

## Here's some cell phone tips for parents



**By Marissa Dooley**  
**1st Place, Feature Writing**  
**Division: 3-4 Grade**

Cell phones for kids, good idea or bad trend? It's the question more and more parents are asked by their children: "Can I have a cell phone?"

But before parents decide to buy or not to buy, I'd like to offer some advice and an opinion or two on this subject. Because of the research I've done, I can hopefully sort out the whys and why nots of children owning cell phones.

First of all, why do kids want cell phones? I asked several children in my neighborhood (ages 6-11) and most of all

their answers were the same. "Cell phones are cool, I can play games on them, and I would like to send text messages." None of these are really (good) reasons why a child should have a phone, but here are some reasons for parents to consider:

1. Emergencies — they can always come up, and cell phones can provide the security and convenience of knowing that your child can always reach you.
2. Responsibility — Because of the cost of a cell phone, keeping track of the phone and being careful not to damage it can be a tool in teaching a child responsibility.

After thinking about the topics I just

mentioned, there is an issue about cell phones that most parents think about more than others: Who will my child be talking to?

Most children are not with their parents 24 hours a day, so how can parents feel safe buying their children a device that may put them in danger? Well, there are now phones available that are only programmable by parents so that only certain numbers can be dialed (friends can be included) and calls coming in can be limited too. There is no Internet access available with these, yet the phones still look cool.

One more thing, cell phones cost money. My opinion on this is to use pre-

paid plans and have children do chores to earn minutes.

Right now, you are probably wondering does the writer of this article have a cell phone? Yes, I do, so I can say I think they're a good idea.

I think if a child truly wants a cell phone, they will understand that their parents must have rules in order to own one.

So, parents, when you are faced with that special question, I hope you will consider my advice and I wish you good luck.

*The author is a fourth-grader at Holy Spirit School in Fairfield. She is a student in Mrs. Brenman's class.*



### Welcome to a piece of guitar heaven

Colleen Bromell, 14, uses newly learned guitar skills to impress her best friend, photographer Pamela Peterson. The guitars and the room belong to Pamela, who is a student in Jared Austin's classroom at Buckingham Charter Magnet High School in Vacaville.

## Student OK after mishap

**By Brandon Walker**  
**3rd Place (tie), News Writing**  
**Division: 5-6 Grade**

Earlier this school year, Svanna Sahlender, a fifth-grade student in Ed Finkas' class, was going down the Browns Valley playground's slide when she got her foot stuck under the slide and hit her head.

Svanna said, "It felt like someone was hitting me on the head with their fist."

After a yard duty supervisor helped Svanna to the nurse's office, she went home with her father. When she got home, she discovered she had a slight concussion and was rushed to the hospital. When she got there, she had to get seven staples in her head.

"The staples hurt, but not enough to make me cry," she said.

Svanna now says, "I'm feeling fine. The scar is almost gone. Overall, it was not that bad."



Brandon

*The author is a fifth-grader in Ed Finkas' class at Browns Valley in Vacaville.*

## Smoking is one dangerous habit

**By Elaine Decker**  
**Honorable Mention-Opinion Writing**  
**Division: 3-4**

Smoking is a bad and unhealthy habit. It is bad for the environment and for others around the person smoking. Smoking causes lung cancer and other lung diseases. Smoking makes a person's clothes and breath smell.

It also turns a person's teeth yellow. When other people around you inhale the smoke, it's called second-hand smoke, which causes people to die. Did you know there's bad chemicals in the tobacco that makes the cigarette?

Well now all I have to say is, "Please don't smoke, I might croak."

*The author is a fourth-grader at Notre Dame in Vacaville. She is a student in Mrs. Heinz's class.*

## Brazil has the right idea about soccer

**By Jose Gaglianone**  
**Honorable mention, Opinion Writing**  
**Division: 5-6 Grade**

Should soccer be played more or less? This is a question I ask myself, being a California boy.

I think soccer should be played more. In soccer you need lots of hustle and the ability to run. You also need to be aggressive and have physical conditioning. If you play on a team, you make lots of friends and you learn how to share.

Brazil has one of the best teams and has some of the best players in the world. In Brazil, everybody plays soccer anytime and anywhere. They play on grass roads, in backyards, alleys, fields, by the freeways, and at the beaches. They play rain or shine. They play with shoes and without shoes. Also, they play with different types and sizes of balls.

When I go to Brazil with my family on vacations, it inspires me to play more.

When I was young, I used to play with my dad one against one, and he used to let

me win. But now I understand it doesn't matter who wins or loses, like he used to tell me. The important thing is to have fun, do an exercise and keep kids out of trouble.

Sometimes I think soccer should be played more in our schools and city parks. This is why I think soccer should be played more.

*The author is a fifth-grader at Holy Spirit School in Fairfield.*

### Design-an-Ad winner



Valorie Smart earned an honorable mention in The Reporter's Campus Star Design-an-Ad competition for this advertisement she created for First Northern Bank. Valorie is a student in Rodney Orosco's classroom at Vacaville High School.

### Puzzles, Games, Comics winner

#### VACAVILLE FUN SPOTS

O R X B Y N T K L C U L T U R A L C E N T E R  
V P F A Q K P P M D V N T D Z O W G X L Y B E  
A H J N V S A U M W Q I N C Y U K N B O P E E  
C U I U D M T D V S W U K L N T Y U R S F H A  
A Y T T M S T C X E W Q V C M R G J E W B N Y  
V V P T Q Z Y K R G F X E S O P L H N F D N H  
I R E R B N S X V K M F G K V C S A D R Z C K  
L R M E B C D Y R E H J K A P O T W E K L D S  
L L B E L L A T E R R A F T B V M W N S D V E  
E I U J B N N E W Y J L Y I Q W S B T C I O M  
O R T V C Z C X Z M T Y E N O P N D H F J P M  
U Y T W B V E S I L G Y K G A K I H E F E U N  
T U M G F B S L R T M N S R J O H N A W L V U  
L O B K C M T Y U P Q W K I H R P V T D S L K  
E W J R I Y U H W B R Q X N C J K Y E M T F R  
T M E A B A D R T L H E G K Y E V R R E H K C  
S Y J P L Y I M F V S W H J N C X A S Z P R G  
T K E L B C O X K E L S E Y M R H R L O R I B  
O R Y L C Y K M C G N R J L E U E B H T U T V  
R F A A M Y E V W N E K R A P Y L I M A F N D  
E J G B F R U I E I B V E X Q O P L D W H J L  
S J R S E W G N U L A G O N V A L L E Y E F  
L R E I F B D X K W L R D E A V Y V C R Y I E  
P W C V F R T H R O M V X T Y Z T Y J G E T B  
V A C A V I L L E B A L L E T A C A D E M Y E  
O P D R E V S G H S E N E T J I W D B N J L U  
B G I T G W V G T R Q L O M B T M I E G V B Z  
I T E N A V J W T A E J L A R V X R W G N Y I  
C W R F U L C X P T E H U R T P L V W E R G H  
R H O R B M W Q P S S Y W L M B N Z T Y L K W

- NUT TREE
- ANDREWS PARK
- BELLA TERRA
- VACAVILLE OUTLET STORES
- VACAVILLE BALLET ACADEMY
- PATTY'S DANCE STUDIO
- FAMILY PARK
- LIBRARY
- CULTURAL CENTER
- BRENDEAN THEATERS
- SKATING RINK
- TRAVIS BALL PARK
- LAGOON VALLEY
- STARS BOWLING

This puzzle won third-place in the 5th-6th division of the Puzzles, Games and Comics contest for Kelsey Daugherty of Notre Dame School. She is a student in Laurie Brunke's class.