

# Abundant Good News

Good news is everywhere, all of the time. It just doesn't make as much noise.

## Watch this!

### Play *The Cupcake Choir*

- In this film, a group of young children performed a concert for seniors in their community. They sang a song with a positive message that was popular long ago yet still rings true today.



## Talk about it!

	What did your students take away from this film? Ask them!	How can your students relate this film to their own lives? Ask them!
Emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The children decided to put on a concert for the seniors. How did they feel before their concert?</li> <li>• How did the seniors feel when watching the performance?</li> <li>• How did the children feel after the performance was over?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you ever put on a concert for someone?</li> <li>• How did you feel when preparing for it?</li> <li>• How did you feel when it was over?</li> <li>• Who was the concert for?</li> <li>• How did they feel about the concert?</li> </ul>
Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why were the children excited to put on the concert?</li> <li>• Why were the seniors so pleased to witness the concert?</li> <li>• People in the film said that music brings people together. Do you think that is true?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you ever done something to connect with people of a different age group, either much older than you or much younger than you?</li> <li>• If so, what was it like?</li> <li>• Did you have more in common with them than you expected to?</li> </ul>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did seniors and children know each other before the event?</li> <li>• If you don't think that they knew each other, do you think that they will keep in touch with each other afterwards?</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you think that doing something with someone of another age group brings you closer to them?</li> <li>• Why is it good for you to interact with people of a different generation?</li> <li>• What can you learn from them?</li> <li>• What can they learn from you?</li> </ul>

# Try this!

## Spread happiness!

Help children see that they have so much to give.

- In this film, the children did something simple to give others joy. They sang.
- Ask your students if they have ever put on a concert for someone.
- As a class, consider who you could treat with a concert.
- The school administrators? The teachers? The younger students?
- Have the class vote on which group they will sing to.
- When the group is chosen, search on the internet for the songs of this age group.
- Pick 3-4 songs for the children to listen to.
- Ask them to listen to the words and call out when they hear something positive in the song. Choose the most positive songs.
- Choose 1-2 songs that the children can practice singing.
- Now, put on your show!
- Choose the date.
- Ask the class to make invitations to their concert.
- Practice the songs.
- Enjoy the day!

## Celebrate Good News!

Kindness is contagious. Start the kindness virus by celebrating good news!

- Reflect on the activity featured in the film. Why were people so happy?
- Was it the lyrics of the song that made the impact or the connection with another person that was so meaningful?
- Humans are social beings and we benefit when we make connections to others. Ask your students who they have helped or made connections with in the past.
- Make a list of each of these actions.
- Get a series of multicolored poster boards.
- Write, or have the students write, one action on each poster board and decorate it.
- Be sure to include the name of the student who performed the positive act.
- Post one poster per day where the whole school can see it.
- Not only will this make the person who did the act feel great, but it may inspire others to do good as well.
- Good news is everywhere, and it is only when we take the time to recognize it do we make efforts to make more good news. So, keep the activity open and tell students that if they perform new good acts, you will create another poster for them.
- Count the number of posters made at the end of one day, one week, one month, at the end of 3 months. Has the number increased? If so, show your class this visual proof that pointing out good news creates more good news.

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## Try this!

### Actively make connections!

Something as simple as a letter or drawing from someone special can change their day.

- In this film, the children did something nice for the seniors in their area. Have any of your students ever did an activity with seniors?
- What could be done to show seniors that they are appreciated?
- Brainstorm ideas and write them down. Encourage students to be creative and include all ideas, even if they seem silly.
- Write down all of their ideas on each slip of paper.
- Hand out the ballots to the students and have the class vote on their favorite idea.
- Collect the ballots.
- Ask a student to open the ballots and read the results, one at a time.
- Send one student to the board to tally the votes.
- Calculate the tally marks
- Create a percentage table or fraction to mathematically show the choices.
- Which idea won?

### Now do it!

Children have more power to affect someone's feelings than they realize.

- Connecting with different generations is important for everyone. These moments invariably bring delight to others and bring the community closer.
- Look at your school community. What are the different groups? What are the different generations? Even a 10-year-old is very different from a 5-year-old and children in these two age groups are from two different generations.
- List the different groups that exist in the school community.
- Brainstorm different activities that you could do with these groups? A book reading event with the younger students? A teacher vs student basketball game? A door decorating contest between administration and teachers where students are the judge?
- Vote on the class's favorite idea and set out a plan to do it!
- Choose a date.
- Create invitations for the event.
- Plan for refreshments.
- Don't forget about the music! The music should include songs from every age group who will be present. The songs should be positive and uplifting to create the right mood for the event!

For the Home

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## Try this!

### Gain some perspective!

Help your child see what others find enjoyable. They might like it too!

- In the film, the children sang a song that the seniors were familiar with. For the seniors, it brought back memories and experiencing it with new people meant even more to them.
- Every human enjoys music. Help your child make connections with others by experiencing different types of music. Do some internet research to find the most popular songs from the 1940's, 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, 1980's, 1990's, 2000's, and 2010.
- Make a chart and have them indicate their thoughts on the songs by using a simple rating scale and see which one won! Place an X in the column that shows how they feel about it.

					
1940					
1950					
1960					
1970					
1980					
1990					
2000					
2010					

### Actively make connections!

Something as simple as a letter or drawing from someone special can change a person's day.

- Who are the seniors in your life? How have they played a role in your child's life?
- If there are no seniors in their lives, make a friend by introducing your child to someone in the community.
- Let's keep that connection going. Have your child draw a picture of him/her for their special friend.
- Use the postal system to teach children about mailing letters to others, rather than sending them electronically, and teach your child how to properly address the letters and affix a stamp on them.
- Celebrate with your child when they get a letter back from their special new friend. This can be the start of a beautiful and meaningful friendship!