

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

May 2017



St. Tammany Parish School Board

Title I

SHORT NOTES

Thank you, teacher

Encourage your youngster to decide how she wants to thank her teacher for a great year. Maybe she'll make a card that tells what she liked best. ("The engineering projects were cool. I really had fun building a bridge.") She can hand-deliver the card along with a homemade gift, perhaps a bird feeder or a pencil jar.

Middle school ahead

Do you have a child moving on to middle school? He will feel more confident if he knows what to expect. Make sure he attends orientation, where he'll meet staff and begin to learn his way around. He might also ask older kids for advice about getting from one class to another on time or finding a seat in the cafeteria.

Happy parent, happy child

A happy parent equals a happier household. To increase your family's overall happiness, try to find time every day to do something that pleases you. *Examples:* enjoy a hobby, spend time with a friend, read a book.

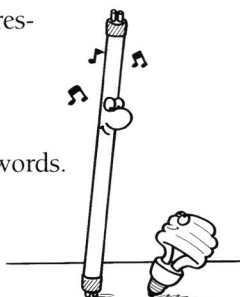
Worth quoting

"Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others." *Plato*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why do fluorescent light bulbs always hum?

A: Because they don't know the words.



Explore the outdoors

From sunny mornings when dew sparkles on the grass to dark nights when stars appear in the sky, the great outdoors is the perfect summer "classroom" for your child. Enjoy these activities together to help him appreciate nature and learn more about it.

Observe nature

Have your youngster put together an outdoor exploration kit. He could fill a shoebox or a reusable grocery bag with a magnifying glass for examining bugs, binoculars for gazing at constellations, and a sketch pad and colored pencils for drawing and labeling what he sees. Let him use his kit all summer long in your backyard, at the park, or on hikes.

Count collections

Encourage your child to gather leaves, nuts, seeds, and other objects from the ground. He'll practice math skills as he counts, sorts, and graphs his "finds." He might make a pictograph to compare the number of seeds, nuts, and leaves he collected. *Idea:* Suggest that he research his



discoveries in nature guides and display his collection with facts on index cards. ("A sweetgum ball is the fruit of a sweetgum tree.")

Take poetry walks

Go on poetry walks. Your youngster can jot down notes on what he sees, hears, feels, and smells. Perhaps he'll walk barefoot across damp grass, sniff a patch of honeysuckle, or run his hand over the bark of a tree. Then, he could use his notes to write a poem, such as:

*Dew is cool under my bare feet
The honeysuckle smells so sweet. ♥*

Celebrate learning

Let your child know how proud you are of her efforts this school year by holding a learning celebration. Here are suggestions:

- Be your youngster's audience as she reads aloud stories or reports she wrote. Asking questions will show you're interested.
- Help your child make a hallway gallery of her artwork. Hang up favorite pieces, and invite family members to take a tour.
- Show her all the progress she has made! Pull out samples of her homework or projects from early in the year. She will enjoy seeing how much she has learned and improved. ♥

