



# Staying Connected

## Elementary

### **April 2nd, National Reconciliation Day:**

Teaching our students about character is one of our many tasks in our schools. Take time to teach students about repairing relationships through different forms of healing. This is an excellent opportunity to focus on remorse, written and verbal apologies, and forgiveness.

**April 4th, National Librarian Day:** Take time to show appreciation for your school librarian today! Handmade cards and letters along with verbal acknowledgement for the important role that our librarians play in our students' learning is an excellent way to teach students to show gratitude for the people in their lives.

**Parent "High-Five":** As we near the end of this unpredictable and challenging school year, take time to recognize the efforts and struggles that our students' parents have had to face and overcome. Have students trace and cut out the shape of their hands. Then have students write "thank you" notes to each of their parents for making their education a priority. Bonus: add in an encouraging note to finish the remainder of the school year with a strong and positive attitude!

**Get Outside and Get Moving:** Look for opportunities to take your learning outdoors, host a "Walk to School" Day, and engage students in exploring and caring for the world around them. Starting a class garden or studying the creatures that can be found on the playground with magnifying glasses can give students a new perspective on the world around them.

## Middle School/High School

**April 5th, National Read a Road Map Day:** Give students the opportunity to explore the world around them... in their own classroom. Have students make a mini report, presentation, brochure about a place that they find on a map. Teach them how to read and use a map and focus on key vocabulary and skills.

**April 22nd, Earth Day:** Hopefully the weather will begin to show the warmer side of Spring by April 22nd. Take your students outdoors to participate in community improvement activities, plant a tree, clean a road ditch. Students will benefit from the fresh air as well as the act of caring for the Earth and the community around them.

**Student Check-In:** During a typical school year, many students and staff often look forward to the "freedoms" of summer break; however, this year has been anything but typical. This may be causing many of our students to experience anxieties and foreboding in regards to the upcoming separation from routine and social interaction provided by schools. Check in with your students. Ask them to outline their summer plans, talk about summer jobs, family plans, and upcoming vacations. Help students to find experiences to look forward to and focus on ways for them to keep in touch with friends. Work to identify students who may struggle from the possible isolation and strategize with parents and the school guidance counselor. Who can they reach out to? What are some coping strategies they can employ? How can they manage their stress during their summer break?