



# School Liaison's Cheat Sheet

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## April 2012

Conferences, April 6

Spring Break  
April 23-26

- 1 - April Fool's Day
- 2 - Children's Book Day
- 4 - School Librarian Day
- 7 - World Health Day
- 8 - Draw a Picture of a Bird Day
- 8 - Easter
- 9 - Name Yourself Day
- 10 - National Siblings Day
- 13 - Scrabble Day
- 22 - Earth Day
- 27 - Tell a Story Day

### Week-long observances

- 1st Week: Library Week
- 2nd Week: Garden Week
- 3rd Week: Organize Your Files Week

### Month-long observances

- National Humor Month
- International Guitar Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- Lawn and Garden Month
- National Poetry Month
- Stress Awareness Month



## Test Tips: Your Guide to Surviving Exam Day

Taking tests isn't easy, but if you follow these tips, you can become an expert.

### BEFORE THE TEST

**Eat well:** Studies show good nutrition helps you concentrate and perform your best.

**Bring the right supplies:** Don't forget pencils, erasers, pens, rulers, compasses, calculators or whatever you need.

**Review before you start:** See how many sections and what types of questions are on the test. Determine how much time you need to complete each section.

**Jot down your first thoughts:** During your first scan of the test, make notes. You may want to outline your answers to written-response and essay questions right away.

### DURING THE TEST

**Read the directions:** Follow the instructions exactly. Some questions may have more than one correct answer.

**Answer easy questions first:** Doing this can jog your memory about useful facts.

You may also come across information that can help you with other questions.

**Answer every question:** Unless there is a penalty for wrong answers, answer each question; you may get partial credit for those you begin but don't complete correctly.

**Ask questions:** If a question isn't clear, talk to your teacher. If that's not possible, explain your answer in the margin.

**Identify key words:** This helps you focus on the main idea of challenging questions.

**Rephrase difficult questions:** To understand questions better, rewrite them in your own words but don't change the meaning.

**Organize your thoughts:** Take time to organize responses to short-answer and essay questions before you begin writing. You'll reduce the time you need to revise.

**Write neatly:** Don't lose points on answers the teacher can't read.

**Use all your time:** If you finish early, use the extra time to review your answers.

**MUSD Testing Window: April 9-16 • SAT: May 5, June 2**

## Month of the Military Child

Several events are planned this month in honor of the military child:

• **Tell Me a Story — "Night Catch"** with guest reader, MCAGCC Sgt. Maj. Brookshire; Twentynine Palms Elementary School. April 16

• **Magic Show** Join the Lifelong Learning Library in celebrating the amazing military children of Twentynine Palms with a magic show and goodie bags for the first 300 children; West Gym. 1-2:30 p.m. April 26. **Information:** 760-830-6875.

• **Gary Sinise and the Lieutenant Dan Band** will rock the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema with a free concert.

7 p.m. April 13. **Information:** <http://mccsspecialevents29.com>, 760-830-5086.

## Art in the Park

The 20th annual Joshua Tree National Park Art Festival features artists from the region whose work showcases the beauty of the park. The art festival will be held on the shaded patio at the park's headquarters and Oasis of Mara Visitor Center, 74485 National Park Drive in Twenty-nine Palms from April 6 to 8. Artists' booths and displays will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

## Kids' Spring Dance

A deejay will play the latest hits for students in grades Kindergarten through sixth during the Kids' Spring Dance from 3 to 5 p.m. April 28 at the Yucca Valley Senior Center in the town's community complex, on the highway at Dumosa Trail. Admission is \$3 per person. Snacks will be available at no extra cost.

April is egg-stra special

## Coffee Ground Fossils

Create your own fossils using coffee grounds. These work well as visual aids for science projects and makes a fun Earth Day craft. Ages 4 and up; parental supervision recommended.



### What you will need:

1 cup used coffee grounds • 1/2 cup cold coffee • 1 cup of flour • 1/2 cup of salt Waxed paper • Mixing bowl • Some small objects to make impressions in the dough (Shaped cookie cutters work well) • Empty can or a butter knife  
**Optional:** Toothpicks and string to hang fossils

### How to make fossils:

- Stir the together the coffee grounds, cold coffee, flour and salt until well mixed. Knead the dough together and then flatten it out onto the waxed paper.
- Use the can to cut out circles of the dough or use the dull knife to cut slabs large enough to fit your "fossil" objects.
- Press your objects firmly into the dough. When you take the object out, you have your "fossil."
- To hang the fossil, poke holes into the edge to hold the string.
- Let the fossil dry overnight (and up to two days) and then hang it if you wish.

**Tips:** To reduce the drying time, bake the fossils for a short period of time to get the "dough" to harden.

**Source:** <http://crafts.kaboose.com/fossil.html>

## Kinder Registration/Kinder Round-up

Call your child's school for information and/or appointments:

### Twentynine Palms Elementary

April 3,4,6,17 and 18  
May 1, 2 and 4  
760-367-3545

### Friendly Hills Elementary

May 18, 21 and 24  
760-366-3812

### Oasis Elementary

May 1-11  
760-367-3595

### Palm Vista Elementary

May 14-18 and 21-25  
760-367-7538

### Condor Elementary

May 14-June16  
760-367-0750



## Education Options Open House a success

The homeschool and alternative education open house was a big success. Attendees received great information on home and private school resources and made many connections in the community and aboard MCAGCC. Thank you to everyone who attended. Another big thank you goes out to the participants, FOCUS, LINKS, EFMP and the volunteers from VMU-3 Phantoms! If you were unable to attend and have questions, please call the School Liaison at 760-830-1574.

## Organizations team up to help test-takers

Service members, their children and other relatives preparing to take SAT or ACT tests can benefit from a partnership between the education firm eKnowledge, the NFL, Major League Baseball and more than 30 veterans organizations.

Now in its sixth year, the partnership has donated more than 145,000 PowerPrep Programs valued at \$200 each to service members and their families. Those eligible include active-duty, Reserve and retired personnel from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, veterans, DoD employees and civilians performing military support, and their relatives and dependents. PowerPrep provides 11 hours of video instruction and 3,000 files of supplemental test prep material, thousands of interactive diagnostic tools, sample questions, practice tests and graphic teaching illustrations.

To order the free software online, visit [www.eknowledge.com/29palms](http://www.eknowledge.com/29palms) or call **951-256-4076** and reference Marine Corps 29 Palms  
**Note:** A small shipping fee applies

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