

SEPTEMBER 2011

Knowledge—discovering something new so you can be better at whatever you do

(Owl)

COLOR: YELLOW

- 1.) We are learning about the value of KNOWLEDGE this month —discovering something new so you can be better at whatever you do!
- 2.) Brainstorm one thing you each DO daily. Help one another discover something NEW in that area that can help you gain KNOWLEDGE.
- 3.) Books and the Internet - both are ways to gain KNOWLEDGE. But don't overlook people! Who can teach you something new this week?
- 4.) Head for a sweet treat as a family this week and celebrate all the KNOWLEDGE that was gained this month at school and home!

It's the time of year for new backpacks, sharpened pencils, colorful folders, and Kleenex boxes! We can't wait to discover all kinds of new things this year so we are starting the year off talking about the virtue of **Knowledge – discovering something new so you can be better at what you do.**

OCTOBER 2011

Creativity—using your talents to imagine something new.

(Bowerbird)

COLOR: TIE DYE

- 1.) We are learning about the value of CREATIVITY this month – using your talents to imagine something new!
- 2.) Spend a few days practicing – in secret of course! – and then show off your special talents at a FAMILY TALENT SHOW!
- 3.) Using the talents showcased in last week's family talent show, how could your family collectively “imagine something new”?
- 4.) Post pictures and drawings of your family's CREATIVITY in action on your fridge... the leaning tower of CREATIVITY!

The two dreaded words, “I'm BORED” shouldn't be heard around your house this month because our new virtue is action packed. From dancing, to drawing, to problem solving, this month is going to be a work out for imaginations across the city! That's right, we are talking about the virtue of **Creativity – using your imagination to do something unique.**

NOVEMBER 2011

Gratitude—letting others know you see how they've helped you

(Hippopotamus)

COLOR: ORANGE

1. We are learning about the value of GRATITUDE this month – letting others know you see how they've helped you!
2. Leave notes, using a marker, on everyone's bathroom mirror this week. Thank them for ways they have helped you at home!
3. Discuss together someone who has made life easier for your family. Write them a JUMBO thank you card to express your GRATITUDE!
4. Happy Thanksgiving! We overflow with GRATITUDE when we think of your family. Enjoy celebrating all that brings GRATITUDE!

Leaves are changing, temperature is dropping, and we are gearing up for our third virtue! And what better month than the month of Thanksgiving to talk about the virtue of **Gratitude – letting others know you see how they've helped you.**

DECEMBER 2011

Generosity—making someone's day by giving something away

(Earthworm)

COLOR: GREEN

1. We are learning about the value of GENEROSITY this month – making someone's day by giving something away!
2. It's "Project Clean Your Closet" week. Bring items not used anymore to the living room floor and make a plan to give it away!
3. Talk this week with your kids about things in their life they cherish. Help them trace that item back to the person that gave it to them.
4. Last week you talked about items you love and the people that gave them to you. How does their GENEROSITY make you feel?

Take some time out from the last minute shopping this month to help us talk to your child about the virtue of **Generosity – making someone's day by giving something away.**

JANUARY 2012

Self-control—choosing to do what you should do, not what you want to do

(Capuchin Monkey)

COLOR: RED

- 1.) We are learning about the value of SELF-CONTROL this month – choosing to do what you should do, not what you want to do!
- 2.) In plain sight for all to see, leave a jar of your family’s favorite candy with this month’s value posted to it. One rule – no one touches it!
- 3.) How much candy is left in that jar? Talk this week about how hard it is to resist! How does it feel to give in? Or to have SELF-CONTROL?
- 4.) Celebrate SELF-CONTROL by breaking into that jar! Before the sugar rush, talk about ways to use this value in the future.

“But I don’t want to go back to school!” Hopefully this wasn’t a statement uttered by a student in our school but if you’ve ever heard something like it, this month’s virtue might come in handy. For the rest of the month we are talking about the virtue of **Self-Control – choosing to do what you should do, not what you want to do.**

FEBRUARY 2012

Honor— Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are

(Golden Retriever)

COLOR: PURPLE

- 1.) We are learning about the value of HONOR this month – letting someone know you see how valuable they really are!
- 2.) We often honor people with badges, awards, or statues. Come up with a fun way to HONOR someone special to your family!
- 3.) This month’s featured animal is the Golden Retriever. Do some research together about the job of Seeing Eye or therapy dogs.
- 4.) Is there someone at your school who deserves to be HONORED? A teacher, janitor, or student? Email the principal who and why!

Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Presidents both past and present. February is a month dedicated to honoring some pretty valuable people. So we think it’s the perfect time to introduce the virtue of **Honor – letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.**

MARCH 2012

Conviction—standing for what is right even when others don't

(Elephant)

COLOR: BLACK/WHITE

- 1.) We are learning about the value of CONVICTION this month – standing for what is right even when others don't!
- 2.) Pick a cause that is close to your family's heart. Write local lawmakers or your newspaper together to highlight the issue.
- 3.) Research people in history who stood for what is right, even when others didn't. How did they change history? The world?
- 4.) Look back at the values we learned this year. How does CONVICTION require and encompass each of these values?

Just like that one brave flower blooming before all the others, it's important for us all to have the guts to be the only one to stand up for what's right. That's why we are going to spend the month of April talking about the virtue of **Conviction – standing for what's right even when others don't.**

APRIL 2012

Hope—believing that something good can come out of something bad

(Butterfly)

COLOR: BLUE

- 1.) We are learning about the value of HOPE this month – believing that something good can come out of something bad.
- 2.) Get a newspaper and as a family, dive deep into articles where HOPE needs to be displayed. Can you help bring such HOPE?
- 3.) Talk about a difficult time or situation your family faced in the past. Be transparent about the difficulty of having HOPE sometimes.
- 4.) Is there someone near your family experiencing hard times? How can your family deliver HOPE in the midst of something bad?

How can something as delicious as lemonade come from something as sour as a lemon? Well, this month, we are going to teach your child exactly what to do when life hands you lemons by introducing the virtue of **Hope – believing something good can come out of something bad.**

MAY 2012

Responsibility — proving you can be trusted with what is expected of you

(Rooster)

COLOR: BROWN

- 1.) We are learning about the value of RESPONSIBILITY this month – proving you can be trusted with what is expected of you!
- 2.) Turn the word “chores” into RESPONSIBILITIES and make a list of tasks each family member is trusted to complete for the week.
- 3.) Take the RESPONSIBILITY lists from last week and talk about what life would be like if no one did what was expected of them.
- 4.) Host a RESPONSIBILITY dinner, officially divvying up tasks that make your household successful. Celebrate future RESPONSIBILITY!

Bus stops, carpools, packed lunches, signed papers – as a parent we expect a lot from you! But what is expected of your child? Let’s turn it around this month and talk about the virtue of **Responsibility – proving you can be trusted with what is expected of you.**