



The Scrapbook Sentinel

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

“I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought;
and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.” – G.K. Chesterton

Gratitude Expressed

Remember in junior high and high school, when you used to send notes to your friends between classes? The notes would be written during study hall or whenever you got a free minute, then folded into little origami squares and triangles... remember that?

Turns out, kids don't send notes anymore – they text. And for some strange reason, that makes me sad. Remember the feeling you had when you received your note in the hallway, or maybe slid through the slats on your locker door? Oh, boy! A note, just for me! How can that excitement even compare to a beep on a phone?

I had a friend who used to send me your standard, garden-variety notes, folded and tucked into the neat little square that was protocol at our school. But she was never one to limit herself to protocol. Just as often, she would deliver a ridiculous handmade card, on notebook paper of course, with perhaps a daisy on the front; with a bottle cap center, and petals drawn around in pen. She thought I would like a flower to brighten my day.

The front of another “card” sported a length of orange yarn, Elmer's glued into a tangled mess. Inside, was a length pulled straight. “Feeling a bit twisty today, but I think I'm getting it worked out.”

Once, she taped a feather to the outside, next to my name. Airmail, she explained.

The girl was crazy. Honestly, I don't know how she got any work done. But I can tell you Debby was the most artistic person I have ever met. I STILL have her notes & drawings!

I don't even mind telling you, it was well over **twenty five** years ago that I went to high school (ahem!) and I still remember those cards and notes.

And even as an adult, many years later, nothing has changed, has it?



A handmade, handwritten card is one of the best ways to express how much we mean to each other.

How do you feel, even now, when you see that handwritten envelope in the mail? Isn't it still the first thing you open? Bills can wait! I got a card in the mail! Ooh! And it's Bumpy!

Sending beautiful homemade cards is such a rewarding way of reaching out to family and friends. And this is the perfect time of year to be talking about expressing gratitude to the people who mean so much to us. Dropping your best friend, sister-in-law, or niece a fabulous harvest card, complete with buttons and twine is the perfect way to make their day.

And what better way to have your Christmas cards shine out from the crowd, than by making them yourself! Nothing says **Merry Christmas** like reindeer brads!

And of course, one of my favorite reasons for making my own cards... I get to use up scraps! Whenever I have completed the layouts I want to do for specific papers and embellishments, I turn my attention to cards. It's no difficult task to modify the ideas I have just put into my scrapbook pages onto the front of a card.

You definitely don't need to be a graphic designer to make your BFF a card.

(Case in point: the bottle cap flower masterpiece!) Here are a few pointers to make the process flow:



Your cards of course, may be any size you choose, but keep in mind that you will eventually need to put them into an ENVELOPE. It is much easier to adapt the size of your card to your envelope, than it is to find an envelope to match your card.

The most basic card size is simply half a sheet of 8.5x11 cardstock. Our cardstock lines come in dozens of colors and textures. **Using your large paper trimmer, cut the 11" side of the cardstock in half, to 5.5 inches. The result will give you 2 cards each measuring 4.25" by 5.5" when folded. These cards will fit nicely into our "Invitation Sized" envelopes.**



Don't neglect your envelope!

Embellishing the outside of your envelope with a coordinating sticker or rub-on is fun, and gives your card an extra splash of flair. For a sophisticated, decorative touch, use deckle scissors (or a deckle trimmer blade) along the flap of the envelope. (I used this on an envelope that had a straight flap versus a triangular flap.)

Make folding easy!

Heavier cardstock tends to crinkle around the fold. Use a scoring tool and a bone folder to create professional-looking creases. (The secret is to fold IN where you indented.)

Want to make a great bow, but don't have the fingers of a little elf? The cheater bow is my favorite "secret" in all of scrapbooking. Just take a length of ribbon about 2" long, and tie it in a knot! Trim the ends to the length you want and you're done. Easy as pie and simply adorable.



And while we're on the subject, an entire row of cheater bows in a variety of matching colors and prints creates interest, texture and fun down the length of any card. Or, mix it up, and use hemp or twine in place of ribbon, for a more rustic look.

Whether stamping your images, or using embellishments, your card should have a focal point. Easily create one by "matting" your image or sentiment with one or two coordinating papers.

Even if you are not a stamper "per-se" you should have at least a small assortment of sentiments on an acrylic or rubber stamp set. (Thank you, happy birthday and Merry Christmas are, of course, MUST HAVES), or pick up one of our quote books or stacks to personalize your sentiment.

Hints to get them done:

Think Themes.

1. **Decide what KIND of card you want to make today.** Do you need Christmas, Birthday, or

Thank You cards? How about some "Just Because" or "Thinking of You's"? Nothing gives that sense of accomplishment like knowing you have an entire stack of kids' birthday cards at your disposal whenever you need them.

2. **Pick a matching line of papers and embellishments to use, and stick with them.** Decision-making is much easier when you limit yourself to coordinating items, rather than constantly searching through all your supplies.
3. **Next, find a formula or template that you can copy, then make several cards following that formula.** You can even make several of the exact same card, if you make sure you don't send them to the same person!



People send cards for every occasion—birthdays, weddings, graduations, new births—anytime communication is necessary. Making your own greeting cards can be cheaper than buying store-bought cards, but they are also more personal and fun to receive. By following these steps your cards can be as fancy or simple as you choose.

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!

Suzy P, Deloris L, Frenchi Y, Lisa T, Mary Beth D, Krissy H, Heloise D, Stephanie R & Jeannie R

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing customers who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us!



Thanksgiving Photo Ops: How to Make the Most of Your Moments!

It is tough to believe that it's November already, and that Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away! I'm still trying to figure out where summer went! Obviously holidays bring plenty of opportunities for photographs, but sometimes we forget the things that we want to remember the most. So here are a few ideas to try during the Thanksgiving festivities.

Fantastic Food... Every family enjoys special recipes during the holidays. This year, make a point to photograph the final dish and create a cookbook or recipe layout. Also, make sure to snap a few photos of the set table, the food ready to serve, and have someone take photos of the food preparation, people enjoying the food, and the mess afterward.

Thankful Hearts... Snap a close up of each family member. Ask them for the top three things they are most thankful for this year. Jot each answer down, and either create a layout or a whole album with their responses. Don't forget to include the kids! Out of the mouths of babes...

Family Activities... I don't know what other families do, but after dinner and dishes- we usually have dessert while sitting around the table playing games. OK- I admit the men are napping in front of the game on TV. We women are at the table, with our coffee and pumpkin pie, visiting, laughing and playing games. What does your family do? Capture them in the midst of their various activities throughout the day. If they're snoozing, snap them snoozing. Try to get at least one photograph of each complete family. These pictures are always treasured and may even end up in their Christmas cards.

Be sure to pass the camera around a lot. You don't want to be stuck missing out on all the fun because you felt the need to capture it all. Remember to have a wonderful time and have a blessed holiday.

A fun hint I do: Purchase some disposable cameras and set out on the tables for other to snap up those photos- even let the kids shoot some.

God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him.



Take time to laugh for it is the music of the soul.



Anger is a condition in which the tongue works faster than the mind.



A hug is a great gift... one size fits all.

It can be given for any occasion and it's easy to exchange.



Laughter is God's sunshine.



You can't change the past
but you can ruin the present by worrying over the future.



If anyone speaks badly of you, live so that no one will believe it.



Do what you can, for whom you can with what you have,
and where you are.

November's Sale!

We make cardmaking fun and easy. Bring in your coupons this month for the FREE Cardstock you need to get started, when you purchase the fabulous Crafters Companion all in one! Makes A Great Christmas Gift Idea!

Imagine That! Scrapbooks & Gifts
NOVEMBER GIFT TO YOU!
Buy Crafter Companions all in one tool
and get 25 FREE sheets of Cardstock

Offer good 11-1-09 through 11-31-09.
*May not be used in combination
with any other coupons or special offers.

Imagine That! Scrapbooks & Gifts
NOVEMBER GIFT TO A FRIEND!
Bring a friend to this month's
class of YOUR choice and BOTH OF YOU
will receive \$5 off your registration!
Offer good 11-1-09 through 11-30-09.
*May not be used in combination
with any other coupons or special offers. Only valid for
ONE class