

Humour is also a way of saying something serious.
(T. S. Eliot)

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Ask Now

www.asknow.gov.au

An innovative and very useful research and support service provided by a range of libraries and librarians across Australia and New Zealand!



Using this service you can contact librarians and ask your questions online – in ‘real time’ and in person! The service is available between 9.00 am and 7.00 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (and until 8.00 pm AEST during Daylight Saving Time). See their About Us page for more information and for more detailed hours of operation across Australia and New Zealand.

How the service works:

By completing a web form users can submit a question and chat to a librarian who will help find high quality information.

The AskNow software allows librarians to provide more than just an answer; the chat session is an opportunity for users to learn how to find information for themselves. During a session, the librarian can “push” websites and other information directly to the user’s computer while chatting. Librarians can also initiate a co-browse session with a user, which allows both parties to see the same screen.

At the close of the session, users who have supplied an email address will receive a transcript of the session, including links to any web pages sent by the librarian.

Good humor is a tonic for mind and body. It is the best antidote for anxiety and depression. It is a business asset. It attracts and keeps friends. It lightens human burdens. It is the direct route to serenity and contentment. (Grenville Kleiser)

Cybersmart Kids Online

www.cybersmartkids.com.au/cool-sites.htm

Cybersmart Kids Online is a community awareness project developed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) with the objective of providing parents and children with information and tools to help them have a rewarding, productive and safe experience of the internet.

Each of the cool sites we link to has been selected in accordance with the following criteria:

- it is primarily made for children or young people under the age of 18, and is appropriate to the various stages of a child's development;
- it is well produced, with content of a high quality;
- it is entertaining or has educational merit;
- it is relevant to Australian children;
- it contains no more than a low level of commercial content.



Have Fun Each Day!

www.learnmindpower.com/Pages/have-fun-each-day.html

An interesting article by John Kehoe on the importance of fun, play and spontaneity in life!

Practice being spontaneous. Surprise yourself by being “childlike” sometimes. Let each day hold a gift or two for you. Practice bringing fun, joy and nonsense into your life each day. When you find yourself wondering should I, shouldn’t I – don’t hesitate—do it!



Student Action Teams

Student Action Teams: Implementing Productive Practices in Primary and Secondary School Classrooms is published by Roger Holdsworth, of the Youth Research Centre, Melbourne University. Roger is also editor of Connect Publications.

It describes how small-scale action research methodology has been used successfully in many Victorian schools to engage students around important community issues.

Copies are \$33 AUD and may be obtained by contacting Roger Holdsworth on 9489 9052 or by email at:

r.holdsworth@unimelb.edu.au

Mentoring Tools for Adolescents

<http://tinyurl.com/37kogs>

Tools for Mentoring Adolescents were developed by the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota in collaboration with the Search Institute to support and strengthen relationships between mentors and mentees.

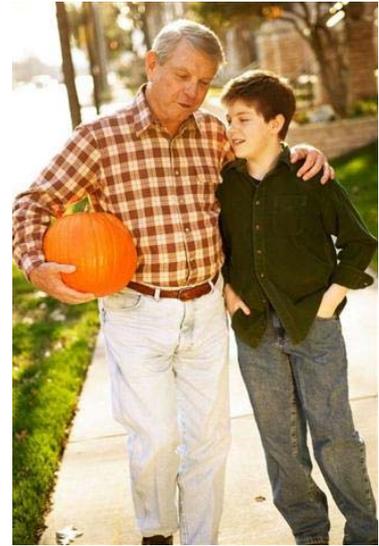
We hope that these resources will offer new ideas and insights for mentors and mentor program staff to enhance relationships with teens, and also assist in

recruiting more community members to support young people during their ever-changing, but always interesting, adolescent years.

Also available is the hard copy publication, *Mentoring for Meaningful Results*, from the Search Institute:

www.searchinstitute.org/product.php?productid=16424

The cost for this publication is \$27.95 US (not including postage)



Changemakers

www.changemakers.net/en-us/node

This site focuses on social innovation, with many tools and resources for ‘changemakers’. The site is well worth bookmarking and revisiting!

The Library is of particular interest, with a wide range of links, tools and resources:

<http://proxied.changemakers.net/library/index.cfm>

Changemakers is an initiative of Ashoka: Innovators for the Public that focuses on the rapidly growing world of social innovation. It provides solutions and resources needed to help everyone become a changemaker and presents compelling stories that explore the fundamental principles of successful social innovation around the world.

Changemakers is building the world's first global online "open source" community that competes to surface the best social solutions, and then collaborates to refine, enrich, and implement those solutions. Changemakers begins by providing an overarching intellectual framework for collaborative competitions that bring together individual social change initiatives into a more powerful whole.

To keep the framework dynamic, the online Changemakers's community identifies and selects the best solutions and helps refine them. The result is global action frameworks, drawing on the work of social entrepreneurs, that seed collaborative action and visibility on a global scale—making a big difference, field by field.

Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light. (Joseph Pulitzer)

Portland University Research and Training Center

www.rtc.pdx.edu/index.php

A wide range of resources is available on this site for workers, families and anyone else interested in the issue of children’s mental health.

This center is dedicated to promoting effective community-based, culturally competent, family-centered services for families and their children who are, or may be affected by mental, emotional or behavioral disorders.

Our research is designed to promote the transformation of mental health care by increasing knowledge of supports, services, and policies that:

- *Build on family strengths;*
- *Are community based, family driven, and youth guided;*
- *Promote cultural competence; and*
- *Are based on evidence of effectiveness.*

Don't Buy It—Get Media Smart!

<http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/>

Funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in the US, *Don't Buy It: Get Media Smart* is a media literacy Web site for young people that *encourages users to think critically about media and become smart consumers.*

Activities on the site are designed to provide users with some of the skills and knowledge needed to question, analyze, interpret and evaluate media messages.

There are also specific sections of the site for Teachers: <http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/teachersguide.html> and Parents: <http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/parentsguide.html>



Advertising may be described as the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it. (Stephen Butler Leacock)

Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues

www.cmyi.net.au

The Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI) is a community based organisation that advocates for the needs of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

The Centre has a priority focus on culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) young people from refugee and newly arrived communities.

In supporting young people, CMYI combines policy development and direct service delivery within a community development framework. This approach gives CMYI strong connections with

young people and their communities while enabling positive change on a local, state and national level.

CMYI provides a wide range of resources for the sector – both in English and translated into other languages.

For example, Starlink readers may be interested in their free downloadable ‘Youth Kit’ for young people wishing to establish or seeking ideas about how to run a youth group.

The kit explores issues such as how to recruit members, organise activities and manage finances.

A hard copy of the Youth Kit is available free for young people. Organisations can purchase copies through CMYI for \$15. (Download the order form from the CMYI website)



International Platform on Sport and Development

www.sportanddev.org/en/index.htm

This Internet Platform is an information resource centre dedicated entirely to Sport & Development. It is also a communication tool for those with an interest in Sport & Development to share ideas, information and experience.

There is a very large collection of resources and articles available on the site. Main sections of the site are:



Issues: a number of articles on S&D-related topics including a brief overview, key events that took place in shaping the debate and the current concerns within S&D discourse today

Organisations: a network of organisations active in the field of Sport & Development, composed of various organisations ranging from Sports Federations to local NGOs. (It's also constantly growing!)

Team Players: get to know the key actors across the globe who have expertise in Sport & Development.

Projects: information on projects around the world that use sport as a tool to reach development objectives

Resources and Tools: listing of relevant publications and documents that have been catalogued for research, educational, and informational purposes



Global Learning Portal

www.glp.net

An excellent resource for educators, the Global Learning Portal provides access to a huge range of resources, connections and collaborative opportunities worldwide.

There is no charge for membership of GLP – it is a nonprofit organisation, supported by a large number of partners around the globe.

Using GLP, you can:

Get help. Use GLP to access quality educational resources, classroom activities and professional development opportunities.

Connect with colleagues. Use GLP as a global meeting place to exchange ideas, challenges and insights with colleagues

around the world. Create your own discussion groups or chat with other educators one-on-one. Work together on projects with professionals in the next town or on the other side of the planet.

Work online. Use GLP to store all your bookmarks and resources online, where you can access them from any computer. Create your own tools such as discussion boards, chat rooms and personal calendars.

Get FREE Software. GLP members can download a free copy of StarOffice 6.0 that includes word processing, spreadsheet, presentation and database applications. Compliments of Sun Microsystems.

As a member you gain full access to all GLP resources and services, including:

- Communities of Practice
- Collaborative Workspace
- Customized Content
- Moderated Online Discussions
- Personalized Discussion Groups
- Professional Development Tutorials
- Online Toolkit, including access to online language translation.
- GLP Library, a collection of quality resources on teaching, learning, research, and community building, solely for the professional development of educators.



- HumourAdventure™
- Inspired Performance
- Stand & Deliver
- Bee Haven
- Wellbeing
- Change
- Organisational Development & Learning
- Strategic Planning
- Conference Energizers
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● ... inspiring and connecting people

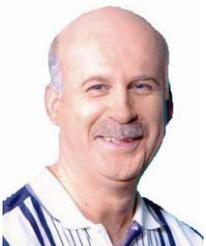
Happy Holidays To All Our Readers!

With this last issue of Starlink for 2007, may we wish all our readers every happiness for the upcoming holiday season!

Whether you celebrate a very happy Hanukkah or a very merry Christmas, may the new year herald a wonderful 2008 for you, in which all your dreams and hopes for the year become reality.



The Moon



Reflections
CHRIS BENNETT

I never liked walking up stairs. I preferred to sprint so I could get to the top as quickly as possible.

But on 21 July 1969 I was forced to walk very slowly indeed up Collingwood Tech's wide wooden steps, being crowded and bustling by fellow

students, as we were herded into the school hall.

The hall filled quickly and, by the time I entered, the only seats available were at the back.

Eighty yards from me on the stage sat a flickering black and white television set on a metal stand. The stand was about 6 feet high and from the back of the hall the television set looked like a matchbox.

That afternoon an audience of about 700 million around the world – and I – watched man's first landing on the moon.

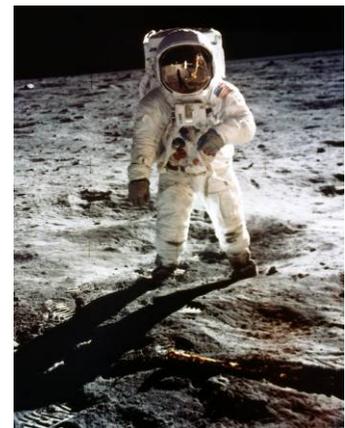


I watched those grainy, poor quality images on the school television set in fascination, and wondered how a piece of metal containing human beings could hurtle through 382,000 miles of space and land on the moon.

It was a momentous day, and not just because we had an excuse to miss classes. It was momentous because we shared a dream-come-true with 700 million other people who were watching the same images around the world. A dream human beings had shared for thousands of years – the impossible dream of travelling to the moon. Impossible until that moment.

Sometimes our own impossible dreams can become reality without travelling further than our own minds. To start the journey we need to believe the impossible may be possible and then take a single step to help propel our dream towards reality.

As Confucius once said, 'a journey of thousand miles begins with a single step.'



Lost ... and Found

Next time you lose your keys, your wallet, or forget where you parked your car at the shopping centre, spare a thought for the NASA scientists who in 2006 lost the original tapes of the 1969 moon landing!

Under the media spotlight that ensued (See <http://tinyurl.com/jm5b4> or

<http://tinyurl.com/25nvow>) there were no doubt a number of red faces. And there was some fascinating 'bureau-speak'. For example they were not 'lost' but 'misplaced'. Or simply 'unfound'. Hmm ... but perhaps we can empathize with this need for "wriggle-room"? ☺

The story did have a happy ending though. A number of original recordings were found in Australia and returned to NASA. (<http://tinyurl.com/27jypv>)

It's kind of comforting to know that even very important, senior geeks and boffins can be as human as the rest of us! ☺