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ON THE COVER

2017-18 Cover Kid Sydni W. may only be 11 years old, but she already has a full plate. While this could weigh down some kiddos her age, Sydni takes all of it in stride. From running her very own lemonade stand since 2016 called “Syd’s Rockn Lemonade” and singing in her church’s choir to Girl Scouts and volunteering in her community, Sydni has a full schedule each day. She loves to sing and dance, read mystery novels, and write her very own stories. She will even be trying out for volleyball this year as she wants to try something new. Sydni was in the Top 20 for the most sold cookies in Girl Scouts, and she also had the opportunity to sing the National Anthem at the Our Lady of the Lake Amazing Half Marathon. Sydni’s a go-getter with dreams of one day attending The Juilliard School, and with how hard of a worker she is, we know she will make it there.



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Alisha Hudman Photography



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IN EVERY ISSUE FREEBIES

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Learn about mystical dragons or a variety of whales and dolphins with the **Whales & Dolphins and Dragons Nature Tubes**. These nature tubes include figurines that are great for play time, and each set comes with fun facts about each animal included. ■ wildrepublic.com



Special Giveaway! This month, you can register to win a **gift card to Refinery Children's Consignment Boutique**.

Last Month's WINNERS

Look who won August's Freebies: **Leslie Kidder** won the Cry Babies; **Sara Henry** won the HABA My First ABC Clutching Puzzle; **Heather Harris** won the Animoodles; **Jordan Boudreaux** won the PLAYMOBIL Camping Adventure Carry Case; and **Angela Martin** won the Refinery Children's Consignment Boutique Gift Certificate.

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● To Bee or Not to Bee

My husband, Michael, dislikes bees, wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets—all three “monsters” that deign to trespass in his airspace. His motto is “the only good wasp is a dead wasp.” My attempt to ease matters between him and the insects have fallen on deaf ears. I’ve told him how they all serve a purpose. For instance, bees are responsible for nearly 80 percent of all pollination worldwide. That’s incredible! However, he didn’t seem convinced, because he vows and declares that they terrorize him a little more than everyone else.

Every trip Michael makes to the hardware store yields at least a couple cans of bug spray. To me, this purchase indicates a clear and definite gender difference. While many women may not like the stingers because we do not want our babies or grandchildren to be stung, we still take a more nurturing approach by shooin and swatting them out the door until they have returned to their natural habitat. Men on the other hand? The stinging crew doesn’t stand a chance against a man and his bug spray.

On our latest trip for supplies to finish a home improvement project, Michael brought the cans of bug spray to the checkout line and remarked that he could have made a career as a professional exterminator, but for now, he will content himself with neutralizing the enemy in his spare time. A nearby couple, noticing the cans, volunteered that hair spray or deodorant spray could make stinging insects drop like rocks.

With this new information, and now back at home, I remained indoors while Michael took to the Battle of Little Big Stinger in the backyard. Fifteen minutes and two cans later, he returned. He was exhausted, but victorious. The enemy, a lone but wily wasp had staged an impressive fight, but unfortunately had succumbed to the man and his chemicals. However, I didn’t have the heart to tell him that he didn’t get all of them, but I also didn’t want to rat out the little guys, either. Besides, they really do have their benefits.

For Shakespeare’s Hamlet, the great question was, “To be or not to be?” At our home, the question is, “Honey, do we need more bug spray?”

 Amy Foreman-Plaisance
Publisher/Editor in Chief

● Have ideas? I'd like to hear from you.

There are tons of ways to reach me. By mail: Amy P., 11831 Wentling Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70816 Email: amy@brparents.com. Be sure to include your name, address, and daytime phone number.



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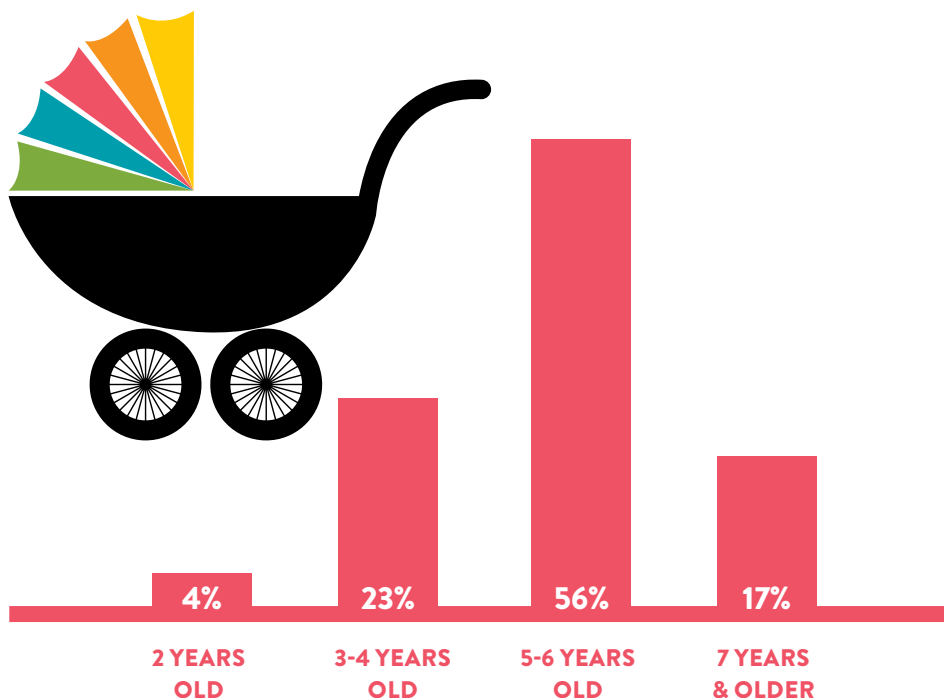
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IN EVERY ISSUE LAGNIAPPE

We Asked, You Answered **TOO OLD TO STROLL?**

How old is too old for a stroller? Is it three years old? Five years old? Or, maybe it's seven and older? While strollers are convenient for moms who are on the go and want to give their little ones a break from all of the hustle and bustle of the day, we wanted to know if there was an age when children should quit riding in the stroller. Here's what our readers said!



Tune in Next Month

What line or lesson from a book or movie has always stuck with you? Was it *Forrest Gump's* "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get," or is it *The Lion King's* "Hakuna Matata"? Whichever it may be, we want to hear from you! Your response could be in an upcoming issue. Be sure to include the line and the movie and/or book in your answer. To submit your response, visit us online at brparents.com.

“I don't think empathy is something you can drill in someone's head. You have to have faith that while your kids can seem to be selfish and concerned only about the word 'mine' sometimes, overall, they are watching you really carefully, and if you care about other people, they will too.”

—Jennifer Garner

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RELIVE WWII WEEKEND

Immerse you and your kiddos into living history. See what life was like for our troops in World War II during the Relive WWII Weekend. The event draws reenactors from across the south, who bring WWII vintage tents, equipment, jeeps, and even firearms to display. The public can see everything up close and fully functioning, providing an educational and interactive learning experience in a setting that books and museums cannot provide. This event, although free of charge to the public, is a fundraiser for the local Veterans. The event kicks off on Friday, September 14, with a WWII-themed movie in the parking lot of the Old City Hall in the Denham Springs Antique District. ■ reliveww2.com



BREASTFEEDING IN PUBLIC IS LEGAL IN ALL STATES

Breastfeeding in public is finally legal in all 50 states. The last two states to join the rest of the nation were Idaho and Ohio. The bills state that women are now permitted to “breastfeed in any place of accomodation.” They passed in both states with an overwhelming majority voting in favor of providing legal protection for mothers who make the choice to breastfeed their babies in public.

BABY SAFETY MONTH

You want nothing more than to keep your babies safe. In order to do so, you must stay informed about even the most surprising hazards. The Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests avoiding the use of an air mattress for babies because of the risk of suffocation. They also recommend placing baby monitors and their cords out of arm’s reach for babies and toddlers because of the strangulation risk. Also, be sure to check hand-me-down toys for broken parts and sharp edges. ■ cps.gov



MAKE YOUR TODDLER LAUGH

Early on, babies respond to things that look or feel funny—a silly face or raspberries on the belly. But in the toddler years, they understand more language and also have a good grasp on how the world is supposed to work—the right way to wear a pair of pants, for instance. So, if you put your child’s pants on your head or diaper the teddy bear, you’re likely to get an uproarious response. Your toddler will probably find anything that is unexpected or out of the ordinary funny.

■ kidshealth.org



MOTHER AND SON DANCE

Put on your dancing shoes and spend some one-on-one time with your son. The Mother-Son Dance, a fundraiser benefiting the new Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital, is an opportunity for moms and their sons to spend a fun-filled evening together. The night will include face painting, balloon artists, dancing contests, fun games, costumed characters, and music. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 16 at the Crowne Plaza from 4-6 p.m. ■ ololchildrens.org

BABYANDTODDLER

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP

Breastfeeding isn't easy, and sometimes we could use a little help. Join other moms just like you who are breastfeeding their little ones. Share stories and tips on what works and what doesn't with moms who are living the experience. The mother-organized Breastfeeding Support Group meetings are held on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. in the first floor classroom of Ochsner Medical Center in Baton Rouge. Support group meetings are free to attend. ■ ochsner.org

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BATON ROUGE DIAPER BANK INITIATIVE

In conjunction with National Diaper Need Awareness Week (September 24-30), the Junior League of Baton Rouge is collecting diapers for little ones in need. According to the National Diaper Bank Network, one in three families struggle to afford diapers for their babies. The Junior League of Baton Rouge's Diaper Bank is addressing this need locally by collecting and distributing diapers to local nonprofit organizations who support families in need. You can show your support and donate diapers at a barrel site, host your own diaper drive, or send diaper donations through Amazon. ■ diaperbankbr.org

TEETHING TODDLER TROUBLES

There are few things worse than seeing your child in pain, and when it comes to teething troubles, the pain can last for months. However, there are a few tricks you can try to help soothe their pain and make it through teething troubles. Teethers are a great option, but if you don't have one, try giving your little one a cold carrot or celery to chew on. Or, you can even chill a spoon in the fridge and let them enjoy the coldness on their gums. Another good option is frozen breast milk in the form of a popsicle. This can be fun for your little one and easy for him to hold.



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BATON ROUGE FASHION COUNCIL BOUTIQUE BLOWOUT SALE

Get your shop on with your friends when The Baton Rouge Fashion Council hosts the annual Boutique Blowout Sale at the Crowne Plaza on Sunday, September 30. More than 20 local boutiques will come together for one major sale with end-of-season apparel, accessories, shoes and jewelry. This event is free and open to the public from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Early access VIP shopping will start at 9 a.m. for exclusive ticket holders. ■ batonrougefashioncouncil.com



THE GALA GOES GATSBY

When's the last time you got dressed up with your special someone and enjoyed an evening on the town? Call in the babysitter and get ready to go Gatsby on Thursday, September 13 at L'Auberge Casino and Hotel at 6:30 p.m. Cancer Services has joined forces with Mary Bird Perkins Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center to launch a community bash to help raise funds. The event will give guests a unique opportunity to make a big impact for cancer patients in our community. When guests arrive, they will be transported back to the 1920s to have a roaring good time, all while supporting a great cause. ■ thegalagoes.org

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. However, we can all help prevent suicide by coming together and having those important conversations about mental health. September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and if you or someone you know is in distress, you can reach out to Crisis Intervention Center for help, even if you just need someone to talk to. Crisis Intervention Center strives to reduce emotional distress, raise hope, save lives, and improve outcomes in communities through crisis intervention and traumatic loss services. ■ cicla.org



CHILD SAFETY SEAT PROGRAM

Families in need are urged to apply for a free statewide program that provides child safety seats and education on proper installation. The program is organized by University Medical Center New Orleans and the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force. "Having a properly installed child safety seat is one of the most important things a parent can do. Child restraints are the biggest factor in protecting children in motor vehicle crashes," says Bridget Gardner, a registered nurse and coordinator of the Community Injury Prevention Program at UMC New Orleans. The deadline to register is Friday, September 28. ■ umcno.org



HALF-PRICE ADMISSION AT THE WWII MUSEUM

The National WWII Museum is showing its appreciation to local supporters by offering discounted admission to Louisiana residents. During the entire month of September, locals will have the opportunity to enjoy the Museum's exhibits and galleries for only half the price of a regular Museum Campus Pass. In order to receive the September discount, residents must present a valid Louisiana driver's license at the Museum's ticket counter. ■ nationalww2museum.org

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East Baton Rouge and Livingston Parish Library patrons can access their favorite digital magazines for free using Flipster. With Flipster, your favorite magazine is always with you. You can browse the latest editions of popular magazines such as: *American Girl*, *Entrepreneur*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *People*, and *Time* just by downloading the Flipster app and having a library card. ■ ebrpl.com or mylpl.info

YOUTH

SEPTEMBER IS CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

A cancer diagnosis is the last thing you want to hear from your doctor about your child. However, every day, 42 families in the United States will receive the devastating news. Help put an end to childhood cancer. Register or form a team to become a fearless fundraiser for the kids of St. Jude during the St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer on Saturday, September 15 in Baton Rouge. ■ stjude.org

DON'T SKIP BREAKFAST

We know you have heard it before: Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. And it's true, even if your child eats a big lunch or dinner. Getting in some grub in the morning is important because overnight, your child's sugar levels drop. If your kiddo skips breakfast, he will have a difficult time concentrating in class. Set your child up for success by making sure he has a good breakfast each and every morning. The American Academy of Pediatrics says that eating breakfast gives your child better memory, better test scores, better attention span, healthier body weights, and improved overall nutrition. ■ healthychildren.org

GIVE A CONFIDENCE BOOST

A great way to give your child's confidence a boost is to ask for her help. And one great place to do that is in the kitchen. If you ask your child for help, especially in the kitchen, her eyes will light up. Let's be honest, stirring and mixing are never not fun! Start the fun by heading to the grocery store together to get everything you need to make dinner. And when you return home, giving her jobs like stirring, sorting fruits and veggies, and wiping down the counters are perfect for her skill level. However, don't give her tasks that might be out of her reach unless you are prepared to take the time to make sure she succeeds.



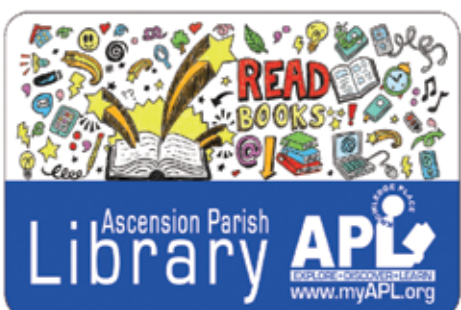
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NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Learn about birds, mammals, and fish with your kiddos while enjoying a Night at the Museum. Each “night” at the LSU Museum of Natural Science, scientists working with the featured collection will give short engaging talks about their research and then take guests on a behind the scenes tour of their focus collection. You and your children will also have the opportunity to view specimens up close and meet students who are working at the museum. The next night will be on Thursday, September 20 from 6-7:30 p.m. and will feature birds. ■ lsu.edu



HELP FROM PARENT CUE

There are approximately 936 weeks from the time your child is born until he grows up, graduates, and moves on to the next step of his life. While that may seem like a lot of time, it's not, and it will pass before you know it! Make sure you are making every week count. The Parent Cue app helps every parent do something each week to guide their child toward a deeper faith and a better future. Through Bible stories and verse, these cues offer encouragements for your child, gives you something to talk about on the way to soccer practice, and even helps for the moments that take you by surprise. ■ theparentcue.org

LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

East Baton Rouge Parish Library is joining with the American Library Association (ALA) to make sure that every student has the most important school supply of all—a free library card. Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school. With this all-access pass, you'll get free use of online databases, print books and magazines, e-books and online magazines, CDs, DVDs, streaming movies, online homework help, and Arduino kits. ■ ebrpl.com



LIVINGSTON PARISH BOOK FESTIVAL SEEKS LOCAL TALENT

Calling all authors, makers, and organizations! The Livingston Parish Library is looking for local talent to be a part of the annual Livingston Parish Book Festival. This exciting event invites families to celebrate books, literacy, music, and Livingston Parish. The book festival will be held on Saturday, October 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Main Branch in Livingston. For those not looking to participate in the event, families are encouraged to attend to enjoy a full day of food, fun, and festivities. ■ mylpl.info



FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

A new report from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) calls for stronger federal food safety requirements. Studies suggest some food additives can interfere with a child's hormones, growth, and development, and 1,000 additives are “Generally Recognized as Safe” and don't require U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval. AAP recommends limiting exposure to the chemicals by doing the following:

- Buy and serve more fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables, and fewer processed meats—especially during pregnancy.
- Since heat can cause plastics to leak BPA and phthalates into food, avoid microwaving food or beverages in plastic when possible. Also try to avoid putting plastics in the dishwasher.
- Use alternatives to plastic, such as glass or stainless steel, when possible.
- Avoid plastics with recycling codes 3 (phthalates), 6 (styrene), and 7 (bisphenols) unless they are labeled as “biobased” or “greenware.”
- Wash hands thoroughly before and after touching food and clean all fruits and vegetables that cannot be peeled.

TWEEN AND TEEN

HELP YOUR TEEN GET ORGANIZED

There's a good chance that your teen's room is a mess right now and it's likely that his backpack is in the same condition. Don't worry, you're not alone. Organizational skills are not taught in school, but teens are just like us: they are able to focus when things are in order. Help them learn how to keep school papers organized in binders by subject. Create a calendar so they can stay on top of upcoming events and non-school events. Have them make a to-do list daily and tackle the most important tasks first. While it will take some work before he finally starts doing it on his own, the pay off in the end will be well worth it.

SPECIAL SATURDAYS AT LSU

Explore the world of natural science with LSU. On Special Saturdays, LSU gives you and your teen an inside look on various topics in natural science, and invites experts from within the LSU research community to give short engaging talks accompanied by hands-on activities. All programs are free and are appropriate for children ages 5-12. The next session will be held in the exhibit area of the LSU Museum of Natural Science from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, September 15 to learn about earthquakes and The San Andreas Fault. ■ lsu.edu

HARRY POTTER EXTRAVAGANZA

Muggles! Are you ready for a bewitching time? Harry Potter fans are invited to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the publishing of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* on Saturday, September 1 at 3 p.m. at the EBR Main Library. There will be Quidditch, crafts, trivia, and prizes. There will also be a performance by the Wizard Rock Band, Tonks and the Aurors. This event is free and open to all ages. It's going to be a magical time. ■ ebrpl.com

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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON NEW PRAIRIEVILLE SCHOOL

Ascension Parish Schools recently broke ground for the new Bullion Primary School in Prairieville. Bullion will be the first of four new schools built as part of the \$120 million construction bond passed by voters in April 2016. The school, expected to cost \$14.8 million, will be built by Stuart & Co. General Contractors, and the architect is Remson Haley Herpin. The school system expects Bullion Primary to be open in fall 2019.

ONLINE HOMEWORK HELP FOR STUDENTS EXPANDED

Did you know free homework help in Louisiana is just a click away? Offering test prep; job search help; and tutoring for K-12, college, and adult education in more than 60 subjects, online resource Homework Louisiana from the State Library of Louisiana has expanded its hours and added new features. Homework Louisiana provides live tutoring via text or voice chat on Sunday through Thursday from 2 p.m. to midnight in English and Spanish and from 6-9 p.m. in Vietnamese for state residents. Many other features are available 24/7.

■ homeworkla.org



RUNNELS HOSTS STUDIO ARTS CAMP

Runnels School recently hosted a Studio Arts Camp for children ages six to nine. More than 30 campers developed their artistic skills and explored a variety of mediums and techniques including papier-mâché, collage, printmaking, mosaic, painting, drawing, storybook writing and music. In two separate sessions, campers had classes during which they developed and completed pieces to take home at each week's end. Runnels art teacher Sydney McGraw organized the camp, which included teaching artists Burgundy Brumfield, Nicole Latiolais, and musician and music educator Jennifer Cassin.



DUNHAM SENIOR SCORES PERFECT ON ACT

Luke Russell, a senior at the Dunham School, recently achieved a perfect ACT score. Only 0.1 percent of test takers earn a composite 36, the highest possible score. A leading national college admissions test, the ACT measures what students learn in high school to determine college readiness. It consists of multiple choice exams in English, math, reading and science reasoning. A student receives a score in each skill area from 1-36, and the composite score is the average.



UNIVERSITY LAB STUDENTS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FORUM

Five University Lab School students recently attended the 60th London International Youth Science Forum. Each year, 500 of the world's leading young scientists, ages 16-21, from more than 75 participating countries attend the two-week residential student event. Forum attendees tour research centers, labs and education institutions, and hear lectures on a variety of science topics while learning about other cultures. This year's theme was Science for the Future. Lanie Everett, Eryn Kennedy, Hannah Loupe, Charles McKenzie, and Olivia Vance attended with Frank Rosciano, ULS secondary principal. 2018 ULS graduate Ty Henley presented at the conference on temperature change and how it affects the American alligator.



ONE amazing kid

What started as an activity to help him gain confidence and keep himself safe turned 10-year-old **Preston Edwards** into a world champion. Preston recently won two world titles in traditional forms and weapons at the American Taekwondo Association World Championships.

Preston, who began studying Taekwondo at age six, earned his first-degree black belt in December 2017. At a competition in Little Rock, he competed against other male athletes his age and rank from around the globe. After a training break limited the number of points he could earn to qualify, Preston earned a wild card spot after placing first in several categories at the district level.

Preston's mom, Brittany Edwards, says leading up to the tournament, Preston would practice at least an hour per day at home plus Monday-Friday hour-long practices at ATA Inspired Martial Arts studio in Denham Springs with the help of his instructor, Senior Master Jason Dendy.

A fifth grader at Seventh Ward Elementary, Preston will continue to train for next year's world championship when he will rank up to the 11- to 12-year-old level. "He attained his goals so quickly that we've had to set new goals," Brittany says. "Winning three titles in a year is called a triple crown, and he'd like to do that."

Preston, Brittany and Preston's dad, Lane Edwards, travel almost every weekend for tournaments, where athletes earn points for their rankings. And we believe that Preston will continue to thrive and succeed in Taekwondo and much more because he is one amazing kid.

Do you have One Amazing Kid?
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ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

St. Joseph's Academy began its celebration of its 150th anniversary with a ribbon cutting and blessing for the new Academy Student Center on its campus. Students, faculty, staff, Sisters of St. Joseph, alumnae, members of the board of directors and invited guests, which included Bishop Robert Muench, gathered at the all-girls high school, which was founded in 1868. East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome presented academy students and alumnae with a key to the city, with Alumnae Association President Wendy Williams Lutgring and Student Body President Anna Rees Couhig accepting the gift.



KICKOFF LSU GIVES SENIORS PREMIERE CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

High school seniors can register for Kickoff LSU, a day-long campus tour experience. The first date this semester will be Saturday, September 15 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with additional dates to be scheduled in October and November. Kickoff LSU is structured around students' desired academic programs. In addition to learning about their chosen academic college, students and their families can also interact with professors, tour the campus and its state-of-the-art facilities, and meet future mentors. ■ lsu.edu/kickoff



STUDENTS REPRESENT LOUISIANA YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The 2018-19 Louisiana Youth Advisory Council (LYAC), created by state law in 2007, recently convened at the state capitol and will continue to meet every other month. The council is comprised of high school students representing the voices of Louisiana youth. Thirty-one students are appointed each year, three from each congressional district plus members at large. Students representing our area are Spencer Heitman, Catholic High; Selia Jindal, Baton Rouge Magnet High; Alexandra Thibodeaux, St. Joseph's Academy; Stephen Adjei, University Lab School; Annie Blanchard, St. Joseph's; Nydia Cooper, Ascension Catholic High; Sophie Faircloth, Denham Springs High; Caitlyn Foret, Walker High; and Torri Jackson, Dutchtown High.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Junior Achievement of Greater Baton Rouge is recruiting volunteers for its classroom financial literacy program. Volunteers help K-12 students learn about money management, career exploration, and entrepreneurship, which are key skills to help students become successful adults. Volunteers receive training, support, and easy-to-use program materials. Volunteers can often visit a school near their home or workplace, and in some cases, may be able to participate at their own child's school. ■ jabatonrouge.com



LOUISIANA SCHOOLS REBUILDING AFTER FLOOD

Ascension Public Schools recently celebrated the completion of flood restoration projects at Galvez Middle, Galvez Primary, Lake Elementary, and St. Amant High schools with ribbon cutting ceremonies. Students at these schools had been displaced since the flooding in August 2016. Livingston Parish Schools has completed repairs to 16 of its 19 damaged schools, and is marking the two-year anniversary with a "Stronger Than Ever" campaign. Denham Springs Elementary and Southside Junior High have received FEMA approval. Plans for Southside Elementary are pending FEMA approval.



RUNNELS GRAD HONORED BY BATON ROUGE EXCHANGE CLUB

Kaitlyn Roy, a Runnels School graduate, received the 2018 Accepting the Challenge of Excellence, or A.C.E., award presented by the Exchange Club of Baton Rouge at its annual banquet. Part of a national organization, the club works to make our community a better place to live through service programs. A.C.E. award winners are chosen for their scholastic achievement, community involvement and demonstration of leadership while overcoming obstacles. Kaitlyn received a \$500 scholarship, which she will use at LSU to pursue a bachelor's degree in human resources.

STATE SAVINGS PROGRAM EXPANDED FOR K-12 EXPENSES

A new state education savings account program was signed into law. START K12, the "Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve," program will allow parents, grandparents and others to save money for public and private school students' educational expenses, such as tuition, supplies and uniforms. Following federal law's expansion of education savings accounts for K-12 students, START K12 builds on START plans that allow savings for college. Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority oversees START K12 and expects it to be fully operational for 2019. ■ startsaving.la.gov



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Oppositional Defiant Disorder

Facing any diagnosis is scary, but an unfamiliar one is even more unnerving. After their children are diagnosed with Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), many parents feel lost and don't know where to begin.

ODD is trademarked by behaviors such as defiance, spitefulness, negativity, and hostility, specifically towards parents, teachers, and other authority figures. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) says that "those with ODD show a constant pattern of angry and verbally aggressive behaviors." ODD is diagnosed by a psychiatrist or qualified mental health professional by observing the child's behavior, talking to authority figures in the child's life, and receiving notes from the child's primary care physician.

In treating ODD, having a healthy relationship with your care provider is important. The AACAP shares, "Establishing a good relationship with a mental health professional is important to determine whether the child's behavior is a response to a short-lived situation or transition, just ODD, or another serious behavioral condition."

Treatments will vary and will change with your child as he changes. This is because the severity and ways that ODD presents itself in children varies. Treatment can include parent-management training and family therapy, cognitive problem solving skills training, social skills and school-based programs, and medication. Sonee Stanley, Clinical Director for The Solution for Families, says, "Some medications prescribed to treat ADHD are effective in lowering symptoms of ODD." This is because the behaviors associated with ADHD are lessened as a result of medication, and therefore therapy can have a more impactful result.

Parent-management training is one of the most successful therapies, and as a parent, it is important to remember that this training is not a critique of your parenting. It is simply training on how best to react to him, what works, and how his brain is wired. However, all of the practices encourage consistent, positive behavior from both parents and children.

Any diagnosis is scary, but with the right blend of primary care, therapy, and internal support, parents and their children can make it through. ■



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BABY-LED WEANING

By Melanie Forstall Lemoine, Ph.D.

There is nothing quite like looking at your little one when his mouth is wide open, beaming with excitement for a spoon filled with pureed bananas. This transition is an adventurous time for him as he begins to explore the culinary world around him. It can even be a milestone for you as you sharpen your skills of “choo-choo” and airplane noises to help get him to open up for a bite. However, for some families, this stage of feeding development is skipped almost entirely.

BABY-LED BASICS

While introduced in the United Kingdom roughly 10 years ago, the practice of baby-led weaning has gained traction recently for families around the world, with some supporters here in the US. Baby-led weaning is the practice of introducing solid foods to babies, largely eliminating the step of spoon feeding purees and other processed or homemade baby foods. While babies are still fed breast milk or formula until the age of one, with baby-led weaning, babies go straight to solid foods. Imagine, instead of one-on-one spoon feeding sessions, your baby joins the family at regular meal times to feast upon cooked pasta, pieces

of ripe fruits, rice, flakey fish, or cooked egg yolks.

Supporters of the practice embrace the inclusiveness that baby-led weaning provides a family during mealtime. Feeding the baby is no longer an isolated event, instead, everyone dines together at the table. Pediatric Speech Language Pathologist & Feeding Specialist, Megan Dewberry, M.A., CCC-SLP of the Baton Rouge General reports that this practice also helps babies develop healthy food habits. “Baby-led weaning families are encouraged to dine together which exposes babies to different textures and smells, and they are able explore a variety of foods.” This practice has a positive impact on baby’s other senses, too. She continues, “The baby gets to decide how much food she intakes, and gets to communicate when she is full. With baby-led weaning, babies are encouraged to pick up and grasp foods as a method of sensory exploration.”

HOW TO START

First and foremost, before you attempt this practice, it is important to discuss it with your baby’s pediatrician. Together, you can make a plan best suited for the needs of your little one. However, once a

family determines baby-led weaning is a good fit, there are specific signs to look out for that indicate when a baby is ready for solid foods.

According to Dewberry, interest is critical. “Babies are ready for solid foods when they show an interest in food and have enough core strength to sit upright.” She encourages families to watch their babies and pay attention to subtle cues. “Babies interested in food watch you closely when you eat, they look at the food you are eating, and appear as though they would like for you to share with them. Eager babies will often reach out for the food.” Introducing new foods to an uninterested baby would not be a safe or efficient feeding experience.

In order to safely introduce solid foods, a baby must have adequate core strength to sit up unassisted in a traditional high chair. Experts discourage the use of a soft Bumbo-type seat for feeding as they do not allow for the proper pelvic positioning needed for safe feeding practices.

KNOW THE RISKS

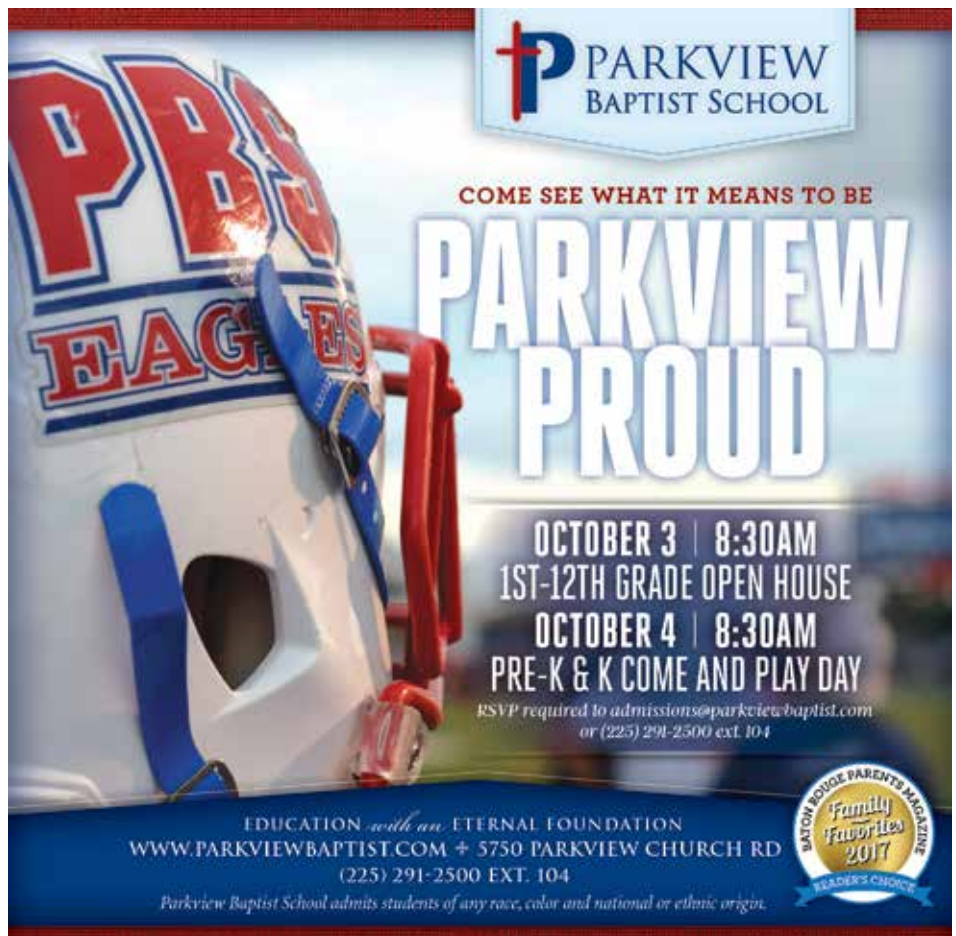
If your baby has both interest and strength, introduction of solid foods will more likely be successful. However,

as with all feeding practices, there are things to be aware of. “The idea that hand-held pieces of mushy food was a choking hazard never crossed my mind,” says local mom, Breanna Taylor. “I would encourage all mothers to check with their pediatrician to get the complete picture. Everything I read about the practice just listed the benefits.”

The greatest risks involved with this practice is exacerbated gagging and choking. Gagging is a developmentally typical occurrence for babies. “In the six- to nine-month-old baby, he or she uses oral play to manually work back the gag reflex from the front part of the tongue to further back where it will reside through adulthood,” says Dewberry. However, frequent gagging with food introduction can be problematic. “Gagging may worsen reflux, and it may also create a negative feeding experience for baby.” Dewberry, along with many Speech Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists trained in feeding practices agree that the introduction of some purees may be beneficial in easing this transition, as they aide in intrinsic tongue muscle development.

Choking hazards exist for all babies and children and should always be carefully monitored. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, foods that pose the greatest choking hazard for babies and children ages 6-12 months include raw vegetables, uncut grapes or cherry tomatoes, nuts, hot dogs, hard candy, gummy candy, and marshmallows.

The most important part of the practice is the concept of it actually being baby-led. The nuance to this approach is to listen carefully to the cues from your baby indicating interest, physical readiness, and feeding cues such as when she is full or when she is ready to try something new. Collaboration with a pediatrician is key. Keep in mind that this is not a one-size-fits-all approach and may not be suited for all babies. What’s most important is that feeding is a positive experience for babies. Taylor stresses the importance of letting your baby lead, “I never forced him to eat, it was only if he was willing.” ■



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Dose of the Coast

By Madeline Rathle

Ashley Ferguson and her brothers grew up spending their weekends on the water. Their father shared his passion for fishing with them, taking them out in the boat and enjoying days relaxing under the sun.

In 2014, her father was diagnosed with liver cancer and began chemotherapy. He became weak, making it difficult for him to take care of his boat, and eventually, he sold it. “It was heartbreaking to watch my dad watch that boat be trailered away,” Ferguson says.

For her dad’s birthday, Ferguson and her husband, Adam, took her father on a chartered fishing trip out of Empire, Louisiana. Captain Mark Trahan was able to take them out on calm water with shade available, and they spent a nice October morning catching redfish and speckled trout in Bay Adams.

A year later, her father was placed on hospice. “Two days before he passed

away, he thanked me for our fishing trip,” Ferguson says. “My dad had fished all over the world and caught all kinds of cool fish, but he was remembering the trout and redfish he caught that day in Empire. I think it was because it was his last trip, during a time when he was depressed, and it was with his family.”

Ferguson was inspired to help other people experience what her father did: a worry-free day on the boat with loved ones at their side. In 2017, she founded Dose of the Coast, an organization that brightens the lives of individuals impacted by life-altering illnesses by taking them on sunset cruises and fishing and sailing trips. Adam Ferguson’s friend, who worked at Our Lady of the Lake, loved the idea and offered them funds to begin their work.

“I wanted to give other people who are going through what my family went through a chance to have a good day out on the water. I want them to have something to look forward to other than a doctor’s appointment,” she says.

Baton Rouge’s Our Lady of the Lake

Cancer Center supports the organization’s mission by putting its patients and their families in contact with the program and by providing volunteer services.

Dr. Francinne Lawrence manages the Survivorship and Integrative Medicine Program at the Cancer Center and appreciates the work Dose of the Coast does in the community. She recalls the wife of one participant approaching her after a chartered fishing trip with their grandchildren. The woman, with tears in her eyes, thanked everyone for giving her husband, who had been battling cancer, a chance to forget about the disease for a few hours and experience life as he had before his diagnosis.

“It is very moving to watch patients who you have followed through tough, sad days, when

they were afraid and sometimes in pain from treatment, and see them laughing with joyful light in their eyes and a large fish in their hand,” Dr. Lawrence says.

Dr. Lawrence’s experiences illustrate why Ferguson is motivated to continue her work and cultivate Dose of the Coast into the future. She loves seeing big smiles and hearing stories when her participants, or VIPs, get off the boat after their trip. “Many tell me they thought they already went on their last fishing trip. The VIPs keep me motivated. They are some of the most courageous people I have met,” she says.

Since its beginning, Dose of the Coast has proven its ability to make a difference. From ages 1-87, countless community members have been impacted by the positive influence of taking a break from tough times to appreciate all of the good things in life.

Ferguson shares, “Dose of the Coast has allowed me to witness kindness and generosity. It has put me face-to-face with the fact that life is short. What matters most is enjoying life with family and friends.” ■



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Blair Guillaume

By Amanda Miller

OCCUPATION | Dietitian, Golden Girls Instructor, and Dance Teacher for the LSU Dance Department and Tari's School of Dance

HUSBAND | Rhaoul

CHILDREN | Suzanne or "Susu," 16 months old

HOBBIES | Dancing, cooking, and all things health and fitness

Dance has been a part of Blair Guillaume's life since she was three years old, and still today, it holds a special place. From the football field to the dance studio, Blair has tapped into her creative side and her dietitian background through choreographing routines for young dancers and the Saintsations and even now through working with LSU's Golden Girls and teaching them how to live healthier lives. Through every step of life, Blair serves as a bright guiding light to her dancers and her family.



Photo Credit: Alisha Hudman Photography

What's the greatest thing about being a mom?

B: Susu is a sweet girl so everything is great. I enjoy cooking for her and feeding her. She's a good and adventurous eater.

What's her personality like?

B: She's friendly and happy, and she likes to dance. She's not great at sleeping, but we're getting better. She has a good vocabulary. Her first and second words were "Mama" and "Dada," but she also says "apple," "umbrella," and "alligator."

How has parenthood changed you?

B: I am less scheduled, more laidback, and more selfless. A little sleep deprived, but I laugh a lot more now. When you're choreographing, you're by yourself. Now I have this funny little sidekick with me 24/7.

What's the best part of being the Golden Girls Instructor?

B: I feel as though I am more of a director. The captains are doing the choreography and I come in at the end to give everything a second look. I do try to help them live a healthy lifestyle while they are in college. Dancers have a body focus so I want to help prevent unhealthy food relationships.

What advice do you give them?

B: To enjoy it as much as they can and to take it all slowly. I'm a big proponent of helping them with healthy, realistic eating. I hope that if they learn this early, they will be able to pass it on.

How is it raising a little one with such a busy schedule?

B: It's getting easier and easier. Before, it wasn't so much the leaving her because I wasn't gone very long. The hard part was the coordination and the scheduling. Luckily, everything comes one at a time, so it will be easier and less stressful now.

Favorite part of game day?

B: When I was a Golden Girl, I enjoyed the game and performing. Now, I get to help shape the girls' experiences and make sure they are loving it as much as I did.

Best parenting advice you have received?

B: I'm very Type A. My husband would say that I am Type A+, but you have to let go and let things happen. Susu is teaching me to be less Type A.

Do you hope your daughter will love dance?

B: I do. I can't imagine that she won't because she is around it and will be around it. If she doesn't, we will just have to find something else that has that physical and artistic component.

What has dancing taught you about yourself?

B: It has taught me dedication and that there's always room to grow. It doesn't come easy and it takes time to work on technique. It's a long,

growing process. I want to instill that same work ethic and passion within the girls.

What personality trait of yours do you hope your daughter gets?

B: I'm a very loyal friend, employee, and family member so I hope she develops that. I also hope she gets my healthy lifestyle.

Is there anything you learned through dance that you can apply to parenting?

B: To not give up and get discouraged. I didn't make Golden Girls the first time I tried out and that could have been the end of dance for me, but if it's something you want, keep at it.

What has been your favorite job so far?

B: Teaching at Tari's. I get the same kids every time so I see the long term progression. I can get to know them better.

How can parents help their children live healthier lives?

B: Expose them to different flavors and reintroduce them to foods even if they didn't like them before.

What's your favorite dish to make for your family?

B: I make a lot of Asian-flavored food. Anything with ginger, soy sauce, and bok choy. My husband jokes that Susu is probably the only baby in America eating bok choy.

Do you have any advice for other parents?

B: From a food perspective, just setting them up with good health is so important. Giving them that healthy foundation is helpful longterm. ■

Quick Q&A

The parenting item I couldn't live without... the noise machine in Susu's room.

In my fridge, you will always find... a lot of vegetables and eggs.

Favorite movie growing up... *The Sound of Music*.

My guilty pleasure is... dark chocolate.

Music I'm loving... instrumental music, whatever I am choreographing, and "Elmo's Song."



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2017-18 Cover Kid Emma P.
Photo Credit: Alisha Hudman Photography

Changing Misconceptions

By Madeline Rathle

You might catch spunky and energetic Emma Grace Pizer playing with her baby dolls and mimicking her parents caring for her little sister, Anniston. Other times, she is riding in her older brother, Nolan's, toy dune buggy with a bright smile on her face as she yells, "Again, again!"

At three years old, Emma Grace never slows down, playing with siblings and friends and dancing or practicing gymnastics. The only difference between Emma Grace and her best friend, Bailey, is that Emma Grace has Down Syndrome.

Sarah Pizer, Emma Grace's mother, says the day Emma Grace was born was a giant blur. "One minute, she was being placed on my chest by the doctor proclaiming, 'It's a girl,' and the next, the nurse was requesting the neonatologist to come assess her," Pizer says. "I remember, despite the revolving door of medical staff and family, just holding her and looking at her and thinking, 'This can't be true. How

could we have not known? What will her future look like?'" Despite these initial, and sometimes continuing questions, Emma Grace proves every day that she is strong and courageous.

Pizer explains that while Emma Grace may not meet the traditional milestones at the same time her peers do, she will eventually meet them. Emma Grace simply goes at her own pace and brings her loving personality to everyone around her.

Early Steps therapy greatly contributed to Emma Grace's success. At three months old, they began helping her get on a track for success and push her to do more. She began walking by the age of two, scooting around until she was ready. She expresses herself charismatically and interacts effectively with those around her.

Nolan also plays a role in helping Emma Grace learn and grow. Pizer says Nolan pushes Emma Grace to keep up with him while playing, so she is encouraged to go above and beyond.

"She has the ability to bridge the gap between 'average' children and children with disabilities," Pizer says. "To her family and friends, Emma Grace is a typical three-year-old little girl." This is especially true between Emma Grace and Bailey, Pizer says.

"We love to watch them play together because it is not a 'normal kid' and a 'special needs kid' playing together," Pizer says. "It's just two friends who are playing and interacting together. For Bailey, Emma Grace is just her friend, and there are no differences or barriers that impede their love for each other."

However, many people have misconceptions about Down Syndrome and don't understand the disease. Pizer says people with Down Syndrome may have speech, motor, and cognitive delays but can still achieve any goal they put their mind to.

"We struggle with people having a preconceived idea about her before they get to know her as a fun and lovable little girl instead of just a little girl with Down Syndrome," Pizer says. "She has the same wants and needs as her peers, but she has a different way of expressing them."

Emma Grace also participates in Beyond Gymnastics, a gymnastics program that caters to individuals with disabilities or special needs. "The owners and instructors have created this amazing program for kids with special needs to be able to participate in activities and have the same opportunities as their peers," Pizer says.

Emma Grace is a beautiful illustration of the compassion and perseverance within the Down Syndrome community, as she never meets a stranger and is always the first person to say hello.

"She has definitely made us better parents," Pizer says. "We are more patient, understanding, and compassionate, and I believe her siblings will grow up with the same principles she has taught us." ■

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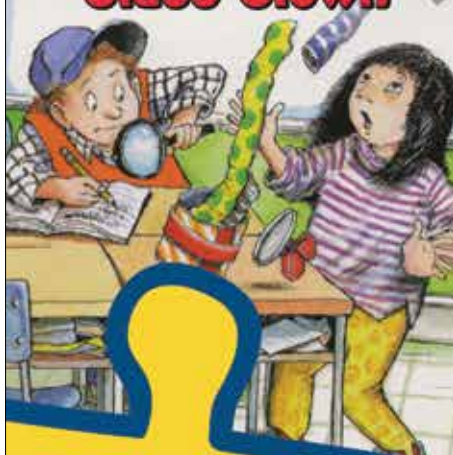
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LIVE FAITH

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Knowing God's Strength in Weakness

By Jillian Armstrong, Pastor at Antioch Community Church

I don't know about you, but sometimes when thinking about people in the Bible, I can get overwhelmed by the thought that I could never live up to the "heroes of the faith." As kids, we only learn the children's story version, but when we take a closer look at the lives of people like Abraham, Moses, and David, we see that they are actually imperfect and flawed, people who lied, committed sexual sin, and even murder. God doesn't give us unattainable examples, instead, He chooses to partner with people who say "Yes" to Him despite their overwhelming weaknesses. He uses their willingness to obey, and in His faithfulness, He accomplishes far more through them than they ever could on their own.

I try so hard to be a patient and loving mom to my little girls. But I'll be honest, there are a lot of days when I fall short. Days when I've raised my voice or been distracted, days when I feel lazy or allow stress to steal my joy. I experience a sense of guilt and shame in these moments, wondering how I can pull myself out, or on harder days, wanting to escape. This is when I have to remind myself that: "It's not all on me." God didn't create me to carry the load of life on my own. In fact, it's just the opposite. He created me to experience His continual faithfulness and love by coming to Him with my failures and leaning into His strength to supply all my needs. Psalm 86:15 says: "But you, Oh Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." When I know this truth, I can leave the guilt and shame over my shortcomings behind and pursue a place of peace, knowing that each day is an opportunity to walk in grace from God. As God's love is my foundation, I can extend that same love and mercy to my children, my husband, and everyone in my life, praying that they will also experience knowing God's strength in their weaknesses. ■

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ANNOUNCING THE

It was an exciting and eventful day at The Cover Kid Event & Shopping Extravaganza. With the help of our incredible judges, we were able to find 44 stars who will appear within the pages or on the cover of *Baton Rouge Parents Magazine* over the next year. The 2018-19 Cover Kids will also serve as ambassadors for the magazine.

These happy, smiling faces each showcased what makes them so incredible, and we are so excited to work with them this year. Now, without further ado, here are the 2018-19 Cover Kids. Congratulations, everyone!

2-3 YEARS



Aadon A.



Bryce C.



Juliana C.



Aayush D.



Gauge F.



Joey F.



Peyton L.



Lenlee N.



Ayden J.



Rhys J.



Kadynce K.



Solei L.



Tripp M.



Nash N.



Mellia E.



Jackson H.



Wesley H.



Adriana L.



Joel L.



Ryder P.

2018-19 COVER KIDS

4-5 YEARS



Evelyn D.



Jordan J.



Lynnix J.



Preslynn M.



Gia N.



Andrew A.

6-8 YEARS



Jacques S.



Avery V.



Lola W.



Tatiyana A.



Tyler B.



Ethan C.

9-11 YEARS



Khalyia R.



Sam W.



Ava B.



Kylie B.



Antonio C.



Laila E.

12-17 YEARS



Calleigh B.



Joel B.



Melvin B.



Kylee H.



Miranda P.



Bryanna R.

MEET THE JUDGES



NIKKI FARGAS

Nikki Fargas is in her eighth season at LSU, serving as the Women's Basketball Head Coach. In 10 seasons as head coach at both UCLA and LSU, Nikki owns an impressive 608-195 record as a player, graduate assistant, assistant coach, and head coach. Nikki has been selected multiple times by the USA Women's Basketball Committee to serve as an assistant coach for USA National Teams. She became the first coach in LSU history to serve on a USA U18 team staff, and she's the only coach in LSU history to claim multiple USA gold medals during her tenure as Lady Tiger head coach. Nikki and her husband, Justin, are the proud parents of a daughter, Justice.



KAREN ROY

Karen Roy is Ms. Wheelchair America 2019. Karen was the victim of an armed robbery during her sophomore year at LSU which resulted in a gunshot wound to the back, causing a T10 complete spinal cord injury. However, she didn't let it slow her down. Her proudest achievement is that she had three kids after sustaining her injury. Caroline, Austin and Joseph are all now in college, and they are the joy of her life. Karen plans to travel the country, advocating about the medical and psychological benefits of standing devices, functional electrical stimulation, and technology created to keep people healthy and active. Karen's passion is the health and wellness of people with disabilities where she plans to "stand up" for the rights of the disabled to have access to the rehabilitation they need and deserve.



JESSICA CARTER

Jessica Carter is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is a former cheer and dance teacher for BREC and a former dance coach of the national award winning dance team, XLR8 Allstars. Most notably, Jessica is the former Miss Black East Baton Rouge, former Miss Jr. Jewel of Baton Rouge, former Miss Jr. Teen Baton Rouge, and the former USA National Miss Baton Rouge. She was first runner up in Miss Teen Louisiana and first runner up Miss Black Louisiana USA. Jessica is currently USA Nationals Miss Louisiana 2018 and Founder of Pretty Girls Rock, an outreach platform that serves young girls in Louisiana communities. She is also a National Ambassador for CROWN CARES, a national campaign against bullying in schools. Jessica enjoys being active in her community and being a mentor.

REBECCA BELLELO

A National Certified Teacher of Piano, Rebecca C. Bellelo holds a Ph.D. in music from LSU, and a Master of Music degree in Piano Pedagogy from LSU. Rebecca founded the piano academy, Piano Pathways LLC, with the goal to offer the Baton Rouge community a music studio for students of any age and interest to learn to play piano. Rebecca serves on the MTNA Pedagogy Saturday RMM Track planning committee, and has served as an active clinician and presenter at several state and national conferences. Rebecca has taught group piano and piano pedagogy at Southeastern Louisiana University, and has also taught elementary general music at Central Intermediate School.

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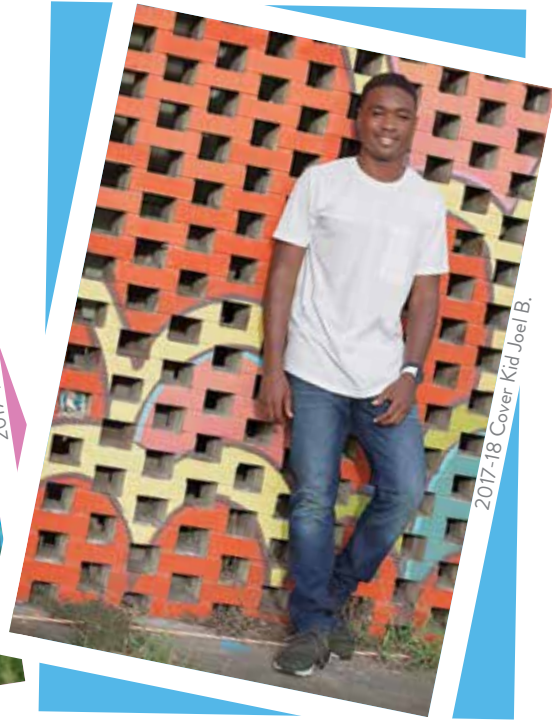
By Jannean Dixon, M.Ed.



2017-18 Cover Kid Chelsea W.



2017-18 Cover Kid Hanah H.



2017-18 Cover Kid Joel B.

Photo credit: Alisha Hudman Photography

My home is full of original artwork, signed by the artist, beautifully framed and prominently displayed. I'm no art connoisseur, but I think the pieces are marvelous. So does my daughter, who is the artistic director of our home and the artist of most of the pieces in our exhibit.

While our exhibit resides in our home, it's certainly not the only one in Baton Rouge. Baton Rouge is practically bursting at the seams with artistic outlets. With an endless amount of musical and theatre performances going on around town, opportunities to be a part of art exhibits, and dance companies everywhere, it's no surprise that Baton Rouge is an artistic place to raise a child.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

There is a wealth of data indicating that involvement in the arts leads to a variety

of benefits. Molly Buchmann with Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre, shares, "Art helps kids find out who they are, not who we want them to be. Art improves children's abilities to problem solve and create. It helps children develop self-confidence by showing children the value in art and in themselves. Art brings happiness, and for some, it changes their lives. The arts put us in touch with our humanity."

Children who participate in the arts develop and use cognitive and emotional skills simultaneously. The physical actions of the arts can aid in both fine and gross motor development and coordination.

Katie Goodlife, owner of Throw Me Something, a local art and pottery studio, shares, "For many kids, art is the only way they are able to express their feelings." For children who are introverted, art gives them an opportunity

to really let their feelings out. Art is so important for some children that child therapist Tara Dixon of Heal Your Life Counseling uses art therapy with her young clients. "Art therapy helps children connect with and express feelings they may otherwise keep inside."

WHERE DO I BEGIN?

With so many opportunities to participate in the arts in Baton Rouge, how can you help your children choose what works best for them? Doug Gay at The Real School of Music suggests starting with other parents. "Starting in a place with people you personally know and trust, who are raving about it, is the best way to begin." He continues, "I also recommend contacting the arts learning centers and getting a feel for everything from how they answer the phone to how they describe their programs. Listen for the



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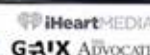
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passion in their voice.”

Buchmann points out, “Different arts can build different skills. In performance art, like dancing or playing in an orchestra for a performance, children build skills for teamwork, dependability, and looking at both small details and the larger picture. With arts such as painting or sculpting, students will learn perseverance, diligence, and an eye for detail. All art lends itself to symbolism and evoke emotion.”

WHAT DO THE KIDS THINK?

For most children, participating in the arts allows them to express themselves, giving them an opportunity to learn new things and meet new people.

Jessica Wilson, who has been heavily involved in the arts since she was a small child shares, “Having been involved with the arts for most of my life, they shaped me into the person I am today. Piano lessons and singing in choir helped to foster my passion for music, which I turn to in any special occasion or any mood.

Acting classes and performing on stage instilled a confidence in me that I don’t know I would have gained anywhere else. As an adult, most of my friendships have been made through the theater. The arts have given me everything, and I will be eternally grateful.”

Encouraging children to have the arts be a part of their lives is important. It allows them to tap into their creative side. Local mom Bridgit Didier comments, “Lola is a naturally creative soul. It is in her DNA from her dad, not me whatsoever. We learned early on how important it was to not only allow Lola to be creative, but to also nurture it. We have tried to put Lola in situations and environments that give her access to arts, whether it be at school, local camps, or community activities. Giving her access to creativity feeds her soul.”

WANT TO TRY BEFORE YOU BUY?

Several artistic outlets in Baton Rouge offer a try-before-you-buy approach. If your budding artist is interested in

dance classes, reach out to The Dancer’s Workshop for a sample class. If music is more his jam, call The Real School of Music, whose mission is to empower children through music.

One of our family’s favorite pastimes is strolling through the LSU Museum of Art on Free First Sunday and talking to our kids about what they see. While I am no artist, I can still ask questions like: “How does this painting make you feel?” “What is your favorite piece of art in this gallery?” “If you had to live inside one of these paintings, which would you choose?” “If we could take one of these sculptures home, which would you choose? Why?”

From this, we learned that our oldest wanted to take oil pastels class and the little one wanted to try a mommy and me painting class. Whatever you decide to let your child try, be sure to focus not on the actual piece that they have created or participated in, but the passion and creativity that fueled their creation and production. ■



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Homeless Children in Our Schools

By Joy Holden and Daniel Eiland

For many in Baton Rouge, this past month has been one of reflection and remembrance. Remembering things lost, the pain of our friends and families, and the stress of finding normalcy while recovering from the Great Flood of 2016.

As a public school teacher at Woodlawn High School, this time of year holds not only my own memories, but also the sorrow and loss experienced by many of my students during that time. My students not only lost all of their possessions, but they were set adrift—having to live with friends and family or move into hotels or mobile homes while their homes were being repaired. Some had to move parishes away and weren't sure of where they would end up, in either home or school.

Many would not call this experience being homeless. When people often think of the homeless population in Baton Rouge, they imagine life-

worn people holding signs at busy intersections or living in the growing tent cities underneath the interstates. Although these are a very visible form of homelessness, they are only a small fraction of its face. Many others, especially women and children, live in a state of transition; moving from one place to another, yet they are not part of the visible homeless population. This describes the lives of many of my students—some for a year or more.

Last month, thousands of children donned their school uniforms and made their way by bus, car, bike, and on foot to another year in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. They learned policies and procedures, picked up textbooks and supplies, and ate a meal in their school cafeteria. Most left at the end of the day and headed home to get a snack and get started on their homework. However, four percent of those students are homeless, and they weren't sure

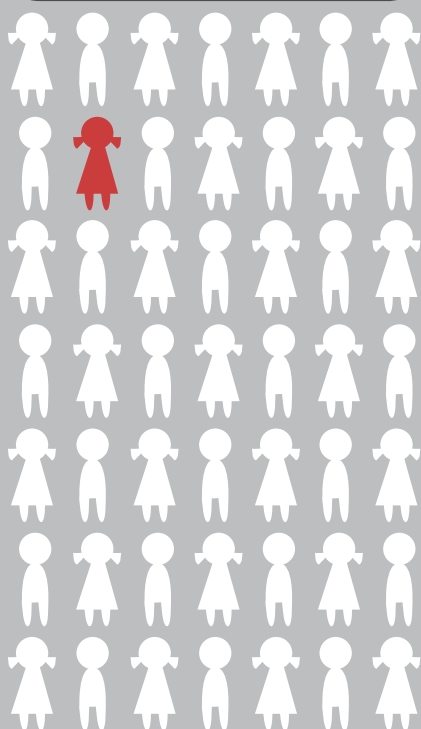
where they were returning home to.

For these families, beginning the school year each year presents many obstacles. If the parents do not have required paperwork for enrollment, how can their children go to school? If the family has to relocate to a new district over the summer, where will the kids be enrolled? And, how can the family purchase uniforms and school supplies when they can't afford it?

Though the struggle may seem insurmountable, there are resources available for families. "Students who lack a regular, fixed, adequate nighttime residence are classified as homeless," says Jodi Lemon, Coordinator of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System (EBRPSS) Homeless Program. "We follow the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act." This federal act sets out educational rights and responsibilities to children and youth experiencing homelessness. The Louisiana Department



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of Education (LDOE) utilizes McKinney-Vento to fund subgrants to local education agencies (LEAs) that provide services to students who are experiencing homelessness.

Through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, homeless children can receive the support they need to succeed. State Homeless Coordinator Dr. Antiqua Hunter explains her role in helping reduce barriers to education for students experiencing homelessness, "It is my role to train all LEAs (regular and charter public schools) on the provisions of the Act, which ensure that all students are enrolled immediately in schools, that students stay in school, and that students have the opportunity for success in schools. Each LEA has a Homeless Liaison in their school district who acts as an advocate for families who need help."

Homeless situations include: sharing the housing of other persons; living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds as temporary housing; living in emergency or transitional shelters or are abandoned in hospitals; staying in a public or private place not designed for or used as a regular sleeping accommodation; or living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings. Lemon explains, "A family may be evicted so they're living with another family member for a short period of time. That's not a fixed situation because that family could tell them they have to go at any moment. We have a lot of families and students who live in shelters. Some of our population reside in hotels or motels. Our older kids are called unaccompanied youth. Maybe they've been kicked out, have run away or are fleeing certain situations. They may be sleeping on a friends' sofa." These situations are unstable, yet should never prevent children from being in school.

"McKinney-Vento students must be given equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as is provided to other children and youth," shares Dr. Hunter.

FACING A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

The start of a new school year brings a long list of things to do to assure children have the best beginning. Homeless families face added stressors. Lemon says, "Parents want their children to have school stability. They're worried they won't be able to have that. Our office helps them with enrollment, uniforms, and school supplies." The EBRPSS Homeless Program works to keep homeless students in their school of origin, the school they were attending prior to being homeless. When students know they are going back to "their" school, they have something to look forward to even if their homelife is in flux. "When they come through us, we provide transportation for those students so they can go to the same school. Friends are everything for children. Even if the home situation is not stable, at least school is stable, where they have the same teachers and principal. It means so much for children to be known," Lemon says.

Dr. Hunter agrees, "According to the National Center for Homeless Education, because of the challenging living situations of students experiencing homelessness, school is usually one of the only possibilities for them to experience stability, interact with caring adults or mentors, continue positive peer relationships, gain academic support, and have access to regular meals. Enrolling children and youth experiencing homelessness in school, and ensuring their ability to take part fully in school, caters to the need for security when their lives are uncertain and inconsistent."

EFFECTS OF HOMELESSNESS ON STUDENTS

Because students in transition may be worried where they will be sleeping that night or if they will be kicked out again, they can be distracted at school and also neglect homework. "We try to work with the teachers on being understanding in those situations," Lemon shares. "If the housing situation isn't adequate, and the student doesn't have running water or lights, homework may not be a major concern. A lot of times, it does affect their

RECOMMENDED READS

Still a Family: A Story about Homelessness
by Brenda Reeves Sturgis

A family has lost their home and must live in a shelter. Even worse, due to a common shelter policy, her dad must live in a men's shelter, separated from her. Despite these circumstances, the family still finds time to be together.

The Family Under the Bridge by Natalie Savage Carlson

Armand relished his solitary life on the streets. He begged and did odd jobs for money. Then one day, a struggling family walked into his life. Though he tried to ignore their troubles, Armand soon found himself caring for them.

Shoebox Sam by Mary Brigid Barrett
Delia and Jessie spend Saturdays with Shoebox Sam, who teaches them about making old shoes new again and helping those in need.

The Lunch Thief by Anne C. Bromley
Rafael notices the new kid stealing lunches (including his), and uses his mom's advice to use his voice and not his fists to resolve the problem.

December by Eve Bunting
Simon and his mom live in the tiny cardboard house they've built. On Christmas Eve, they don't have much, but it's more than the woman who comes knocking on their door has.

Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting
A young boy talks about his and his father's lives living in an airport, and has hope for himself when he sees a trapped bird find freedom.

The Lady in the Box by Ann McGovern
When two siblings discover a homeless woman living in their neighborhood, they discover how easy it can be to make a difference in someone's life.

The Can Man by Laura E. Williams
Tim's family is poor, but he really wants a skateboard. When he sees Mr. Peters, "The Can Man," who is homeless, collecting cans, Tim gets the idea to collect cans also. Tim really wants that skateboard, but a couple of encounters with Mr. Peters gives him pause about what to do with the money he's earned.

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Two drawings:
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Fun Run-Saturday, Sept. 29 - 7:45 a.m.
Half mile run and 2 mile run/walk

**Mini-pot Jambalaya
Cooking Contest**
Saturday, Oct. 6 - 9:00 a.m.

school work. If we see their attendance is a little off, we contact the parents and the school. If we see their grades are dropping, we ask the parent if it's okay if we talk to the teacher so they can know what's going on."

The Homeless Program also trains administrators and faculty to look for signs of homelessness among their students. Lemon says the program depends on school faculty to tell them about the kids who need help. "If you have a child coming to your class and you notice they are extra hungry or looking extra sleepy, we want to know. A referral can come from anybody."

Such housing insecurity wears on children, especially when they must switch schools often. In fact, an expert panel report from Loyola University found that students who switch schools suffer psychologically, socially, academically, are more likely to repeat grades, and will have lower math/reading scores.

"Parents think if they don't have a proof of residence or social security card or birth certificate, and they're told that they can't enroll in school, then that's the end. I want people to know that even without those documents, we can help, you can still enroll in school. They still have the right to be in school until you get all of those things," says Lemon. For homeless parents who need assistance enrolling children in schools, they can call the Homeless Program. Once a student is identified as homeless, the Homeless Program will check on them throughout the year, even if the family finds permanent housing. The program staff goes to the schools, checks in with the students, and talks to them one on one to make sure that everything's going okay. They provide that extra emotional support.

BARRIERS IN BATON ROUGE

Though homelessness is a problem in most places, in Baton Rouge, there aren't many resources for the homeless. According to Dr. Hunter, "The lack of affordable housing, lack of transportation, lack of jobs with sufficient wages, and the large amount of poverty in Baton

Rouge are major concerns for families experiencing homelessness.” Shelters in Baton Rouge are lacking for families. Lemon explains, “Especially if you have a family and they have teenage boys, they can’t go to shelters because they will not accept boys over a certain age. We need more family resources.”

WAYS TO SUPPORT THESE CHILDREN

Children are never at fault for their living situation. Homelessness can happen very quickly. “You can easily go from two incomes to one income. Life happens. Adjustments have to be made at any moment. We are all a few paychecks away from being in a situation where you have to make hard decisions,” says Lemon.

Residents of Baton Rouge can contribute to helping these kids. Dr. Hunter recommends volunteering at shelters or tutoring programs, participating in mentorship programs, supporting food banks, and donating uniforms, hygiene products, and school supplies. You can also make monetary donations to the school system to give opportunities for students to take part in extracurricular activities. Lemon adds that the Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless is also a good place to donate because the donations “all circle back to our kids.”

Lemon reminds us to be “more sensitive and compassionate to the needs of others.” We never really know what other people are going through, and offering help can mean the world.

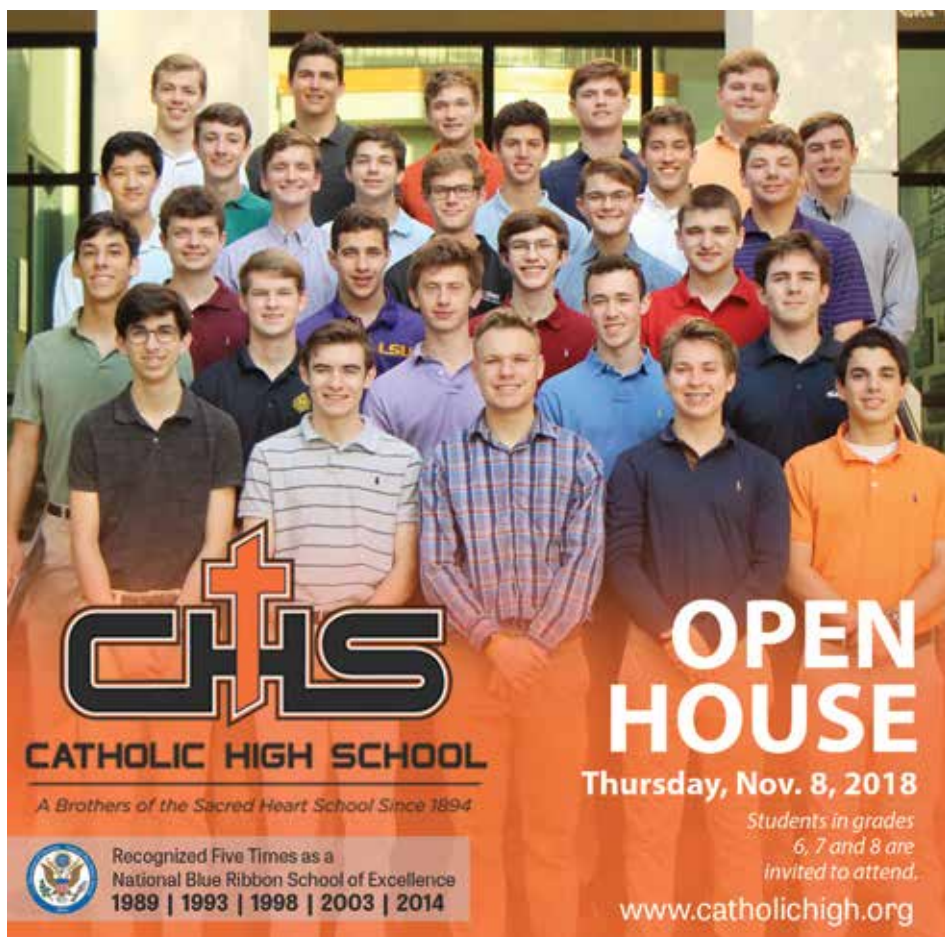
McKinney-Vento programs impact students experiencing homelessness by giving guidance and regulations to ensure that they receive a quality education that can lead to a better life. ■

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

EBR Parish School System Homeless Program (225) 239-7864

LA Dept. of Education Homeless Hotline at (844) 533-4187

louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/school-policy





I'm Done with Slime

By Brandon Foreman

Anyone else with me? I feel like if I go into my daughter's room, there is another tub of slime made every day. I mean, I have never even seen her make it, it just keeps multiplying. I haven't even bought a single ingredient for this stuff, but yet, it keeps appearing in my house. I have tried to hide it. I have tried to ban it. I just cannot get rid of it, and for the record, if you can't tell, I hate it.

What's the point? I want to know the backstory on who came up with this. Was it the glue guys or the contact solution guys? Every time I go to the store with my daughter, there is a need for one of those two things even though there are 50 tubs of it in her room. When I finally get control of the mess, there is some other parent having a party and giving it away (because I really need more at my house). So, I just need to know when this phase is going to end.

So, the second half of this is: If we, as parents, don't get together and make a pact now to never speak of this slime again, we will be forced to relive it again. As the writer and philosopher George Santayana said: "Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it." What I mean by that is: All of us parents who have younger kids, who have not started making it yet, will soon get to the age where they want to make it. We must ban together to get rid of this mess once and for all.

The question is: How do we get rid of it? I think I have a plan, but again, we all have to get onboard. Step 1: Slowly get rid of all the slime in the house. Step 2: Agree to never make it at parties or sleepovers to send home with the other children. Finally, Step 3: Anytime a child talks about slime, we must all say that it turns out that "slime is not safe." Now, this may not be 100 percent true, but it is true that it is not safe for my carpet or my sanity, so I'm okay with a little white lie. That's it! All the slime will be gone, and this can be over. Let me know if you have a better plan as I am open to anything. ■

STAY CONNECTED

If you would like to read more of Brandon's adventures from A Day in the Life of Dad, visit us online at brparents.com.

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FROM THE MOUTHS OF DADS

“They're like little mirrors running around. They show you things about yourself you wouldn't pay attention to before.”

—Channing Tatum

PIC OF THE MONTH



Ben S. and his kiddos Andi, Grady, and Olli Kate know that there's nothing quite like a kid sandwich at the end of the day.



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To beat the heat, stop by SweetBerries for a unique sweet treat. Try a frozen custard or concrete in either chocolate, vanilla, or the special flavor of the day. There's even fresh sandwiches, salads, and fruit spreads if you're in the mood for a different taste. Local favorites include the potato salad and the Cuban Sandwich, and if your furry family members are traveling with you, SweetBerries has a dog-friendly outdoor patio with bowls and treats.

■ sweetberries.com

4Rivers Smokehouse

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For award-winning barbeque at a family-owned restaurant, this is sure to hit the spot. This Smokehouse offers a new Floridian twist on southern classic barbeque. If classics are what you're hoping for, you can't go wrong with the brisket or pulled pork sandwich. If you're looking for more adventurous flavors, try the Brontosaurus Beef Rib or smoked jalapenos.

■ 4rssmokehouse.com



THINGS TO DO

Set up like a small neighborhood, **INK (Interactive Neighborhood for Kids)** is a children's museum that gives kids the chance to explore places you would typically see in a city. Children can experience the inner workings of a real airplane; climb aboard a real fire truck; be a pretend doctor, nurse, or patient in the INK Medical Clinic; interact with a magical talking coin; or even become a hair stylist at the beauty salon. ■ inkfun.org

Elachee Nature Center strives to put children and families back outdoors. With live animal exhibits featuring reptiles, amphibians, and beehives, there's plenty to see and explore. Pack a lunch for a picnic while allowing your children to run for as long as their hearts desire, or go for a hike on the Storybook Trail that's designed with the little ones in mind. ■ elachee.org

Take a walk through the entire solar system at the **Gainesville Solar Walk**. The walk is just under a mile and not only features a statue representing each planet, but a few stars from our neighborhood around the sun as well. You'll be sure to experience the true size of the solar system in a beautifully designed way. ■ visitgainesville.com

Interact with robotic animals at the Robot Zoo in **Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention**. The Robot Zoo helps kids learn how real animals work through robotics. The museum even has Creative and Fab Labs to show kids real science in action, and lets them do some hands-on activities. ■ cademuseum.org

Cool off in Gainesville's largest spring at **Poe Springs Park** on the banks of the Santa Fe River. The shallow water and low crowd numbers make this park kid friendly. The park also has a playground, ball fields, nature trails, and water activities. For your more experienced swimmers, there's even a 25-foot deep cave to explore. ■ visitgainesville.com

For a one-of-a-kind adventure, visit Gainesville's only tree-climbing service, **Canopy Climbers**. They offer group tree-climbing events, as well as instruction for those who want to safely climb trees on their own. ■ canopyclimbers.com

Before the last bit of warm weather slips away, head on out for a day of water fun at **Lake Sidney Lanier**. You and your kiddos can enjoy a full day of water sports including fishing, kayaking, canoeing, boating, and water skiing. You can even pack your bikes and go for a family ride. ■ gainesville.org

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Jús Turmeric Juice does so much more than quench your thirst, it's also a great way to give your body an overdue tune up. With navigating between work, your child's after-school activities, and everything in between, now is a great time to gulp some down. It contains minerals and vitamins to protect cells and kick up the immune system. ■ jusbyjulie.com



Looking for the perfect shade of red in a lip color? **Kosâs Electra** is not only the shade you are looking for, it's also a weightless lip color made with organic oils, botanical extracts, and antioxidant green tea. Best of all, it makes your teeth look even whiter. ■ kosas.com



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Between your kiddos attending school and after-school activities, there's a chance they will end up with someone else's gear. Put a stop to that with the **Stuck On You Clothing Name Stamp**. It's a fast and easy way to label clothes, and it can be done minutes before they put them on. ■ stuckonyou.com.us

Help your little one satisfy her aching gums while also keeping her hands busy with **Doddle & Co's The Chew**. This modern teether is sure to soothe your baby. It's dishwasher safe and easy for baby to hold onto. ■ doddleandco.com





Prevention Works

TALK

About healthy choices with your child at an early age and keep talking. Become their “go to person” for advice.

KNOW THEIR FRIENDS

Engage with your child's peers to learn more about the kind of influence they may have on your child.

SEEK HELP

Show positive behavior particularly during challenging situations that encourages perseverance. Seek help from a professional counselor if your child exhibits concerning behavior.

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Parents Who Parent Together

By Dr. Roger Butner, LMFT

When it comes to parenting advice, there are enough competing opinions and voices out there to make your head spin. But what if those differing parenting perspectives are right in your own home? What are you supposed to do when you and your spouse disagree about how to handle parenting decisions? For the sake of your relationship, and for the benefit of your kids, you can find peaceful, mutually respectful ways to cooperate and parent from a united front. Here are some practical suggestions to help you do just that:

1. Read parenting books, listen to parenting podcasts, or attend parenting classes together. This can help you stay on the same page, minimizing the occurrence of major

differences regarding parenting dynamics. It can also provide some great ideas for resolving those differences whenever they do arise. The resources at ScreamFree.com and LoveAndLogic.com are helpful, and you can often find parenting classes or workshops at your church or child's school.

2. Discuss parenting goals before deciding solutions. When we discuss something as important to us as decisions about our kids, we tend to jump right into solutions. "Let's do bedtime this way!" "This is the best school option!" "Here's how social media is going to be monitored!" Before we start hammering out final decisions regarding the many important issues

along the way of our children's lives, we should begin with the end in mind. What is the big picture, and what is the point? For instance, what is our goal regarding this issue? What do we want our child or teen to learn as a result? Is this issue more about child development or our marriage? These are the questions that will help us be sure our solutions are purposeful. The more we are aiming to parent with purpose, the more likely we are to come to an agreement and parent like true partners.

3. Agree to hold off on making major decisions and punishments until they can be privately discussed together. The old "good cop, bad cop" routine may work in some places, but it is a disaster for parenting. Don't undercut one another by making the big calls without first having discussed it privately. If the circumstances demand an immediate decision, and a direct discussion is not possible, consider how your spouse would respond to this situation, and, give genuine weight to that perspective, even if you disagree.

4. Plan for new decisions to have a trial period with a discussion to follow at a set time. You are less likely to feel frustration or resentment about your spouse and the parenting choices made if you know it isn't a forever decision and will be re-evaluated together. Depending on the issue, plan to have a follow-up discussion in a week, a month, or a quarter. If you agree things are going well, great! Keep it going, and be a big enough person to acknowledge when your spouse's differing ideas are working

well. If you agree something needs to change, make a reasonable adjustment. If you feel good about it, but your spouse does not, be willing to try something different for another trial period.

5. Never verbally undercut your spouse in front of your kids.

Even when you disagree on decisions being made, and may even be thinking, “See! I knew this would happen,” show respect to your spouse and your kids by not throwing anyone under the bus through open criticism. Presenting a united front to the kids doesn’t always mean you agree on decisions, but it does mean you respect and support one another. It also means you don’t openly give your kids opportunities to exploit or manipulate you through divide and conquer tactics.

6. Have discussions with your kids where you ask for their feedback.

If you really want to be brave and get some valuable insight, invite them to grade your parenting skills. Be sure you keep an open mind as you listen. Sometimes hearing directly from your kids can help you see things in a different light rather than going round and round with your mate about those same issues.

7. If you’re really stuck, seek professional support. It’s far better for your marriage, your kids, and your own peace of mind to invest some time and money in counseling from a qualified professional than to stay stuck in frustrating patterns that just aren’t getting any better. There are great professional helpers in the Baton Rouge area, let them help you. ■




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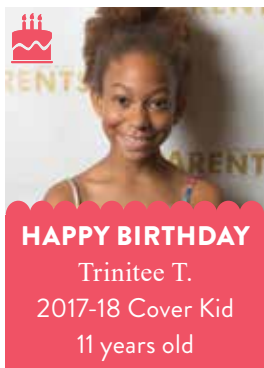
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September

BELLA'S ROYAL CELEBRATION. Visit the Renaissance Hotel from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, September 9 for a royal celebration. Enjoy an enchanted afternoon featuring princesses, superheroes, activities, and an exclusive performance by Theatre Baton Rouge. Tickets start at \$50. ■ bellabowman.org

1 SATURDAY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
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2017-18 Cover Kid
11 years old

A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD. Reilly Theatre, LSU, at 2 p.m. A Playmakers of Baton Rouge performance based on Arnold Lobel's books. This whimsical show follows two great friends—the cheerful Frog and the grumpy Toad. playmakersbr.org
BATON ROUGE ARTS MARKET. Farmers Market downtown from 8 a.m.-noon. artsbr.org

BIG RIVER STAND UP PADDLE RACE. Downton to L' Auberge Hotel and Casino from 8-11 a.m. SUP and kayak race on the Mississippi River. bigriverregional.com

CAPITAL CITY SEA-FOOD FESTIVAL. Airline Highway Park through September 2. visitbatonrouge.com

CLINTON MARKET DAY. Downtown Clinton in front of Courthouse from 8

a.m.-1 p.m. Monthly open market. (225) 683-5531
DONALDSONVILLE MARKET ON THE SQUARE. Louisiana Square, Donaldsonville, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Various vendors. tourascension.com

FIRST SATURDAY HIKE. Port Hudson State Historic Site, Jackson, at 10 a.m. Join the park historian for a two-mile trail walk focusing on the infantry and artillery

assault against Port Hudson. (888) 677-3400
GYM FIT FEST. Galvez Plaza/Repentance Park from 3-9 p.m. A Cirque and Movement Festival with workshops, competitions, music, entertainment, craft making and food. gymfitfest.com

HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS: POP ART PRINTS. LASM from 10 a.m.-noon. Get creative with this hands-on art workshop for all ages. Regular admission applies. lasm.org
HARRY POTTER 20TH ANNIVERSARY EXTRAVAGANZA. EBR Main Library from 3-7 p.m. Fandom activities with quidditch, tricky trivia, crafts, Muggle Market and the wizard rock band, Tonks and the Aurors. ebrpl.com
INTERMEDIATE BMX CLINIC. BREC's Extreme Sports Park from 9-10 a.m. Must be able to ride a

bike. Registration required. xsports@brec.org

LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND. USS Kidd through September 2 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Living history interpreters from all branches of service and all eras will be on site to demonstrate to visitors their uniforms, weaponry, and equipment. facebook.com

LOUISIANA SHRIMP AND PETROLEUM FESTIVAL. Morgan City through September 3. Most activities are free. shrimppandpetroleum.org

OLD SOUTH JAMBOREE. 9554 Florida Boulevard, Walker, at 7 p.m. featuring Carlton Jones and His Red Hot Country Band. livingstontourism.com
RISE ABOVE. Denham Springs-Walker Library at 1 p.m. Adin Putnam, local photographer and author of *Rising Above: The Great*

Flood of 2016 will give a presentation and discussion of his book.

(225) 686-4140

SAFE SITTER COURSE. Woman's Hospital from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sitter can learn safety skills, first aid, and rescue skills. Registration required. (225) 231-5475

SOUTHERN VS. TCU. Away.gojagsports.com

SWAMP BIRD WALK. BREC's Bluebonnet Swamp from 7-9 a.m. Hike led by a volunteer of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society. (225) 757-8905

2 SUNDAY

A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD. Reilly Theatre, LSU, at 2 p.m. A Playmakers of Baton Rouge performance based on Arnold Lobel's books. This whimsical show follows two great friends. playmakersbr.org

CAPITAL CITY SEA-FOOD FESTIVAL. Airline Highway Park. visitbatonrouge.com **FREE FIRST SUNDAY.**

Free admission to LSU Museum of Art, LASM, the Old State Capitol, USS Kidd, Capitol Park Museum and BREC's Magnolia Mound Plantation. visitbatonrouge.com
LIFE IN THE SHALLOWS. Audubon State Historic Site, St. Francisville, from 1-4 p.m. Young participants take part in a Park Ranger-led exploration to see what swims, crawls, slithers, hops and flies in the ecosystem. (888) 677-2838

LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND. USS Kidd from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Living history interpreters from all branches of service and all eras will be on site to demonstrate to visitors their uniforms, weaponry, and equipment. facebook.com

LOUISIANA SHRIMP AND PETROLEUM FESTIVAL. Morgan City through September 3. shrimpandpetroleum.org

LSU VS. MIAMI. Away. lsusports.net
MAGIC HAPPENS RABBIT RESCUE ADOPTION DAY. Millerville Petsmart from 2-4 p.m. Includes rabbits and guinea pigs looking for their forever homes. magicchappensrescue.com

MATTIE STREET MARKET. Mattie Street, Denham Springs, from 1-5 p.m. Features over 20 vendors with all handmade art items, local musicians and local food. facebook.com
SENSORY SENSITIVE SUNDAY. Chuck E. Cheese's at 9 a.m. Opens two hours early on the first Sunday of the month with reduced lighting and games

for children with autism and other special needs. chuckedcheese.com

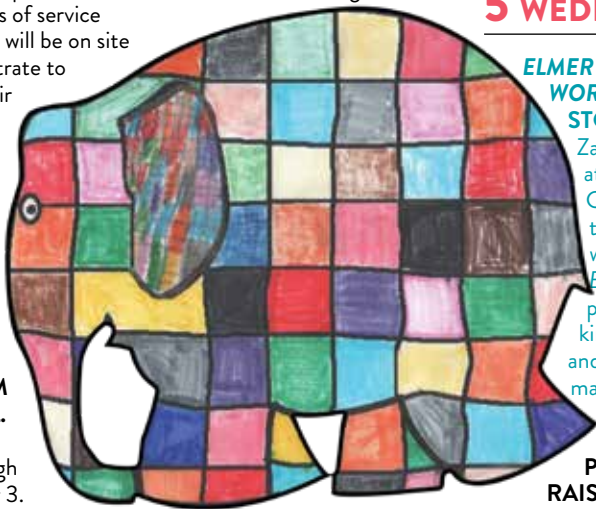
3 MONDAY

LABOR DAY

LINE FOR LINE. O'Neils Barber and Beauty Salon. Free haircuts once a month to boys ages 2-16 who read to the barbers. (225) 389-7207
LOUISIANA SHRIMP AND PETROLEUM FESTIVAL. Morgan City. shrimpandpetroleum.org

4 TUESDAY

BODY BASICS FOR GIRLS. Woman's Hospital from 6:30-8 p.m. Preteen girls ages 9-12 will learn how their bodies grow,



ELMER THE PATCHWORK ELEPHANT STORY/RAFT.

Zachary Library at 10:30 a.m. Children ages three to five will listen to Elmer and paste pieces of various kinds of paper and other craft materials. (225) 658-1850

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.

Baker-East BR/East Feliciana Forever Open Arms at 1 p.m. Information and support group for grandparents and others raising children not their own. lagrg.org
I CARE LIVE. Webinar series at noon by the I CARE program with various guest speakers who promote personal safety, drug prevention and self-help educational resources. icare.ebrschools.org
MOMMY AND ME. Baton Rouge General Hospital, Bluebonnet, from 11 a.m.-noon. A continued breastfeeding support and education group designed to help mothers and babies learn about successes and challenges with breastfeed-

changes to expect during puberty, and how to take care of themselves. Registration required. (225) 231-5475
CPR FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. Baton Rouge General Hospital, Bluebonnet, from 6-9 p.m. Learn CPR and foreign body airway obstruction techniques for infants and children. brgeneral.org
FAMILY FRIENDLY FITNESS SERIES. North Boulevard Town Square at 6 p.m. Hosted by TreadBR. hypebr.com
HOPE CHESTS BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP. Ochsner Hospital from 6-7 p.m. Monthly support group with speakers and light refreshments.

ochsner.org
THRIVING WITH DIABETES. St. Elizabeth Hospital, Gonzales, from 6-7 p.m. Free workshop with the topic of Ten Tips for Helping Patients Afford Their Medications. Registration preferred. (225) 621-2906
TOUR FOR TWO (OR MORE). Baton Rouge General Hospital, Bluebonnet, from 6-7 p.m. Free tour of the Birth Center. brgeneral.org
YOUNG WRITERS CLUB. Denham Springs-Walker Library at 5 p.m. Open to ages 10-18, members practice writing in many different styles and genres to fine-tune skills and challenge themselves. (225) 686-4140

5 WEDNESDAY

ing. brgeneral.org
MOVE WITH MAYOR BROOME: CAPITAL HEIGHTS BIKE RIDE. Ingleside United Methodist Church from 7-8 p.m. Join Mayor Broome as she joins Bike BR for their weekly Capital Heights Social Ride. healthybr.com
SUNSET PADDLE. BREC's Milford Wampold Park from 7-8:30 p.m. Ages 12 and older can enjoy the University Lakes for an evening paddle under the setting sun. Pre-registration required. outdooradventure@brec.org

6 THURSDAY

BODY BASICS FOR GIRLS. Woman's Hospital from 6:30-8 p.m. Preteen girls ages 9-12 will learn how their bodies grow, what changes to expect during puberty, and how to take care of themselves. Registration required. (225) 231-5475
CASA ORIENTATION. CASA office at noon. Capital Area Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association holds orientation. Registration required. casabr.org
COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST. Boudreaux's at 7 a.m. Annual event hosted by the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge. Tickets are \$20. Ifedgbr.com
MOVIE IN THE PARK. BREC's Howell Park Gym from 7:30-10:30 p.m. See Coco while sitting on a blanket or lawn chair. Enjoy free punch, popcorn, and a flashlight walk at 7:30 p.m. (225) 357-4779
MUSE: ART FOR HOMESCHOOLERS. LSU Museum of Art at 1 p.m. Enrichment program for children ages 6-12 and their families. Pre-registration required. (225) 389-7207
NATIONAL READ A BOOK DAY READATHON. Greenwell Springs Road Library from 4-6 p.m. Children ages 4-11 can celebrate National Read a Book Day and get a fun incentive based on

the number of minutes read. Registration required. (225) 274-4450
PAINTED PALLET VINTAGE JUNKIE. Arts Council of Livingston Parish, Denham Springs, from 6-8 p.m. Class for high schoolers and adults. artslivingston.org
TEEN ADVISORY BOARD. Watson Library at 5:30 p.m. Teens can suggest programs, volunteer at the branch and help choose books. (225) 686-4180
THE COMPOSER FORUM SERIES. LSU Music Building at 5:30 p.m. Performance by the Louisiana Sinfonietta with guest pianist Nathan Carterette. louisianasinfonietta.org

7 FRIDAY

BOOK BABIES. Watson Library at 10:30 a.m. Activity held on the first Friday of every month for infants through age five with stories, music, and games. (225) 664-3963
FAMILY KARAOKE. BREC's North Sherwood Forest Community Park from 7-9 p.m. Family event with dancing, singing and concessions. recreationevents@brec.org
NIGHT IS SHORT, WALK ON GIRL. Manship Theatre at 7 p.m. The story of the titular girl known only as Otome and her insanely long night of partying, a book fair, festival and many adventures in between. manshiptheatre.org
STORIES IN ART. LSU Museum of Art at 10:30 a.m. Free program for children from birth to pre-school and their caregivers. (225) 389-7207

8 SATURDAY

A BABY IS COMING. Woman's Hospital from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for children ages four to eight. Class designed to help big brother and sister learn about their new sibling. Registration required. (225) 231-5475
ASCENSION LEGO CLUB. Gonzales Library at

IN EVERY ISSUE CALENDAR

11 a.m. for all ages. Legos, Duplo blocks and Mega Bloks will be provided. (225) 647-3955

CHILD BIRTH CLASS.

Ochsner Medical Center from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Free class covers pregnancy, pain theories, pre-labor signs, postpartum/newborn procedures and basic breastfeeding. Registration required. (225) 755-4854

HEARTS AND HOOVES VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION AND FUN DAY.

BREC's Farr Park Equestrian Center from 9 a.m.-noon. Ages 13 and up can learn about the Hearts and Hooves program. (225) 769-7805

LSU VS. SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA.

Tiger Stadium. lsusports.net
MODEL TRAINS. Republic of West Florida Historical Museum, Jackson, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free indoor and outdoor model train displays by the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders. (225) 634-3473

OLDIES BUT GOODIES FEST.

West Baton Rouge Tourist Information and Conference Center, Port Allen, from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Put on your poodle skirts, bell bottom pants, white t-shirts and sneakers and enjoy BBQ, live music, antique car show, crafts, a poker run which benefits Blue Star Moms, and hula hoop and jitterbug contests. westbatonrouge.net

PLANTS NEED FRIENDS TOO.

Ione Burden Conference Center, Burden Gardens. from 9-11 a.m. Children's Garden Series activity for ages 6-12 with a parent. Reservation required. angwall@cox.net

SHREDDERS: GIRLS

SKATE CLINIC. BREC's Perkins Road Park at 10 a.m. for beginners, and at 11 a.m. for intermediate for girls ages 6-10. Cost is \$20. Registration required. (225) 766-9039

SOUTHERN VS. LOUISIANA TECH. Away.

gojagsports.com

THE WEDDING DRESS

MESS. Jones Creek Library at 2:30 p.m. After hearing *The Wedding Dress* Mess, children ages 6-11 can use rolls of toilet paper and crepe paper to create wedding dresses and/or tuxedos. Registration required. (225) 756-1160

TYKE HYKE. Woman's Hospital from 9-10:15 a.m. Prepare your three year old for your hospital stay by taking a brief tour of the hospital and through practice with baby dolls. Registration required. Cost is \$25. womans.org
V. WATTS TRADEMART. V. Watts Trade Mart, 13060 Florida Blvd, Livingston from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. outdoors and from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. indoors. Includes indoor vendors, acres of outdoor vendors, and food and music. facebook.com

9 SUNDAY

BELLA'S ROYAL CELEBRATION. Renaissance Hotel from 3-5 p.m. An enchanted afternoon featuring princesses, superheroes, activities and an exclusive performance by Theatre Baton Rouge. Tickets start at \$50. bel-

labowman.org

CAMP BOW WOW PRAIRIEVILLE GRAND OPENING FURRY FIESTA. Camp Bow Wow Prairieville at

noon. Includes local dog rescues, food trucks, face painting, snowballs, facility

tours, dog adoptions, and raffles. Kids and pups welcome. facebook.com
GUARDIAN AND ME ARCHERY REGISTRATION DEADLINE. BREC's Plank Road Park from 6-7:30 p.m. on September 11. One day introduction class to archery for ages eight and above. Cost is \$20 per two people. brec.org

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

FEST. West Baton Rouge Tourist Information and Conference Center, Port Allen, from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Put on your poodle skirts, bell bottom pants, white t-shirts and sneakers and enjoy BBQ, live music, antique car show, crafts, a poker run which benefits Blue Star Moms, and hula hoop and jitterbug contests. westbatonrouge.net

PAPA GEORGE

FAIRCHILD

JAMBALAYA

COOK-OFF.

St. Gabriel Catholic Church with cooking starting at 6 a.m. Jambalaya, sweets, and other food will be sold. Includes raffles, auctions, music, and children's games. Free admission. papageorgefairchild.com
RED STICK ROLLER DERBY. Mt. Pilgrim Family Life Center at 6 p.m. Home team bout. Admission is \$6-10 facebook.com

10 MONDAY

ADOPTION MATTERS

SEMINAR. Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge from 6-7 p.m. Free one-hour informational session about the journey towards a successful adoption. Registration required. eventbrite.com

BREASTFEEDING

BASICS. Ochsner Medical Center from 6-9 p.m. Learn the essential information needed to breastfeed successfully. Cost is \$35 per mother and partner. (225) 755-4854

CASA ORIENTATION.

CASA office at 6 p.m. Capital Area Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association holds orientation. Registration required. casabr.org
COMPUTER BASICS. Denham Springs-Walker Library at 2 p.m. Students ages 12+ can learn the basic features of using a computer, such as turning on the computer, using the keyboard and mouse, and basic computer terms. (225) 686-4140

LDH/OBH 2018 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SYMPOSIUM. Crowne Plaza from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. through September 11. Professionals, consumers, family members, peers and advocates will discuss promising and innovative

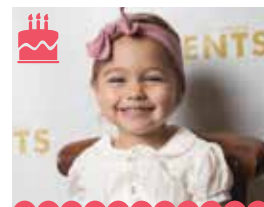
practices in behavioral health to strengthen our communities. Cost is \$40 per day. eventbrite.com



PARENTS NIGHT OUT FOR SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRATION DEADLINE. St. Jean Vianney Church on September 14 from 6:30-9 p.m. for children with special needs ages 2-12 and their siblings. Registration requested. parentsnightout@stjeanvianney.org
PREGNANCY 101. Woman's Hospital from 6:30-9 p.m. Learn how to provide your baby with the best possible environment for growth and development. Cost is \$25. Registration required. (225) 231-5475
TEEN FILM CLUB: ANIMAL METROPOLIS MOVIE DAY. Scotlandville Library at 3:30 p.m. Teens will watch the 2016 animated comedy-adven-

ture in which a beginner bunny cop and a pessimistic con artist fox work together. (225) 354-7550
WAGING PEACE VIA FICTION. EBR Main Library from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Adults can create a local network of those committed to waging peace. ifedgbr.com

11 TUESDAY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Evelyn D.

2017-18 Cover Kid

4 years old

FALL/WINTER VEGETABLE GARDENING.

Galvez Library at 6:30 p.m. Workshop by the Ascension Parish Master

Gardeners Association under the direction of the LSU AgCenter. Registration required. (225) 622-3339

GUARDIAN AND ME

ARCHERY. BREC's Plank Road Park from 6-7:30 p.m. One day introduction class to archery for ages eight and above. Cost is \$20 per two people. Registration deadline is September 9. brec.org
LDH/OBH 2018 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM. Crowne Plaza from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Professionals, consumers, family members, peers and advocates will discuss promising and innovative practices in behavioral health. Cost is \$40 per day. eventbrite.com
LSU CHAMBER SINGERS. University United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. Free LSU performance.

WEEKLY EVENTS



AIM HEALTHIER NATURAL LIVING CLASS. Java Mama on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. from September 12-October 30. Taught by Aimee Meyer, a Young Living Essential Oils consultant. Classes are \$20 each. facebook.com

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE. Ascension Community Theatre, Gonzales, from September 27-October 7. An Agatha Christie mystery. Tickets run \$15-20. actgonzales.org

BASF KIDS' LAB. LASM on the second and fourth Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Explore the world of chemistry in hands-on workshops for children ages 6-12. Regular admission applies. kidslab@lasm.org

FUN HOME. Theatre Baton Rouge from September 7-16. When her father passes away, graphic novelist Alison dives into her past to tell the story of the one-of-a-kind man who defined her family and her life. Tickets run \$19-30. theatrebr.org

LIBRARY CARD SIGN UP MONTH. East Baton Rouge Parish Libraries are joining with the American Library Association to make sure every student has a free library card. Sign up is available at all branches. ebrpl.com

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. Theatre Baton Rouge from September 21-October 7. A devious Broadway and Hollywood smash musical. Tickets runs \$19-30. theatrebr.org

LIVE AFTER FIVE. North Boulevard Town Square on Fridays from September 28-November 2 from 5-8 p.m. Enjoy live musical performances by various artists. downtownbr.org

MISS TRUDY'S TRAVELING TRUNK SHOW. LASM on Saturdays at 11 a.m. Sing, dance, and share stories in this interactive program that explores the art and science of the seasons. Regular admission applies. lasm.org

PLANETARIUM FAMILY HOUR AND STARGAZING. LASM on Saturdays at 10 a.m. Gather around the campfire to learn about stars and constellations before watching a planetarium show. Regular admission applies. lasm.org

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME. LSU Shaver Theatre from September 21-30. Fifteen-year-old Christopher has an extraordinary brain and is determined to solve the mystery of who murdered his neighbor's dog. Tickets run \$14-29. swinepalace.org

WAKY WAKY. LSU Studio Theatre from September 25-30. Wil Eno asks some thought-provoking (if a bit vague) questions in this exciting comedy show. lsu.edu

WOMEN'S WEEK 2018. From October 5-14. Women's Week includes activities throughout Baton Rouge that are open to women and men. Pre-registration required. Many are free. womensweekbr.org

CALENDAR IN EVERY ISSUE

lsu.edu

MOMMY AND ME.

Tanger Outlets, Gonzales, from 10-11 a.m. Today will be in the indoor common area, next to Subway, with a safety theme. Reservations required.

(225) 647-9383

PREPARING FOR DELIVERY.

Woman's Hospital. Two day class today and September 13 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Learn to recognize signs of labor and practice comfort measures. Registration required. Cost is \$35. (225) 231-5475

RANDOM FANDOM: TABLETOP GAMES.

Denham Springs Library at 5 p.m. Teens can play games such as Lightseekers, Magic: The Gathering, and Ticket to Ride. Registration required. (225) 686-4140

SWAMP SCHOOL.

BREC's Bluebonnet Swamp from 2-4 p.m. Takes place twice a month with different themes for each class for ages 6-10 and an adult with nature-based education. Cost is \$15 a month. Registration required. brec.org

THE PUNCH BROTHERS WITH MADISON CUNNINGHAM.

Man-ship Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Eclectic Combo. Tickets run \$65-85. manshiptheatre.org

WILD CRAFTS. Watson Library at 5:30 p.m. Children ages 8-11 can make a variety of crafts. Registration required. (225) 686-4180

ZOO AND ME MORNING: TAILS FROM THE ZOO. BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Children's program for ages three to six. Registration required. (225) 775-3877

12 WEDNESDAY

FAVORITE HERBS FOR THE FALL GARDEN.

White Oak Plantation and Farm from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Seminar by culinary herbalist Sarah Liberta with a three-course lunch, tour of the gardens, take-home articles, recipes, and a herb plant. eventbrite.com

MAKE AN IMPACT.

Denham Springs-Walker Library at 5:30 p.m. Join CASA and DCFS for an information session to discuss the important roles that child advocates and foster parents play. facebook.com

OCD AND TREATMENT.

Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge from noon-2 p.m. Free presentation by Dr. Mark Viator. Registration required. (225) 216-7474

PADDLE UP 2 REGISTRATION DEADLINE.

BREC's Milford Wampold Park from 6-7 p.m. Intermediate paddling classes for ages eight and up on September 13. Cost is \$10-12. Registration required. outdooradventure@brec.org

PARENTINGU:

CONCUSSIONS. LSU Health Medical Education and Innovation Center from 6-8 p.m. Free, but pre-registration required. parentingu.eventbrite.com

TEEN VIDEO GAME DAY.

Bluebonnet Library. Teens can play on the Xbox One and Wii U. (225) 763-2250

13 THURSDAY

AMERICAN GREATS. First Baptist Church from 7:30-9:30 p.m. A celebration of American music performed by the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. brso.org

JEOPARDY AT THE LIBRARY. Jones Creek Library at 7 p.m. Adults can enjoy playing Jeopardy in groups, library-style. Prizes will be awarded. (225) 756-1160

PADDLE UP 2. BREC's Milford Wampold Park from 6-7 p.m. Intermediate paddling classes for ages eight and up. Participants will practice advanced techniques and learn maneuvering skills. Cost is \$10-12. Registration required by September 12. outdooradventure@brec.org

THE GALA GOES GATSBY.

L'Auberge Casino and Hotel at 6:30 p.m. Guests can party like it's 1925 with

IN EVERY ISSUE CALENDAR

delectable cuisine, tasty libations and entertainment straight out of the jazz age. thegalagoes.org
THE LOUISIANA MASTER GARDENERS. Zachary Library at 6:30 p.m. Topics are Ferns for the Landscape and Patio and It's Not Too Late for Fall and Winter Vegetables. (225) 658-1850

14 FRIDAY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ja'Miree B.

2017-18 Cover Kid

6 years old



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Carolyn M.

2017-18 Cover Kid

6 years old



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Darby M.

2017-18 Cover Kid

6 years old

BEAUTY AND BREW.

Salon du Sud from 6-8 p.m. Collaboration with Java Mama. Moms will learn hair updos. \$40 per person. salondusud.com

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP. Woman's Hospital from 9:30-11 a.m. Learn from a certified lactation nurse and other moms about their own suc-

cesses and challenges with breastfeeding. Free.

(225) 231-5475

MAKE IT A MOVIE NIGHT: IRON GIANT.

BREC's Independence Park Theatre at 7 p.m. A young boy rescues a huge robot. theparktheatre.com
OPENING NIGHT. Man-sip Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Five world class singers join artistic director Michael Borowitz of Opera Louisiana on piano for an evening of opera and musical theater classics. operalouisiane.com

PARENTS NIGHT OUT FOR SPECIAL NEEDS.

St. Jean Vianney Church from 6:30-9 p.m. for children with special needs ages 2-12 and their siblings. Registration requested.

parentsnightout@stjeanvianney.org

R.A.D. CLASS. LSU Nelson Memorial Building from 6-9 p.m. The Wellness and Health Promotion staff and the LSU Police Department are providing Rape Aggression Defense Classes, also known as RAD Classes. Cost is \$25-45. (225) 578-5718

RELIVE WWII. Old City Hall, Denham Springs, at 7 p.m. WWII themed movie shown in the parking lot. reliveww2.com

SHIVER ME TIMBERS PIRATE SCAVENGER HUNT.

Throughout Baton Rouge from 6-10 p.m. Pre-party is at The Station from 6-7:30 p.m. Free. 1031consortium.com

WIGGLE WORMS.

Denham Springs-Walker Library at 10:30 a.m. Children up to age five and their caregivers will participate in music and dance activities. (225) 686-4140

15 SATURDAY

AUTUMN LEAVES STORY/CRAFT.

Fairwood Library at 11 a.m. Children ages three to seven will listen to *My Leaf Book* and *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf*, and make an autumn wreath tree picture. Registration required. (225) 924-9385

BMX CLINIC. BREC's Extreme Sports Park

from 9-10 a.m. Must be able to ride a bike without assistance. Cost is \$25. Registration required.

xsports@brec.org

BOOK FAIR. Barnes and Noble, LSU, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A portion of all applicable purchases will be donated to Adult Literacy Advocates of Greater Baton Rouge. (225) 383-1090

BREASTFEEDING BASICS.

Woman's Hospital from 1:30-5 p.m. Learn the benefits, how to prepare, how to latch properly, the father's role, and how to avoid common problems. Registration required. (225) 231-5475

COMMUNITY CPR CERTIFICATION COURSE.

St. Elizabeth Education Building, Gonzales, from 8 a.m.-noon. This course is ideal for new parents, grandparents, babysitters or anyone interested in learning how to save a life. Pre-registration required. (225) 621-2906

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS SEMINAR.

Denham Springs-Walker Library at 9:30 a.m. Reading specialist, Ellen DiMaria, of The Reading Center Denham Springs, will conduct a seminar to raise awareness of dyslexia and its warning signs. (225) 686-4140

FITNESS ROCKS.

Galvez Plaza from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free event to try some of the hottest fitness classes in Baton Rouge. Partnership with Vegan Village to try new food and learn about plant-based diets. healthybr.com

LAMAZE: LABOR OF LOVE.

Woman's Hospital today or September 29 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for couples wanting to learn how Lamaze techniques assist in labor and birth. Registration required. womans.org

LIGO SCIENCE SATURDAY.

The Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory, Livingston, from 1-5 p.m. Tour the facility and explore and interact with over 40 LIGO Science Concept exhibits. Free. ligo.caltech.edu

DATE NIGHT



APPETIZERS, DRINKS, & DESSERTS. Go out for only appetizers, drinks, or desserts on your next date night. Sometimes the best dates are the ones that are a little out of the box. Who says you have to go out and have a full meal each date night? Switch it up and order the entire dessert menu so you can try a little bit of everything. Besides, your kiddos won't be there and won't be appalled that you've had dessert before dinner. Bon appétit!



CHEER ON THE TIGERS. Put on your purple and gold and head to Tiger Stadium to show your support for the LSU Tigers. There's no better way to celebrate football season than checking out a game and feasting on food from the concession stand. Join in on all of the chants as you cheer the Tigers on to victory with your special someone. If you don't have tickets, you can choose a game and find them online for a decent price in the LSU StubHub Ticket Marketplace. lsusports.net



HIT THE GYM. Try an exercise class together. Whether it's yoga, spin, bootcamp, or pilates, get to the gym and break a sweat. Not only will you both get the benefits of stress relief that exercise provides, you will be together and leave the class feeling fit and refreshed. Trying new things will also bring you closer together and maybe even find a new activity to continue doing together.

THIS MONTH AT BREC

PLAY. DISCOVER. GROW.

SUPER-DUPER SEPTEMBER

FAMILY KARAOKE

September 7 | 7-9 p.m.

NORTH SHERWOOD FOREST COMMUNITY PARK

MAKE IT A MOVIE NIGHT: IRON GIANT

September 14 | 7 p.m.

INDEPENDENCE PARK THEATRE

SUMMER'S END NIGHT HIKE & CAMPFIRE

September 14 | 7-9 p.m.

ZACHARY COMMUNITY PARK

September 21 | 7-9 p.m.

FRENCHTOWN ROAD CONSERVATION AREA

SAIA MULTICULTURAL BASH

September 15 | 2-4 p.m.

SAIA PARK

SUP WITH THE SUN

September 19 | 6:30-7:30 a.m.

MILTON J. WOMACK PARK



BIG KIDS MOVIE IN THE PARK: AVENGERS INFINITY WAR

September 21 | 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

CEDAR RIDGE AVENUE PARK

SUNSHINE SOCIAL: SIDELINE SEPTEMBER

September 21 | 6-9 p.m.

MILTON J. WOMACK PARK

DOG DAY AT THE SWAMP



September 22 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

BLUEBONNET SWAMP NATURE CENTER

RIDE N' ROLL

September 22 | Noon-4 p.m.

PERKINS ROAD COMMUNITY PARK

JIGSAW JONES & THE CASE OF THE CLASS CLOWN

September 28 | 7-8:30 p.m.

INDEPENDENCE PARK THEATRE

SOLAR VIEWING

September 29 | Noon-2 p.m.

HIGHLAND ROAD PARK OBSERVATORY



[BREC.ORG/THISMONTH](https://www.brec.org/thismonth)



TO VOLUNTEER AT THESE OR OTHER EVENTS, EMAIL VOLUNTEER@BREC.ORG

IN EVERY ISSUE CALENDAR

LOUISIANA SATURDAY NIGHT VARIETY SHOW.

Suma Crossing Theatre, Satsuma. Grand Country Junction show.

grandcountryjunction.com

LOVE WHITNEY DANCE AUDITIONS.

Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge at 1 p.m. Choreography to be performed October 19-21 at Southern University Frank Hayden Hall. newventuretheatre.org

LSU VS. AUBURN. Away. lsusports.net

MULTICULTURAL BASH.

BREC's Saia Park from 2-4 p.m. A fun-filled afternoon with family games and entertainment. brec.org

NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEKEND.

PetSmart Stores from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through September 16. The organization, Rescue, Rehome, Repeat, will be available. rrrfsofthla.com

PERKINS ROWE ARTS FESTIVAL. Perkins Rowe from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and September 16 from noon-6 p.m. Includes local artisans and vendors, live performances, and children's area. perkinsrowe.com

PONY TALES.

Watson Library at 2 p.m. Children ages 3-11 will listen to a story and make a craft with

class. Registration required. lanermc.org

R.A.D. CLASS.

LSU Nelson Memorial Building from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Wellness and Health Promotion staff and the LSU Police Department are providing Rape Aggression Defense Classes, also known as RAD Classes. These are 12-hour personal safety courses for women which consist of three sessions. This is the second session. Cost is \$25-45. (225) 578-5718

RELIVE WWII.

Denham Springs Antique Village from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Immersive living history event with full military encampment, firing demonstrations, boot camp obstacle course for kids, Victory Garden demonstration, and a scrap drive competition. relieveww2.com

RUN FOR THE CHILDREN.

A.Z. Young Park. St. Jude walk and run to end childhood cancer. The walk is \$10 and the run is \$20. fundraising.stjude.org

SCOUT DAY AT THE ZOO.

BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo. Girl Scouts can learn about animals, do a scavenger hunt through the zoo and earn a badge. Registration required.

SOUTHERN VS. LANGSTON.

Mumford Stadium. gojagsports.com

SPECIAL SARATHIS:

EARTHQUAKES AND THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT.

LSU Museum of Natural Science, Foster Hall, from 10-11 a.m. with the exhibit area open from 11 a.m.-noon. A STEM program for children ages 5-12 and their

parents. Free. Registration required. lsu.edu

STORY TIME IN THE GARDEN.

Burden Center from 9 a.m.-noon with readings and imagination-themed activities every 30 minutes for ages three to eight. Free. lsu.edu

TEEN GAME DAY.

Jones Creek Library at 3 p.m.

Teens can play games on an Xbox One. (225) 756-1170

THE PLANTATION BLACKSMITH.

Audubon State Historic Site, St. Francisville, from 1-4 p.m. See a demonstration of blacksmithing in the parks recreated blacksmith shop. (888) 677-2838

WHEELS TO SUCCEED KIDS' BIKE EVENT.

Istrouma Baptist Church from 8 a.m.-noon. This family-friendly event gives children with disabilities, ages 3-21, the opportunity to engage in the fun of competition while competing against their peers and families. mcmaincscd.org

WHY BIRDS MATTER WITH THE AUDUBON SOCIETY.

Jones Creek Library at 2 p.m. Adults are invited for a presentation led by Nic Dixon of the

Baton Rouge Audubon Society. (225) 756-1150

WILDLIFE EXPO.

Bob R. Jones Idlewild Research Station, Clinton, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. with children's activities, seminars and field demonstrations. Free. lsuagcenter.com

16 SUNDAY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Heaven S.
2017-18 Cover Kid
10 years old

BEN PEABODY PRESENTATION.

EBR Main Library at 3 p.m. Artist and author Ben Peabody, two subjects of his addiction

exhibition, and EBRP Coroner Dr. William Beau Clark will share insights on the effects and statistics of addiction. ebrpl.com

BOOK FAIR.

Barnes and Noble, LSU, from noon-4 p.m. A portion of all applicable purchases will be donated to Adult

Literacy Advocates of Greater Baton Rouge. (225) 383-1090

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP.

Ochsner Medical Center from 2-4 p.m. Share stories and tips on what works and what doesn't. (225) 755-4854

GIRL TALK.

Baton Rouge General Hospital, Bluebonnet, at 3:30 p.m. One-day class led by Baton Rouge General OB/GYN physicians for girls ages 9-11. Focuses on what girls experience during puberty. brgeneral.org

GRANDPARENTING 101.

Woman's Hospital from 3-5 p.m. New class covering practices during pregnancy and delivery. Registration required. Cost runs \$15-25. womans.org

HUNGER WALK.

Catholic Life Center with a 1:30 p.m. registration. Includes music and hunger awareness activities followed by the 2:30 p.m. walk. ifedgbr.com

MAGIC HAPPENS RABBIT RESCUE ADOPTION DAY.

Millerville PetSmart from 2-4 p.m. Includes rabbits and guinea pigs looking for their forever homes. magichappensrescue.com

MOTHER-SON DANCE.

Crowne Plaza Hotel from 4-6 p.m. Activities will include face painting, balloon artists, dancing contests, games, costumed characters, and music. lolchildrens.org

NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEKEND.

PetSmart Stores from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The organization, Rescue, Rehome, Repeat, will be available. rrrfsofthla.com

PERKINS ROWE ARTS FESTIVAL.

Perkins Rowe from noon-6 p.m. Includes local artisans and vendors, live performances, and children's interactive area. Free. perkinsrowe.com

R.A.D. CLASS.

LSU Nelson Memorial Building from 1-4 p.m. The Wellness and Health Promotion staff and the LSU Police Department are providing Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Classes. (225) 578-5718

17 MONDAY

CRAFT CLUB: PAINTING PAGES.

Scotlandville Library at 3:30 p.m. Teens can learn how to upcycle old book pages by painting a unique masterpiece on them. (225) 354-7550

EXCEL BASICS.

Denham Springs-Walker Library at 2 p.m. Students ages 12+ can learn the basic features of Excel. Registration required. (225) 686-4140

18 TUESDAY

AFTER BABY COMES (ABC): BABY CARE AND PARENT CARE.

Woman's Hospital today and September 19 from 6:30-9 p.m. Plan to take this class in the sixth month of pregnancy. Cost is \$35. (225) 231-5475

DECORATIVE PAINTING.

Arts Council of Livingston Parish, Denham Springs, from 6-8 p.m. Two session class today and September 25. Class for high schoolers and adults. artslivingston.org

GET FAMILIAR WITH DISABILITY/WAIVER SERVICES.

Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge from 6-7:30 p.m. Free workshop sponsored by Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge. Registration required. (225) 216-7474

GREAT FLOWERING SHRUBS AND ROSES FOR THE LOUISIANA LANDSCAPE AND THEIR CARE.

Dutchtown Library at 6:30 p.m. Workshop by the Ascension Parish Master Gardeners Association under the direction of the LSU AgCenter. Registration required. (225) 673-8699

GROWING UP: BOYS.

St. Elizabeth Hospital, Gonzales, from 6-7:30 p.m. Class on puberty for boys ages 10-12 and their dads/moms. Pre-registration required. (225) 621-2906

19 WEDNESDAY

TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY



a certified therapy horse. Registration required. (225) 686-4180

PREGNANCY WORKSHOP AND BABY CARE BASICS.

Lane Regional Medical Center from 10 a.m.-noon. Free prenatal and newborn baby care

parents. Free. Registration required. lsu.edu

STORY TIME IN THE GARDEN.

Burden Center from 9 a.m.-noon with readings and imagination-themed activities every 30 minutes for ages three to eight. Free. lsu.edu

AFTER BABY COMES (ABC): BABY CARE AND PARENT CARE.

Woman's Hospital from 6:30-9 p.m. Second class. For new parents, grandparents, adoptive parents or other caregivers. Cost is \$35. (225) 231-5475

I CARE LIVE. Webinar series at noon by the I CARE program with various guest speakers who promote personal safety, drug prevention, and self-help educational resources. Spanish version. icare.ebrschools.org

IMPLEMENTING THE IEP AND ADDRESSING BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM.

EBR Main Library from 10 a.m.-noon. Free workshop sponsored by Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge. Registration required. (225) 216-7474

LSU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. LSU Student Union Theater from 7:30-10 p.m. Tickets run \$11-18. lsu.edu

SUP WITH THE SUN. BREC's Milford Wampold Memorial Park at 6:30 a.m. Paddle on stand up paddle boards as the sun rises over the University Lakes. outdooradventure@brec.org

TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY. Pride-Chaneyville Library. All day fun with parrots, walking the planks, scavenger hunt, and a costume contest. (225) 658-1550

TEEN PIRATE DAY. Pride-Chaneyville Library at 4 p.m. Teens can enjoy an exhilarating treasure hunt and walk the plank in the Teen Room. (225) 658-1550

20 THURSDAY

CASA ORIENTATION. CASA office at 3 p.m. Capital Area Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association holds orientation. Registration required. casabr.org
EARLYSTEPS WORKSHOP: TRANSITION FROM PART C TO

PART B. Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge from 10 a.m.-noon. Free workshop sponsored by Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge. Registration required. (225) 216-7474
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: BIRDS. LSU Museum of Natural Science, Foster Hall, from 6-7:30 p.m. Program focusing on a specific LSUMNS research collection each month. Reservations requested. lsu.edu

PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP. Unitarian Universalist Church at 6:30 p.m. Support group for friends and families of LGBT people every third Thursday. sh4569@aol.com

PIRATE ISLAND. Denham Springs-Walker Library at 6 p.m. Children ages three to seven can enjoy pirate-themed games and a craft. Registration required. (225) 686-4140
STAR TREK IV. Manship Theatre at 7 p.m. To save

p.m. Anime and Manga enthusiasts can watch anime, discuss manga, learn about Japanese culture and play games. (225) 686-4180
THE BROADWAY TENSORS- ULTIMATE BROADWAY. Raising Cane's River Center at 7:30 p.m. Concert of Broadway's most beloved songs. raisingcanesrivercenter.com
UPCYCLED DESK ORGANIZER. Carver Library at 4 p.m. Teens can make a pen or paperclip holder. Registration required. (225) 389-7450

21 FRIDAY

ASCENSION HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL. Lamar Dixon Expo Center, Gonzales. Hot air balloons, entertainment, music, carnival rides, fireworks, food and children's activities. ascensionballooning.com
BIG KIDS MOVIE IN THE PARK: AVENGERS INFINITY WAR. BREC's Cedar Ridge Avenue Park from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Parents can enjoy the movie while their children ages 6-12 enjoy activities in the gym. (225) 751-2563
BREASTFEEDING EXPRESS. Woman's Hospital from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Small group class for women only and is recommended as a refresher class or for women who prefer a fast-paced class. (225) 231-5475

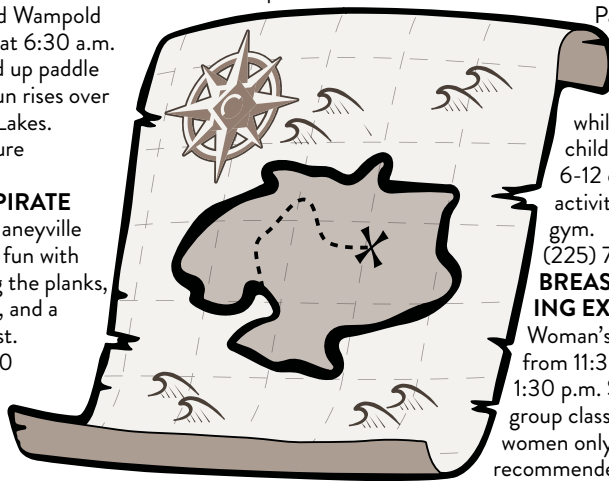
CAJUN TAILGATE CAJUN DANCE. UCT Hall at 7:15 p.m. with free dance lessons and the band at 8 p.m. The band is Choupique Cajun Band. Admission runs \$10-12. Students with ID get a discount. batonrougecajundance.com
GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRAND-CHILDREN. EBRP Head Start Center, 4523 Plank

Road, at 10 a.m. Information and support group for grandparents and others raising children not their own. lagrg.org
NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY. USS Kidd. The museum will participate in this national day of observance by setting up a Missing Man Table and highlighting displays commemorating some of the veterans from Louisiana who were Prisoners of War or who were listed as Missing In Action. usskidd.com
SUMMER'S END NIGHT HIKE AND CAMPFIRE. BREC's Frenchtown Road Conservation Area from 7-9 p.m. Say goodbye to summer and kick off the school year with a night hike with a BREC naturalist along with activities, games, and a campfire. Registration required. brec.org
SUNSHINE SOCIAL: SIDELINE SEPTEMBER. BREC's Womack Ballroom from 6-9 p.m. Dance for ages 16 and up with special needs and their friends and families. (225) 216-7474

22 SATURDAY

ASCENSION HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL. Lamar Dixon Expo Center, Gonzales. Hot air balloons, entertainment, music, carnival rides, fireworks, food, and children's activities. ascensionballooning.com
BATON ROUGE BALLET THEATRE NUTCRACKER AUDITIONS. Dancer's Workshop at 10:30 a.m. for ages 13+ with two years minimum en pointe for Company Auditions. Cost is \$10. Audition forms online. batonrougeballet.org
BODY BASICS FOR BOYS. Woman's Hospital from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Pre-teen boys ages 10-13 will learn how their bodies grow, what changes to expect during puberty, and how to take care of themselves. Registration required. (225) 231-5475
CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION. Baton Rouge General Hospital, Bluebon-

net, from 8 a.m.-noon. Learn the basics of labor and birth including pregnancy changes, nutrition, relaxation techniques and comfort measures. \$40 per couple. brgeneral.org
FALLING LEAF NAME SIGN. Jones Creek Library at 11 a.m. After hearing *Awesome Autumn*, children ages five to nine can create a personalized name sign from fall leaf punch-outs. Registration required. (225) 756-1160
FAMILY LEGACY RECORDINGS. Bluebonnet Library from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Adults will get an hour's worth of free access to Innovation Space with library assistance. Registration required. (225) 763-2250
FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY PROGRAM. Bluebonnet Library at 10:30 a.m. Children ages three and up can meet Freddy, the Talking Fire Truck, and meet firemen from St. George Fire Protection District. Registration required. (225) 763-2250
FUNNY ANIMALS: SPECIAL STORY/ CRAFT. Greenwell Springs Road Library at 2:30 p.m. Children ages 7-11 who use wheelchairs will listen to a reading of *Curious George Joins the Team* and *Hello Goodbye Dog* and make a puppet dog and monkey craft. Registration required. (225) 274-4460
LSU VS. LOUISIANA TECH. Tiger Stadium. lsusports.net
MARSHMALLOW FONDANT WORKSHOP. Jones Creek Library at 3 p.m. Teens can learn how to make fondant and then see who can sculpt the best cookie decorations with it. (225) 756-1170
MODEL TRAINS. Republic of West Florida Historical Museum, Jackson, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free indoor and outdoor model train displays by the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders. (225) 634-3473
NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY. Waddill Wildlife Refuge from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Free



Earth from an alien probe, Admiral James T. Kirk and his fugitive crew go back in time to San Francisco in 1986. manshiptheatre.org
SUNSET PADDLE. BREC's Milford Wampold Park from 7-8:30 p.m. Ages 12 and older can enjoy the University Lakes for an evening paddle under the setting sun. Pre-registration required. outdooradventure@brec.org
TEEN ANIME CLUB. Watson Library at 5:30

IN EVERY ISSUE CALENDAR

activities sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. facebook.com

RIDE N' ROLL. BREC's Perkins Road Extreme Sports Park from noon-4 p.m. Annual birthday party showcasing all that is Extreme Sports such as skateboarding, BMX racing and rock climbing. brec.org

SBR FALL FEST POP UP SHOP. Dr. Leo S. Butler Community Center from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be vendors selling products from clothing, handbags, accessories, jewelry and food and children's activities. eventbrite.com

SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE'S MUSEUM DAY. Participating museums or cultural institutions. Free admission when you present a Museum Day Live ticket. smithsonian.com

SOUTHERN VS. ALABAMA A&M. Away. gojagsports.com

SWAMP DOG DAY. BREC's Bluebonnet Swamp from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All pets are welcome, but they must be on a leash and have their vaccinations current. brec.org

TOTAL TEEN TAKE-OVER. Cortana Mall from noon-4 p.m. Photo booth, DJ Kicks, games, refreshments and community vendors. facebook.com

23 SUNDAY

AFTER BABY COMES (ABC): BABY CARE AND PARENT CARE. Woman's Hospital from 12:30-5:30 p.m. Plan to take this class in the sixth month of pregnancy. (225) 231-5475

BATON ROUGE BALLET THEATRE NUTCRACKER AUDITIONS. Dancer's Workshop starting at noon for children ages eight and up. Child must be eight by December 31. Cost is \$10. Audition forms online. batonrougeballet.org

FROM SHEEP TO SHAWL. Audubon State Historic Site, St. Francisville, from 1-4 p.m. Follow the trail of early 1800s textiles from the field to

the clothes and items made from them. (888) 677-2838

SWAMP FINE ART SHOW SERIES ARTISTS RECEPTION. BREC's Bluebonnet Swamp from 2:30-4:30 p.m. The theme is Symbiosis. (225) 757-8905

24 MONDAY

HOSPITAL ORIENTATION. Woman's Hospital from 6:30-7:45 p.m. or 8-9:15 p.m. Tour the labor birth suites, family waiting areas and Transition Nursery while learning what you can expect. Registration required. Free. (225) 231-5475

HOW TO ADULT WITH MONEY FOR TEENS. Carver Library at 4 p.m. Free crash course on the world of budgeting and saving. (225) 389-7450

INTERMEDIATE EXCEL. Denham Springs-Walker Library at 2 p.m. Class for students ages 12+ who completed Excel basics. Registration required. (225) 686-4140

25 TUESDAY

ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN STORY/RAFT. Fairwood Library at 4:30 p.m. Children ages 7-11 will listen to *Stories from the Billabong*, see examples of Aboriginal dot painting, and do a dot painting. Registration required. (225) 924-9385

BREASTFEEDING BASICS. Baton Rouge General Hospital, Bluebonnet, from 6-9 p.m. Course on the advantages of breastfeeding, how to care for yourself while breastfeeding, and proper breastfeeding techniques. Cost is \$30 per couple. brgeneral.org

DECORATIVE PAINTING. Arts Council of Livingston Parish, Denham Springs, from 6-8 p.m. Second of two classes. Class for high schoolers and adults. Cost is \$45-50.

artslivingston.org

FALL PAPER LEAF WREATH STORY/ CRAFT. Greenwell Springs Road Library at 2:30 p.m. Children ages three to six will listen to *Peppa's Windy Fall Day* and make a wreath using paper leaves. Registration required. (225) 274-4450

LSU SCIENCE CAFE: YOUR HEALTH IN 3D. The Varsity Theatre from 5-7 p.m. Free lecture on various topics. Free food. Registration required.



eventbrite.com

NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE BATON ROUGE URBAN LANDSCAPE: IT'S ABOUT BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES. Hilltop Arboretum at 6:30 p.m. Seminar on native plants essential for birds and butterflies featuring Helen Peebles, president of the Capital Area Native Plant Society. lmngr.org

SWAMP SCHOOL. BREC's Bluebonnet Swamp from 2-4 p.m. Takes place twice a month with different themes for each class for ages 6-10 with nature-based education. Registration required. brec.org

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD. Denham Springs-Walker Library at 5 p.m. Teens can suggest programs, volunteer at the branch and help choose books. (225) 686-4140

THE COMPOSER FORUM SERIES: CLASSICAL MUSIC ROCKS. LSU Recital Hall, LSU Music Building at 5:30 p.m. Free performance by the Louisiana Sinfonietta. louisianasinfonietta.org

26 WEDNESDAY

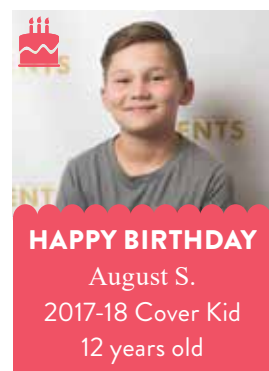
BUST BREAST CANCER. L'Auberge Casino and Hotel at 7 p.m. Bra art fashion show, chef's showcase, and live and silent auctions. womans.org

CASA ORIENTATION. CASA office at 6 p.m. Capital Area Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association holds orientation. Registration required. casabr.org

CLASS FOR EXPECTING PARENTS. Baton Rouge Clinic Pediatric building at 5:30 p.m. Meet with a pediatrician to discuss what you can expect for your baby in the first days to weeks after birth. Registration required. batonrougeclinic.com

READY, SET, BUILD! Jones Creek Library at 10:30 a.m. After hearing *Ready, Set, Build!*, children ages two to five will work together to build their own creations using Jumbo Playstix. Registration required. (225) 756-1160

27 THURSDAY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
August S.
2017-18 Cover Kid
12 years old

AHOY MATEY BINGO. Jones Creek Library from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Pirate-themed event for all ages. Prizes will be awarded. (225) 756-1160

BABY CARE BASICS. Baton Rouge General Hospital, Bluebonnet, from 6-9 p.m. Learn how to prepare for your baby's arrival and what to expect on the big day. Cost is \$30 per couple. brgeneral.org

EATDRINKSIGN! Driftwood Cask & Barrel at 6 p.m. Deaf Focus' EatDrinkSign! is a unique

dining experience where all the servers are Deaf and all guests are encouraged to order their food and drinks in sign language. eventbrite.com

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN. Family Road at 10 a.m. Information and support group for grandparents and others raising children not their own. lagrg.org

LEGO CLUB. Watson Library at 5:30 p.m. Children ages 5-11 can enjoy this club with different monthly themes. (225) 686-4180

PEACE NETWORK. St Paul Lutheran Church from 6-8 p.m. Meeting hosted by the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge to help create a local network of those committed to waging peace. lfedgbr.com

THE LOUISIANA MASTER GARDENERS. EBR Main Library at 6:30 p.m. Topics are Growing Orchids Without a Greenhouse and Home Composting. (225) 231-3750

WILD CRAFTS. Denham Springs-Walker Library at 5:30 p.m. Children ages 8-11 can make a variety of crafts. Registration required. (225) 686-4140

28 FRIDAY

CATTAILS AND COCKTAILS. Crowne Plaza from 7-10 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, live music, a wine pull and a silent auction. Optional costume attire. cathaven.org

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE LAUNCH PARTY. The Venue, St. Amant, from 6-10 p.m. Includes food, a DJ, dancing, raffles, door prizes and a photo booth. Tickets are \$10. friendshiphouseasc.org

JIGSAW JONES AND THE CASE OF THE CLASS CLOWN. BREC's Independence Park Theatre starting at 7 p.m. There is a practical joker on the loose in Ms. Gleason's class, so it's up to Jigsaw Jones and his friend Mila to catch the clown. theparktheatre.com

LUNCH AND LEARN.

Java Mama from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The topic is ADHD Therapies. javamamabr.com

29 SATURDAY

BEN BAHAN LIVE! The Tracy Center at 7 p.m. Dr. Benjamin J. Bahan is a world-renowned storyteller, author, presenter, researcher, and a professor of ASL and Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University. eventbrite.com
BMX CLINIC. BREC's Extreme Sports Park from 9-10 a.m. Must be able to ride a bike without assistance. Registration required. xsports@brec.org
BODY BASICS FOR

grow, what changes to expect during puberty, and how to take care of themselves. Cost is \$15. Registration required. (225) 231-5475

LAMAZE: LABOR OF LOVE. Woman's Hospital from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for couples wanting to learn how Lamaze techniques assist in labor and birth. Cost is \$75. Registration required. womans.org
LSU VS. OLE MISS. Tiger Stadium. lsusports.net
MOVIES AND MUSIC ON THE LAWN. BREC's Baton Rouge Gallery, City Park.

son, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. In recognition of Public Lands Day, volunteers can clear and remove woody invasive species on the historic battlefield earthworks. (225) 654-3775

SOLAR VIEWING. BREC's Highland Road Park Observatory from noon-2 p.m. Staff shows the sun in three manners so visitors are able to see any sizable sunspots or flares occurring. hrpo.lsu.edu

SOUTHERN VS. AL-CORN STATE. Mumford Stadium. Homecoming. gojagsports.com

STEAM CLUB: CHAIN REACTION DOMINO BUILD. Jones Creek Library at 3 p.m. Teens can use dominoes to create chain reactions. Registration required. (225) 756-1170

30 SUNDAY

MADELINE'S MADELINE. Manship Theatre at 2 p.m. A theater director's latest

project takes on a life of its own when her young star takes her performance too seriously.

manshiptheatre.org
MAGIC HAPPENS RABBIT RESCUE ADOPTION DAY. Millerville Petsmart from 2-4 p.m. Includes rabbits and guinea pigs looking for their forever homes.

magichappensrescue.com
PREPARING FOR DELIVERY. Woman's Hospital from 1-5 p.m. Learn basic information so you can recognize signs of labor and practice comfort measures. Registration required. Cost is \$35. (225) 231-5475

SENSORY FRIENDLY HOURS. Knock Knock Children's Museum from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Includes a less crowded environment, light and sound reduction, and quiet room for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) or sensory processing differences. knockknockmuseum.org

EDITOR'S NOTE

Occasionally the date or location of an event may change after publication. Always phone ahead or check website to confirm important information.

SUBMISSIONS

Baton Rouge Parents Magazine welcomes submissions of events of interest to families. Send all calendar submissions to: calendar@brparents.com.

Include: dates, times, location with address, recommended age, cost, public telephone number, website address, and photos.

Submit information for the October calendar by September 8, 2018.



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P HIRING FREELANCE WRITERS

Baton Rouge Parents Magazine is looking for talented, experienced freelance writers to enhance our magazine, ancillary publications and website. Our general goal is to have a good mix of fun and substantive local stories of interest to local parents. If you think you would like to join the editorial team, email editorial@brparents.com today.

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Tutus Are My Only Friend

By Sarah Broussard Weaver

My second grader's butt is always showing. Always. Don't judge, I'm doing the best I can. This doesn't happen to any of my other kids. I have three other kids, but only this one has a rare butt. I can't figure out what is wrong but all jeans, leggings, shorts, and pants that are made for little girls do not fit her right. Sometimes it's just a little crack, sometimes the half moon, but no matter the degree, she cannot feel that her bottom is hanging out.

I feel like she should detect the cool breeze on a body part that should not be feeling any cool breezes, but she does not. So I am always like, "Your butt is showing again," and she's always like, "Ugh, Mom! Stop," and reaches back and gives a small tug that does nothing.

She doesn't care. At all. She only gets aggravated that I am bugging her about it. Anyone would get frustrated at hearing the same thing over and over. Or having to say the same thing over and over. But that's called parenting. I can't just ignore that my child's bottom is showing for all to see—can I? Should I try? It's a nice distracting thought, anyway.

I feel like an awful mother. No good mom would allow her

child's bottom to hang out. I have tried her correct size in pants, a size smaller, a size bigger and two sizes bigger. No pants on this earth—whether made in an inhumane sweatshop or fair-trade or hand woven and stitched by Tibetan monks who fleeced the little free range organic hand-fed co-sleeping sheepies themselves—will contain it; her butt will be free.

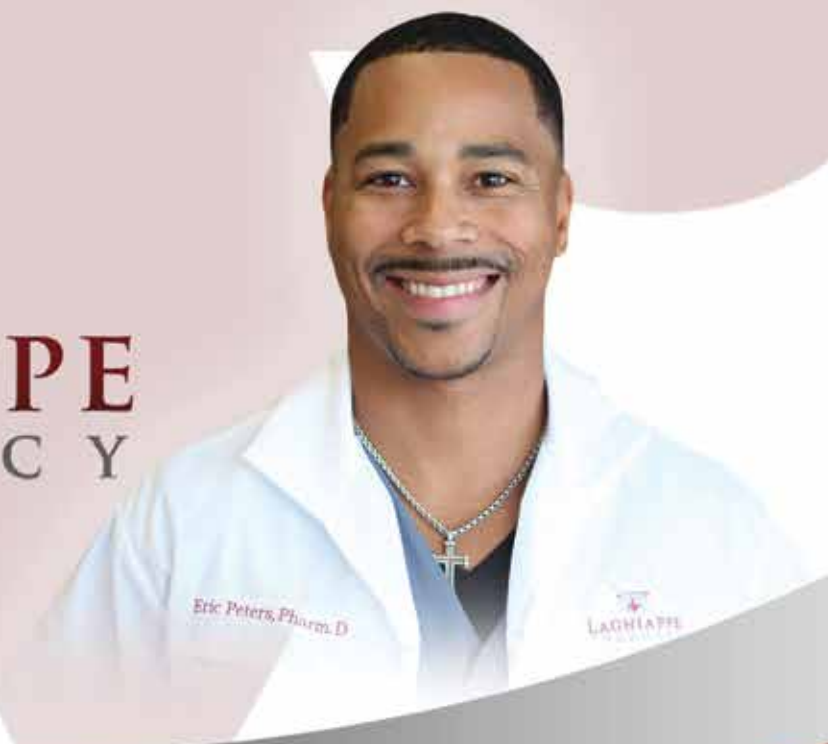
She refuses to wear a belt. I can't blame her for that because even I know that belts were invented by Satan to make people look fatter and feel more uncomfortable and like life is not worth living. The only thing that has worked is making her wear a tutu or skirt over the pants. So yes, that is my kid wearing a totally non-matching fluffy blue tutu over her pink polka-dotted pants even though it's rainy and muddy and we are hiking on a trail. It's better to see a muddy tutu than a muddy butt.

I am sure her bottom is always showing at school, but at least I am not there to see it. And if I don't see it, and the principal doesn't call me, did it really happen? I argue that it did not. But we are well into school now, a bottom may or may not be showing, and I have no refuge. I'm making an online order today for my daughter's new school pants soon for winter. Now, if only the dress code allowed tutus. ■



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PIC OF THE MONTH

Royalti R. dressed up with sunflowers and smiles in the beautiful sunshine.



Emma A.

WANT TO SEE YOUR CHILD'S PICTURE HERE?

Go to brparents.com and click on the blue "Upload Snapshots" button to submit photos for consideration. All photos must be at least 1MB in size. "Pic of the Month" photos are chosen at random and must be at least 5MB in size.

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Layden L.



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