



## Thank a Teacher



### Mini Fact:

On average, teachers spend about \$500 of their own money on school supplies each year.

Think of all the things your teacher does for you every day. Make a list. How many items did you come up with?

Many of the tasks that teachers do for students each day aren't even seen or noticed by school kids. For instance, look around your room at the decorations there. Your teacher stays after school or comes in on weekends to put them up. She talks with parents whose kids are struggling or need to move ahead in one subject. He meets with other teachers and educators to learn more about the best methods for teaching kids. Teachers encourage and support their students every day in tiny and huge ways.

Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated May 7-13 this year. The Mini Page cooked up some ideas to help you show your teachers how much they mean to you.

### Be a friendly spy

You'll have to be a little sneaky for this one! Working with your classmates, try to find out what your teacher needs in the classroom. Many teachers have to buy supplies with their own money. This can become a big expense.

Ask another teacher or a parent what your teacher really wants for the classroom but can't get. It might be a new set of colored pencils, calculators, big floor pillows for the reading area or 12 bottles of hand sanitizer.



Collect items from home, or plan an after-school event, such as a race or video game challenge. Each person pays a fee to enter, and the winner gets a small prize, with the money going toward items on the teacher's wish list.

### Show what you've learned

Work with your classmates to put on a play about something you've been studying. Say you've been learning about our branches of government. Write and perform a play about a Supreme Court case. You'll need nine judges, two lawyers and a defendant and plaintiff. (The **defendant** is the person who has been accused of something; the **plaintiff** is the person who has brought the case against the defendant.) Work with your teacher to arrange an appropriate time to present your play.



### Food works

Everybody loves treats! But don't just bring a box of doughnuts.

Make some edible bites of history. Ask your family for a recipe that's been handed down through generations, or make a dish that is native to your culture.

Bring the dishes to school and tell the story behind the food: Who gave you the recipe? Where did your ancestors come from? Why is the dish special to you? How did you make it? Then share your creation!

Again, make sure to work with your teacher to set a date for your food history project.

### A flood of thanks

Flood your teacher with thanks! Each student in your class can write a short note or poem about what your teacher means to him or her. Ask if the notes can be dropped off in the school office for your teacher to find after school or on a break.



Give a lot of thought to your note. Try to think of a moment when your teacher really helped you or stood up for you. Decorate it with a drawing about that time.

### Teacher fact-a-roonies

According to the National Parent Teacher Association:

- The standard American work week is 40 hours. But on average, teachers work about 52 hours a week.
- About 30 hours are spent in the classroom; the other 22 are spent grading papers and preparing for class.
- The average class has more than 20 students.
- Teachers have to adjust their methods for each class and for each individual student.



### Resources



#### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MPTAW](http://bit.ly/MPTAW)
- [bit.ly/MPIdeas](http://bit.ly/MPIdeas)

#### At the library:

- "Teachers Rock!" by Todd Parr
- "My Teacher" by James Ransome

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of teachers are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ADJUST, APPRECIATION,	E X P E N S E M S U P P O R T
CLASSROOM,	G R A D I N G T S U J D A Z B
ENCOURAGE, EXPENSE,	X Y R O T S I H Q W R I T E W
FOOD, GRADING,	S U P P L I E S A S K N A H T
HISTORY, PERFORM,	T S J G N I R A P E R P J A J
POEM, PREPARING,	U X A P P R E C I A T I O N T
STUDENT, SUBJECT,	D T C E J B U S M R O F R E P
SUPPLIES, SUPPORT,	E E G A R U O C N E O M E O P
TASKS, TEACHER,	N D O O F P M O O R S S A L C
THANKS, WRITE.	T W E T E A C H E R S K S A T

## Cook's Corner

### Cranberry-Almond Snack Mix

#### You'll need:

- cooking spray
- 2 cups whole blanched almonds
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

- 1 teaspoon canola oil
- 2 cups dried cranberries



#### What to do:

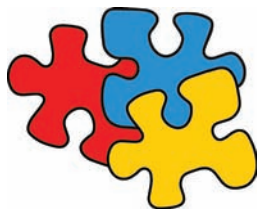
1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Coat large baking sheet with cooking spray.
2. In medium bowl, combine almonds, cinnamon and oil. Toss to coat the almonds with the cinnamon.
3. Spread almonds on baking sheet and bake for 8 to 10 minutes, until almonds are slightly toasted. Let cool.
4. Transfer almonds to a bowl, add cranberries and toss to combine.

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing ([andrewsmcmeel.com](http://andrewsmcmeel.com)).

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## Puzzling

Unscramble the words below that remind us of school.



nalrnige \_\_\_\_\_

tdusntes \_\_\_\_\_

esgma \_\_\_\_\_

sceres \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: learning, students, games, recess.

## Mini Jokes



Tara: What's a teacher's favorite country?  
Tyshon: Expla-nation!

## Eco Note



A British marine biologist says he has found that sperm whales gather in groups as large as 70 to engage in a mass "scratchathon," during which they rub one another's outer skin to get rid of parasites and other marine animals. Luke Rendell of the University of St. Andrews was studying the social life of the whales when he made the discovery. He found that the whales can engage in the group grooming and frolicking for hours or days at a time.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

## For later:

Think about your favorite book that has a teacher as a main character. What do you like or dislike about that teacher?

## Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bbs.amuniversal.com/Everyone\\_content/Teaching\\_Guides/The\\_Mini\\_Page/](http://bbs.amuniversal.com/Everyone_content/Teaching_Guides/The_Mini_Page/)

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