

Pen Pal Project

Teachers,

We are a nonprofit organization which grants small wishes to nursing home residents across America who are trying to make ends meet on a small government allowance. Three Wishes for Ruby's Residents has provided a packet to help students and teachers participate in our national Pen Pal project between nursing home residents and students. We believe students should have an understanding of what our older generation has experienced in their lifetime. We also believe it is equally important to empower children by showing them that they can spark change and be impactful by a simple action such as listening and writing a letter. This is a great way to motivate language learners and make intergenerational connections. Sometimes it is hard for students to imagine how their kindness, language and a simple action can impact another human being and this is a concrete way for them to experience it.

Students will be writing and responding to letters in class. They will not be sharing their personal emails or any personal contact information with their pen pals. Many nursing home residents in the US do not use social media or email.

This packets includes permission slip for students, intro letter to nursing home staff to ask to participate in the pen pal project, a permission slip nursing homes can use for their residents if they wish, instructions for the pen pal program for nursing home staff and letter writing in general, resident list for teacher use.

Letters should not ask about personal or nursing care, medical issues, etc.

Great questions- What was the greatest invention of your time? What item do you miss the most from home?

Resident must be sent a SASE from the class to participate. (this is funded by the school/class, one large envelope per NH is OK). Postage is not covered in room and board and the expense of postage would prevent most residents from participating in this project.

We are collecting great stories. If you think you have a great pen pal quote or story, please share it with us at 3wishesforruby@gmail.com

Best,

Amanda Chitsey, Ruby Kate and the 3 wishes team
President

Pen Pal Project Instructions

- Send this packet by fax, person, email or mail to a nursing home of your choice to check for participation. Call ahead and ask for the activity director, social director, etc. to facilitate the process and obtain the contact name.
- If participating, Residents need to be sent a SASE to return to student. Schools will need to provide the postage. (use one large envelope to save expenses) Postage is not covered in the nursing home and would prevent most residents from participating or writing back. Most residents in the US also do not know how or have access to social media and therefore do not use email.
- Some nursing homes may have a small number of residents that can write letters. Students may need to form groups or use more than one facility.
- Address pen pal letters to the contact person at the facility, the resident and ATTN PEN PAL program to ensure your letter is routed correctly and the resident, receives assistance to fill out, and returns to your class appropriately
- Nursing facility should assist with letters. Please include the facility contact person on ALL correspondence
- Medical and care related topics are strictly against the rules of this pen pal program
- If you would like to share a great response or penpal story from your class on our social media sites, please send it to us at 3wishesforruby@gmail.com.

We would love to hear from you and the residents.

Date: _____

Dear Nursing Home Staff:

Our School has partnered with the nonprofit organization “Three Wishes for Ruby’s Residents” and our classroom would like to start a Pen Pal with some of your willing residents.

We would like to:

1. Send a letter to residents about history, culture or with a few questions such as “what the best invention of your lifetime”, “what items you miss the most”, “your favorite memory”, etc.
2. We will send a SASE for the residents to use on return to our classroom so that the residents do not need to provide postage.
3. Our classroom goal is to listen and learn from an elder, connect the generations of young and old, promote kindness, help reduce social isolation and show our students they can make an impact through language and small actions

We would need your assistance with:

1. Sending us back a list of residents willing to be a penpal
2. Assist residents mail back our Penpal letters in the SASE
3. Be our contact person for this small program

You should find all the information you would need in this packet to help us participate in this Pen Pal. .There is a Pen Pal permission slip includedyou’re your residents IF you feel you need it. Please note, the school does not need the resident permission slips returned. They are for your use.

We hope to hear back from you soon.

Best,

I can be reached at _____

Email _____

School _____

Pen Pal Project – Approved Resident List

Facility:

Mailing address for residents below:

Contact Person at facility/addressee: _____

Phone: _____

List of residents willing to pen pal below

School Year _____

Resident Name

room#

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Please call _____
form when completed.

Or email to: _____

We do not need resident permission slips returned to
school.

Nursing Home Pen Pal Permission Form/Student

Date: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our classroom has partnered with Three Wishes for Ruby's Residents, a nonprofit organization, to participate in a Pen Pal between nursing home residents and students. Three Wishes for Ruby's Residents has helped facilitate a pen pal project between nursing home residents and students across the country to help connect the generation of young and old. One of the goals is for students to gain an understanding of what the older generation has experienced in their lifetime. A second goal is to empower children and elders by showing them that they can make an impact with a simple action such as listening and writing a letter. This is a great way to motivate language learners and/or make intergenerational connections. Sometimes it is hard for students and elders to imagine how their kindness, language and a simple action can impact another human being and this is a concrete way for them to experience it. It's a win win. Students will be writing and responding to letters in class. They will not be sharing their personal emails or any personal contact information with their pen pals.

Letters will not discuss personal or nursing care, medical issues, etc.

Please check one of the options below:

☐

- I give my student permission to participate in this pen pal project.

☐

- I do NOT want my student to participate in this pen pal project.
Your student will work on alternate assignments to practice language skills and research cultural information.

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature: _____

Comments: _____

Pen Pal Project - Permission Form/Resident

Dear Resident,

Our classroom has partnered with Three Wishes for Ruby's Residents and would like you to be our Pen Pal. Three Wishes for Ruby's Residents has set up a pen pal project between nursing home residents like yourself and students to help connect the generation of young and old. One of the goals is for students to gain an understanding of what the older generation has experienced in their lifetime. A second goal is to empower children and elders by showing them that they can spark change with a simple action such as listening and writing a letter. This is a great way to motivate language learners and/or make intergenerational connections. Sometimes it is hard for students and elders to imagine how their kindness, language and a simple action can impact another human being and this is a concrete way for them to experience it. It's a win win.

Students will be writing and responding to letters in class. They will not be sharing their personal emails or any personal contact information with their pen pals.

Letters should not discuss personal or nursing care, medical issues, etc.

Great questions you might be asked- What was the greatest invention of your time? What item do you miss the most from home?

A stamped envelope will be sent to you for this project, you do not have to provide postage.

Letters will be coordinated through your activity director or appropriate personnel prior to mailing.

Please check below and return to nursing home staff.

☐

- I give my permission to participate in this pen pal project.

Resident Name:

Facility:

POA/Guardian Name: Signature if applicable

Phone:

Mailing Address: