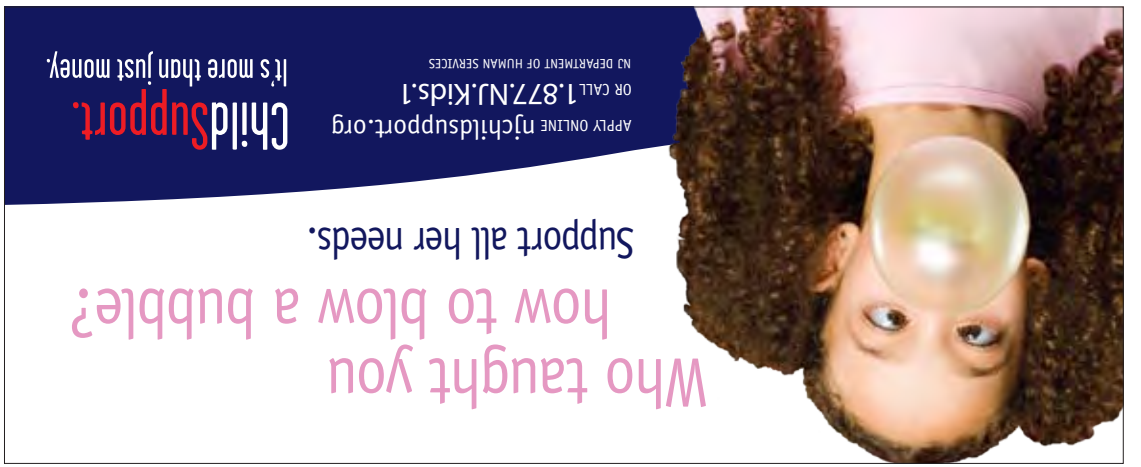




ChildSupport.
It's more than just money.

In addition to creating this calendar, the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Office of Child Support Services, sponsors an ongoing advertising campaign to increase awareness of the importance of child support. We reach out to parents everywhere with the powerful message: child support is more than just money. By reminding parents of the role their own parents had in their lives, we encourage mothers and fathers to "be there" in every way – tying shoes, riding bikes, blowing bubbles, and supporting their child in every possible way.



ChildSupport.
It's more than just money.
NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

2012 Calendar



"Learn to Tie My Shoes"

Caela Lauren Johnson

William Davies Middle School



First Place
Middle School Category

"Over the years I have learned the importance of a strong relationship between my parents and me. This contest is important because it encouraged all of the contestants to really appreciate all the things that their parents do to keep them safe, content and lead them to a successful and healthy life. This contest reinforced the positive qualities my parents have instilled in me."

ChildSupport.

It's more than just money.

NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Raising a child is the most wonderful, most overwhelming experience in the world. The New Jersey Department of Human Services is committed to helping parents, especially young mothers and fathers, meet the vast challenges of parenthood.

By publishing this calendar each year and sponsoring the annual Teen Media Contest, we focus on the importance of good parenting. Now in its 16th year, the contest asks middle and high school students to reflect, through their artwork, on the many ways their parents have supported them. Our aim is to have young people and young parents understand that financial support is not enough. Children need their parents to be actively present in their lives—teaching, sharing, laughing, playing and supporting them in every way.

The calendar also presents, month by month, specific activities and suggestions young parents can use to help their child succeed in school.

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's contest, and to all the parents who are doing their best to support their children. For more information on the New Jersey Child Support Program, call **1-877-NJKIDS1** or visit njchildsupport.org.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

Josue Camillo Castillo

"Love for the Future"

Union County Vocational Technical High School



"I believe the Teen Media Arts Contest is valuable because it emphasizes the importance of strong family structure. Parents play a crucial and vital role in the development of their children. This, in turn, means families who have positive interaction have a major effect on all future generations within our society."



First Place
High School Category



Larissa Vivian Naegele

"Storytime"
Wall High School



"I was raised to appreciate beauty and art. I have learned to be thankful for everything I have. This contest brought to life those values that my parents instilled in me. I have never been more grateful for their love and support."



Second Place
High School Category

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOTES

DECEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

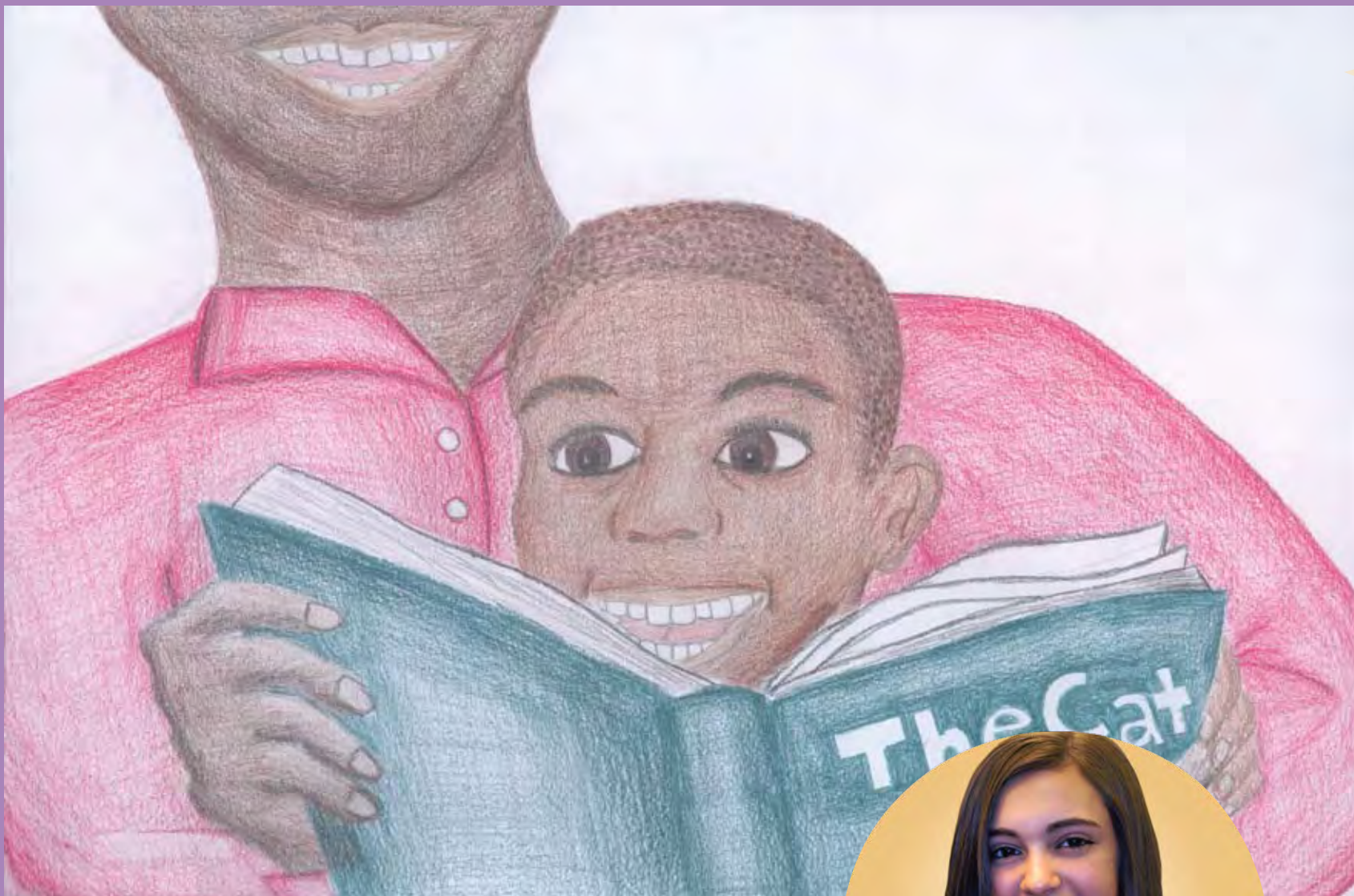
Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Master Math.

It is almost impossible to live an independent life without basic math skills. Math teaches logic and order.

It teaches kids how to think. Take advantage of the endless opportunities your daily life provides for helping your child learn math.

- Have a yard sale and let your child take the money and make change.
- On game night, appoint your child the scorekeeper.
- Teach fractions by dividing up an uncut pizza or apple pie.
- With younger children, play a geometric version of "I spy"—I spy a circle, I spy a triangle, I spy a square.



"This contest was important because it allowed the students participating to step back and really appreciate what their parents have done for them. Personally, when I was brainstorming for this poster, it was very hard for me to pick just one thing to depict because there are so many great qualities that I've learned from my parents. Through participating in this contest, I've really learned what my parents have done for me."



Second Place
Middle School Category



February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 Presidents' Day	21	22 Ash Wednesday Washington's Birthday	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

NOTES

JANUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MARCH 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Appreciate History.

The study of history provides children with an inquiring mind, a sense of their place in the world, and the chance to learn from others' mistakes. Here are some ways you can help your child appreciate history and see that it is much more than boring dates and facts.

- Give your child a tape recorder to interview family members and discover his own history.
- Reenact an historical event with your child so she can feel the excitement. Pretend that you are walking on the moon.
- If your child loves cars, help him learn about the history of motor vehicles.
- Have your child create her own time capsule for the future.

Connie Yu

"Imagine Pigs Can Fly"

John P. Stevens High School



"Participating in this year's contest really helped me appreciate the qualities and the lifelong passions my parents instilled in me. The contest gave me a chance to reconsider the profound and positive effects my parents have had on my character and on my growth as a person."



Third Place
High School Category

March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOTES

FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

APRIL 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Embrace Music.

Research suggests that children who play an instrument do better in school than children who do not. Music teaches discipline, relieves stress and can be a life-long source of enjoyment. Be sure to encourage your child's musical education.

- Incorporate music into your everyday family life.
- Share your musical likes with your child, and be open to his.
- Let your child decide if she wants to learn an instrument, and if so, which one.
- Make sure practice time never becomes a punishment. Music should be enjoyed!



"I think this contest was important because most of what you learn is from your parents. I learned that I do have many qualities from my parents and act as they do. I learned they are positive role models for me."



Third Place
Middle School Category

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Palm Sunday April Fool's Day	2	3	4	5	6 Passover Begins	7
8 Easter Sunday	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

NOTES

MARCH 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

MAY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Understand Science.

Science is more than facts and theories. It's a way of thinking that encourages observation, experimentation and analysis. You can help your child understand the basic concepts of science by simply encouraging her curiosity. Ask your child:

- Why does your ice cream cone drip?
- Why do some things float, and some things sink, in the bathtub?
- When you put on a sweater, why does your hair stand up?
- Why does the snow sometimes seem to be going sideways? If neither of you knows the answers, look them up together!

Kaitlyn Ferraro

"My First Ride"

Schuylers-Colfax Middle School



Jokes for Kids! *What do you call cheese that is not yours? Nacho-cheese!*

May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mother's Day						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
	Memorial Day					

NOTES

APRIL 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JUNE 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Enjoy Reading.

The ability to read well is central to your child's future success, in school and in life. When children become better readers, they find it easier to succeed at everything. Take the time to encourage your child, and to create a home that includes reading as an activity.

- Make sure every member of the family has a library card, and go often.
- Have a special time when the TV is turned off and all family members read quietly on their own - together.
- Reward your child for reading. Take her to see the movie version of the book after she has read it.
- In the car, play games involving street signs or billboards.



Jokes for Kids! *What did the cookie say to the doctor? "I feel crummy."*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Flag Day		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Father's Day			First Day of Summer			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOTES

MAY 2012							JULY 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			29	30	31				

Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Speak a Second Language.

Children who learn a second language, including English, benefit in many ways—from discovering a new cultural world to gaining a distinctive edge when entering the workforce. Here are some ways you can foster your child's new language.

- Label items throughout your home with the equivalent terms in the new language.
- Suggest your child make flash cards and help her practice.
- Find opportunities for your child to speak the language with friends, colleagues or family members who are fluent.
- Learn the language yourself and study together!



Jokes for Kids! *What did the plate say to the cup? "Lunch is on me."*



July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Ramadan	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOTES

JUNE 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

AUGUST 2012

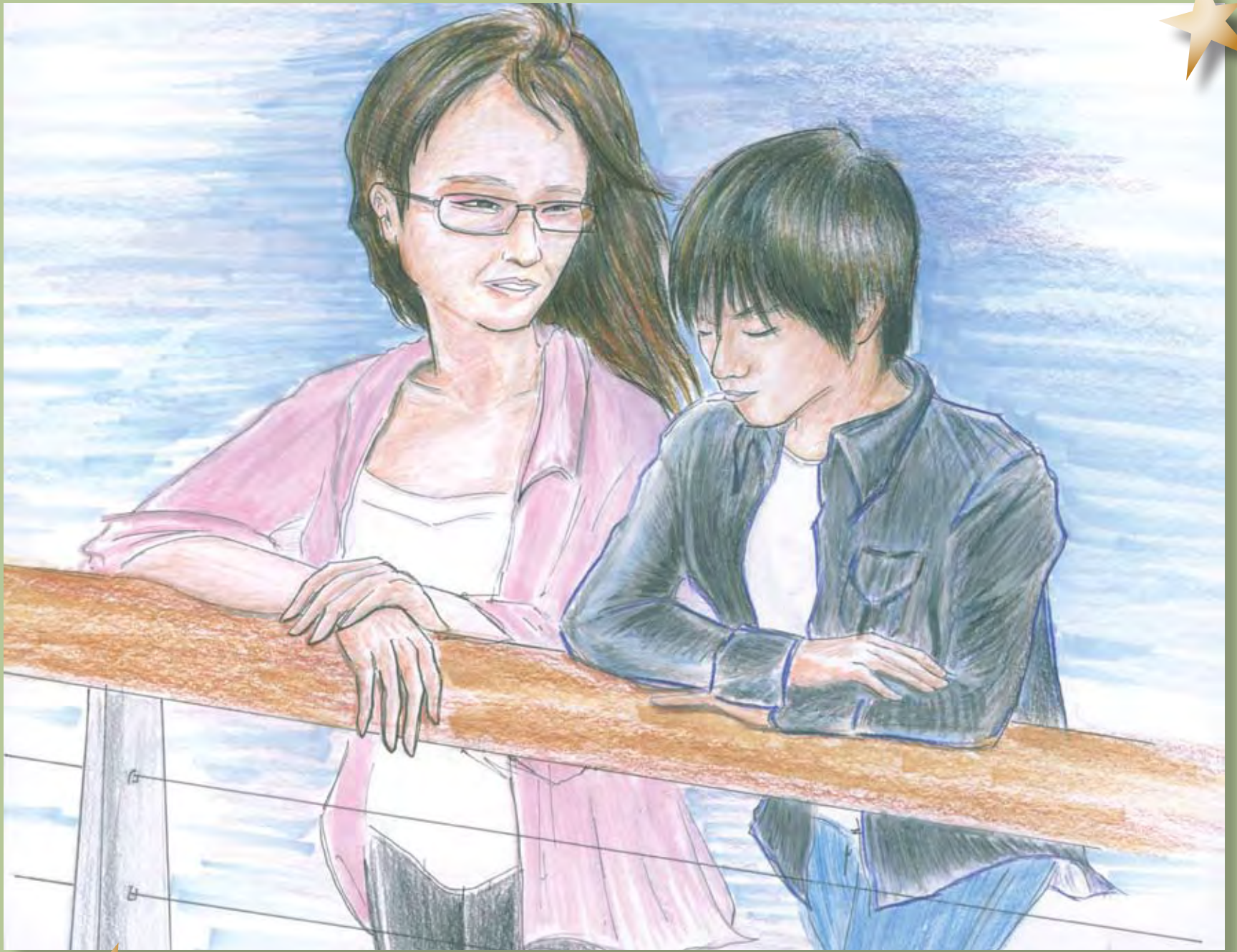
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Grasp Geography.

Recent studies show that a surprising number of high school and even college students have a poor understanding of where major cities are located. You can help your child grasp the essentials of world and local geography with a simple map and globe.

- Keep a globe or world map near the TV and point out places talked about.
- Put together a puzzle of the United States or the world.
- Study an atlas together and find the locations of your child's favorite sports teams.
- On a local map, plot all of the places your child goes – school, relatives' homes, the mall, the zoo, etc.



Jokes for Kids! *Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7 ate 9!*



August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Friendship Day						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOTES

JULY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER 2012

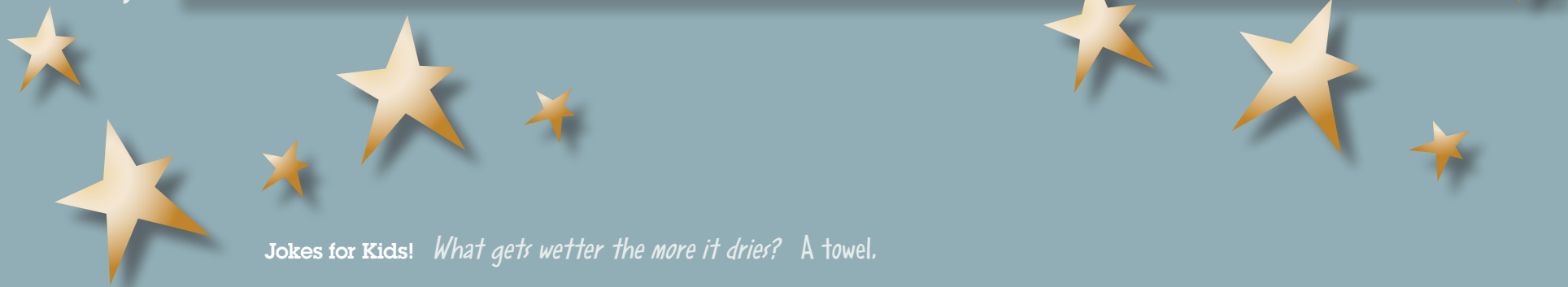
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
						30

Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Master Spelling.

Weekly spelling tests are common in younger grades. If your child struggles with spelling, use the following strategies to support his learning and build his confidence.

- Teach your child to visualize words he is learning to spell.
- Invest in a set of plastic magnetic letters. Put the letters of a word on the board, and have your child arrange them correctly.
- Have your child write a short story using all of the spelling words for the week.
- Play word games with your child such as hangman, Boggle and Scrabble.



Jokes for Kids! *What gets wetter the more it dries? A towel.*

September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Labor Day					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Grandparent's Day						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Rosh Hashanah Begins						First Day of Autumn
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Yom Kippur Begins				
30	NOTES					

NOTES

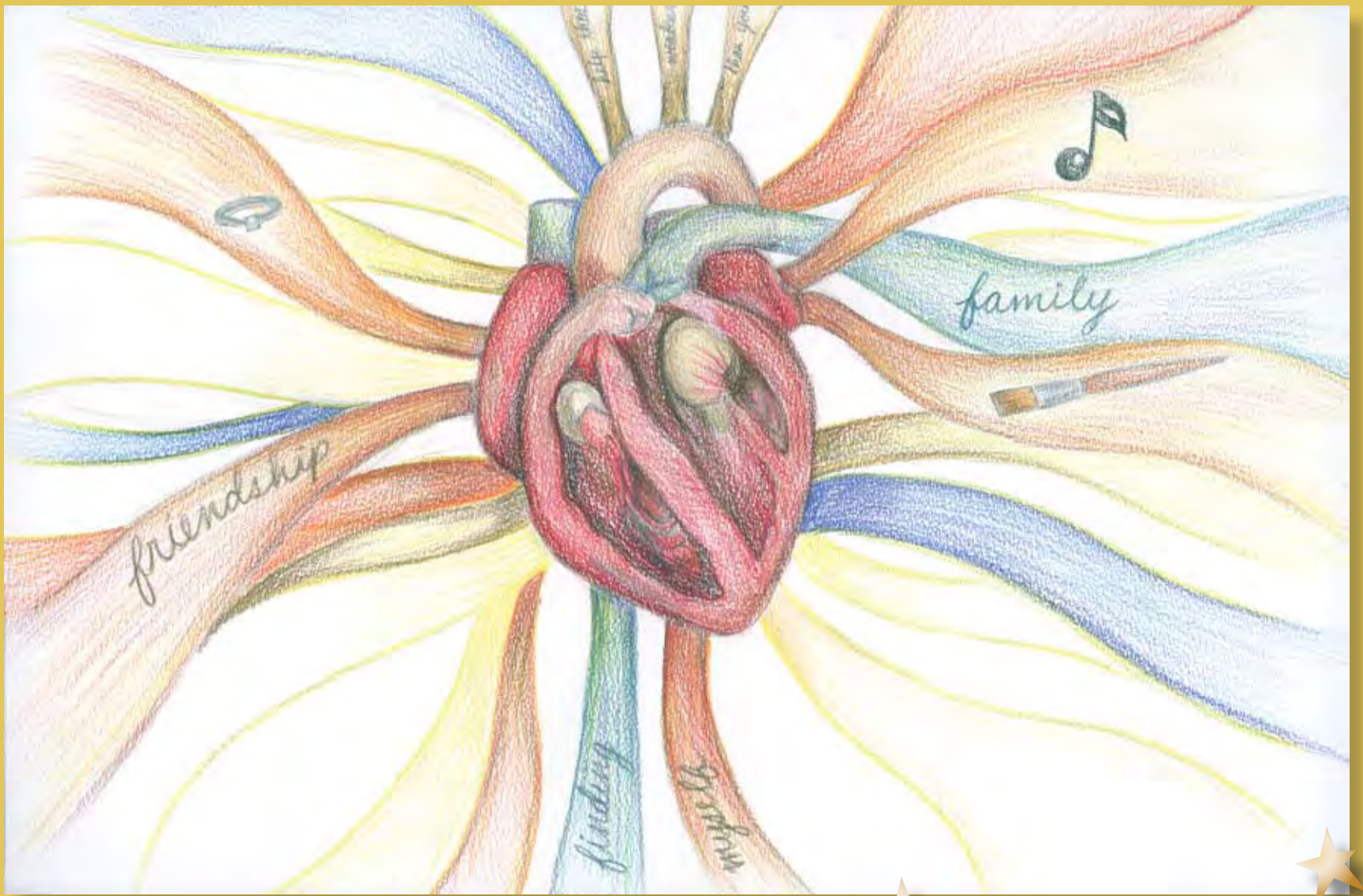
AUGUST 2012							OCTOBER 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		28	29	30	31			

Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Appreciate Art.

When you value art, you open a whole new world for your child. Art gives children different ways to see the world and lets them express complex feelings they can't put into words. Help your child connect to art by encouraging its creation and appreciation.

- Keep art supplies on hand, such as blank paper, colored pens, markers, non-toxic paints and clay.
- Display pictures of art at your child's eye level.
- When looking at a piece of art together, don't just say "Isn't that pretty?"
- Encourage your child's appreciation by asking, "How do you feel about this art?"



Jokes for Kids! *Why didn't the skeleton cross the road? He didn't have the guts.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Halloween			

NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2012							NOVEMBER 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	
30													

Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Excel at Writing.

Writing well is an essential skill that will allow your child to advance in school, enjoy self-expression, achieve a career and live a self-reliant life. While many children have difficulty with writing, it's easy to encourage your child's inner author.

- Make writing fun! Find your child a pen pal to correspond with, such as a friend or family member.
- Get your child into the habit of writing thank-you notes.
- Encourage her to write a daily journal about her experiences, good and bad.
- Write a story together! Take turns writing the next paragraph and see what you create.

Jordan Beneducci

"Our 1st Win"

Union Township Middle School



Jokes for Kids!

*Why do bicycler fall over?
Because they are two-tired!*

November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daylight Savings Time Ends		Election Day				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Veterans Day						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				Thanksgiving		
25	26	27	28	29	30	

NOTES

OCTOBER 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

DECEMBER 2012

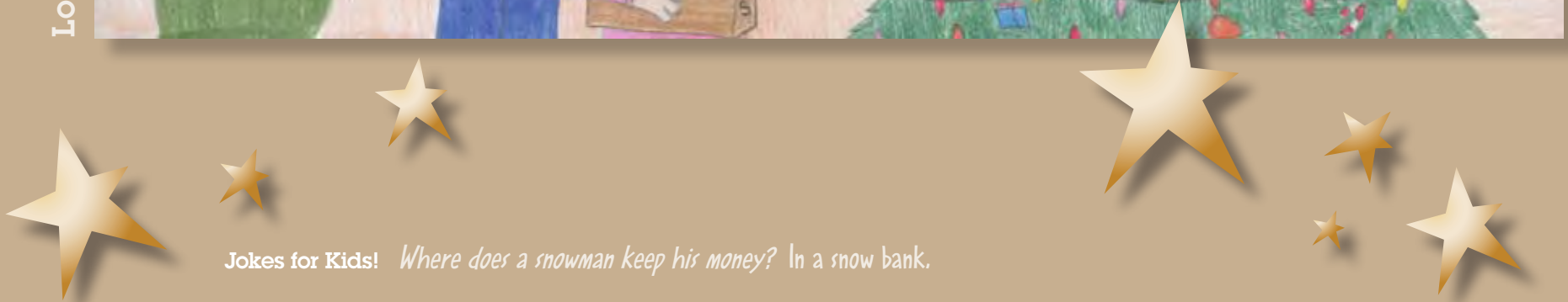
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Succeed in Social Studies.

The goal of social studies is to create responsible citizens. It can cover a range of topics including history, economics, geography and government. Helping your child to succeed in social studies prepares him to be a full participant in the community, the nation and the world.

- Set an example of citizenship by voting and bringing your child to community and civic meetings.
- Encourage your child to take part in school elections.
- Talk to your child about current events and get her viewpoints.
- Engage in a community service project with your child.



Jokes for Kids! *Where does a snowman keep his money? In a snow bank.*

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						Hanukkah Begins
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					First Day of Winter	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Christmas	Kwanzaa Begins			
30	31	NOTES _____ _____ _____ _____		NOVEMBER 2012		JANUARY 2013
	New Year's Eve			SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT	SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT	
				1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5	
				4 5 6 7 8 9 10	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	
				11 12 13 14 15 16 17	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	
				18 19 20 21 22 23 24	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	
				25 26 27 28 29 30	27 28 29 30 31	

Twelve Ways to Support Education

Helping Your Child Enjoy Physical Education.

Keeping your child physically active is essential to his overall health. Encourage your child's full participation in his Physical Education class, and supplement it with a healthy lifestyle at home. Make sure your child gets at least 30 minutes of true physical activity every day.

- Get your child involved in an extracurricular sport that interests him.
- Initiate physical activities you can do together, such as jumping rope, playing tag or working out to DVDs.
- Put your child in charge of choosing the activity.
- Make it fun to be active!
- Encourage healthy eating by serving fruits and vegetables, cheese, lean meats, and milk instead of soda.