

Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

October 2017



October at a Glance

- **October 5**
Behavior Management Workshop for Parents
- **October 16–20 (G4–8)**
National Geographic Bee
- **October 27 (NV)**
Nevada Day—No School
- **October 27 (G1–8)**
Mid-Term Notices Go Out
- **October 27 (G6–8) (ID, UT)**
Halloween Social/Dance
- **October 30–31**
Halloween Dress-Up Days
- **October 31 (G6–8) (CA, NV, TX)**
Halloween Social/Dance



CHALLENGER
S C H O O L

I Love You So Much

How do you show your children you love them? Naturally, you spend time with them, take them on vacations, cook their favorite meals, and so on. But you also want to teach children the skills they need to become capable, successful individuals.

That last part, though—it isn't so easy to do. We know that children need firm and consistent guidelines to become independent and self-reliant adults. So why is it so hard to maintain the guidelines we know they need?

Parents often find it easy to enforce rules that prevent harm: behaviors such as running in front of cars, throwing rocks through windows, or choking another child.

Parents may have more trouble being consistent when the harmful effects are more subtle. They may back down when being ignored after telling a daughter to go to bed on time. Or perhaps parents look the other way when their son continues to pinch his little sister after being told repeatedly to stop. Many parents may find it difficult to prevent a toddler from running up and down the aisles in church, throwing temper tantrums, or grabbing something out of an older sibling's hands.

Although these bad behaviors may not seem as dangerous as running in front of cars, they still cause significant harm over the long run. A one-year-old hitting her mother may seem cute, but future disrespect will not be cute. A two-year-old regularly sleeping with his parents may seem okay, but what will be the damage in the long term?

When parents set and hold firm to guidelines, children don't have to guess what is or what is not allowed. As they come to understand the set limits, children are empowered to take responsibility for their actions. This is a crucial step in developing the self-reliance they need to thrive.

Why do parents indulge children's misbehaviors when they know they shouldn't?

The Reasons

Besides the all-too-familiar and obvious reasons of fatigue and distraction, other obscure reasons of pity and guilt are often to blame.

Parents may not enforce their own guidelines because they feel sorry for their children. Unknowingly, parents may come up with excuses for pitying their children. Anything can be an excuse. Perhaps the child was born premature, has health problems, or was adopted. The child could be too fat or too thin. She could be an only child or have too many siblings.



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Parents may feel guilty if they are single parents or if they spend too many hours at the office. They may worry that they don't spend enough time with their children or if they don't always like being a parent. Feelings of guilt can lead parents to lose confidence in their parenting skills. When children challenge the rules, many parents eventually get frustrated, give in, and let children do whatever they want to do.

The Solution

Children need their parents to be strong. Without rules, children can lose self-worth and self-confidence. They may view themselves as less capable than their peers. They accomplish less as their bad behavior continues or gets worse.

Here is a simple formula that works:

- Set expectations that will instill better behavior. Establish guidelines that demonstrate the appropriate time and place for certain behaviors.
- Hold to the plan tenaciously. Don't let feelings of pity or guilt distract from the plan. The key is persistent consistency.

Remember, holding to the formula is an expression of love that shows children, "I love you so much that I will help you stop this damaging behavior."

Children crave boundaries and strong, fair parents. By becoming more aware of how and when you let guidelines slip, you can regain control and be the consistent parents that your children need. Your reward will be the joy of setting them on the path to lifelong competence and independence.

In the Spotlight: Broadcom Masters Top 300

Seven Challenger students were named to the Top 300 of the prestigious Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering Rising Stars) competition with their projects from last spring's Science Fair. Congratulations and continued success to Grace L. of Almaden, Aditya I. and Tharika T. of Ardenwood, Akhilesh B. and Pujita T. of Strawberry Park, and Anirudh V. and Samika S. of Sunnyvale (all CA).



Grace L.



Aditya I.



Tharika T.

The Top 300 were selected from nearly 2,500 applicants who each scored among the top 10% at regional science fairs across the nation. Outstanding work!



Akhilesh B.



Pujita T.



Anirudh V.



Samika S.

Geography Bee (4–8)

This month, students will have the opportunity to answer questions about the world during our annual Geography Bee. Students may hone their knowledge of geography facts by going online to NationalGeographic.com/geobee and participating in the GeoBee Challenge by downloading the app.

Students will first compete in class. Finalists will advance to the campus bee. Challenger students have traditionally performed very well in this contest. Maybe your child will be our next geography whiz!



Picture Days (PS–8)

During the school year, a professional photographer will be visiting campuses to take individual portraits for parents to purchase. Look for specific information to come from your campus.

Picture days are special function days. Preschoolers wear their uniforms, and students in K–8 must wear their full special event uniforms, including the required cardigans and ties.

Send Us Alumni Stories!

We'd like to hear about the achievements, successes, and experiences of our alumni since graduation. Are you a Challenger graduate or the parent of one? Are you a teacher who has kept in touch with a former student?

Please update us. Submissions will be considered for publication in a future newsletter. Feel free to drop us a line at marketing@challengerschool.com.

Columbus Day (K–8)

Although not the first European to set foot in the new world, Christopher Columbus was an explorer, navigator, and colonizer who opened the way so that Europeans could settle in the Americas.

To commemorate the great people like Columbus who helped open the doors to freedom in the world, classes will discuss events surrounding the discovery of America, the founding of colonies such as Jamestown, and the significance of the European exploration of the American continents.

Communicating Student Academic Progress

Mid-term notices for students in grades 1–8 students will be sent home later this month.



At the end of the semester, preschool teachers will prepare Reports of Progress for parents, and kindergarten–grade 8 teachers will send home Achievement Reports. See the Parent Calendar for dates. These official communications occur twice during the academic year.

Feel free to contact the school at any time if you'd like to meet with your child's teacher.



Halloween Dress-Up Days (PS–8)

Halloween Dress-Up Day is October 31. (Preschool students in MWF programs will dress up on October 30.) Elementary students may wear either costumes or their uniforms to school that day. (It is not a free dress day.) Students in grades 6–8 will be assigned a theme for costumes.



Students who wear costumes will remain in the costume all day and should not plan on changing into other clothes. We encourage creative costumes, but remember that your child will have regular school activities all day. Please leave masks, glitter, and toy weapons at home.

Preschoolers may also dress up on their party day, and teachers will be in costume, too. Preschoolers will have games, an exciting skit, and lots of fun! Parties are geared for students in the intimate classroom setting; however, both preschool and kindergarten parents are welcome to watch a short parade. Look for a notice (PS) or check your Classroom News (K) for parade time.

Middle schoolers are also invited to a Halloween event on either October 27 (ID and UT) or October 31 (CA, NV, and TX).

Note: Please do not send food or favors to your child's class. Challenger will provide a snack for the festivities.

Managing Child Behavior Workshop

Challenger teaches children to manage their behavior and make good choices. Learn how you can use these effective methods at home!

Our Managing Child Behavior Workshop on October 5 is offered at no cost to you and is designed to help parents equip children with the behavior management skills that will prepare them for a lifetime of success and happiness.

We'll have some helpful resources available for purchase at the event.

See your invitation or visit our website at ChallengerSchool.com for details.



Learn how to help your child manage his emotions and behavior.

Preschool

Learning Names

Your child is learning to print his or her name with a capital letter followed by lowercase letters. (Some names are exceptions to this rule.)

Sophia



Oxford University Press Online References

We are pleased to provide Challenger students online access to the Oxford University Press online references.

Since much of the reference information found on the Internet is unreliable, these professionally curated references will further inspire Challenger students to embrace the value of clarity and precision in their thinking and writing.

To access these reference sites, visit ChallengerSchool.com and click the Student Resources link. Contact your Headmaster for log-in information.

Challenger Phonics Fun Works!

Have you picked up your copy of the amazing *Challenger Phonics Fun* reading program yet?

With DVDs, music, and activities, *Challenger Phonics Fun* uses original, upbeat phonics songs and humor to teach critically important reading concepts. For children ages 2–8, *Challenger Phonics Fun* is a key to the world of reading.

In the words of a satisfied parent, “I can’t tell whether my child is having fun while learning or is learning while having fun!”

Our experience shows that our students learn faster and more confidently at school when they have *Challenger Phonics Fun* at home because it uses many of the same concepts and methods our teachers use in the classroom. Students recognize the characters and songs, and they have fun while reinforcing their learning!

For more information, stop by your campus, or purchase your kit online at TheLearningCrew.org. Kits will also be available for purchase at the Managing Child Behavior Workshop on October 5.



Challenger students enjoy camaraderie and the cooler fall weather.

Constitution Day Assembly (K–8)

In assemblies last month, Challenger students celebrated the anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787.

At some campuses, special guest speakers shared inspirational thoughts and stories about the Constitution, our Founding Fathers, and the quest for independence.

In just four handwritten pages, the Constitution provides our country with an owner’s manual for the greatest form of government the world has ever known.

