

# Wise and

# Wonderful



Good news and information for our friends and families

## Get Your Irish On For Saint Patrick's Day Celebrations

Even if you aren't of Irish heritage this is a wonderful day to celebrate and learn about the culture. For families St. Patrick's Day offers a wide range of different options that can easily be adapted for kids of all ages from toddlers through to teens.

Of course, green is an essential element of this day, so designing a family T-shirt that is green in color and features different St. Patrick's Day symbols such as shamrocks, leprechauns, pots of gold or even those magical rainbows is a fun activity before the event.

Going online and looking up Irish symbols and learning their meaning is a great task for older children and they can share the information with the rest of the family. With online t-shirt printing available you can easily scan and upload your design and surprise the family with custom shirts to wear all day.

### A Treasure Hunt

Kids of all ages love to look for treasure, so why save this activity just for Easter? Moms and Dads can hide gold wrapped chocolate coins around the house and yard and let the children go searching for treasure.

If chocolate isn't a good option for your family consider buying gold gift wrap or foil and individually wrapping healthy snacks for the kids to find. You can also buy some plastic coins and spray paint them gold for a real treasure hunt.

Gold coins can then be traded in for special prizes that are, of course, located in Mom and Dad lucky pot of treasures. You can include coupons for Mom and Dad to do special activities for the kids such as cook a favorite meal together or have Mom or Dad clean the kid's rooms for a day.

### Make an Irish Meal

Food is always a great way to celebrate a culture and there are a lot of iconic foods associated with the Irish culture. You may want to prepare a traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage or put together a hearty beef or lamb and vegetable stew matched with Irish soda bread.

Colcannon, a vegetable casserole that features potatoes, cabbage, parsnips and leeks is a wonderful side dish or perfect for a vegetarian main course. Finish off the meal with the classic Irish apple cake that is not too sweet and you have the perfect ending to a wonderful day.



## MARCH 2015

Hello! We are pleased to send you this monthly issue of *Wise and Wonderful*. It is our way of saying that you are important to us and we truly value your business. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to friends and neighbors. Enjoy!

## Monthly Joke A Long Way Home?



A Texan was hiking in Australia. Feeling thirsty, he stopped at a house along the road and knocked on the door. "Hey, could I maybe get a glass of water?"

"Certainly." The Australian invited him into the house, and they started chatting.

"So what do you do here?" the Texan asked.

"Oh, I raise chickens on the ranch here. And you?"

"Oh, I've got a ranch of my own back in Texas. How much land you got?"

"Well, it stretches about 200 meters in the back—just enough room for my chicken coops."

The Texan laughed. "I've got to tell you, on my ranch I can eat breakfast, get in my car, and start driving, and I don't reach the edge of my land until dinnertime."

The Australian nodded in sympathy. "I used to have a car like that too."

## Monthly Quote

*"You can't depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus."*

—Mark Twain



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GOOD NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

MARCH 2015

### Spider Facts

- Black widows are infamous for eating their mates, but this does not actually take place every time. The red widow is the exception, where the male actually force-feeds himself to his female mate, and will do so repeatedly if initially rejected until she actually consumes him.
- A number of tarantulas can actually eject irritating small hairs called urticating hairs in order to ward off predators in a manner similar to that of a porcupine defending itself with its quills.
- More than a hundred different kinds of spiders have evolved to look like ants and even give off similar pheromones. The great majority have done this in order to fool predators, but some have been known to use this advantage to target real ants as prey.



**From the desk of**  
*Jennifer Winters, Director*

*This month we are honoring Mr. Geoff Germano, a founder of Young Scholars Academy. Mr. Geoff passed away but we always love to recognize him this month and have his presence known!  
On March 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Day we are sending off balloons in his honor, we would love for you and your family to share this experience with us.*

*Family is so important for us and love for you all to be a part of this experience with us!*

### **\$150.00 in Referral Tuition**

*Why not have your tuition paid in referrals?  
Ask about how you can share the best kept secret in Colorado Springs!*

### Learning Your Roots

Learning about your family roots is important, and the good news is that these days it is easier to do than ever before. New technology tools, including the likes of social media, mobile apps, and even the likes of Ancestral DNA tests, are not out of the reach of the budget of the average family.



One good tip is to start your quest with the information you already possess. Use the Ancestry.com website (or app) and fill in the data you know in regards to your family history. Another good tip is to take a DNA test and have your ethnicity broken down by percentage. You can then use AncestryDNA to look for those who may be a match for you. People who take this test usually end up finding around sixty matches, including second to fourth cousins they never knew existed.

A less high tech but just as effective method of researching your family tree is to talk to relatives when you attend family gatherings and take detailed notes, particularly in regards to the information that elderly relatives may be able to supply. Learning about your roots can be a fascinating journey for you and all of your family.