

# April Newsletter 2010

---

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL - HYDES

---

Dear Parents,

The final days of Lent are upon us. The culmination of our Lenten experience is the celebration of the Triduum. During Holy Thursday Mass, we rejoice in the institution of the sacraments of Eucharist and Holy Orders at the Last Supper. After Mass, the altar is stripped, and we begin to recall the passion and death of Jesus Christ on Good Friday; thus begins a very solemn period for Christians which extends through Holy Saturday. The Easter Vigil on Saturday evening arrives and we rejoice and celebrate the Resurrection, the great feast of Easter, the most important feast of the Church year. This celebration continues for several weeks beyond Easter Sunday. What a way to welcome Spring!



## **Communication:**

Just a reminder: If you change your email address, your phone number, or street address, please contact the school office. Thanks in advance for keeping us informed.

## **Yard Duty:**

Just a reminder that yard duty begins at 11:40 AM. This gives you a few minutes to check in with the office and will let us know if we need to find more teachers for duty. The students in grades three, four, and five have recess from 11:45 to 12:05, grades six, seven, and eight from 12:15 to 12:30 and grades one and two 12:30 to 12:50.

## **Uniforms:**

In accordance with our School Handbook, summer uniform shorts and golf shirts may be worn from April 15 through the end of the school year. Regular white socks (no short, athletic socks), regular school shoes, and a belt must be worn with this uniform. Students may also wear the winter uniform with white socks. The golf shirt is not interchangeable with the white shirt or blouse worn with the winter uniforms.

## **April Installment:**

April installment, tuition rates, and tuition assistance packets should be available soon. We have been waiting to hear from the Archdiocese as to teacher salaries, insurance, and benefit charges before finalizing our tuition. Thanks for your patience and cooperation with turn-around dates for the paperwork.

## **Thank You:**

A special "thank you" to Father Foley – he took time from his busy schedule to distribute Progress Reports to the students. He shared with them the importance of doing their best!

To all of the members of the Mardi Gras Gala Committee, thank you for the year of work; to all of the school families for their donations to the silent and live auctions, and to the families who so generously bid on the many items, your generosity was very much appreciated.

### **Snow Days and the End of Year:**

As you may know, we add five snow days to our school calendar each year. This brings total school days to 180 in our calendar. We are required by law to attend 175 days. This year, we used those five snow days and an additional 3 for a total of 8. We made up one day on March 1. Dr. Valenti, our Superintendent, has given Catholic Schools a waiver. His letter states we must attend a total of at least 170 days. Do the math...we are ok and do not have to make up any more days. We actually have a few more days in our yearly calendar. **Our closing school date will remain Wednesday, June 9.** This was the original date on the tentative calendar printed on the website.

### **Grandparents'/Grandfriends' Day:**

We will be inviting our Grandparents, or our Grandfriends if our grandparents are not able to visit, on Friday, April 23, from 9:00 AM to 12 Noon. We always look forward to our Grandparents' visits and sharing present and past life experiences. It is scheduled as a noon dismissal so that grandparents/friends can have the opportunity to take the children to lunch if they choose. Grandparents/friends of our three-year olds may visit on Thursday, April 22, from 9:00 AM to 11:10 AM.

### **WE NEED YOUR GRAND PHOTOS!**

The School's Marketing Committee would like to have a special Grandparent/Grandfriend bulletin board at the entrance of the school welcoming our "Grand" guests on April 23 for our annual Grandparents' Day. Please send in a photo(s) of your Saint John student(s) with their Grandparent(s) or Grandfriend(s) on or before Monday, April 19. Please make sure you have the student's name and grade on the back of the photo. If you have photos from past Grandparent Days, please send those in as well. Make sure to put your photos in a sealed envelope and send them to the school office to the attention of Theresa Alcarese. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call Theresa at 410) 593-9874 or e-mail her at [talcarese@comcast.net](mailto:talcarese@comcast.net). Thank you!!!

### **Labels for Education:**

Just a gentle reminder to save all those UPC codes from Campbell's products. Everyone has been doing a great job. Thanks to you, we'll be able to purchase some good things for the school.

Please also remember to continue to save your Boxtop labels. You may send them to the school office to the attention of Mrs. Jennifer Deuber, c/o Lukas – Grade 2. Thank you.

### **Applause, Applause:**

Congratulations to the Middle School students who achieved Honor Roll status for the second trimester:

### **Principal's List**

#### Grade 7

Mark Bauer

Eleanor Scheide

#### Grade 6

Andrew Brannon

## **First Honors**

### Grade 7

Megan Chaney  
Anna Littleton

### Grade 6

Lauren Abrecht  
Sarah Kujala

## **Second Honors**

### Grade 8

Scott Bohon  
Matthew Fazzini  
Marisa Jara

### Grade 7

Jack Brown  
Matthew Curtin  
Ben Evans  
Julia Friedland  
John Goska  
Ben Lynch  
Gianna Savarese  
Sarah Swain

### Grade 6

Mary Cochran

### Catholic Bee:

As you may remember, we hosted our own “Catholic Bee” during Catholic Schools Week. The winners, Ryan Jones, Sean Bohon, and Erin Dodson, were asked to represent our school in the annual Knights of Columbus Bee on Saturday, March 28. Guess What!!! Our students placed First, Second, and Third!!! Ryan came in First Place to win, followed by Erin and Sean. I know this is the first time ever that 3 students from the same school placed in the top three!!! Congratulations to the “Terrific Trio.” We are so proud of them for this wonderful accomplishment. This is what it is all about and what makes us different from the rest! Ryan will move on to the State competition. We wish him well!

Kudos to Andrew Brannon – he recently participated in a Spatial Test Battery through the Johns Hopkins University, Center for Talented Youth. Andrew received a percentile rank of 100 on the Surface Development section and a 96.7 on the Block Rotation section. This places him at the Standard Scaled Score of 700. The range is from 200-800. Wow! Andrew!

### Handwriting:

Each year, the Zaner-Bloser Educational Publishers sponsor a Handwriting Contest. This year our school grade-level winners are: Margaret Simmons - Grade 1, Morgan Haller - Grade 2, Keagan Plume - Grade 3, Joshua Elliott - Grade 4, and Lily Ehrhardt - Grade 5. We congratulate our winners.

Zaner-Bloser also recognizes state and national winners in a contest that evaluates handwriting legibility. We have not heard if any of our entrants won the state competition, but eagerly await the results.

### Alums:

Congratulations to Olivia Dalton. Olivia made the Dean’s List at the University of Delaware, and she recently competed in an engineering competition at an ASCE Convention where her

team from the University won. Her older sister, Paige, from the University of Vermont, also competed. Both girls traveled to West Palm Beach in February for the competition – a very nice diversion from all the snow we had!

### **Drama Club:**

This year, the twelfth year of our Middle School Drama Club, our students once again did a wonderful job of entertaining their audience. Under the direction of Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Donohue, and with the help of Mrs. Palacpac, Mrs. Brannon, and Mrs. Schroeder, the Club performed "*Much Ado About Coconuts*." Many thanks go to them for helping our Middle Schoolers present a wonderful performance. We would also like to thank June Jones, LouAnne Savarese, John Brannon, Pat Donohue, Paul Macek, and Tommy Rowan for their help with the set. Thanks also to the young Thespians of our Drama Club who gave up many hours after school to rehearse. Your hard work proved worthwhile the moment the curtain opened. The dress rehearsal on Friday was attended by Kindergarten through Grade 8, and many parents attended the evening performance. For the sixth year in a row, the Club performed at the Parish Family Fun Night on Saturday. Thanks to the Home and School Association, dinner was provided for all prior to the show.

We are most grateful to those who deposited donations each evening. We collected almost \$900.00, and it will be used to purchase additional microphones and a new sound system, as well as to help alleviate the cost of next year's play. We are already looking forward to another great show!

### **Mardi Gras Thank You!**

A big thank you to everyone who came out and supported the H.A.S.A. at Mardi Gras. Everyone had a wonderful time and we appreciate everyone's generosity. We raised close to \$27,000.00 and that will help us complete the \$60,000.00 obligation the H.A.S.A. had to the School operating budget for the 2009-2010 school year which allowed the school to keep tuition flat for the year.

As with most large functions, there are many people to thank. Namely the committee members, Theresa Alcarese, Deb Larney, Paula Rusinovich, Laura Kozak, Kristen Wilson, and our committee chair, Renee Banashak. All of the behind the scenes work, while it went unnoticed by most, did not go unappreciated!

There were a few other thank yous that got forgotten that evening. One was to the room parents for organizing such fantastic room packages. They were ooh'd and ahhh'd over and we appreciate your creativity and time! A special thanks also to STX Putters. They donated a golf putter to our auction and were mistakenly left off our thank you list. We apologize and we thank you for your donation!

If you visit any of the businesses that donated items or services to our auction, please tell them thank you for supporting our school!

### **H.A.S.A. Executive Committee**

It's that time of year already! There are several committee members who are stepping down after serving two or more years; Deb Golumbek, Kristen Wilson, and Chrissy Cassidy. That leaves 3 spots open on the committee that need to be filled for the '10-'11 school year. If you would like more information about what is involved with serving on this committee, please

contact Deb Golumbek at [dgolumbek@msn.com](mailto:dgolumbek@msn.com). Please consider lending your talents and time.

**Nominations will occur directly after the Easter break; elections will take place after that and the new Executive Committee will be announced at the May 11<sup>th</sup> H.A.S.A. Meeting prior to the Fine Arts Night Band Performance.**

Have a great month!

*Jean Delcher* 

# Parents *make the difference!*

Early Childhood – April 2010

Reprinted with permission of The Parent Institute

---

## Encourage your preschooler to take responsibility for Earth

Earth Day is April 22. And while protecting the Earth is a job for every day, you can use this special day to begin or reinforce the habit.

Many activities that help the Earth are simple, free and take only a minute or two. And they are very suitable for young children.



Here are some ideas:

- Turn off the lights and TV when you leave a room and encourage your child to do the same.
- Keep a cup on the bathroom sink. Teach your child to fill it with water before he brushes his teeth. After he brushes, he can use the water in the cup to rinse out his mouth. Now there's no need to leave the water running during tooth-brushing.
- Consider drinking tap water instead of buying bottled water. Unless there is an emergency (such as a flood) or other unusual situation, tap water in the United States and Canada is safe.
- Recycle. Have your preschooler help you place recyclables into their own bins.
- Plant something with your child. You can use seeds. Plant outdoors if you have a yard. If not, plant in a container. If you have the time, space and money to do so, consider planting a tree.
- Participate in a clean-up day. Many communities plan these to celebrate Earth Day. If you can't find one near you, rally neighbors to clean up a section of your own neighborhood or block.

Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Early Childhood Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: The Wilderness Society, "Earth Day, Everyday," Wilderness Society Teacher's Lounge, <http://earthday.wilderness.org/teachers/postings.htm>.

# Teach your preschooler about family heritage & traditions

It is important for your child to know about her own family's background. Embracing background and traditions often enriches our lives. It also makes us appreciate who we are and what we have. Share your family's heritage with your child.

Also take time to point out and show your child that others may have different backgrounds and traditions. These give your child new perspectives.

To expand your child's world:

- Show your child photos and keepsakes from your family's past. Children especially love to see photos of their parents and grandparents as children.
- Try cooking a dish that represents your family's background. Have your child help. Children are more likely to try new foods if they have helped to prepare them.
- Read your child a book about a child of another culture or country. Talk about the book with your child. Point out similarities: "She likes to play with balls, too." Talk about differences: "She speaks a different language than we do."
- Encourage your child to make friends with children from many cultures.
- Take advantage of some cultural opportunities in your community. These may include local museums, festivals at cultural centers or houses of worship or performances. Many of these are free.

Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Early Childhood Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Kerby T. Alvy, *The Positive Parent: Raising Healthy, Happy and Successful Children, Birth-Adolescence*, ISBN: 978-0-8077-4808-4 (Teachers College Press and Center for the Improvement of Child Caring, [www.tcpres.com](http://www.tcpres.com)).

## Reading Readiness

# Use creative ways to help your preschooler recognize letters

Recognizing letters is an important step toward reading. Thankfully, it's also fun! To teach your child about letters creatively:

- Make them out of food. Give your child kid-friendly, tasty supplies to create letters, such as circle-shaped crackers and small, straight pretzels. Allow him to break up foods to form letters, too.
- Light up letters. Use a flashlight to make letters on a ceiling or wall. Can your child follow the beam and figure out which ones you're writing? Give him a turn making letters, too.

- Start with parts. Draw a shape or line for your child, such as a circle or diagonal line. Let him add to it, eventually making a letter, such as "T" or "N." (You can help with hints.) Then switch roles, letting him draw the first shape.

Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Early Childhood Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Jackie Silberg, *Reading Games for Young Children*, ISBN13: 978-0-87659-243-4 (Gryphon House, Inc., www.gryphonhouse.com).

## Building Character

# Show your preschooler how to be a gracious loser, winner

Teachers and others who work with young children usually make an effort to keep things fair. After all, young children cannot learn if they don't get the opportunity to try.

Still, every child faces times when someone else comes in first or is chosen earlier. It's a difficult lesson, but it's important to help your preschooler learn to understand and move on.

You can prepare your child if you:

- Teach him to lose in a loving setting. A child who never loses or experiences failure soon expects this as his right. So let your child lose sometimes, and then guide him through the expression of his feelings. Tell your child to use his words to say how he feels. Encourage him to switch to a different activity for a while and to say, "I'll try again another time."
- Focus on effort. Tell your preschooler that he can always be proud if he gave his best, no matter the outcome--win or lose.
- Have fun! Your child is still very young and games at this age should be fun. If your child had a good time, then he has succeeded, whether he finishes first, second, third or beyond.

Remind your preschooler that it is also important to be a gracious winner. When he wins a game, he should never brag or try to make the other person feel bad.

Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Early Childhood Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Nancy Samalin, *Loving Without Spoiling*, ISBN: 0-07-142492-X (The McGraw Hill Companies, www.books.mcgraw-hill.com).

**Click here to view the  
April EC Activity Calendar**

# Parents *make the difference!*

Elementary School - April 2010

Reprinted with permission of The Parent Institute

---

## Turn writing into a game for your child with 'quick writes'

Writing can be hard work. But a "quick write" is a fun and easy way to encourage your child to get her ideas down on paper.

Quick writes are just what they sound like--a short period of time when a child writes quickly. Usually, a quick write is based on a question or an idea. You ask a challenging question and set the timer for five minutes. Then both you and your child write down everything you can before the timer beeps.



Even kids who usually stare into space when it's time for a writing assignment will like a quick write. They are often surprised to discover just how much they did know about a subject.

Your child will gain confidence when she sees how much she can write in just a few minutes. Once the quick write is finished, compare what you've written. The next time, let your child choose the quick write topic.

Here are some ideas to use:

- Would it be a good or a bad idea if our pet could talk? Why?
- If I were invisible, I would ... .
- The best birthday I can imagine would be ... .
- It was a stormy day, so I decided I would ... .
- Zebras have stripes because ... .
- Ten years from now, I will be ... .
- I invented the most amazing machine. It does ... .
- When I woke up this morning, I was a different person. I was ... .

Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Linda Reif, *100 Quickwrites: Fast and Effective Freewriting Exercises that Build Students' Confidence, Develop Their Fluency, and Bring Out the Writer in Every Student*, ISBN: 9780-4394-5877-1 (Scholastic Books, [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)).

## Testing Tips

# Show your child the importance of following directions on tests

Sometimes, a child may know the answer to a test question--but still get it wrong. She underlined the answer, when the directions said circle. Or she chose the true answer when the directions asked for the one that was not true.

Helping your child learn to follow directions exactly is an important way to prepare her for test success. Try these things at home:

- Follow a recipe together. Talk about what would happen if you left out one of the ingredients or didn't do things in order.
- Help your child think about one thing she knows or does well--making a peanut butter sandwich, finding her way to school. Have her write step-by-step directions on how to do it. Now follow the directions she has written exactly. Was anything missing?
- Create a treasure hunt. Hide a small prize somewhere your child won't see it. Now write notes your child must follow. Each note tells her to look somewhere else. Only if she follows the directions exactly will she get the prize.

Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Guinevere Durham, *Teaching Test-Taking Skills: Proven Techniques to Boost Your Students' Scores*, ISBN: 1-5788-6573-5 (Rowman & Littlefield Education, [www.rowmaneducation.com](http://www.rowmaneducation.com)).

## Building Self-Esteem

# Teach your child to recover from mistakes with humor, perspective

It's easy to build a child's self-esteem when she's winning the game or bringing home a great report card. It's tougher, but perhaps even more important, to boost self-esteem when things aren't going so well.

Here are some ways you can help your child keep her head up and recover from mistakes:

- Choose your words carefully. Saying, "You spilled the milk" doesn't hurt your child's self-esteem. Saying, "You're such a clumsy kid" will. Remember, the labels you put on your child today are the things she will carry with her through life.
- Help your child take the long view. Yes, she failed a quiz. But that doesn't mean she'll fail fourth grade.
- Help everyone in the family learn to laugh at their own mistakes. Life doesn't always need to be serious. Sometimes, the milk spills. Show your child that it's possible to recover by laughing at mistakes.

Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Your Child's Mental Health: Building Self-Esteem in Children," <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/Ca-0048/default.asp>.

## Building Respect

# Insist your child dress respectfully at home, school

Chances are you and your child argue occasionally--or often--about what she wears to school. That's no surprise, considering that many popular children's clothes violate school dress codes (not to mention parents' values).

Parents aren't alone in this battle. When EducationWorld.com asked educators about the importance of student dress codes, the response was clear--79% said dress codes "help improve behavior and academic performance."

To make mornings easier on you, your child and the school:

- Review the school dress code. Which clothes and shoes are not allowed? Some common items include flip flops, halter tops, low-hanging pants and spaghetti straps.
- Talk with your child. Discuss why there is a dress code. Which clothes or shoes might be distracting? Offensive? Unsafe? Inappropriate? This is a good time to discuss respect for self and others.
- Post the rules. If you and your child argue repeatedly about dress, consider posting the rules. Children are less likely to argue with a list (especially a school list) than a parent.
- Shop carefully. Avoid items that are likely to spark disagreements. If your child will probably beg to wear "weekend shirts" on school days, think carefully about buying them.

Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc.

**Click here to view the  
April EL Activity Calendar**

# Parents still make the difference!

Middle School - April 2010

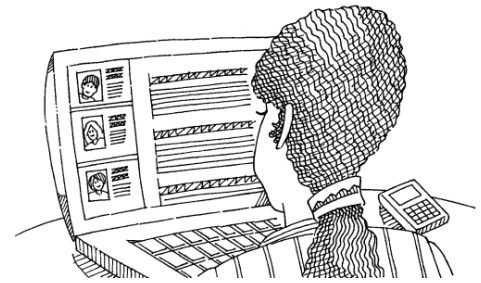
Reprinted with permission of The Parent Institute

---

## Try blogs, reviews & letters to get your middle schooler writing

Sure, your middle schooler may be tech-savvy and "wired." But that doesn't mean she shouldn't spend time working on some good old-fashioned writing! To encourage her to write:

- Invite her to blog. If your family keeps a blog, ask your child to post entries occasionally. Don't expect her to write huge essays. But do have her update friends and relatives on what's been happening at school and home lately. If she enjoys doing it, consider giving her a section of her own on your blog page. If your family doesn't have a blog page, see if your child would like to create one. She can start by going to [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com).
- Let her post online reviews. Is your child a big-time reader? Suggest that she log on to book-selling sites and write reviews of the best new titles. Is she a movie nut? Help her find a child-friendly site where she can add her two cents about the latest release. (As with anything online, make sure the sites are age-appropriate. Try [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org).)
- Give her stationery--and have her use it. Every so often, ask your child to write a letter to Grandma or Uncle Jim. Let her experience the rapidly fading art of letter writing. Although email and instant messages are quick and fun, they're no substitute for putting pen to paper!



Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents Still make the difference!*® (Middle School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc.

### Building Responsibility

## Foster a sense of responsibility through consequences & choices

Your child won't morph into a responsible young adult overnight. It's a process, and it takes time. To nurture your child's sense of responsibility:

- Enforce consequences. Dole out penalties when your child breaks the rules. This will remind her that she is responsible for her actions. And when she messes up, she only has herself to blame.
- Give her chores. Chores are ideal for building responsibility in your child. Even better, completing them may make her feel capable.
- Have her manage money. Nothing hammers home the "be more responsible" message like empty pockets! Give your child chances to earn money and teach her how to manage those earnings.
- Let her make choices. If possible, allow your child to decide issues for herself. Obviously, you should offer guidance. But whenever it's reasonable--and safe--for her to make her own decisions, stand back and let her.

Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents Still make the difference!*® (Middle School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Maud Purcell, LCSW, CEAP, "Building Responsible Kids," Psych Central, <http://psychcentral.com/lib/2006/building-responsible-kids>.

## Reinforcing Learning

# Teach your middle schooler how to set realistic academic goals

Students who are successful in school know how to set academic goals for themselves. Here are tips for setting sound academic goals:

- Make them specific. Goals should state exactly what your child wants to do. Example: "In the next quarter, I will have at least an 80 percent average in all my classes."
- Make them measurable. Your child should be able to record progress toward his goals. Example: The goal of 80 percent in all classes is measurable. With this goal, your child can look at his average at different points in the quarter. Then he can compare his actual performance with his goal performance.
- Make them achievable. Example: "I'm going to be captain of the football team in my freshman year" may not be an achievable goal. Even if your child has the talent to achieve it, doing so depends on the decisions of many people other than himself. Your child should own his goals and be responsible for making them happen.

Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents Still make the difference!*® (Middle School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Beverly K. Bachel, *What Do You Really Want? How to Set a Goal and Go for It!* ISBN: 1-57542-085-6 (Free Spirit Publishing, [www.freespirit.com](http://www.freespirit.com)).

## Building Respect

# Teach your child the importance of self-respect

Self-respect is essential for middle schoolers. A child with self-respect believes in herself as a worthy person. She knows she deserves to be treated fairly and kindly. And she knows it would be out of character for her not to treat others the same way.

To foster your child's sense of self-respect:

- Help your child fight negative peer pressure. Talk about ways she can avoid situations she knows are not right for her.
- Keep a positive attitude. Everyone experiences bumps in the road. These are temporary. Encourage your child to make a fresh start after a set-back.
- Point out your child's strengths and explain that people have different strengths and weaknesses. This awareness helps your child beat back feelings of jealousy. The ability to be happy for others, rather than jealous of them, is an important part of self-respect.
- Take a firm stance against substance abuse. Tell your child that self-respect includes respect for your own safety and health.
- Treat your child with respect. Your child needs a model for self-respect. You are the best choice. When you treat her well, she realizes that because you respect yourself, you are naturally respectful to others.

Reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of *Parents Still make the difference!*® (Middle School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Sean Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, ISBN: 0-684-85609-3 (Fireside, a Simon & Schuster company, www.simonsays.com).

**Click here to view the  
April MS Parent Pointers**