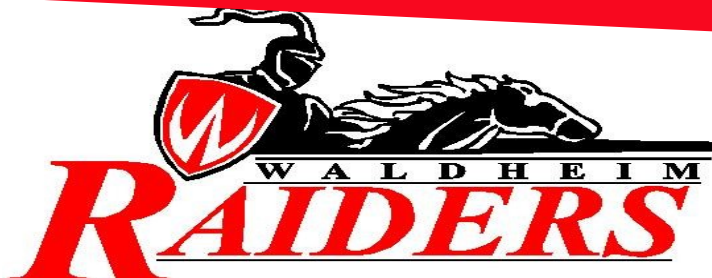


November/December, 2016

## WALDHEIM SCHOOL

Box 367  
Waldheim, SK  
S0K 4R0  
Principal: Chris Mason  
Vice-Principal: Bruce Mellesmoen  
Website: [www.blogs.spiritsd.ca/waldheimschool](http://www.blogs.spiritsd.ca/waldheimschool)



PLEASE



NO PEANUTS  
OR  
NUT PRODUCTS

Phone: 306-945-2211

Fax: 306-945-5445

E-mail: [corinne.neufeldt@spiritsd.ca](mailto:corinne.neufeldt@spiritsd.ca)

### From the Administrative Team

What a crazy couple of months we've had weather wise; wind, snow, rain in October and then beautiful warm days in November. I have a feeling things will be getting back to normal soon as there is a chill in the air even as I write this.

Since the last newsletter there has been a lot of great things going on at Waldheim School both in and out of the classrooms. We were very lucky to have the Waldheim Fire Department come to the school in October to talk to the students about fire safety. Steve Mackenzie led a very informative presentation, talking to the kids about what they should and should not do in case of an emergency. It is so great to see the community join in with the learning at the school. Our school carnival was another great success, as the hallways and gym were buzzing with activity. I could see through the painted faces a lot of very big smiles on the kids' faces. Thank you to all of those who were able to make it out to the school, the funds from the carnival will go a long way in supporting our reading initiatives at the school. Hats off to the Waldheim SRC for a very successful dance on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The gym looked amazing and the students had so much fun dancing to their favorite songs. I was shocked to hear some of my old favorites too, I actually caught myself tapping my toes along with the music.

In November we had our first round of parent/teacher/student conferences. We really appreciate the effort you make as parents to come to these meetings. Communication between the home and school is critical if we want to help our kids reach their full potential. Just a reminder that this communication does not need to be limited to formal parent/teacher conference dates. If you have questions you want to ask please refer to the communications protocol contained within this month's newsletter.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> we were very fortunate to have 7 other Prairie Spirit School Division administrators visit our school for the morning. While they were here we talked about the amazing things happening at our school and then observed four different classrooms. We watched Mrs. Gaudet and Mrs. Strasky model the Writer's Workshop and Reader's Workshop approach to teaching English Language Arts. The administrators were all very impressed with the high level of thinking coupled with an overwhelming sense of calm in the rooms. We also visited Mr. Friesen's IA lab to see how he is offering students choice in what they learn and finished the tour by watching Mr. Block teach archery to the grade 9 class. Overall the visitors were very impressed with the school, the teaching, and most importantly, the students approach to learning. Way to go Waldheim School!

As we approach the colder, whiter weather please remember to drive carefully when you are around the school. You will also notice the town has placed some new NO PARKING signs in front of the school. These have been placed strategically to reduce the chances of any of our youngsters getting hurt while crossing the street. You will notice new lines painted on the street in the spring.

I hope you are all continuing to see your children grow as learners the same way we are. Of course if you have any questions please feel free to contact the school or pop into the office....we always love to say hi.

Chris Mason, Bruce Mellesmoen

#### DATES TO REMEMBER!

**November 2 and 3 (3:15-6:30)**  
- Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences

**November 10** - School closed in lieu of Conferences

**November 11** - Remembrance Day Stat Holiday

**November 14** - Prep Day for Teachers, **NO CLASSES!**

**November 18** -- Progress Reports (Grade 1-12)

**December 19 (1:00)** - Christmas Concert, Matinee performance

**December 20 (7:00)** - Christmas Concert

**December 21** - Last Day of Classes for 2016!

**December 22 - January 3** - Christmas Break



# What's Happening? Grade 1/2

During science at the end of October we investigated pumpkins. We opened up an 85-pound pumpkin and found out what is inside of it - pulp or 'pumpkin guts'. We also counted over 450 seeds!

Workshop, and this week we are transferring our 3 part stories into booklets. We are hoping to "publish" them and have them in the library for other students to read.

We are working on our 3-part story arrangements in Writer's



# What's Happening? IN GRADE 11

Much like the middle child at home, grade 11 is smack dab in the middle of the high school years. They may be the middle child, but they are definitely not forgotten!! In Math, the grade 11 class is learning about statistics and scale factor.

History lessons include learning about the revolutions in Russia and China, and the Great Depression. A really cool thing was playing a farming simulator game! Our phys ed consists of workouts and archery. Soon we will be doing gymnastics which will include a field trip. In psychology, we are learning about cognitive development in babies and parenting styles. Soon we will be having a debate on that topic.

Health Science with Mr. Block includes nutrition and the digestive system. The Forensic Science class includes analyzing documents and handwriting analysis, which is super interesting to most of us! In Drama class with Mr. Kitchen, we are researching different styles of theatre, and presenting drama with a quirk. This is always fun for us to do!

## GRADE 11



Reading aloud builds a child's "want" to read.

# READ ALOUD TO A CHILD TODAY

Where your child spends the most time annually

7800 hrs. Home  
900 hrs. School

Which teacher has the biggest influence?

Interest in reading a book outside of school

Kindergarten:	100%
4th Grade:	54%
8th Grade:	30%
12th Grade:	19%

What changed in 4th grade?  
Parents stopped reading to their kids.

Too much time Spent with Screen Media is Associated with:

Childhood Obesity    Sleep Disturbances    Attention Span Issues

Children who have 100 pieces of printed material in their homes have higher reading scores than those with less.

**THE THREE B's:**  
The three best places to keep a box of books for your children to read:

Bed  
Bathroom  
Breakfast table

1,500+ children's books available through Usborne Books & More.

**USBORNE BOOKS & MORE**  
www.UsborneUSA.com Nancy Ann Wartman

## Reading for Meaning with Your Child

Reading with comprehension means understanding what's been read. It takes practice, time, and patience to develop reading comprehension skills. Families can play an important role in helping a child learn to read for understanding.

First, make sure your child is reading **books appropriate for their reading level**. If a book is too hard, all your child's energy will be put into decoding and reading word for word, with less

energy available to figure out what the book means. Books that your child can read with 98-100%

accuracy are good choices for comprehension building.

Reading comprehension skills can be developed using a **before-during-after** approach. Below

are a few suggestions that will help build comprehension skills.

### Before

Your goal is to help your child build an understanding of and purpose for what they're about to read. Look at the book's cover. Ask, "What do you think this book might be about? Why? Can you make some predictions?" Guide your child through the pages, discuss the pictures, and brainstorm what might happen in the story. Talk about any personal experiences your child may have that relate to the story.

### During

Your goal is to help your child be an active reader. Read together and talk about what's happening as they're reading. Stop and discuss any interesting or tricky vocabulary words. Talk about any surprising or sad passages, and help them visualize parts of the story. Ask your child, "Do you understand what's happening here? What do you think will happen next?" If your child seems unsure, stop, go back and reread if necessary. Discuss any confusing parts.

### After

Your goal is to help your child reflect on what they've read. Summarize and share your favorite part of the book. Have your child rate the book on a scale from 1 to 10 and say why. Have your child reread their favorite part or act it out.

Take the extra time before and during reading to read with your child this way. You'll soon find yourself reading with a child who is motivated to comprehend and learn from everything they read.

**For more information about reading comprehension:**

[www.ReadingRockets.org/article/12376](http://www.ReadingRockets.org/article/12376)

The more  
that you read,  
the more things  
you will know.  
The more that you  
learn,  
the more places you'll go.





## JoAnne Lapierre...

They say change is good. Then I would say I'm in a good place. My work life has taken a ninety-degree turn. From teaching grade two and combinations including grade two for twenty-two years, I

now am teaching music to students from Kindergarten to grade nine. I have also taken on the roles of Senior years SERT and student counsellor as well. Thus the learning curve these last two and a half months has been mostly vertical. All my new roles have many challenges as well as wonderful rewards coming from the terrific students I work with and the amazing staff members that have assisted me in these transitions. I feel like the winners at the Oscars wanting to thank all the people around me for their tremendous support.

We have some wonderful programs going that are raising student engagement in our school. One of them is called Now and Beyond. It is a life skills program based on building a service company that will learn through planning, management, banking, purchasing, team work and so much more. I am proud to be the guide and director of this innovative program.

There is an ambitious group of twenty students in our school, which I supervise, working on earning special credits outside of class time. They are pursuing advancement in area of personal interest. This is a great way to beef up their resume for future employment and to have input into their learning.

Music at this many levels is brand new to me but I feel the greatest way to learn is through creative involvement so we are all learning the basic symbols of music so we can write both the lyrics and melodies to our own music and then perform them for each other and possibly the rest of the school.

I know there will be many days of struggle and frustration ahead because I love to make things happen quickly but I'll keep telling myself, "Rome wasn't built in a day." It is such a privilege to be a teacher and a guide in Waldheim School that the forty-five-minute drive doesn't seem that long.

## Krisinda Waugh....

I have always loved to read! As a young girl I often went without much sleep because I was huddled up under a blanket on my bed, with a flashlight, reading late into the night. At that time I loved to read many different genres from adventure to romance, to the classics. As I have gotten older my reading choice has changed to a pursuit of knowledge, learning to be a better teacher and mother, and pursuing a life of faith. I am invigorated by reading about others' life experiences, how they impact others and how others are impacted by them. I strive to grow as a person and to impact those around me in a positive way.

## Corinne Neufeldt...

**I love to read!!** I have read many autobiographies of famous people and musicians. I love music, and so reading about famous bands and their careers is fascinating to me! I also enjoy mysteries. In school, which was many years ago, I loved the "Little House On the Prairie" books. I'm sure I read every one of them a few times! As the mother of three rambunctious boys, our bedtime ritual was to be ready for at least 15 minutes before bedtime. This helped the boys to settle in to sleep. Truth be known, I read many books with my boys even when they were in high school. They enjoyed the fantasy genre. It wasn't my thing, but I persevered and read with or to them. I even read history books out loud with them. This helped them to take in some of the information they needed to know for essays. All electronics went off, and reading ensued! I actually learned quite a bit myself from doing this. I realized how little I knew about World War II and tank technology. It really was interesting and at the same time, helped them ingest the information necessary for a history essay!

I encourage each and every one of you to read with your kids, whether they are 3 or 13 or more! Trust me, they remember this when they are adults and they will come back and thank you! Enjoy!

## Communication Protocol for Parents/Guardians

It is only natural that parents/ guardians are going to occasionally have questions or concerns. At Waldheim School (and in our school division) we follow a communications protocol that has proven to be very effective. When there are questions or concerns the first step is to talk to your child's teacher as they are the one who knows your child best. We know from experience that when this first step occurs most questions are resolved at this point. In the event that a resolution cannot be found at this first step, the next step would be to contact the school administration for support. Please use your child's teacher (or the specific teacher involved) as your first step when you have a question or concern.



Progress Reports for grades 1 – 12 will be sent home on Friday, November 18.

## Win a trip and support your school!



Our **Prairie Spirit Schools Foundation** is holding its second annual **Trip a Month Raffle** to raise funds to support innovative programming in Prairie Spirit schools.

For every \$100 raffle ticket sold through your school, the school will receive \$30 to support innovative student learning initiatives.

*Details are as follows:*

- There will be 12 draws for a \$2500 travel voucher (*winners can choose their own destination!*)
- EVERY ticket is in for EVERY draw (*12 chances to win!*)
- Only 1000 tickets will be sold (*great odds!*)
- Draw date: January 26, 2017
- Trip details will be finalized with Gateway Travel in Martensville

**To purchase a ticket with cash or by cheque, please contact the school office.**

**To order online and for more information (including Rules of Play), please go to:**  
[www.prairiespiritschoolsfoundation.ca](http://www.prairiespiritschoolsfoundation.ca)

Prairie Spirit Schools  
**FOUNDATION**

*With its mandate to support innovation in public education by funding a range of experiences that help students realize their potential, the Prairie Spirit Schools Foundation provides donation and investment opportunities for projects and partnerships which would not otherwise be possible and which will enrich learning opportunities for our students.*

## OurSCHOOL survey (formerly Tell Them From Me)

Waldheim School will be participating in an online school survey for students called the Ourschool Student Survey. Here is some important information about the survey:

Who: Grades 4 – 12

When: Monday, November 21 – Friday, November 25

Where: Waldheim School

Why: This information helps our school (and our school division) create plans to improve students' experience at our school

About the Ourschool Student Survey:

It is an online school survey that allows students to give their input into school improvement initiatives in an anonymous way. Everyone completing the survey will be given a random username and password. Thus, respondents cannot be linked to their responses, ensuring anonymity. The student survey will be completed online and will require approximately 35-40 minutes to complete. The student survey measures include such topics as social/emotional outcomes (e.g. student engagement, emotional health), physical health outcomes (e.g. physical fitness, nutrition), and drivers of student outcomes (e.g. quality instruction, classroom context). The survey also allows students to give their thoughts and feedback in an open-ended question response. Participation in the survey is voluntary, however all students are encouraged to participate.

If you have any questions or would like to request more information about Waldheim School's implementation of the OurSCHOOL Student Survey please contact Chris Mason, principal at 306-945-2211.

## Cold and Inclement Weather



It is difficult for some of us to think about the winter weather that will soon be upon us. Especially after the unseasonal weather we experienced in October. Here is the school's plan for cold and inclement weather as stated in our handbook:

At break times and before school, all students from Kindergarten to grade 6 will go outside and play. Your child should always come to school with proper cold weather attire, regardless of the season. When the temperature with wind-chill factor falls between -27 and -29 degrees Celsius, children will be expected to spend a shorter time outside. When the wind chill factor is -30 degrees Celsius or colder, students will not be required to go outside, however they should always have sufficient outdoor clothing in the event of an emergency.

Should a student's medical condition require him/her to temporarily stay indoors, we ask the parent to notify the teacher. We would encourage you to keep your child at home if they are ill.

## Severe Weather/Bus Cancellations

All Prairie Spirit School Division bus cancellations are prominently posted on the Prairie Spirit website ([www.spiritsd.ca/Buses](http://www.spiritsd.ca/Buses)) by 7 am, each school day. Please keep in mind that you will need to refresh your computer in order to ensure you are able to see the most current updates to the website. Buses in Prairie Spirit School Division will not run if the combined temperature and wind chill factors result in a reading of -40 degrees or below at 6 am, (as reported by Environment Canada for Saskatoon at [www.weatheroffice.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca)). Prairie Spirit School Division will post bus cancellations on its telephone hotline (306-683-2805) and Transportation webpage ([spiritsd.ca/buses](http://spiritsd.ca/buses)) after 6:00AM. Local radio stations will no longer be contacted. In stormy conditions, bus drivers will use their discretion to determine whether or not to run. Buses are not to operate if weather conditions such as freezing rain, dense fog, heavy rain or severe dust storms impair visibility or otherwise cause dangerous travel conditions. Bus drivers are to decide whether or not to run by no later than 30 minutes before the first scheduled morning pick up, and by no later than one hour prior to the scheduled afternoon dismissal. Buses that do not run at the regular time in the morning due to weather conditions are not to run at all on that same day.



## Prairie Spirit School Division Bus Rules

- **Students must show respect for driver, equipment, other students and their personal space.**
- **Student seating will be assigned by the bus driver.**
- **Students must remain seated and facing forward on the bus.**
- **Quiet conversation with close neighbors is allowed.**
- **Eating or drinking on the bus is not permitted. Water will be allowed.**
- **Windows are to be adjusted only with permission of the bus driver. Keep head and arms inside the bus at all times.**
- **Student personal items and books must be placed near feet or on lap.**
- **The aisle must be kept clear of objects at all times.**
- **Students must promptly obey instructions of the driver.**



**If this is a charter, there must be a teacher or adult on the bus to supervise the students. It is not the charter driver's responsibility to enforce these rules. Exception would be Band and HE/IA charters.**

# November 2016



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



**PLEASE NOTE THE KINDERGARTEN DAYS OF ATTENDANCE!!** November 10 will count as a day, but there are no classes. November 14 does not count as a day in the cycle!!

		1 Day D (K2)	2 Day E (K1)	3 Day F (K2)	4 Day A (K1)	5
6	7 Day B (K2)	8 Day C (K1)	9 Day D (K2)	10 Day in Lieu of Parent/teacher conferences NO CLASSES! Day E (K1)	11  REMEMBRANCE DAY	12
13	14 Teacher Prep Day, NO CLASSES!	15 Day F (K1)	16 Day A (K2)	17 Day B (K1)	18 Grade 1-12 Progress Reports! Day C (K1)	19
20	21 Day D (K2)	22 Day E (K1)	23 Subway sale forms due by 3:00 pm! Day F (K2)	24 Day A (K1)	25  Day B (K2)	26
27	28 Day C (K1)	29 Day D (K1)	30 Day E (K1)	<p><b>K1 - Mrs. June Kitchen's kindergarten class</b> <b>K2 - Mrs. Michelle Fong's kindergarten class</b></p>		

# December 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
K1 - Mrs. June Kitchen's kindergarten class K2 - Mrs. Michelle Fong's kindergarten class				Day F (K2)	Day A (K1)	
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
	Day B (K2)	Day C (K1)	Day D (K2)	Day E (K1)	Day F (K2)	
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
	Day A (K1)	Day B (K2)	Day C (K1)	Day D (K2)	Day E (K1)	
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
	Day F (K2)	Day A (K1)	Day B (K2)	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>		
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>						



# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

November 2016

Sponsored by your School Community Council



## SHORT NOTES

### Fall back

Does your youngster know why people in most states will turn their clocks back an hour on November 6? Help her read up on the history of Daylight Saving Time—she'll practice research skills for a real-life reason. Then, she could share what she discovers with your family and change your clocks.

### Assistant chef

Let your child help you with Thanksgiving dinner and look for ways to make it more nutritious. For instance, use whole-wheat bread for stuffing or mash cauliflower instead of potatoes. Involve him in every step of the process, and he'll learn about planning healthy meals, shopping for ingredients, and cooking.

### Put away cell phones

Whether or not your youngster uses a cell phone, she'll notice the phone habits of adults around her. Make a point of putting away your phone during meals and while talking or playing with her. Your example will show her that it's polite to give others your undivided attention—and more fun to talk to the person you're with.

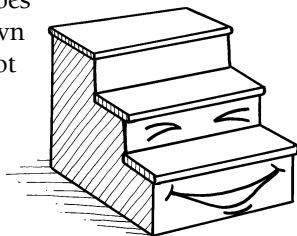
### Worth quoting

"Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present." *Eleanor Roosevelt*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** What goes up and down but does not move?

**A:** Stairs.



## Secrets to better behavior

You know what they say: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That's true when it comes to effective discipline, too. Try these ideas for heading off problems, and then sit back and enjoy a more pleasant household.

### Notice triggers

Being aware of what causes misbehavior goes a long way toward preventing it. Perhaps your youngster acts out when he's tired—make sure he's getting 9–11 hours of sleep. Or maybe he misbehaves when he's bored. Let him write a list of activities for when there's "nothing to do" (examples: play solitaire, finger paint, do crossword puzzles).

### Offer choices

Give your child some control in situations where he struggles to behave. Does he typically grumble or whine while you're running errands? Consider letting him pick the order in which to do them. ("We need to go to the laundromat and the store. Which should we do first?") Is it hard to get him to dress



up for family events? He might like to choose the color of his shirt or pick out a pair of fun socks to wear.

### Be a coach

Coaches demonstrate, encourage, and celebrate. Why not use this approach for behavior you want your youngster to change? If he should be putting dirty clothes in his hamper, for instance, "coach" him on tossing in his T-shirts. He'll see that it's more fun to "make a basket" than to drop clothes on the floor. When you find his floor free of dirty clothes the next time, give him a high five.♥

## Questions for parent-teacher conferences

Parent-teacher conferences go by fast! Make the most of your time by writing a list of questions in advance. Consider these suggestions:

- "What are some of the most important things my child should learn this year?"
- "How does she get along with classmates when she works in a group?"
- "What subject do you think she enjoys the most?"
- "What are my youngster's strengths?"
- "What can we do at home to help her do her best in school?"♥

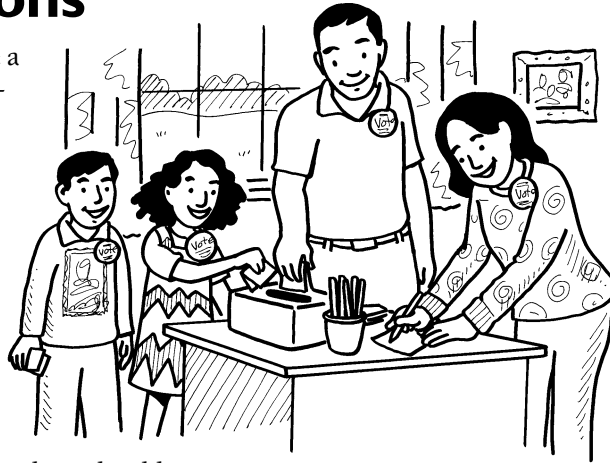


# Household elections

An election lets a group of people make a decision, whether it involves citizens electing a mayor or children choosing student council officers. Show your youngster democracy in action by holding elections in your home.

**1. Choose topic.** Have your child pick an issue to vote on. It could be practical (“Should we paint the bathroom green or blue?”) or fun (“Should we get a fish or a hamster?”).

**2. Campaign.** Each person can campaign for her side, presenting reasons why others should



vote her way. You may decide to make posters or give speeches to persuade family members.

**3. Create ballots.** Let your youngster make a ballot for each family member and get an empty tissue box to put the ballots in.

**4. Vote.** Select an evening for your election. Cast your votes, and your child can tally them and announce a winner.

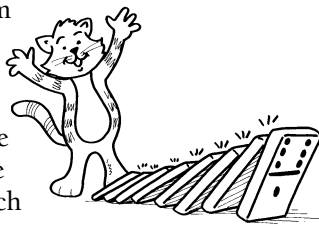
*Tip:* Use this activity as an opportunity to talk about the national elections this month. Take your youngster with you when you vote, explain the choices you make, and watch the results together on election night.♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Create a chain reaction

Your youngster can watch a chain reaction before his very eyes—all he needs is a set of dominoes.

Have him stand the dominoes in a line, making sure the distance between each one is about



the same. What happens when he knocks down the first domino? (It will topple the whole line of dominoes in turn.) Suggest that he try putting them closer together or farther apart, or even arranging them in a circle, U-shape, figure 8, or spiral. He could use a timer to find out which spacing or arrangement makes the dominoes fall fastest.

As he experiments, he'll learn about chain reactions, where energy is transferred from one object to another.

*Idea:* Encourage your child to look for examples of real-life chain reactions, such as how the pins fall when he bowls.♥

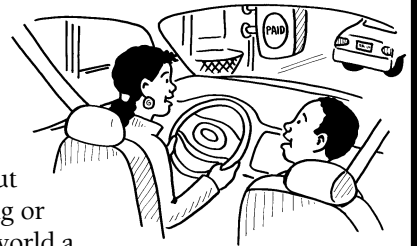
## PARENT TO PARENT

### It pays to be kind

We recently stopped to pay a toll, only to be told that the driver ahead of us had paid our way. My son John said, “But he doesn't even *know* us!”

I explained that the driver had done a “random act of kindness”—something kind without being asked or expecting anything in return. Big or small, I told John, these good deeds make the world a better place. My son said he wanted to do a random act of kindness, too. So after raking the leaves in our yard, he secretly raked our next-door neighbor's. He felt so good seeing her smile when she got home that he started looking for a way to be kind to someone else.

Now random acts of kindness have become a regular thing in our household. And John has discovered that when he does something for someone else, *he* is the one who feels good.♥



## Know your library

The local library is a great place for your child to discover books she will treasure, find information for school projects, or simply settle in and read. Help her establish a library habit with these ideas.

**Get a card.** Have your youngster sign up for her own library card. This will make her feel like she belongs at “her” library.

**Become acquainted.** Explore different sections of the library together. Encourage her to get to

know the librarians—they will recommend titles or help her locate resources.

**Return books on time.** Fines can add up and keep your family from checking out more books. Suggest that your child decorate a reusable bag to hold books and add a sticky note with the due date. Each time she checks out books, she could replace the note with a new one—and a new due date.♥



## OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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