



# WARDEN AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL

644 Warden Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario M1L 3Z3  
Phone # (416) 396-6625 Fax # (416) 396-6649

Anja K. Belter, Principal Bill Vatzolas, Vice-Principal

# Newsletter

## Principal's Message

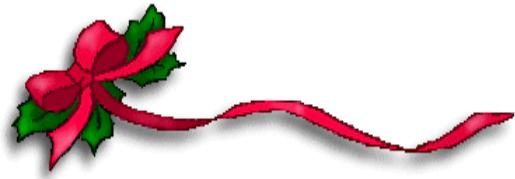
It's been another great month at Warden Avenue P.S. Our clothing drive has been amazingly well received, and we wish to thank our community for your generous contributions. Rest assured that your clothing will be put to good use, right in the Toronto community. The clothing has been picked up and delivered to New Circles.

In the meantime, we are supporting the Daily Bread Food Bank with a food drive for the holiday season. Please give generously if you can to support families in the Toronto area this season.

All signs point to winter coming soon! Not only do we see mittens, hats, and scarves re-emerging, but a true sign that winter is on its way is the fact that the progress reports went home this past month and our first official 'parent teacher interview night' took place. Thank you for attending this very important interview with your child to discuss her/his areas of strengths, and areas of need. At Warden Avenue, we believe that it is in partnership with the family that children make the greatest progress. Please continue to communicate frequently and thoroughly with your child's teacher to ensure her/his continued progress. The agenda is a great tool for communication between home and school.

## Staff Changes

We have had or will have a number of staff changes at Warden Avenue of which I want to keep our community aware. **Ms. Thompson**, our grade 7/8 long term occasional teacher in room 102, accepted a contract position at D. A. Morrison. Ms. Thompson's last day with our students was on November 8<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate all Ms. Thompson has done for Warden Avenue, and we miss her! We are very pleased to welcome Mr. Clabassi to the Warden Avenue family. Mr. Clabassi has accepted the long-term occasional position with the class, and we are looking forward to working with him for the remainder of the school year. **Ms. Blake**, who worked with our grade 6, 7 and 8 French classes, has taken a leave of absence from Warden Avenue P.S. We wish her all the best. We are extremely fortunate that **Madame Cosarba**, who has worked as with our grade 6 - 8 classes as an occasional teacher, has decided to work with us for the remainder of the year. Welcome to Warden, Mme. Cosarba! Finally, Ms. Small has started her maternity leave earlier than expected. Mr. Vatzolas and I are currently looking for a long term occasional teacher to work with her class. Happy Diaper Days, Ms. Small!



## Annual Food Drive

With the holiday season upon us, our thoughts turn to those less fortunate and how we can support them. Once again, we will accept canned or dry food in our front lobby. Our food, toy, and clothing drive will be in place from December 3<sup>rd</sup> - December 18<sup>th</sup>. We ask that all donations be in by then so we can deliver the food as needed. These items will be collected and given to local charities for distribution to families in need before the holiday season. If you are able, please give generously - and thank you!

## Rudy and the E.L.F.S.E. Versus the Holiday Blues @ Warden!

This year's holiday concert features a cast of thousands (more or less) and is looking to be an extravaganza! As a matter of fact, it's so big we have decided to hold it over two nights, rather than one. Our holiday cast will be performing on both December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, with the concert starting at 6:00 p.m.. Individual classes will be showcased on either the 17<sup>th</sup> or the 18<sup>th</sup>...please mark your calendars to save the date for your star's performance! Students have been working very hard in their class to get ready for the night; please ensure all students are here the evening of their performance at 5:45. Our HSP and ISP students will be performing with the class that corresponds with their grade. We expect our concert to conclude around 7:00 p.m. In lieu of admission, we ask that every person attending bring at least one item for our holiday food drive.

December 17 <sup>th</sup> -	Mrs Chapman's JK/SK Ms. Reyes' JK/SK Ms. Orfao's JK/SK Ms. McCalla's grade 1/2 Mr. McDonald's grade 2/3 Mrs. Jayraj's grade 3/4 Mr. Bennett's grade 5/6 Ms. Lieu's grade 4/5
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Ms. Nick's JK/SK Ms. Violot's grade 1 Ms. Small's grade 2 Ms. Maleganovski grade 2/3 Mr. Stamatopoulos grade 6 Ms. Roulston grade 4

## Homework Club At Lunch

To support our students academically, we are starting homework club at lunch every day in the library. Students from grade 1 - 8 are welcome to come to the library from 12:00 - 12:35 with work, studying, or a book. They will be supported with Warden student tutors, and supervised by our amazing staff. Please ensure that your students are aware that we welcome seeing them at lunch to help them get through their assignments, to give them additional time to work through something, or just to have extra time to read! This program will begin the first week of December.

## Paying Back Lates at School

At Warden Avenue P.S., we echo the TDSB mission statement: we are here to give students the knowledge, skills and values which they need to be responsible members of a democratic society. Part of the skill set and values which we actively encourage is punctuality, and to that end, we expect all our students to be at school on time and ready to learn each day. A significant number of students arrive at school late frequently. Not only does this negatively impact their own learning, but it also interrupts the learning of others when they enter into the classroom late. Please remember that the bell rings at 8:45, and all students are expected to be in the back area before that time, ready to line up with their classmates. Otherwise, they are marked late.

Letters have gone home to students with a significant number of lates. We will begin to track the students who are chronically late, and they will be asked to 'pay back' their lates at the end of the day. We are hoping that this consequence for lates will assist our students in working harder to get here a few minutes earlier. If you have any questions about this late room, please contact the office.

We would also request that if you pick your child up, you do so promptly when s/he is dismissed at either 11:35 or 3:20. Our staff cannot be responsible for supervising your child outside regular school hours. Far too many students are lined up in our office at both lunch and at the end of the day waiting for parents, guardians, or older siblings, and this puts our office staff in a difficult position. Thank you for being prompt.



## Junior Girls' Basketball Team

Congratulations to our amazing junior girls' basketball team. Coached by Mrs. Orfao and Ms. Papadimitrou, they made it all the way to the finals at Mason Road Jr. P.S., where their season ended in an amazing match. The girls showed amazing sportsmanship and skills throughout their season! Congratulations to the team: Adolphine Mandaku, Javaiya Faulkner, Bashair Ali, Nawal Afzal, Leah Rodgers, Shameil Roberts, Olivia Myers, Cherry Sun, Ajabo Abdulahi, Camille Chan, Akasha Patterson, Hasena Normonama, Tiffany Kerr, Jahniah Tan, Kerrisa Nicholson, Rahma Omar, and Ashauntay McLean. You made many proud moments in your season, girls!

## Street Proofing



The safety of your child is an important priority. Remember to keep Mrs. Paraman up to date with your current address, phone number, childcare arrangements, to whom your child may be released, etc. We also need you to let us know about any changes of routine and to sign your child in if they are arriving late or sign out if leaving early for any reason.

The Toronto Police Street Proofing program encourages you to teach your child:

1. - his/her name, address, phone number
2. - to Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency
3. - to communicate with you when they feel unsafe or afraid
4. - to keep you informed as to his/her whereabouts at all times
5. - never to admit to being alone in the home when answering the telephone
6. - never to invite strangers into the house or answer the door when alone
7. - never to approach or enter a stranger's car or hitchhike
8. - never to travel or play alone -- always be with friends
9. - to trust their feelings and say "NO" to an adult if that adult wants them to do something that is wrong
10. - not to accept gifts from strangers
11. - to tell you if someone has asked them to keep a secret from you
12. - that no one has the right to touch any part of his/ her body that a bathing suit would cover
13. - that if he/she is being followed, or approached too closely, to run home or go to the nearest public place and yell for help
14. - to report to your school authorities or a police officer, anyone who act suspiciously towards him/her
15. - never to play in deserted buildings or isolated areas
16. - never to enter anyone's home without your permission
17. - to avoid taking shortcuts through parks and fields
18. - never to show his/her money and if attacked to give it up rather than risk injury.
19. - that a police officer is a friend who can always be relied upon when he/she is lost or needs assistance.

Together, we can keep our school and community a safe environment for our children.

## Toronto Police Public Safety Notice

The Toronto Police Service at 41 Division, School Liaison Unit, has an announcement about smart phone use and thefts.

When using smart phones or cell phones in public, citizens should be vigilant to protect their property from thefts, such as 'snatch-and-grabs', that are common in transit ways and on streets near school areas.

### Points to remember

- Some Iphone and other service providers now have free tracking applications that will track the whereabouts of the device. Students are encouraged to register their Iphone or other handheld device, if this application is available.
- Some schools areas are especially being targeted; however one should be aware of their surroundings on TTC subways and bus stops.
- Travel in groups if possible, in well populated areas or paths.
- Be cognizant of your surroundings and traffic hazards while listening to music or playing games on your smartphone.
- Hide items when possible.
- Use black headphones instead of the white ones that may come with the device.
- Be aware of persons taking an interest in your electronic device and that move closer to you, especially on TTC property or on the sidewalk.

Students, who have a cell phone or other property taken by threats or force, are encouraged to call 9-1-1 immediately and report it. If a phone is lost or stolen, it can be reported at (416) 808-2222.

Students are also encouraged to use the School Crime Stoppers Program and report crimes anonymously at (416) 222- TIPS (8477).

In case of theft of your cell phone, have the following information filled out to share with police:

Full name:

Provider (Bell, Fido, etc.):

Make (Telus, Samsung, etc.):

Model (Curve, Gravity, etc.):

IMEI (type \*#06# on your phone):

S/N (look under the battery):

Cell phone number (optional):



## Entrance and Exit at Warden Avenue P.S.

We have asked all our students to access the building through the back doors. Our OAs are our sole door monitor, and when the front door is in constant use, it is far more difficult for her to know who is entering and exiting the building. When you are bringing your children to school, please bring them around to the back, where they will be met by their classroom teacher.

## School Council

Please don't miss our next School Council meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the library. Babysitting is always available and free!

## From Guidance and Career Development

Career development is a life-long process of self-awareness, exploration and preparation. Opportunities that help develop career aspirations occur on a daily basis, both in and out of school.

Early career exploration is about students identifying and then applying their personal interests, strengths and skills to making sound decisions in their educational planning. By engaging in career exploration activities, students begin to make links between their school subjects and future occupations.

The following examples describe how school, home and community can help children with **Career Development**:

- ✓ Participating in Junior Achievement programs
- ✓ Discovering their individual "Learning Styles"
- ✓ Logging on to the website "careercruising.ca"
- ✓ Participating in "job shadowing" activities
- ✓ Discovering different occupations by having children talk with family and friends about their careers
- ✓ Assisting children with goal setting in the "Annual Education Plan" (Gr.7-12)
- ✓ Volunteering in the community
- ✓ Exploring career centres in the community (ex. Job Action Centre at the Scarborough Civic Centre)
- ✓ Applying for a Social Insurance Number for future part-time and full time jobs



~ Lisa Sebbio

## Warden P.S. Parenting and Family Literacy Centre

We invite families with young children to come and visit our Parenting and Family Literacy Centre. This free program is located in Room 9 and is for parents and caregivers with children from infants to 6 years of age. Daily activities include story and music time, art, sand and water play, gym time and a nutritious snack. Please visit the centre whenever you can and participate in an enjoyable play based program where your child will learn school skills that will help prepare them for kindergarten. A great place for parents to make connections, discuss issues relating to children and learn about other resources in the community. Families are welcome to join us any time during program hours and participate in the many wonderful activities offered in the centre.

*For more information please call 416 394 2104*

### Program Hours

Mon/Tues/ Thurs 8:45 - 1:15  
Wednesday 8:45 - 3:45

- Story and Music Time
- Art Activities
- Sand and Water Play
- Learning Materials
- Snack
- Book Lending Library

*Please visit our Parenting Centre in Room 9*

## Kids, Cops and Computers



The kids, cops, and computers foundation started in 1977. It's sponsored by Merry go Round Children's foundation. Kids, cops, and computers work with schools in Toronto and wish to improve children's youth outcomes by providing children with a laptop, guidance from police, and if necessary, internet. They work with the TDSB and the TCDSB and they have donated more than 1,800 laptops! They are now working with Warden Avenue P.S with the grade sevens.

What do students do at kids, cops, and computers? Students go to all six lead and learn lessons and submit two assignments, an essay on Microsoft Word that needs to be 500 words long and a project that can be a presentation, video, essay etc. Doing these things will help them successfully complete the program and to earn their laptop. I think Kids, cops, and computers program is a very generous foundation that can really make a difference in a child's life and their kind support is truly inspiring.

~ Uswa Sattar, 7/8A



## Parking and Driving Concerns

Of late, we have noticed that a large number of parents are using the parking lot for pick up and drop off of students, particularly at the lunch hour and at the end of the day. Please remember that even if the parking lot is not blocked by pylons at this time, we continue to expect that caregivers and parents will NOT use the parking lot to pick up and drop off children. It is creating a significant safety concern for our school as we have so many children heading to and from school by foot at this time; as well, staff who must park at Warden Avenue sometimes cannot get a parking space.

We are looking for adult volunteers who can support our Parking Program at these hours. If you can volunteer just ten minutes a couple of times a week at 11:25, 12:20, or 3:10, please contact Ms. Belter. In the meantime, we ask that you continue to respect our safety concerns and NOT use the parking lot as a drop off or pick up of your child.

We have also noticed that parents are parking around the back of Warden Avenue P.S. Please note that these parking spaces are solely for daycare employees to relieve the congestion in the parking lot at the front of the building. We would ask that parents do NOT use this location to drop off their kindergarten age students. We have too many pedestrians walking through this area, and the constant car traffic is putting them at risk.

Thank you for doing all you can to help ensure safety at Warden Avenue.

## Fundraising for the Philippines

Our amazing staff and students have been touched and moved by the terrible devastation wreaked upon families in the Philippines by the most recent typhoon there. Spearheaded by our Student Council and Me to We group, we organized two very successful fundraisers. Our girls' and boys' basketball teams played against police from 41 Division in a "Kids Versus Cops" basketball game which we opened to a paying audience. While it isn't important to note who won (Warden students won!!!), what is important to note is that every student in our audience paid \$2 in order to enjoy the show, and gave to the Canadian Red Cross.

As well, a number of our brave teachers volunteered to be 'pied' by students who purchased a raffle ticket for \$3. Each raffle ticket was entered into a draw to 'pie' the participating teacher of their choice. Ms. Belter, Mr. Vatzolas, Mr. Stamatopoulos, Mr. Leavitt, Ms. Rotas, Ms. Lieu, Mr. Bennett, Mr. McCourt, Ms. Roulston, Ms. Gavas, Mr. Maharaj and Mr. Bigioni were all wearing big smiles - along with a lot of whipped cream - all over their faces when the wildly popular event was done. Warden students are to be congratulated on their generosity - so far, we have raised an astonishing \$845.55 to send to the Philippines. Thanks to this great community!

## Winter Handbook

Winter officially arrives in Canada on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Although winter can be beautiful, it can also be a worrisome time for parents and teachers. Our children have to contend with the natural hazards of winter (ice, snow and early darkness) as well as an increase in potentially dangerous vehicle traffic, which is fighting severe weather conditions. Please help us to keep Warden Avenue Public School children happy, healthy and safe this winter and every winter.

Read the following special winter material and take a few minutes to discuss it with your child.

At school we will continue to discuss with the children safety in all kinds of weather. We will be stressing topics such as slippery roads, running on ice, dressing properly for weather conditions, accepting rides, etc.

We will also keep you informed of any unusual or extremely hazardous situations that we see or hear about.

### Hazardous Weather/Early Entry

On days when the weather is very bad or hazardous (rain, extreme cold, ice), students who walk will be met by staff at the front door and allowed to enter the school anytime after 8:35 a.m. and 12:25 p.m., ten minutes before regular entry times. Students arriving on buses will enter the school upon bus arrival and be supervised in the front foyer. We ask that parents please not send children any earlier on these bad weather days. With your co-operation, we can avoid students being subjected to poor weather conditions for too long of a time.

### Staying In At Recess

During the winter months, we receive requests from parents to have their children remain indoors at recess time because they "have a cold" or are "just getting over a cold" or because "it's too cold to go out". Regulations set by the Ministry of Education require that children receive a morning and afternoon recess. Fresh air, unstructured free time and supervised play allow for a healthy break from class work, which is necessary for the total well being of the child. At Warden, the children in grades 1 - 8 receive recess breaks each morning and afternoon, as well as lunch recess time outside. We feel that these breaks are indeed important for the children and every child should go outside for recess. If your child spends her/his lunch at school, they will also be outside for up to half an hour over the lunch hour.

Naturally, as a parent, you are the best judge of whether or not your child is well enough to attend school, and I must assume that if your child is at school, s/he is



well enough to spend a short time outside in the morning and afternoon. If you send your child to school for lunch supervision, s/he will also be outside for up to a half hour of fresh air and exercise.

We will have indoor recess for all students on rainy days and on days when weather conditions are particularly severe. TDSB policy states that: "Children need an opportunity to get exercise and free play time outdoors; however, weather conditions sometimes warrant that indoor recesses, lunch periods and pre-entry periods be considered necessary for student and staff safety. Conditions warranting indoor recesses:

- (a) Rain, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, extreme winds and extreme cold.
- (b) Cold weather: When temperature and/or wind-chill factor indicates -28C or lower children will remain indoors due to risk of frost-nip and frostbite. When temperature and/or wind-chill factor indicates -20 to -28C, recesses may be shortened to 10 minutes and lunch recess be 20 minutes depending on local conditions." We definitely will not send the children outside for recess if weather conditions are considered dangerous or unhealthy.

### Proper Footwear at School



- Varying weather conditions (snow, cold, ice, rain) present us with special safety hazards here at the school. For the **protection of your children**, I would ask that all parents ensure that children have proper footwear to wear inside the school when they take off their boots. Footing in the gym and on the stairs is not the best when you have no shoes; besides, it's cold and sometimes wet in the halls and washrooms.

In addition, every school is obligated by law to have periodic fire drills to ensure that should a real fire break out, the children can be quickly and safely removed from the building. During the winter season we are very concerned that every child has some kind of indoor footwear at school so that, in the event of a fire drill, children are not going outside in stocking feet.

### Winter Clothing

I am sure it must seem to parents that the more clothing your child has for winter conditions, the more s/he is able to lose. Our lost-and-found box at school fills up quickly with dozens and dozens of scarves, hats, boots and mittens.

To help us recover your child's lost clothing, please make sure that all of this clothing, especially boots and coats, are clearly labelled with your child's name. If

your child loses a piece of clothing, please insist that s/he look for it on the day it was lost.

If your child often loses items of clothing, please feel free to look through our lost-and-found yourself. We sometimes find that children "lose" items that they do not wish to wear and they are never claimed from the lost-and-found box. Items which remain in our lost and found box are periodically donated to charity.

## Dressing for Cold Weather

The best prevention against the hazards of exposure to extreme cold is to dress your child properly for cold weather. NO, a big, bulky coat is not the answer!



The Canada Safety Council recommends the following; Layers of clothing that are thick, loose fitting and lightweight are the best. They give the most protection because layers of air, trapped between layers of fabric, are warmed by the body and provide insulation. The outermost layer of clothing should be tightly woven and windproof. Clothes that provide sufficient warmth when children are inactive are often too warm after some movement or physical activity. When sweating begins, the trapped air insulation is replaced by moisture, which will conduct cold. Once the activity is stopped, evaporation of the sweat in the clothing causes cooling. With that comes a chill. If clothing is worn in layers, it can be taken off or put on as required.

Natural fabrics, such as cotton and wool, are recommended above synthetic fabrics because they stand up to wetness. Wool is especially good because it doesn't lump and continues to hold warmth when wet.

Body heat is generated in the torso and circulated through the blood stream. The first parts of the body to feel cold are the hands and feet because they are farthest away from the centre. When we start to feel cool, blood vessels in the arms and legs begin to constrict in order to conserve heat in the torso where it is most important. So, warm gloves and footwear are important. Mittens are warmer than gloves because they have less surface area exposed to cold. It is not necessarily a good idea to have your child wear an extra pair of socks for warmth; if the boots are too tight, there will be no room for the warm air layer. Tightness will also cause constriction and reduce the supply of warm blood to the feet. As much as 70 percent of the body's heat can be lost through the head. A warm hat with ear and face protection should be worn. Most people don't need to worry about breathing in cold air, as breath is adequately warm when it reaches the lungs.

An important note: Please think about the weather BEFORE you dress your child. Frequently our children come to school overdressed for the weather, and as a result, they are sweaty and uncomfortable throughout the day. Layers really are the answer, as children can remove layers of clothing if the sun comes out and warms the day.

# **Ward 18 Forum**

## **Discussion with Trustee Moyer**

### **Ward 18 Trustee**

Bliss Carmen Public School  
10 Bellamy Road South  
Thursday, December 5, 2013  
Light Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.



**DO YOU NEED  
INFORMATION?**

Your Settlement  
Worker is  
available to you!

**Fawzia Haji**

**647-296-6051**

If you would like help in  
any other language, we  
can make arrangements upon request.

**Thorncliffe  
Neighbourhood  
office**

18 Thorncliffe Park  
Drive, Toronto ON  
416-421-3054

# **NEW TO CANADA?**

*DO YOU NEED INFORMATION?*

## **Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office**

### **Settlement Workers in Schools program**

#### **How Can WE Help?**



The Settlement & Education Partnership in Toronto (SEPT), is a joint program between Toronto Catholic School Board (TCDSB), Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) & Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office (TNO) to work together with community resources to offer services to new Canadian students and their families.

#### **Information provided by Settlement Workers**

- ◆ Learn English
- ◆ Employment
- ◆ Health
- ◆ School and Education System
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Immigration
- ◆ Help with Forms
- ◆ Community Resources
- ◆ One-on-One Settlement Support
- ◆ Information Sessions & workshops
- ◆ Other issues.

*Languages Available: Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, English, Pashto, Sinhalese, Spanish, Farsi, Dari, Croatian, Russian, Tagalog, Tamil, Bengali, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, and Arabic.*



Funded by

Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada



# Student of the Month



The following students have been recognized by their teachers for demonstrating November's character attribute: **Empathy**.

Mrs. Nick	Dyani Cooper, Zaina Khan
Mrs. Chapman	Nadim Hassan Mumtahana Khan, Nikaya Wilson-Brodricks
Mrs. Reyes	Azmaeen Yousuf, Riyana Ahmed, Zariya Hussain
Mrs. Orfao	Hooriya Ali
Ms. Violot	Terina Eismatullah, Alexavier Pike-North
Mrs. McCalla	Ashi Medikonda, Javin Alexander
Mrs. Small	Adam Sangar, Naomi Cooper
Mr. McDonald	Siham Moallim, Iqbal Normohamed
Mrs. Maleganovski	Shrish Luteil, Zuhra Mohammad Ali
Mrs. Jayaraj	Nudrat Husyn, Jack Sue
Ms. Roulston	Kelsey Bonsol, Labib Haque
Ms. Lieu	Abdul Hadi Khalid, Hiba Choudhry, Angela Farmer
Mr. Bennett	Leah Rogers, Camille Chan
Mr. Stamatopolous	Bashair Ali, Maria Haque, Cherry Sun
Mr. Bigioni	Ifrah Ifrah, Natan Mandaku
Mr. Clabassi	Magilan Vasanthakumar, Ayyat Sattar
Mr. Maharaj	Marian Solomon, Angela Braithwaite

In the month of December, we will be recognizing students who demonstrate the character attribute of **kindness and caring**.

Your child can show kindness and caring by being aware of others' feelings, or helping someone who is having a bad day; showing concern for others or giving of one's time, talents, and resources are ways to show kindness and caring. Questions to discuss with your child might include: How do we show kindness and caring toward each other in our family? What other things could we do to show kindness and caring? How can we show kindness and caring to our friends? How can we be sure we are considering the needs of others, not just our own? Projects you can do together to encourage kindness and caring can include encouraging your child to reflect on her/his own behaviour and identify the acts of kindness in which s/he engages; writing thank you notes to those who have shown kindness and caring toward her/him; doing something which shows kindness and caring for someone less fortunate. To encourage kindness and caring in your child, show her/him the importance of this attribute by displaying kindness and caring to your child and to others. Share your feelings with your child. Expose your child to the power of kindness through random acts of kindness toward people, animals, and the environment. Read and discuss media stories that depict acts of kindness and caring.

