Get Well, Nick!

Nick did not come to school this week. On Friday, our teacher, Mrs. White, told us that Nick was home sick. She said he would be out of school for another week as well. She did not tell us why he had been absent.

Mrs. White thought we should each make a card for Nick to cheer him up. Everyone thought that was a good idea. So she passed out crayons, glue bottles, and colored paper. I drew pictures of trains and pasted them on the front of the card. Sarah drew a picture with teddy bears. Andy put stickers of stars and planets on the back of his card. On the inside of my card, I wrote, “Get yourself on the right track, Nick! Get well!”

A week went by, but Nick was still not back at school. Some of the other students started to worry and asked Mrs. White if she could call his house and ask how Nick was doing, and when he was coming back. Mrs. White told us not to worry, that she would call Nick’s home in the evening, and would let us know tomorrow.
how he was doing. We were relieved that she would find out for us.

The next morning we met our teacher at the door and one student after the other began pestering Mrs. White with questions about Nick. She told each of them that she would tell the whole class at once, once we were all inside and settled.

Mrs. White began by reminding us that we were all mature young ladies and gentlemen, and that we needed to listen carefully to what she was going to tell us, so that misinformation, what we called ‘rumors’, would not spread false information around our campus and neighborhood. She told us that Nick recently went to a regular doctor’s appointment, and that during the examination, the doctor discovered a tumor on Nick’s skin and would need to run additional tests to determine whether it was benign or malignant.

Mrs. White explained to us that benign was generally not serious, whereas malignant was. Fortunately, she said, Nick’s tumor was benign, and that he was going to be okay. That was great news!