

Get And Stay Organized Throughout The School Year



(NAPSM)-Life is full of challenges around school time. From waking up early to make the kids' lunches to racing to a soccer game after a sales meeting, the reality is that the back to school season affects both parents and children. In order for kids to be successful in school and in life, good family communication is key. Maria Bailey, Office

Depot's Family Organization Expert, offers innovative tips for families to stay on track throughout the school year.

Tip #1: Establish a routine. Whether your child is going to school for the first time or moving up a grade it's important for parents to review their child's school and extracurricular commitments early for the upcoming year. Plan out a weekly schedule and try to stick to it.

Tip #2: Get organized early. Last minute book reports and science fair project deadlines can be trouble-free if you have all the school supplies you'll need ahead of time. Whether you are a stay-at-home or working parent, be sure to "take a day off" to get the family organized prior to the start of school and again after the holidays. Many retailers including Office Depot let you buy in bulk and save on the basics such as pens, notebooks and construction paper.

Tip #3: Create a "Family Communication Station." A new school year means new schedules, project deadlines and time requirements for the entire family. Avoid missed deadlines and morning chaos by creating a "Family Communication Station" that keeps students and parents on the same page. For under \$50, you can easily assemble the station by hanging a large cork bulletin board, small dry erase board and monthly calendar in a high traffic area of your home, such as the kitchen. Keep the calendar updated with activities and deadlines for each child.

Tip #4: Kid-Friendly In/Out Boxes. How many times has your child lost a permission slip before you got a chance to sign it? Assemble kid-friendly in/out boxes for the constant flow of papers and permission slips that must be reviewed and signed by Mom or Dad. Have each child decorate their own personalized box with stickers, markers and glitter.

Tip #5: Try to keep some consistency in your child's schedule. Be sure to leave one night free for the whole family to dine together. Talk with your kids about how they are balancing homework and extracurricular activities and listen carefully to what they say. Not only will this bring you closer, but knowing what the kids are up to can keep you even more organized. Creating a "Family Communication Station" can help you avoid missed deadlines and morning chaos.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			20	21 NW Believer Con. 21-23 25715 102nd SE Kent, Wa.	22 Franklin HS 30th Class of 73 Reunion 22 & 23 South China Restaurant 2714 Beacon Ave. S. Financial Educational Seminar Double Tree Guest Suite 16500 South Center	23 Donovan James Roberson 1st Annual Memorial Picnic Seattle Animal Shelter 2062 15th Ave. W. Seattle, WA 98119 206-386-PETS
24 Earth, Wind & Fire Pier 62/63 1600 Alaskan Way Seattle, WA 98101 206-281-7788	25	26 American Idols Live" KeyArena 305 Harrison St. Seattle, WA 98109 206-684-7200	27 Seahawks Stadium 800 Occidental Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98134 206-381-7500	28 Bellevue's "Live at Five" Concert Series 550 106th Avenue N.E. Bellevue, WA 98004 425-453-3112	29 Al Jarreau, Yolanda Adams and Najee Chateau Ste. Michelle 14111 N.E. 145th St. Woodinville, WA 98072 425-488-3300	30 When Woman Hurt Healing Seminar 13735 24th Ave. So African American Veterans Family Day Seward Park 11-3:30pm
31 ROOTS Picnic Gas Works Park 10 - 6pm Bremerton Waterfront Boardwalk Second Street Washington Avenue Bremerton, WA 98337 360-377-3041	1	2	3	August 2003		

Schedule of Events

Childish Film Festival
Featuring independent children's films and videos from around the world.
Schedule
Little Theatre
608 19th Ave. E.
Seattle, WA 98112
206-675-2055
8/20 - 9/3

Seahawks Stadium
Behind the scenes tour including the press box, luxury suite, visitors' locker room and go on the field; tours daily except on major event days, call to check
Seahawks Stadium
800 Occidental Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98134
206-381-7500
8/19 - 30



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