

The MTL Gazette

A Free Newsletter For The Friends of *Memories That Last*

*"Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts."
- Sign hanging in Einstein's office at Princeton*

Spread A Little Sunshine To Someone Special In Your Life!

What goes around comes around. Ain't that the truth. Spread a little sunshine, and some is bound to bounce back and shine on you.

My eldest and one of his friends were playing outside. They are 12-13 years old and they are usually playing some game that requires a lot of running, hiding, shooting and shouting. The perfect outdoor game.

Amidst the commotion, I noticed one of the boys' 8 year old brother in the center of the action. He wasn't as fast as the other boys, or as loud (certainly not!) or, in their minds, as cool – but still, he did his best to keep up and be a part of the game.

And what really impressed me about these kids, is that every time I see them out

running around, even though he's not as cool or as fast, they are nice to him. Kind. They let him play too. I don't think most boys their age are like that... I think the way they included him says something about their character. It's just great to see.

And it got me to thinking. I heard a statistic recently that said, on average, parents spend seven minutes A DAY talking to their school-aged kids. And during that time, the kids receive 21 negative comments for every one that's positive.

Not so surprising, really... with homework and activities and television, video games, and mobile phones, it's a wonder parents even get the full seven minutes! But it's the 21 negative things that bother me, and so the next time I saw the boys outside, I made a point of telling them how I'd noticed the way they included the little brother, and what I thought about it.



Maybe it wasn't exactly earth-shattering, or change the course of history for these kids, but at the very least, for them, hopefully, it was a grown up with something positive to say. This brings us to...

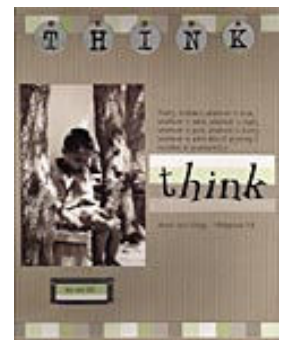
AFFIRMATION ALBUMS

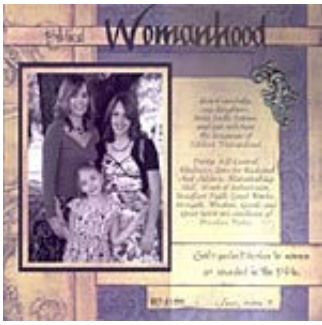
With graduations, First Communions and Confirmations coming up, the whole thing got me thinking about what we could do to build up a young person in our lives today, and the idea of an affirmation album came to mind. Made by the adult, for the child (or teenager), to illuminate for them the good things other people see in them.

The gift needn't even be from parent to child – although such a gesture would certainly be powerful – the adult could be a grandparent, an aunt... even a best friend's mum.

An affirmation album is simply a tool to help you express the great qualities you see in another person, especially a child. It gives you a format in which you can convey to the young person, attributes they might not otherwise recognize in themselves. Values, Morals, Qualities you would love to see develop and flourish as they mature. The album can be used to capture and record times when the young person made a hard choice, did the right thing, showed a kindness, followed through with a promise.

The size and type of album is up to you. Anything from an 8x8 brag book, to a full 12x12 ABC book can do the job. You can even send a paper bag album in place of a greeting card.



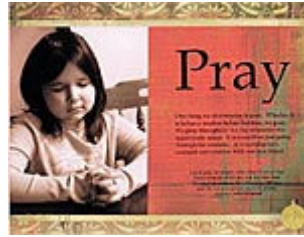


But remember, the focus of this album is not so much on the photos, as it is the words. Use your words to tell stories, or make simple observations. “You never back away from a challenge” or, “Your smile

makes me smile!”

An affirmation album can be as elaborate or as simple as you want it to be. It can certainly include photos and memorabilia, but not necessarily on every page. The focus of this album is not the decorations, or even the photos you include, but the WORDS you use.

I’m not talking about the kind of fluffy, pandering self-esteem building that has become fashionable of late. I’m not suggesting an album praising the child’s ability to turn on the TV by herself, or successfully reach Expert level on Guitar Hero. The purpose of this album is to tell the child WHAT you see in him or her that gives them character. Describing words that come to mind are: Athletic, Bold, Brave, Caring, Committed, Creative, Determined, Devoted, Diligent, Eager, Encouraging, Energetic, Faithful, Friendly, Funny, Generous, Happy, Hardworking, Honest, Inventive, Joyful, Kind, Loving, Loyal, Mechanical, Neat, Optimistic, Patient, Playful, Questioning, Reliable, Respectful, Sensitive, Smart, Sympathetic, Talented, Thorough, Tidy, Trustworthy, and so on.



DESCRIBE ... The times he made his sister feel special by including her with his friends. The garage sale she organised to raise money for a sick classmate. The way he loves to help in the kitchen.

The time she spent 2 hours turning a paper bag into a doll-sized photo booth, complete with buttons, curtain and photos! The look of pride on his face after he completed the entire Lego space ship all by himself!

TELL ABOUT... The time he pointed out that the shop assistant gave back too much change. The toys she shares with her little sister. The way she sticks up for her friends when someone is talking behind their back. The way he helps around the house without being asked.

REMEMBER when she spent her whole Saturday helping an elderly neighbor rake leaves.

And on it goes.

These are accomplishments that actually MEAN something; qualities we admire and want to see developed; decisions the child has made which show character. So the next time your child has the chance to do the right thing, he’ll think of you, and jump all over it!

Happy Crafting from the MTL Team

DO you want to keep up to date with the latest at the shop? Then check out our new Blog at

<http://blog.memoriesthatlast.com.au>

Welcome New Scrappers!

*Here are the new people that became members of our scrapping family this last month!
We'd like to welcome you publicly, and wish you all the best!*

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|-------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Lyn Morgan | Christine Rees | Hannan Majzoub | Margot Gatenby | Debe Thomas | Alison Hannah |
| Lee Corkman | Atghanasia Tzakostas | Glennis Casonato | Lisa Hallett | Chelsea Merritt | Sandy Myers |
| Aileen Ryan | Natalie Fennell | April Farmer | Renee Dean | Kylie Whiting | Kathy Crispin |

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing customers who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us! We're all helping each other, which is the whole point of all this! Right?



If You Didn't Laugh...

- ☼ Always be nice to your children because they are the ones who will choose your rest home. *Phyllis Diller*
- ☼ One thing they never tell you about child raising is that for the rest of your life, at the drop of a hat, you are expected to know your child's name and how old he or she is. *Erma Bombeck*
- ☼ There are only two things a child will share willingly; communicable diseases and its mother's age. *Benjamin Spock Dr. Spock's Baby and Child Care, 1945*
- ☼ Children are the most desirable opponents at Scrabble as they are both easy to beat and fun to cheat. *Fran Lebowitz*
- ☼ You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance. *Franklin P. Jones*
- ☼ Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing up is like shoveling the walk before it stops snowing. *Phyllis Diller*
- ☼ Anyone who thinks the art of conversation is dead ought to tell a child to go to bed. *Robert Gallagher*
- ☼ There's nothing that can help you understand your beliefs more than trying to explain them to an inquisitive child. *Frank A. Clark*
- ☼ Even when freshly washed and relieved of all obvious confections, children tend to be sticky. *Fran Lebowitz*
- ☼ Boy, n.: a noise with dirt on it. *Not Your Average Dictionary*
- ☼ A child is a curly dimpled lunatic. *Ralph Waldo Emerson.*
- ☼ When my husband comes home, if the kids are still alive, I figure I've done my job. *Roseanne Barr*
- ☼ Each generation has been an education for us in different ways. The first child-with-bloody-nose was rushed to the emergency room. The fifth child-with-bloody-nose was told to go to the yard immediately and stop bleeding on the carpet. *Art Linkletter*
- ☼ Somewhere on this globe, every ten seconds, there is a woman giving birth to a child. She must be found and stopped. *Sam Levenson*

Happy Mother's Day!

F.Y.I.

SHOP NEWS

SCRAPIN' WEEKEND AWAY

Only \$150 per person
Kiah Ridge, Tahmoor

Fri 7th Aug to Sun 9th Aug

FULLY BOOKED

Waiting List only!

NEW ARRIVALS

Bazzill Top Up
New Embossed A4 papers
New ScrapFX titles & shapes
New Kaiser Fozz Fontz
Bling Top Up
New Stamp-It stamps
Glitter Cupcake Papers from AED

MARCH SCRAP CHALLENGE WINNER

Lynne Breuer

MAY SCRAP CHALLENGE Available now

Remember challenges must be in by the 20th of every month. Have a go - you might be pleasantly surprised

MTL BLOG

Now you can keep up to date with happenings at the shop whether its new arrivals, top up of favourites or some great tips we have come across.

Check it all out at

<http://blog.memoriesthatlast.com.au>

(You can also get to it from our home page – just click on MTL Blog in the blue tool bar at the top)

Photo Kiosk

Home Ordering now available.
Details in store

From Mugs to Photo Books,
Key rings to Puzzles
Canvases and Stubby Holders

And of course your photos as well.

NEW CLASSES

Heritage Album in a Day (10pgs)
Sizzix pages
LSS Advanced
Prima Embossed Album

OLD FAVES

Cricut Capers, Card Capers
Krazy about Kaiser
Baby Album
Plus many more throughout the year