

OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TODAY'S FAMILY **LEARNING TIP***

October

- 1 October is Bullying Prevention Month! Brainstorm with your child several ways to prevent bullying at home, in school, and in the community. Have them join in BCPS Bullying Prevention Week activities October 5-8, 2015!
- 2 Which famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci was stolen from the Louvre in Paris in 1911? When was it recovered? Ask your children to see whether they know! Here's the answer: <http://www.historytoday.com/richard-cavendish/mona-lisa-stolen-louvre>.
- 3 Recycling makes it possible to turn used paper, plastic, and glass into new things. It also reduces trash. Weigh your family's recyclables and try to increase the amount.
- 4 A family chore chart can involve all ages. Choose chores based on ability and responsibility. Start with one chore and increase the quantity as your children age.
- 5 Start thinking about pumpkins! With your family, visit a pumpkin patch and create sketches of designs that you might want to carve.
- 6 In 1990, a former South African president was freed after 27 years in prison. Who was he? Why was he imprisoned? Encourage your child to research social activism and its leaders. Visit <http://www.history.com/news/mandela-becomes-a-free-man-25-years-ago>.
- 7 Today is International Walk to School Day! Walk your child to school today and encourage him or her to hold hands when crossing the street. <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>.
- 8 Use sign language to help your student with spelling and vocabulary words. Visit www.aslpro.com or your local library for help with letters.
- 9 Visit college websites with your teen. Develop lists of strengths and weaknesses for both your student and the schools.
- 10 Have your child find the world's highest mountain on a map. How high is the mountain? Why is it harder to breathe on top of a mountain? Check out https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_highest_mountains for more information.
- 11 When it comes to dinner, everyone can lend a hand! Ask younger children to count out the eating utensils for each member of the family.

*For additional ideas and daily parent tips, visit the [Maryland State Department of Education Family Literacy Take 15 Web page](#). Click on English or Spanish to view the tips.

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- 12 Does your child know the words to the poem “In 1492”? Teach him or her the words – feel free to turn the poem into a song! – and learn the history of Columbus Day. For the complete poem, visit <http://www.teachingheart.net/columbus.htm>.
- 13 The Baltimore Sun was founded in 1837. How was the newspaper created and distributed in the 1800s? How is it created and distributed today? Discuss with your child! www.baltimoresun.com
- 14 Have your children look in the newspaper for graphs that accompany articles. How do the graphs add to the stories? What can they learn from the graphs that they can't learn from the articles?
- 15 Help your high school students to learn independence and responsibility. Work with them to set and accomplish realistic goals.
- 16 October 16 is World Food Day, a day created by the United Nations to end hunger worldwide. What can your child do to help end hunger in your community? Find out more at <http://www.worldfoodayusa.org/>.
- 17 It is important for students and families to practice good hand hygiene. Make sure you have personal hygiene supplies. Review good personal hygiene with your children. Why is this so essential?
- 18 Maintain your child's vocabulary skills with homemade word searches. Create a list of words and have your children find them in a newspaper or magazine.
- 19 American composer Cole Porter was born in 1891. During his life, Porter wrote both scripts and music for many plays and movies. Invite your family members to whistle or hum their favorite movie songs! For more on Porter: <http://www.coleporter.org/bio.html>
- 20 Spread out a deck of cards with the number side face up. Examine the colors, numbers, and symbols on the cards. What patterns do your children see?
- 21 English writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter was born in 1866. The Tale of Peter Rabbit author was also a respected mycologist. Does your child know what mycology is? <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mycology>
- 22 The first few months of school are the right time to reinforce the ideas of getting along in class and doing well. Remind your children to be respectful and responsible.
- 23 Have your children study different types of product packaging and discuss which packages are most “Earth-friendly.” How would they redesign unfriendly packing?

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- 24 United Nations Day recognizes the anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations. Ask your child about how the United Nations helps people living in countries across the globe. Visit: www.un.org/en/aboutun/history/
- 25 Greek ruler Alexander the Great died in Babylon in 323 B.C. Does your child know what ancient empire Alexander created before his death? For more about Alexander, check out <http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/alexander-the-great>.
- 26 Create a creativity corner in your home. Fill the space with pencils, paper, crayons, and other art materials. Encourage your children to use the space for crafts and writing.
- 27 Mother Teresa was born in 1910. Who was she and why is she famous? Encourage your child to do something generous for someone today. Find out more at <http://www.biography.com/people/mother-teresa-9504160#death-and-legacy>.
- 28 Early American settlers had no electricity, no lights, no TV, and no computers. What were these settlers called? How did they read at night? See if your child knows! Visit: www.ducksters.com/history/westward_expansion/daily_life_on_the_frontier.php
- 29 Only five root words in the English language begin with “dw.” One of them is “dwindle.” Can your child name the others? For the answers, see here: <http://www.morewords.com/starts-with/dw/>.
- 30 Today is National Candy Corn Day! Does your child know the order of the colors on a piece of candy corn? Enjoy some of this tasty treat together today! Here are some more candy corn facts: <http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/28/living/candy-corn-facts/>
- 31 Happy Halloween! Why is it common for children to dress up and go trick-or-treating in celebration of this holiday? Help your child uncover the answer to this question by researching it online!

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