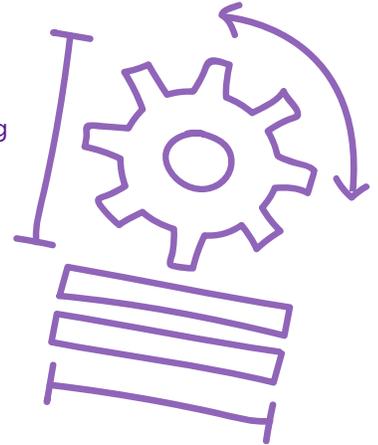
# BORN ON THE BACK OF A NAPKIN

## CRITICAL THINKING

When great conversations happen, ideas start popping. Amaze and impress your students by sharing that all of these big ideas started out on the back of a napkin:

- idea for Shark Week
- a professional sports contract for an 11-year-old soccer mega star
- the original NASCAR points system
- an economic theory called the Laffer Curve (though there seems to be nothing funny about it)
- idea for the MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) machine, which takes pictures of the inside of your body using magnetic fields and radio waves

Mardi Gras® Conversation Starter Napkins are always inspiring. The next time students are brainstorming, share these fun facts; then give each child a napkin. Challenge students to open the napkins and start jotting their ideas on the blank space inside. Who knows what they'll come up with?!



**CHITCHAT**  
*discussion*  
**EXCHANGE**  
*babble*

## CHITCHAT OR TETE-A-TETE?

### VOCABULARY

There's no one way to have a conversation—and no one word to use to say “conversation.” Confab with your students to see how many synonyms they can find. *Chitchat, discussion, exchange, babble...*



## HOLIDAY HOOPLA

### CRITICAL THINKING

Always ready to celebrate? If no holiday is coming up on the calendar, then you'll just have to create your own. Have students suggest serious and silly celebrations. Hug a Porcupine Day? Artichoke Appreciation Day? Fly a Paper Airplane Day? Have each student choose an event and then brainstorm a date for the celebration, three ways to celebrate, and a holiday hashtag. Tuck the plans away, then surprise students throughout the year with quick and supersilly celebrations.

**OPEN HOUSE?  
PARENT MEETING?**  
WITH MARDI GRAS® CONVERSATION  
STARTER NAPKINS, YOU'LL  
**KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO**  
TO GET THE CHATTER FLOWING.

# CAPTAIN NAPKIN

## GROSS-MOTOR SKILLS

Kiddos got the wiggles? You have just what you need to get them up and moving. In an open area, have students stand in a circle and face inward. Ask one student to step out of the circle and hand the child a napkin. Appoint this student to be Captain Napkin. Direct the remaining students to place their hands behind their backs, palms up. Captain Napkin moves around the circle, drops the napkin into a classmate's hands, and runs around the circle. The classmate holding the napkin tries to tag Captain Napkin. If Captain Napkin makes it the whole way around without being tagged, the chaser becomes Captain Napkin.

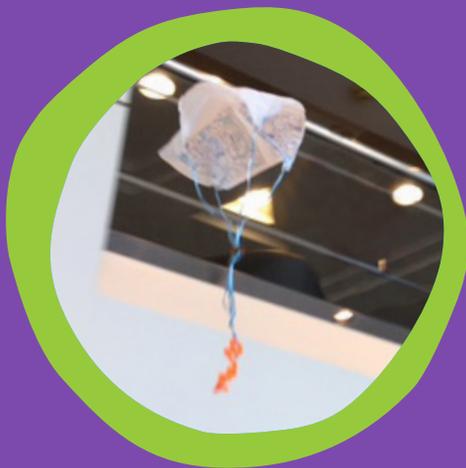
JOIN THE **fun** AT [MARDIGRASNAPKINS.COM](http://MARDIGRASNAPKINS.COM).  
(PSST! A COUPON AWAITS. WE KNOW YOU LOVE TO SAVE SOME SILVER....)



## LOOK OUT BELOW!

### STEM

Okay, pigs can't fly, but can napkins? With the right supplies they can. Give student pairs a napkin, string, paper hole reinforcements, buttons, and pipe cleaners. Provide a hole punch too. Challenge students to find different ways to make parachutes. (Hint: the hole reinforcers help keep napkins from tearing, buttons add weight, and pipe cleaners make fun little skydiving figures.) Give kids the chance to test the projects by dropping them from different heights. (Safely, of course. No crazy stuff.) Next, engage students in making and testing parachute-related predictions: How does more weight affect the parachute? What if the strings are shorter? The fun has only just begun.



## YUK IT UP

### WRITING

There's nothing quite like a not-so-serious writing assignment to encourage creativity. Invite students to choose one of the following titles (or create their own) and write a story:

- The Paper Napkin That Would Not Stop Talking
- Napkin Man Saves the Day
- The Paper Napkin that Grew, and Grew, and Grew
- The Diary of a Paper Napkin



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LET'S KEEP THIS CONVERSATION GOING.  
Chat us up at [Facebook.com/MardiGrasNapkins](http://Facebook.com/MardiGrasNapkins) and at [mardigrasnapkins.com](http://mardigrasnapkins.com).  
**TLK2UL8R!**