

January 2010

Educational E-News

School Liaison Newsletter



Educational Benefits for Military Children

It is that time of the year when high school seniors and juniors start thinking about how they are going to pay for their college education. As a senior, you should be at a point where all of your college applications are submitted and you are waiting for acceptance letters. This is also the time to submit your FAFSA for federal student aid and research other ways to finance your college education.

As a military child you can take advantage of different grants, scholarships and aid opportunities. Below you will find a brief description of some of those educational benefits. Continue to research on your own until graduation. Don't forget to communicate with your guidance counselor and the financial aid advisor at your college of choice.

Montgomery G. I. Bill

Through the Montgomery GI Bill, military dependents can qualify for money for college at any two or four-year college, or vocational school. Get more information at www.gibill.va.gov

Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)

The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines offer these programs at select colleges and universities throughout the country. If you qualify, the ROTC program offers a unique college experience! During the first two years you can attend ROTC classes, such as military science, and participate in training activities. During your junior and senior years, you may receive a full scholarship, including tuition, books, board and other expenses. This requires a commitment to serve as an officer for a minimum of three years after graduation. www.nrotc.navy.mil or www.armyrotc.com or www.afrotc.com

Scholarships Undergraduate scholarships are forms of aid that help students pay for their education. Unlike student loans, scholarships do not have to be repaid. Hundreds of thousands of scholarships from several thousand sponsors are awarded each year. Be diligent in your search and look for both private scholarships and college awarded scholarships. Your big monies will come from college awarded scholarships.

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National Holidays:

January 1st:

NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 18th:

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Local SL installation calendars:

MCAGCC 29Palms:

www.29palms.usmc.mil/visit/schoolliaison

MCAS Yuma:

http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org/Webmodel/MFS/School_Liaison/Schoolliaison.html

MWTC Bridgeport:

<http://www.mwtc.usmc.mil/school-liaison/>

Three for Me

by Julie Fulton, School Liaison, Camp Lejeune

The National PTA recently adopted a parent volunteer program called "Three for Me." It stands for 3 volunteer hours from each parent; and the "me" represents the child. A couple of moms from Indiana invented the program, but it boils down to a simple plan. If each parent spent just three hours a year volunteering in their child's school, the children and schools would benefit.



They reasoned that once parents got into the schools and found out how important their time and energy were, then they would get hooked and want to volunteer more. It worked! Parents who pledged three hours actually averaged 12 hours of volunteering.

There was a positive payoff, even for the parents who came for just the three hours. Many parents said they didn't volunteer before because they didn't know what to do or were afraid that the schools would call them all the time. Their fears were unfounded. Schools were eager to provide a list of volunteer opportunities like helping to monitor students during testing, listening to students read, helping out at school events, etc. Students whose parents volunteer at school actually perform better academically. Students seem to realize that parents who come to the school value education.

Even busy parents who work can manage three hours a year. Why not try getting involved this year? Commit to three for your child!

New Year Tip of the Month: Teach your child a few time-management tips. Procrastination on homework assignments can be a major source of stress for both school-aged children and their parents. A great suggestion is to get your child a big wall or desk calendar and have them write the due dates for reports, papers, and projects on it. Have this located somewhere where both the parent and the child are able to see the dates. Help the child "chunk" out of the big projects in obtainable goals. Share how to accomplish a big task sometimes requires several smaller goals. This makes the large task seem less daunting and much more achievable.

A child educated only at school is an uneducated child. ~George Santayana

WEB RESOURCES OF THE MONTH: DEPLOYMENT



- ❖ Active duty parents can send special dogtags to their children. <http://www.dogtagsforkids.com/>
- ❖ A website that allows the deployed parent to interact online with their child, especially for reading. <http://www.mychildmymilitary.com/>
- ❖ Activities, downloads, and journals for children of deployment service members <http://www.deploymentkids.com/>

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for equal civil rights for African Americans. Each year, on the 3rd Monday of January, we celebrate his life and his dream. The day was made a national holiday in 1986. Martin Luther King, Jr was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a minister who participated in many peaceful demonstrations in regard to unfair treatment of African Americans. He is famous for his meaningful speech "I Have a Dream." He won the Nobel Peace prize in 1964.

Martin Luther King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee

Below you will find a thematic book list for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights movement. These books may be found at your local public or school library. For your convenience, ISBN numbers, book reviews and related links have been provided on each detail book page.



[A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr. \(Picture Book Biography\)](#)

by David A. Adler, Robert Casilla (Illustrator)



[A Picture Book of Rosa Parks \(Picture Book Biography\)](#)

by David A. Adler, Robert Casilla



[Amazing Grace](#)

by Mary Hoffman



[Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

by Doreen Rappaport



[My Dream of Martin Luther King](#)

by Faith Ringgold (Illustrator)



[The Story of Ruby Bridges](#)

by Robert Coles, George Ford (Illustrator)

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WORDSEARCH

D V L M H S C Y M V E D E L A
 I N I Q A I E O F C I R T E M
 S R M O V H D H I U B E A B E
 C A I I L E G D C O V A G O R
 R M L G E E U N Y R D M E N I
 I A S R H J N C I E A Q R K C
 M B F T E T O C M M R M G T A
 I A J R O T S O E A R X E Z N
 N L P C T I N P W F N I S R B
 A A P I H S R E D A E L B S A
 T F P X T E Q U A L I T Y C Z
 E W E R J A N U A R Y Q V I Z
 A K A P A R K S V T R U O C F
 L T E R Q L V Y V R E H Y E H
 E H N A C I R F A A Z W N P N

AFRICAN	FREEDOM
ALABAMA	JANUARY
AMERICAN	LEADERSHIP
BIRMINGHAM	MARCHES
BOYCOTT	NOBEL
CIVIL	PARKS
COURT	PREJUDICE
DEMONSTRATE	RIGHTS
DISCRIMINATE	RIOTS
DREAM	SEGREGATE
EQUALITY	VIOLENCE
	WAR

* Words are in ALL directions. (diagonal, forwards, backwards, sideways, ...)

7 Habits of Highly Successful Teens taken from Education.com

For teens, life is not a playground, it's a jungle. And, being the parent of a teenager isn't any walk in the park, either. In his book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, author Sean Covey attempts to provide "a compass to help teens and their parents navigate the problems they encounter daily."

How will they deal with peer pressure? Motivation? Success or lack thereof? The life of a teenager is full of tough issues and life-changing decisions. As a parent, you are responsible to help them learn the principles and ethics that will help them to reach their goals and live a successful life.

While it's all well and good to tell kids how to live their lives, "teens watch what you do more than they listen to what you say," Covey says. So practice what you preach. Your example can be very influential.

Covey himself has done well by following a parent's example. His dad, Stephen Covey, wrote the book *The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People*, which sold over 15 million copies. Sean's a chip off the old block, and no slacker. His own book has rung in a more than respectable 2 million copies sold. Here are his seven habits, and some ideas for helping your teen understand and apply them:

- ❖ **Be Proactive:** Being proactive is the key to unlocking the other habits. Help your teen take control and responsibility for her life. Proactive people understand that they are responsible for their own happiness or unhappiness. They don't blame others for their own actions or feelings.
- ❖ **Begin With the End in Mind:** If teens aren't clear about where they want to end up in life, about their values, goals, and what they stand for, they will wander, waste time, and be tossed to and fro by the opinions of others. Help your teen create a personal mission statement which will act as a road map and direct and guide his decision-making process.
- ❖ **Put First Things First:** This habit helps teens prioritize and manage their time so that they focus on and complete the most important things in their lives. Putting first things first also means learning to overcome fears and being strong during difficult times. It's living life according to what matters most.
- ❖ **Think Win-Win:** Teens can learn to foster the belief that it is possible to create an atmosphere of win-win in every relationship. This habit encourages the idea that in any given discussion or situation both parties can arrive at a mutually beneficial solution. Your teen will learn to celebrate the accomplishments of others instead of being threatened by them.
- ❖ **Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood:** Because most people don't listen very well, one of the great frustrations in life is that many don't feel understood. This habit will ensure your teen learns the most important communication skill there is: active listening.
- ❖ **Synergize:** Synergy is achieved when two or more people work together to create something better than either could alone. Through this habit, teens learn it doesn't have to be "your way" or "my way" but rather a better way, a higher way. Synergy allows teens to value differences and better appreciate others.
- ❖ **Sharpen the Saw:** Teens should never get too busy living to take time to renew themselves. When a teen "sharpens the saw" she is keeping her personal self sharp so that she can better deal with life. It means regularly renewing and strengthening the four key dimensions of life – body, brain, heart, and soul.

NEW YEAR'S CRAFT: RESOLUTION MAGNETS

Make this New Year's resolution magnet craft for kids they can stick with all year long. Hang it on the refrigerator so that your kids are reminded of it daily. For more great [New Year's ideas](#), be sure to check out our [New Year's crafts](#), [New Year's clip art](#), and [New Year's recipe](#).

What you'll need:

- ❖ White and light blue construction paper
- ❖ Crayons
- ❖ Black fine tip marker
- ❖ White craft glue or glue stick
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Magnet strip
- ❖ Laminating paper (optional)



How to make it:

1. Cut a sheet of white construction paper in half.
2. Across the top write "I RESOLVE" with a crayon of your choice.
3. Use a fine tip black marker to outline your crayon.
4. Choose your resolution and use the fine tip black marker to write it below the title (i.e. "to keep my room clean")
5. Use crayons to draw a colorful picture depicting your resolution below the words.
6. Trim the white construction paper so that all sides of your artwork are even.
7. Glue your artwork to a piece of light blue construction paper. Trim the blue paper to create a nice border frame for your art.
8. If you choose to laminate, do it now, before adding the magnet.
9. Glue a magnet strip (or use self-stick magnet strip) to the back of your resolution art and hang on the refrigerator.

Tips:

- ❖ Talk to your children about the significance of making resolutions each New Year.
- ❖ Choose whatever color construction paper you wish, our choices are only suggestions.
- ❖ Buy construction paper in large value packs and keep on hand for impromptu projects.



Riding the School Bus????

Did you know that riding a school bus is a privilege, and not a right? Many people think that since a free public education is granted to every American, that the ride there is protected as well. Not so. School Districts chose to provide that service to help children who might not otherwise be able to get to the school building. Since it is a privilege, it can be lost. Poor student behavior on the bus can be a major safety concern for the driver. PLEASE take a few minutes to talk with your child about proper bus behavior. Keeping hands, feet, and objects to oneself and staying seated are the keys to a safe and convenient ride.

SL Contact Info:

- ❖ MCAGCC Twentynine Palms:
Website: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/visit/schoolliaison/>
phone: 760.830.1574
- ❖ MWTC Bridgeport:
Web site: <http://www.mwtc.usmc.mil/school-liaison/>
Phone: 760-932-1521 (MWTC Bridgeport)/ 760-784-4548 (Coleville)
- ❖ MCAS Yuma:
Web site: http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org/Webmodel/MFS/School_Liaison/Schoolliaison.html
Phone: (928) 269-5373



Tina, Tessa and
Elena

Winter Pictionary

Supplies: Black board and chalk or Dry Erase board and markers Slips of paper with a different winter items/objects on each one [example: mittens, coat, candy cane, snowflake, etc... Christmas themed bowl to draw from or stocking Timer

How to Play: Divide the class into teams. The player up draws a slip of paper from the stocking, reads it silently and hands to teacher. The player must then draw clues as to what was on their paper and by so doing get their team to say what it is. If the playing team guesses correctly, before the timer runs out, they get two points.

If the playing team cannot guess correctly, before the timer runs out, the opposing team may take one guess. If the opposing team guesses correctly they get a point and the playing team loses a point. Most points wins.

For small children don't divide into teams, use a timer or keep track of points. Just play until someone in the class yells out the right answer.



Snowball Relay Race

Supplies: Styrofoam ball for each team Pencil for each team.

How to Play: Divide into teams. First child on each team will be given a styrofoam ball (snowball) and a pencil. On your mark they are to bend over, place the ball on the floor, and push the ball with the pencil across the room, around an obstacle, and back to next child on team. First team to finish wins.



Do what you have, with what you have, where you are.

- Theodore Roosevelt