

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

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Wesley Matthews Elementary School

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SHORT NOTES



ABCs and 123s

When does CAT = 24?

When your youngster turns math practice into letter fun! Help her assign a number to each letter (A = 1, B = 2, and so on) and then add the letters in CAT ($3 + 1 + 20 = 24$). Next, she can try her name or other family members' names and other short words.

Boys vs. girls?

As children get older, they may form "no boys" or "no girls" clubs. Try to use their awareness of the opposite sex to teach respect. For example, point out traditional and nontraditional role models (stay-at-home moms and male firefighters, female pilots and male nurses). They'll see that boys and girls can be anything they want to be.

Family fun

Looking for a way to build family bonds? Choose one night a week to enjoy spending time together. You could listen to the radio, build a model airplane, or play a game like Yahtzee or dominoes. Any one of your ideas could become the family tradition your kids remember forever.

Worth quoting

"Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know."

Daniel J. Boorstin

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?

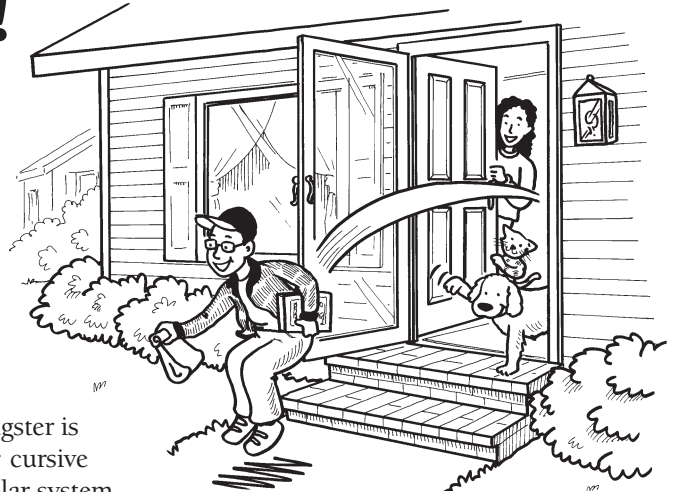
A: Because his students were so bright!



Excited about back to school!

Crisp fall air. New friends. Freshly sharpened pencils and brightly colored crayons. Is your child talking about the new school year? Add to his excitement—and motivate him to learn—with these four great back-to-school ideas:

1. Find out what your youngster is learning this year. *Examples:* cursive writing, state history, the solar system. Then, get a head start. Leave a note in cursive on his bedroom door. Visit a battlefield or history museum. Read a book about the planets, or gaze at the night sky together.
2. Share your own report card or photo from the grade your child is starting. Tell him what you liked that year (a favorite book, an interesting field trip, a nice teacher). Let your youngster ask you questions about when you were in second grade.
3. Attend a play at your local theater or a nature program at the community center. You'll get your child back in the habit of sitting still and paying attention. Playing school at home is good practice, too. The "teacher" can read aloud to the "student," write out math problems, and give a spelling test.
4. What activities does your school offer? Check the Web site, or call the office. If your youngster likes to sing, he could join the chorus. A good leader might want to run for student council, while a sports lover could join



the volleyball team. Participating will help your child connect with friends and do better in school. ♥

Beat the morning rush

A calm and happy school morning begins the night before. Go to bed knowing everything's in order with these tips:

- Check the weather forecast and help your child choose clothes, coat, and shoes.
- Have her stow her backpack by the door. Be sure she has put in homework, lunch money, and permission slips.
- Together, plan breakfast, and pack a healthy snack or lunch.
- Test your youngster for tomorrow's quiz one last time.

Note: In the morning, set the oven timer to go off five minutes before your child has to leave. That will be the signal to put on socks and shoes and head out the door. ♥



