

SEPTEMBER

*One book, one pen, one child,
and one teacher can change the world. – Malala Yousafzai*

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13



Prayer:

God, as we begin a new school year, bless our classrooms where we learn, bless our teachers who we learn from, and bless our friends who we learn with. May the things we learn this year increase our knowledge about the world around us and help us to know and love you better. Thank you for each and every blessing that awaits us this year. Amen.

Faith + Family Tips:

+Prayer Spot: Use the ride to school as an opportunity to put Jesus at the start of your day! Have your children choose a prayer spot somewhere between your home and school that you pass each morning. It could be a certain tree, sign, building, etc. As you pass your prayer "spot" every morning make the sign of the cross and pray for the upcoming day, your teachers, friends, people who are sick, etc.

+Pits and Peaks: Have your children choose a highlight (peak) and a struggle (pit) as a way to share a few moments from their day with you. Share a peak and a pit each day.

+Night Time Blessing: Start a bedtime blessing tradition! Each evening, trace the sign of the cross over your child's head and heart saying aloud, "Rest in the arms of Jesus - You are loved." To end the day with a parent's hand over a child's small head praying them to sleep is a gift we can pass on to our children. Allow the breath of God's words to send your children to sleep.

Family Adventure: Apple Picking!

Load up the car, get on the road, head to a local orchard, and experience a bit of autumn. Handpick apples, run through fallen leaves, and make sure to bring enough fruit home to bake an apple pie together. Put this on your yearly traditions list and watch your family change - like the seasons!

Caramel Apple Salad Recipe:

Gather your family, add in time together, mix well with laughter, and finish with a delicious treat!

- 6 small apples, cored and chopped (blend of Granny Smith and Red Delicious)
- 6 Snickers Bars, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 (5.1 oz) box instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 (12 oz) container Cool Whip
- 1 cup marshmallows (optional)
- 1/2 cup caramel sauce

Whisk together pudding mix and milk, fold in Cool Whip, then mix in apples, Snickers pieces, and marshmallows. Drizzle caramel sauce on top.

Refrigerate until time to eat!

Teaching:

We are like pencils! The most important part of who we are is what's inside. We are given an "eraser" for when we make mistakes. We may "break," but God continues to "sharpen" us. We were each created for a specific purpose - to "write" into the lives of others. Share this analogy as your children write with pencils this month!