

The Scrapbook Sentinel

A Free Newsletter For The Friends of: **Imagine That! Scrapbooks & Gifts**

*"Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts."
- Sign hanging in Einstein's office at Princeton*

Spread A Little Sunshine To Someone Special In Your Life!

What goes around comes around. Ain't that the truth. Spread a little sunshine, and some is bound to bounce back and shine on you.

Just yesterday, I saw a couple of boys playing outside. I see them a lot – they're about 11-12 years old, playing some game that requires a lot of running, hiding, shooting and shouting. The perfect outdoor game.

Amidst the commotion, I noticed that one of the boys' 8 year old sister in the center of the



action. She wasn't as fast as the other boys, or as loud (certainly not!) or, in their minds, as cool – but still, she did her best to keep up and be a part of the game.

And what really impressed me about these

kids, is that every time I see them out running around, even though she's not as cool or as fast, they are nice to her. Kind. They let her play too. I don't think most boys their age are like that... I think the way they included her says something about their character. It's just neat to see.

And it got me to thinking.

I heard a statistic recently that said, on average, parents spend seven minutes A DAY talking to their school-aged kids. And during that time, the kids receive 21 negative comments for every one that's positive.

Not so surprising, really... with homework and activities and television, video games, and cell phones, it's a wonder parents even get the full seven minutes!

But it's the 21 negative things that bother me, and so the next time I saw the boys outside, I made a point of telling them how I'd noticed the way they

included the little sister, and what I thought about it. I mentioned it to their moms, too. (I think most moms could do with a few more positive comments as well.)

Maybe it wasn't exactly earth-shattering, or change the course of history for these kids, but at the very least, for them, hopefully, it was a grown up with something positive to say.

Growing up, I spent a lot of time on the front steps of my best friend's house, talking to her mom. She listened to me. In 3rd grade, she taught me my 9s multiplication table. It makes you feel good to hear nice things, but it feels even better to say good things! This brings me to...

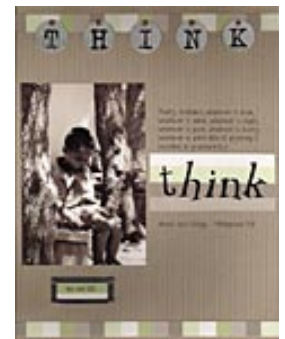
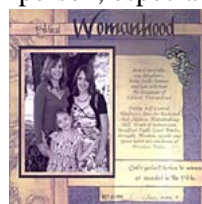
AFFIRMATION ALBUMS

Anyway, with graduations, First Communions and Confirmations coming up, the whole thing got me started to thinking about what we could do to build up a young person in our lives today, and the idea of an affirmation album came to mind. Made by the adult, for the child (or teenager), to illuminate for them the good things other people see in them.

The gift needn't even be from parent to child – although such a gesture would certainly be powerful – the adult could be a grandparent, an aunt... even a best friend's mom.

An affirmation album is simply a tool to help you express the great qualities you see in another person, especially a child. It gives

you a format in which you can convey to the young person, attributes they might not otherwise recognize in themselves.



Values, Morals, Qualities you would love to see develop and flourish as they mature. The album can be used to capture and record times when the young person made a hard choice, did the right thing, showed a kindness, followed through with a promise.

The size and type of album is up to you. Anything from an 8x8 brag book, to a full 12x12 ABC book can do the job. You can even send a paper album to your favorite graduate, in place of a greeting card.

But remember, the focus of this album is not so much on the photos, as it is the words. Use your words to tell stories, or make simple observations. "You never back away from a challenge" or, "Your smile makes me smile!"

An affirmation album can be as elaborate or as simple as you want it to be. It can certainly include photos and memorabilia, but not necessarily on every page. The focus of this album is not the decorations, or even the photos you include, but the WORDS you use.

I'm not talking about the kind of fluffy, pandering self-esteem building that has become fashionable of late. I'm not suggesting an album praising the child's ability to turn on the TV by herself, or successfully reach Expert level on Guitar Hero. The purpose of this album is to tell the child WHAT you see in him or her that gives them character. Describing words that come to mind are: Athletic, Bold, Brave, Caring, Committed, Creative, Determined, Devoted, Diligent, Eager, Encouraging, Energetic, Faithful, Friendly, Funny, Generous, Happy, Hardworking, Honest, Inventive, Joyful, Kind, Loving, Loyal, Mechanical, Neat, Optimistic, Patient, Playful, Questioning, Reliable, Respectful, Sensitive, Smart, Sympathetic, Talented, Thorough, Tidy, Trustworthy, and so on.

DESCRIBE ...

The times he made his sister feel special by including her with his friends. The yard sale she

organized to raise money for a sick classmate. The way he loves to help in the kitchen.

The time she spent 2 hours turning a paper bag into a doll-sized photo booth, complete with buttons, curtain and photos! The look of pride on his face after he completed the entire Lego space ship all by himself!

TELL ABOUT...

The A- that became a B+ after he pointed out an error the teacher overlooked in grading. The toys she shares with her little sister.

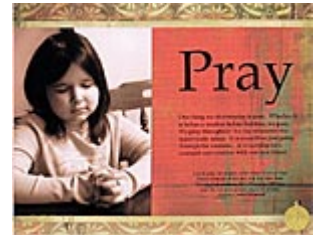
How he practiced every day to make First Chair in band. The way she sticks up for her friends when someone is talking behind their back.

The way he helps around the house without being asked.

REMEMBER when she spent her whole Saturday helping an elderly neighbor rake leaves.

And on it goes.

These are accomplishments that actually



Welcome New Scrappers!

Here are the new people that became members of our scrapping family this last month! We'd like to welcome you publicly, and wish you all the best!

Barbara G., Janet L., Emma K., Ann L., Lupe M., Evelyn P., Henrietta R., Liz H., Kris E., Pamela D., Mary R., Dara D., And LeeAnna C.

MEAN something; qualities we admire and want to see developed; decisions the child has made which show character. So the next time your child has the chance to do the right thing, he'll think of you, and jump all over it!

Don't miss the biggest Scrapbook Gala of the year as we celebrate National Scrapbook day IN STYLE! This year's theme is SWEET MEMORIES, and we can't wait to unwrap the fun! Prizes, Specials, Games, Raffles & More. Saturday May 02nd, 2009

Good Karma

Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risks.

When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

Follow the three R's:
Respect for self,
Respect for others and
Responsibility for all your actions.

Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful blessing.

Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.

Don't let a little dispute injure a great relationship.

When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.

Spend some time alone every day.

Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honorable life.

Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.

A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.

In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.

Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality.

Be gentle with the earth.

Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.

Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.

Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.

Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.



If You Didn't Laugh...

Always be nice to your children because they are the ones who will choose your rest home.

Phyllis Diller ☼ One thing they never tell you about child raising is that for the rest of your life,

at the drop of a hat, you are expected to know your child's name and how old he or she is. *Erma*

Bombeck ☼ There are only two things a child will share willingly; communicable diseases and

its mother's age. *Benjamin Spock Dr. Spock's Baby and Child Care, 1945* ☼ Children are the

most desirable opponents at Scrabble as they are both easy to beat and fun to cheat. *Fran Lebowitz*

☼ You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance. *Franklin*

P. Jones ☼ Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing up is like shoveling the walk

before it stops snowing. *Phyllis Diller* ☼ Anyone who thinks the art of conversation is dead ought

to tell a child to go to bed. *Robert Gallagher* ☼ There's nothing that can help you understand your

beliefs more than trying to explain them to an inquisitive child. *Frank A. Clark* ☼ Even when

freshly washed and relieved of all obvious confections, children tend to be sticky. -\Fran Lebowitz

☼ Boy, n.: a noise with dirt on it. *Not Your Average Dictionary.* ☼ A child is a curly dimpled

lunatic. *Ralph Waldo Emerson.* ☼ When my husband comes home, if the kids are still alive, I figure

I've done my job. *Roseanne Barr* ☼ Each generation has been an education for us in different ways.

The first child-with-bloody-nose was rushed to the emergency room. The fifth child-with-bloody-

nose was told to go to the yard immediately and stop bleeding on the carpet. *Art Linkletter* ☼

Somewhere on this globe, every ten seconds, there is a woman giving birth to a child. She must be

found and stopped. *Sam Levenson*

Mother's Day

SUPER-COUPON "You Choose It" Sale!

Have you had your eye on that one perfect item, but needed a little nudge to make the final purchase? Just looking for that ideal time to buy? Well we think the perfect gift is the one you get to pick out for yourself! So grab your car keys, because this is your sale. Our Special Offer this month is tailored just for you. It's the You Want It, It's On Sale, Sale! And it's this month ONLY!!

Imagine That! Scrapbooks & Gifts MAY GIFT TO YOU!

20% Off

ANYTHING IN THE STORE*!

Offer good 5-1-09 through 5-14-09.

Excludes: Non Discountable Items- See Store For Details.

*May not be used in combination
with any other coupons or special offers.

Imagine That! Scrapbooks & Gifts MAY GIFT TO YOU!

25% Off

ANYTHING IN THE STORE*!

Offer good 5-15-09 through 5-31-09.

Excludes: Non Discountable Items- See Store For Details.

*May not be used in combination
with any other coupons or special offers.