

# THE BUZZ LETTER



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## May Day - Then and Now

May Day is still celebrated around the world, but not as it used to be.

Back then, a child would carry a May basket filled with flowers and goodies to a family member, neighbor or friend; knock or ring the doorbell and run away. If the recipient could catch the child, he/she would be kissed.



In the U.S. many towns celebrate with parades and the May Pole Dance. Dressed in white and colorful sashes, girls circle the May Pole holding streamers attached to the top and weave them into a pattern on the pole; then reverse the dance unweaving the streamers.

Hawaii's hula is performed to the song that celebrates Native Hawaiian culture, "May Day is Lei Day in Hawai'i."

Now, unrelated to original May Day roots, the custom, in many countries is to observe May 1<sup>st</sup> as Labor Day or a day of parades demonstrating military might.

## A Date in History



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~ Editor

## Mother's Day: Honoring Mom with the gift of self-improvement

What do you give someone who already has everything? The young fellow shown in a TV commercial had a good idea. Instead of buying a gift for his mother, he fulfilled one of her fondest wishes by showing up at the family dinner in a new suit rather than his usual "well worn" casual clothes.

Another guy pleased his mom (and himself) by paying to have a big tattoo removed; another cut off his ponytail.



It's a new idea in gifts, spending money on something for yourself that would please your biggest fan. Some singles are going so far as signing on with a dating service because their moms are hoping to see grandchildren before too long. Others are visiting financial planners to show that they are finally taking control of their futures.

The Mother's Day gift of self-improvement is more popular with 20-somethings who were raised as the center of their parents' universe. But it works for people at various stages of life. They know what their mothers would dearly love to change about their offspring's lives. Doing it is a gift for their mothers and themselves.

If you can't think of a personal flaw to change in order to please your mom, flowers, candy or a restaurant brunch are still appreciated. A phone call or handwritten note would mean even more to most moms.

**Happy Mother's Day - to all moms!**

## CHALK TALK

### It could be worse ... the 1500s continued!

In those old days of the 1500s, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "**Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.**"



Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "**bring home the bacon.**" They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "**chew the fat.**"

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "**upper crust.**"

**Next month:** Getting married in the 1500s (You won't believe this one!)

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

### With moms ...

Miss Jones had been giving her second-grade students a lesson on science. She had explained about magnets and showed how they would pick up nails and other bits of iron.

Now it was question time, and she asked, "My name begins with the letter 'M' and I pick up things. What am I?"

A little boy in the front row proudly said, "You're a mother!"

\* \* \* \* \*

During Sunday School Class, the teacher asked, "Now, Johnny, tell me truthfully, do you say prayers before meals?"

"No sir," little Johnny replied, "I don't have to, my mom's a good cook!"

### ... and grandmoms

I didn't know if my granddaughter had been taught her colors yet, so I

decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me, and always she was correct; but, it was fun for me so I continued.

At last she headed for the door, saying sagely, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these yourself!"

\* \* \* \* \*

One day while my 4-year old grandson was visiting, I was trying to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle. During my struggle, the phone rang so I asked him to answer it.

"It's the minister, Grandma," he said. Then he added, "Grandma can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."

~

### Favorite T-shirt slogan:

**THAT'S IT!  
I'm calling Grandma!**

## May Project

### Twig Easel

This would make a nice gift for mothers or teachers. Perhaps the dads could help with this one.

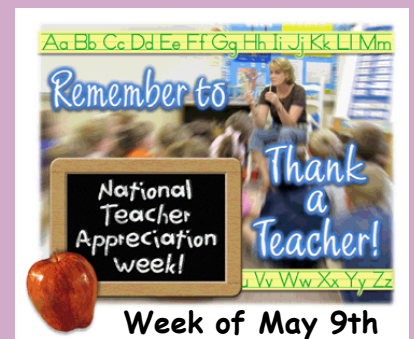
What you'll need:

- Twigs
- Garden clippers
- Hot glue gun
- Twine or yarn
- Scissors
- Cardboard (a small piece)
- Crayons, markers, or paint (have Dad clip the twigs and apply the hot glue)



- Cut three long twigs and one short one.
- Hot glue two of the long twigs and the short twig together forming an A shape.
- Wrap the joints with twine or yarn.
- Glue the remaining long twig to the A shape you just made, forming a tripod (a three-legged stand).
- Wrap the joint with twine or yarn.
- Cut a piece of cardboard that will fit on your easel.
- Paint, draw or paste a picture on the cardboard.
- Cut four twigs to fit around your painting.
- Using hot glue, glue the twigs around the cardboard, forming a rustic frame.
- Rest your framed picture on your easel for a really cute display.

~



**A teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity, knowledge, and wisdom in the pupils.**

~ Ever Garrison

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



### Only One Mother

*Hundreds of stars in the pretty sky,  
Hundreds of shells on the shore  
together,  
Hundreds of birds that go singing by,  
Hundreds of lambs in the sunny  
weather.*

*Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the  
dawn,  
Hundreds of bees in the purple  
clover,  
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,  
But only one mother the wide world  
over.*

~ George Cooper

### Getting Technical

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