



Memorial Day

May 30 is a special day to honor those who gave their lives for our country and our freedom. For most of Americans the ceremonies are a highly personal experience - giving a public face to our appreciation of military sacrifices.

On a national level, ceremonies at the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery, in Virginia, are the most well-known. Each year since 1920, more than 5,000 visitors have attended the 11 a.m. service.

When the cornerstone of the amphitheater was laid, a box was sealed inside containing a Bible, The Declaration of Independence, The U.S. Constitution, L'Enfant's map design for the city of Washington, D.C., one of each U.S. coin and postage stamp used in 1915, a 1915 U.S. Flag and an autographed photo of President Woodrow Wilson.

The Memorial Display Room, located between the amphitheater and the Tomb of the Unknowns, holds tributes in honor of the four service members interred at the tomb.

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What's new at BKW?

2 new blog postings:

- **More Fun Ways to Learn**
Interactive Storytelling and Online Scavenger Hunt (along with Sample Lapbooks - just in time for year-end book reports and term papers)
- **Age-appropriate Ratings!**
www.commonsemmedia.org is a site we found that gives parents a heads-up on new entertainment coming on the market - movies, games, websites, TV, books and music... for kids.

1 new anime article - Ai Yori Aoshi:
This is a cute anime with humor that pre-teens (girls and boys) will enjoy.

Mother's Day: May 9th, 2010

Proverb: God could not be everywhere and therefore He made mothers.

On Mother's Day, we can recognize our mothers for being "everywhere" for us when we were growing up.

How can we best honor, entertain or remember them? Going to church with your mother is one traditional way. Gift her with a red carnation if her own mother is living or a white carnation if her mother has passed on.

To make the day more special, a restaurant brunch after church would be nice.

Dinner out or flowers are always an option, but perhaps she would enjoy a movie, or, if you are a daughter, sharing a day with you at a spa. If you are a husband, you should gift the mother of your children.

When a mother has passed on, children sometimes visit her grave on Mother's Day. Others choose to share memories by looking through old photo albums or watching home movies of past days. Some like to donate to a favorite charity in their mother's name.

The adoption of a mother for the day is a nice gesture. Consider a neighbor who lives alone. You could take her to lunch or take a small gift to her. Nursing homes often have residents who do not receive visitors.

While many consider this to be a modern holiday, some say its roots are found in the ancient Greek festivals honoring Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. Others trace it to the United Kingdom where Mothering Sunday is celebrated. In times gone by, servants were given the day off on this Sunday so they could visit their mothers. If you're unable to visit, call!

Happy Mother's Day to all moms.



CHALK TALK

Setting Standards! Measuring with everyday stuff



Ever wonder who decided what "standard units" of measurements should be? Why isn't a foot 5 inches instead of 12? Why is an inch called an "inch" and a foot called a "foot" instead of a "hand"?

A foot, it turns out, was the length of King Charlemagne's foot and an inch was the distance between the knuckles on King Edgar's index finger. A yard was the distance between King Henry's nose and thumb. With so much royalty involved, perhaps that is how measuring sticks became rulers. The distance of a mile was decided by counting 1,000 steps of a Roman Legion.

Standard units of measure make it easy to communicate size and shapes. But what if you are out shopping, looking for ideas or furniture and don't have a ruler handy? Just take out a quarter; it's exactly 1 inch across, or a dollar bill which is 6 inches long -- making two bucks a foot. ~onthehouse.com



SUMMER VACATION PLANNING?

Check free offers for kids

Before finalizing your summer travel plans, check with hotels and resorts to see which have the most free offers for children. They may include:

- **A free stay.** All-inclusive resorts and big hotels are offering freebies like not charging for kids if they sleep in the room with you. Free meals and free activities for them are a plus. Hotels and resorts know when kids are happy, so are parents.
- **A free cruise.** Crystal Cruises and others let kids age 17 and under share their parents' cabins free of charge. They offer many family enrichments and activities including visits to London and Copenhagen. For more info call: 888-722-0021.
- **Rocky Mountain skiing for free.** Several resorts offer free programs and free ski days to kids who visit there with their parents. Some re-

sorts offer free flights to their location. Visit www.coloradoski.com, www.parkcityinfo.com, or www.snow.com.

- **Free assistance on bike trips.** Renting bicycles is a great way to see the countryside, but what will you do if someone in your party has a flat tire or a two-wheel fender bender?

No worries. There is no-charge assistance available at more than 200 bike rental agencies in the United States and Canada. Call 847-441-4292, or visit www.rentabikenow.com for locations.

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For more ideas see Fun Family Resorts in our Top Ten for Kids category in the top menu of www.buzzingkidsworld.com.

May Project

Bird Feeder

What you'll need:

Kit (includes sandpaper)*

- Clamps
- Handsaw
- File
- Drill
- Hammer
- Glue

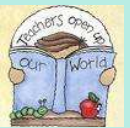


*This is a level 2 carpentry kit for ages 8 and up. The Anglo American RTB2160 Bird Feeder Project Kit is available at www.amazon.com (under Miscellaneous).

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Teacher Appreciation Day

Remember to thank your teacher/s on **May 4th** this year. Make it fun! Instead of the usual apple, turn the tables and give *them* a grade (better make it a good one though) or a lollypop... such as those at http://www.sees.com/Cat.cfm/pops_and_candies.



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Travel Tips

Are you planning to travel with your pet this year? Scents can de-stress them and make the trip more enjoyable for you *and* your pet.

New *animal pheromone* products can improve pet behavior in many cases.

The scent has a calming effect.

Feliway spray is effective for calming cats, especially on long trips.

For dogs, DAP is a synthetic version of a substance made by mother dogs to calm puppies. It works in diffuser form, spray or collars.

Available at www.amazon.com under Home and Garden category.

Permission to copy, use, and distribute materials contained in this publication is allowed without fee for personal, private, and educational purposes, except that reproducing materials for profit or any commercial use is not permitted. Kids love it, parents and grandparents love it, and teachers love it. We hope you do, too. ~ Editor

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

My Teacher Took My iPod

My teacher took my iPod.
She said they had a rule:
I couldn't bring it into class
or even to the school.

She said she would return it;
I'd have it back that day.
But then she tried my headphones on
and gave a click on "Play."

She looked a little startled,
but after just awhile,
she made sure we were occupied
and cracked a wicked smile.



Her body started swaying.
Her toes began to tap.
She started grooving in her seat
and rocking to the rap.

My teacher said she changed her mind.
She thinks it's now okay
to bring my iPod into class.
She takes it every day.

~Kenn Nesbitt
www.poetry4kids.com

Adolescence: Between the ages of 12 and 17 (when parents age as much as 20 years). ~Author Unknown

You can tell a child is growing up when he stops asking where he came from and starts refusing to tell where he is going. ~Author Unknown

The best way to keep children at home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant, and let the air out of the tires. ~Dorothy Parker

Advice to teens: Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly. ~Author Unknown

There's nothing wrong with the younger generation that becoming taxpayers won't cure. ~Dan Bennett

Few things are more satisfying than seeing your children have teenagers of their own. ~Doug Larson

Sign on son's room door. "Check out time is 18!" ~Author Unknown