

## OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### TODAY'S FAMILY LEARNING TIP\*

#### October

- 1 October is Vegetarian Awareness Month! If your children are not vegetarians, experiment with a vegetarian-friendly meal loaded with an assortment of healthy – and delicious! – foods.
- 2 Today is World Habitat Day! Why is it important to protect animals' habitats? Brainstorm ways that your family can get involved in the protection cause!
- 3 Yom Kippur begins this evening at sundown. How much does your family know about this holiday? Find out with a game of trivia! To start, how long is the Yom Kippur fast?
- 4 Read the newspaper with your children. How has society changed since you were a child?
- 5 The Chesapeake Bay is the largest inlet on the Atlantic Coast. How does the bay affect daily life and the economy in Maryland?
- 6 Start thinking about pumpkins! Visit a pumpkin patch and create sketches of designs that you might want to carve.
- 7 Visit college websites with your teen. Develop lists of strengths and weaknesses for both your student and the schools.
- 8 Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809. One hundred years later, the NAACP was established. How are these events related?
- 9 American novelist Louisa May Alcott's book about growing up with three sisters during the Civil War was published in 1868. What is the name of that novel?
- 10 Each person in the United States eats an average of 11 pounds of chocolate, whereas each person in Switzerland eats about double that. Have your children estimate how much chocolate they eat in a year.
- 11 The president and his family live in a home with 132 rooms and 35 bathrooms. Quiz your child: what is the street address of the White House?
- 12 It is estimated that one in five children has been the victim of bullying, which can be physical or verbal. Take time to talk to your children about how to treat other people.

\*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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- 13 Happy Columbus Day! Does your child know the words to the poem "In 1492"? Teach him or her the words and then encourage him or her to act out the poem.
- 14 What makes a family? Have your family talk to and visit friends, relatives, neighbors and even pets. Then, take a family portrait!
- 15 With fall sports in full swing, encourage good sportsmanship. Set a good example at games by praising good plays by all players.
- 16 After a harrowing voyage, English settlers arrived in Maryland in 1634. How would your child create a new home in a new land?
- 17 Read with your children every chance that you get. Read everything from picture books to daily newspapers. Talk about what you have read together.
- 18 The first woman to have her picture on a U.S. dollar was also the first to appear on a postage stamp. Who was she?
- 19 Know your numbers! Have your children memorize your phone number and then add up the numbers. Next, multiply the numbers.
- 20 Ask questions while you are travelling: why are speed limits necessary? What are mile markers? How would your child design a highway system?
- 21 Introduce your children to engineering concepts. Identify a problem and encourage them to design and implement a solution.
- 22 Have your children look around your home for all the appliances and gadgets that run on batteries. How would the world be different without batteries?
- 23 Create a collage with fallen leaves. Talk about why the colors have changed and why some trees stay green even in the winter.
- 24 Magician Harry Houdini was born in 1874. Have your children learn simple magic tricks and perform them for their friends.
- 25 Fix a family breakfast treat and have a picnic in your home. Decorate the room to look like an outdoor park.

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- 26 Help younger children recognize patterns. Look at plants, clothing and street signs for repeated designs.
- 27 Civil rights activist W. E. B. Du Bois was born in 1868. Why is he considered one of the most prominent African Americans of the 19th century?
- 28 Turn off the TV and tap into your child's imagination. Have your child write an original script for a favorite TV show.
- 29 Composer Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Germany in 1685. Have your children listen to a classical radio station and identify the instruments that they hear.
- 30 Create and practice a home fire drill and escape route. Include plans for a second-story escape and an outdoor meeting place.
- 31 The First Marking Period ends today. What did your child do well during the first quarter? Strategize with him or her ways to improve during the second quarter.

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