

Around the World

All Ages. All Stages

Why Our Programs Work

Content That Connects

The Whole Child

What's New

President's Letter
Press Room

What We Do

The Workshop At A Glance

Who We Are

Senior Management
Board of Trustees
Site Credits

Contact Us

FAQs

Newsletter

Subscribe
Archive

Privacy Policy

Site Map

Annual Report

Sesame Family Newsletter Archive

News and Notes from the Workshop
Posted by Jordan Brown

SESAME FAMILY NEWSLETTER---Overcoming Mother's Day Panic
April 28, 2004

***Attention Panicky Fathers
***Breakfast in Bed
***Sunny Day, Sweeping the Clouds Away
***Homemade Gifts
***Sending E-Wishes
***Games and More: Happy Mother's Day!
***Weekly Trivia

***ATTENTION PANICKY FATHERS

As I write this newsletter, Mother's Day is still 18 days away. Usually, I'm a laid-back, easy-going guy. Yet as Sunday, May 9th approaches, I become about as calm and collected as a certain furry blue monster at the sight of a plate of cookies. Why am I so panicky about the "Mother of All Holidays"?

Since my son Finn was born three years ago, my love and respect for my wife Ellen has increased exponentially. Finn has brought incredible joy into our lives. There are countless ways in which Ellen inspires, delights, and cares for us. Her love and devotion to our family knows no bounds. Clearly, my anxiety about Mother's Day comes from my wish to celebrate this day in a way that lets Ellen know how much we truly appreciate all she does for our family. In the past, my Mother's Day celebrations have been cobbled together at the last minute. Ellen graciously appreciated these ham-fisted efforts. But this year, I'm determined to knock her socks off. And now that Finn is 3, he can play a role in preparing for this important day, too.

Before I go on, I must have a word with all the mothers reading this newsletter. (I have a hunch that most of the parents who read this newsletter are mothers. After all, it's not an accident that of the six newsletter writers, I'm the only dad.) So, if you're a mother reading this newsletter, I have two requests: (a) print out a copy of this newsletter, and (b) "accidentally" leave it in a place where your spouse will see it in the next day or two. Who knows? It might give him some fun ideas for celebrating Mother's Day.

For all the clueless fathers out there, read on, my brethren, read on...

MY BEST MOTHER'S DAY

Moms share their fondest memories.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=48020>

MOTHER'S LOVE

How women nurture their children through the years.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=47960>

THE SECRET LIVES OF SESAME MOMS

Moms reveal private hopes, joys, and fears.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=96586>

***BREAKFAST IN BED

Breakfast in bed is an oldie, but goodie. Finn and I are definitely planning on this Mother's Day's classic for Ellen. After all, there's nothing more thrilling for an overworked mother than to sit upon a comfy bed that's crummy from cinnamon toast, sticky from syrup, and damp from spilled OJ.

Finn and I are going to cook up a storm. We'll probably whip up a batch of buttermilk raisin scones or make Challah bread French toast, along with lots of crispy bacon. Chocolate-covered strawberries are a decadent treat that Ellen will love--and Finn will have fun making. For a final touch, I'll help Finn craft some homemade flowers to brighten up the breakfast tray.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST TREAT

Start Mom's day off right with breakfast in bed.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=47100>

CRUNCHY FRENCH TOAST

A yummy way to start Mom's day

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=73145>

TISSUE PAPER FLOWERS

Create colorful flowers with tissue paper and pipe cleaners.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=7433>

WIGGLE GIGGLE FLOWERS

Create a colorful bouquet that'll last all year long.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=47520>

***SUNNY DAY, SWEEPING THE CLOUDS AWAY

After indulging Ellen with breakfast in bed, we will walk to the park for a family outing. Finn and I have already put in a request to the Mother's Day gods for sunny spring weather. After an invigorating stroll among the trees, we'll head over to the playground.

Ellen gets a big kick out of watching Finn run around, and laugh with the other kids. She especially enjoys watching him confidently zoom down the big "twirly slide" that intimidated him last summer. After the park, we plan to head over to the local bookstore. Ellen loves to read but rarely has the free time to do so. After buying her a book of her choice, Finn and I will disappear for a couple hours so that she can enjoy her new book in solitude.

CALLING ALL DADS

Make Mother's Day special for your wife and involve your preschooler, too.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=935>

IT'S YOUR DAY, MOM AND DAD!

Special ideas for celebrating Mother's and Father's Day

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=108520>

***HOMEMADE GIFTS

Ellen's office is lined with Finn's artwork. Some of his masterpieces were created in our kitchen; others were made in school. In addition to a homemade card, I may help Finn dictate and illustrate a storybook starring Ellen. A homemade book called "Mommy and Me" could include some of the things that Finn and Ellen enjoy doing together. One part of this book may tell the story of a game Ellen and Finn invented called "Sweet Wormy / Nasty Wormy." In this game, Finn's right hand becomes Sweet Wormy--a kind, loving creature whose fingers gently caress your face. The villain in this silly game, Nasty Wormy, is Finn's left hand. There's no telling what mischief Nasty Wormy can get into! This game always involves lots of laughter, and is a joy to watch. In addition to giving tips on making homemade

storybooks, Sesame Workshop offers creative ideas for making inexpensive presents that mothers will treasure for years to come.

HOMEMADE STORYBOOK

Help your child create a book of stories about Mom.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=7771>

HOMEMADE PICTURE FRAME

Capture special memories.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=31100>

HOMEMADE WRAPPING PAPER

Make every gift special with kid-made wrapping paper.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=18999>

***SENDING E-WISHES

Since Finn was 2, he has enjoyed playing with our computer--with careful supervision, of course.

One of the things that Finn enjoys doing is sending and receiving e-cards. There are a batch of fun e-cards on Sesame Workshop's Web site featuring Elmo, Cookie Monster, and other Sesame Street pals. Next week, Finn and I are going to send e-cards to say Happy Mother's Day to Ellen, as well as Finn's grandmothers, and aunts.

SEND AN E-CARD FOR MOTHER'S DAY

You'll find online cards for birthdays, holidays, and any old days--all starring your favorite Sesame Street friends!

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=11368472>

Wishing all of you a sunny, special Mother's Day!

Jordan Brown
Sesame Workshop

***GAMES AND MORE: HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Celebrate Mother's Day with these activities, each starring a Sesame Street mom or grandma!

ELMO'S SPECIAL CUPCAKES

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=9526256>

GRANNY BIRD'S HOLIDAY FEAST

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=82425>

ELMO AND MOM IN THE CAR

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=62064>

MOTHER'S DAY E-CARDS

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=161005>

***WEEKLY TRIVIA

What a difference a year makes! Last year, Curly Bear (Baby Bear's baby sister) was an infant, but this season Curly is growing up! Look out for Curly bopping her head along to music or grabbing for Baby Bear's nose! Curly adores Baby Bear, whom she affectionately nicknames "Bebo."

COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

Tell us what's on your mind. Kindly note that we are unable to respond to every email received.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/gwr?s=nl&t=11155037>

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