

Family Learning Bulletin

October 2010

News Last Month:

- Pope Benedict XVI visited the UK in September, it was the first papal visit to the country since that of John Paul II in 1982.
- A huge whale skeleton found in the River Thames went on display in London's Docklands.
- Israeli and Palestinian leaders met in the Washington for peace talks.
- A futuristic car has managed to travel 100 miles on one gallon of fuel in the USA.
- Tigers were discovered living at over 4000m up a mountain in Bhutan.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Our lives are changed by what we do, not by what others do to us.
Shannon Earls

Next Month:

- Listening skills
- My Word
- Brainbox
- A better you



MEMORY and STRESS

Learning and memory take place in your brain at synapses, which are junctions through which brain cells communicate.

Scientists have found that even short-term stress can affect how well your synapses can work.

When you are anxious you might become forgetful, or maybe your brain "freezes." Or, perhaps taking a test causes you to blank on everything you've learned? Stress can affect your brain functioning and communication skills.

It makes sense then, to reduce the stress you are likely to have. If you are disorganised (don't have the correct books or equipment in your bag), if you do not meet deadlines (don't complete homework or coursework), then you are creating stress for yourself that need not be there.

Set yourself two simple rules that can cure this immediately!

- 1) **Pack your bag for school the night before, and check that everything you will need for next day is in there**—this only takes 5-10 minutes, and can make a huge difference to the stress you might have.
- 2) **Do homework the night it has been set rather than leaving it to the last minute.**

BRAINQUIZ: Here on earth it is always true, that a day follows a day. But there is a place where yesterday always follows today. Where?

Did You Know?

- ✧ Slugs have 4 noses.
- ✧ Owls are the only birds who can see the colour blue.

CAREER ABC

CHEMICAL ENGINEER

Chemical engineers design, operate and manage factories where raw materials are made into useful products.

They do research in laboratories to test the processes and work out if they will be worth putting into production.

They know all about the materials being used and help to design the machinery to make them into useful items.

They also have to plan how the factory will run and the people needed to do this.

They have to be good at communication and working with others as well as managing people.

Being good at Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry is helpful, and just generally enjoying Science. You would usually need to do a degree in Chemical or Mechanical Engineering. There are lots of areas to specialise in like: Pollution control, Biotechnology, Pharmaceuticals, Metals, Fertilizers and Pesticides, Plastics, Forensics, Cosmetics, Missiles and Space.

Environment Matters

Leaving areas of lawn uncut for a few months gives wildflowers and grasses the chance to grow.

These will provide a new habitat for insects and small mammals.

Try to convince people at home to leave a circle of uncut lawn all year through.

Watch to see the new flowers and insects that start to make it their home.



Website of the month:
<http://www.stuboutjoe.com/>

A great FREE game to play, the reviewers say: "It's not often that something comes along that is both fun and has a serious end benefit but that's exactly what you get with Stub Out Joe.

Stub Out Joe is a complex and challenging platform game in which the player must stub out the diabolical Smokey Joe over 4 levels from the city to the rainforest. Tough and stimulating for young people, the game contains carefully placed nuggets of information about the dangers of smoking.

At the end of each level there are smoking related questions which unlock the next stage but they barely slow down the action in this engaging and fun game from the British Heart Foundation."

MATHEMAGICIAN:

How can half of 12 be 7?



SCHOOL IN INDIA स्कूल

You would only be able to go to school if your parents were able to buy the uniform and the books, and many people cannot afford this (21 million Primary aged children did not go to school in India in 2006).

School would begin around 8:00am with songs and prayers, and you may have been up since 5:00am.

You might be in a class with people of different ages, and you would do a lot of memorising of information rather than understanding it.

You probably would not have any computer lessons as most schools do not have them.

You would bring some food from home for lunch, and finish maybe at 2:00pm, but some schools go on to 5:00pm!



LAST MONTHS ANSWERS: Brainquiz– his horse was called Friday. **MATHEMAGICIAN:** Gary 24, Christen 20.