



# Paw Prints

Grant Ranch School  
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April 2017

GRANT RANCH SCHOOL ECE-8



## About Paw Prints 2016-2017

These publications are available online @  
[http://grantranch.dpsk12.org/?page\\_id=432](http://grantranch.dpsk12.org/?page_id=432)  
Grant Ranch Webpage - <http://grantranch.dpsk12.org>



Paw Prints is a monthly newsletter for Grant Ranch School. This is an important communication link for parents and includes important happenings at our school.

You can read, download, and print this newsletter monthly on the Grant Ranch Webpage.

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## Upcoming Dates



April 4 - April 21 CMAS Testing - Math and Science

April 10 - Pizza with the Principal - 5:00 - 6:00 pm

April 10 - FACE meeting 6:00 pm

April 10 - PTO Meeting 6:30 pm

April 11 - Balarat parent meeting 5:00 pm

April 25th-April 27th - 5th Grade Balarat Trip

April 28 - Shakespeare Festival

May 5 - Grandparents Tea 9:00 -10:00 am

May 5 - PTO Read-A-Thon (All day)



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## Grant Ranch receives Lockheed Martin STEM Pathways Grants for Elementary and Middle School

Grant Ranch is excited to announce that it is receiving a Lockheed Martin STEM Pathways Grant! They will start their school-wide implementation in the 2017- 2018 school year. The United States is facing a workforce development and skills crisis and studies show American students have fallen behind their international peers in math and science:

The 2012 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) showed that American students scored 21st in science and 26th in math out of 65 countries.

The World Economic Forum ranks the U.S. at number 49 in its quality of math and science education.

The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that by 2018, America will have more than 1.2 million unfilled jobs in the STEM fields.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is helping to solve these problems. PLTW is the nation's leading provider of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs for students in grades K-12.

PLTW help equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in the global economy. Not only are students learning math and science, but they're learning how to apply math and science as tools to solve problems. They're learning to think critically, solve problems, and work together—the very skills they'll need in the workforce.

Lockheed Martin has long played a role in space exploration and STEM education. Generation Beyond is part of the company's commitment to inspiring future engineers, scientists and innovators. Experts say we face a critical shortage in engineers and STEM professionals. NASA has a goal of sending humans to Mars in 2030, yet, economists project there could be 2.4 million unfilled STEM jobs by 2018. In order to make it to Mars and further into deep space, we must have the skilled workforce to get the job done.

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## SAVE THE DATE- PTO READ-A-THON AND GRANDPARENTS TEA!

Event: Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (All day)

Will coincide with Grandparent's Tea  
(9:00-10:00am)

More details will be sent home and posted  
online soon!

## GIRLS ON THE RUN

Girls on the Run (GOTR) has started at Grant Ranch! The purpose of GOTR is to inspire girls grade 3-5 to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum, which creatively integrates running. The girls are in their first week of training for their 5K race which will take place Saturday, May 13, 2017. If you would like to learn more about GOTR please visit their website at:

<https://www.girlsontherun.org>

If you have any questions please contact one of the GR coaches:

[astrid\\_arias@dpsk12.org](mailto:astrid_arias@dpsk12.org)

[amber\\_castro@dpsk12.org](mailto:amber_castro@dpsk12.org)



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## Biliteracy

Grant Ranch School is promoting biliteracy and awarding students the Seal of Biliteracy. This is an award given by DPS to honor students for studying and demonstrating proficiency in two or more languages by the time they graduate high school. DPS values linguistic and cultural diversity and we want to honor students who uphold these values as well. Native language skills and bilingualism are assets. We want to acknowledge students who have these skills.

To earn the Seal of Biliteracy students must:

Demonstrate proficiency in two or more languages by:

- Reading within the zones of biliteracy in both languages.
- Publishing a written piece in both languages.
- Contributing to the school community through a mini service project.

This criteria must be met by the end of 3rd, 5th or 8th grade.

For further information please contact Ms. Arias at [astrid\\_arias@dpsk12.org](mailto:astrid_arias@dpsk12.org)

## GIRLS STEM Conference

About 15 Grant Ranch middle school girls will be attending Expanding Your Horizons STEM Conference at Colorado State University on Saturday, April 8. This exciting opportunity is a hands-on symposium designed to offer young women (grades 6-8) an opportunity to explore the diverse experiences that STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers have to offer. This conference extends Grant Ranch's collaboration with No Barriers - <http://www.nobarriersusa.org> and bridges experiences for the STEM opportunities beginning at Grant Ranch for the 2017-2018 school year.



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## 2017 Showcase Night

The Grant Ranch Family and Community Engagement Committee sponsored Showcase Night on Thursday, March 8, 2017. During this evening, families were treated to dinner and invited to rotate throughout their children’s classrooms. Students and teachers prepared learning artifacts that were available for families to review and engage with throughout the evening. Some of the learning artifacts included: writing essays, moon phases, Colorado Monuments and multi-step mathematical problems. Thank you to everyone who helped with planning and set-up, as well as all of the families and teachers who attended the evening. The event was well attended by our community!

## 12 Tips for Raising Truthful Kids

Of all the virtues, parents rate honesty as the one they most want to teach their children. We asked the experts for their best advice about how to raise honest kids.

by: [Charity Ferreira](#) | December 14, 2016

Brace yourself for the cold, hard truth: all kids lie. They do it for many of the same reasons adults do: to avoid getting into trouble, to avoid hurting another person’s feelings, or to make themselves look better. The ability to tell a lie develops early — as young as 2½ for some kids — and it’s a normal and important stage of kids’ cognitive and social development. By age 4, all kids lie; by age 6, some estimates are that kids lie as often as once an hour. (And if you’re thinking, ‘Not my kid!’ note that research shows parents score little better than chance in determining [whether or not their child is telling a lie!](#))

How can you convey to your preschooler the difference between the truth and the whoppers she tells you about her day? Or teach your elementary school-aged child that it’s better to come clean about having made a mistake? Or get your teen to be honest with you about where they were on Friday night? We asked experts — researchers, child development specialists, and psychologists — for their advice on teaching kids the value of honesty at every stage.

*continued...*

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## 12 Tips for Raising Truthful Kids, *continued...*

**1. Model honesty** - It sounds obvious, but if you don't want your kids to lie to you, don't lie to them, and don't let them hear you telling lies. "It's one thing to say to kids that honesty is important, but then if they see you lying, it sends a mixed message," says Victoria Talwar, associate professor in the Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology at McGill University in Montreal and a leading researcher on kids and lying.

It's surely less effort to say, "I don't have any money with me" than to explain to your child that they can't have ice cream because they've already had a sweet treat that day or because it's too close to dinner. Or to tell the fundraiser on the phone that you aren't interested in donating rather than saying you already did. But over time, so-called "[little white lies](#)" teach your child that dishonesty is okay in some situations — and leaves them to interpret which situations those are. If you want your child to grow up with the belief that honesty is the best policy, do your best to live by that credo, too.

**2. Don't set them up-** Particularly for [preschool-aged kids, one way to deter lying](#) is simply by not inviting them to. When you see your child with a juice-stained lip and an overturned bottle on the table, there's no need to ask, "Did you spill this juice?" Kids this age will lie out of a desire to avoid getting into trouble, says Dr. Peter Stavinoha, a clinical neuropsychologist for the Center for Pediatric Psychiatry at Children's Medical Center of Dallas. "If you know they did it, don't ask! If you ask, you're giving them the option to lie. So they lie, and then you get upset about that, and now there's two things where there used to be only one," Stavinoha says.

"Looks like you spilled some juice. Let's clean it up together," keeps things focused on the issue at hand. And if you're not sure who broke the vase, or which sibling is lying about it, Stavinoha says, go straight to the consequence. "Don't engage with the question of did they break it or which child broke it. Focus on what you want accomplished. 'We have a mess here. I'm asking you both to clean it up.' You're showing them that there's no positive consequence for denying responsibility."

**3. Tell positive stories-** In a study led by University of Toronto psychologist Kang Lee, researchers including Talwar found that kids ages 3 to 7 who heard the story of *George Washington and the Cherry Tree*, which illustrates a positive consequence of honesty (George is praised for telling the truth), were much more likely to tell the truth than kids who heard the story of the *Boy Who Cried Wolf*, which illustrates a negative consequence of lying (the shepherd repeatedly calls for help as a prank, but the one time he really needs help, the villagers don't come to his rescue).

*continued...*

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## 12 Tips for Raising Truthful Kids, *continued...*

“We talk about lying being bad, but we don’t highlight the alternative behavior. Kids need examples for how to behave in situations where lying might be easier, stories that show how to be honest, what does that look like? Those are important messages,” says Talwar. For older kids, talking about the honesty of the characters in the books they’re reading can provoke inspiring and instructive discussion.

**4. Ask for a promise** - If you need a straight answer about something you’re concerned about, such as an incident at school, asking your child to promise to tell you the truth before asking them a question increases the chances that they will, studies suggest. But note that this strategy is not a guarantee, and it should be used sparingly so that you don’t wear it out. “You don’t want to overuse this one or it may lose its efficacy,” says Angela Crossman, professor and chair of the Department of Psychology at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice at City University of New York. And as Talwar notes, promises tend to feel more binding to younger kids.

**5. Say truth-telling makes you happy** - Young children, under the age of 8 or so, are very motivated to please authority figures, says Talwar. Her research shows that telling kids that you’ll be happy with them if they tell the truth increases the likelihood they’ll be straight with you. Tweens and teens, she notes, tend to care somewhat less about pleasing authority figures and more about their own internal sense of what’s right. (Another study found that telling 9- to 11-year-olds that they would feel good about themselves if they told the truth decreased the chances they would tell a lie.) At all ages, look for opportunities to make your child feel good about being trustworthy.

**6. Teach tact-** Kids learn early — from their parents — how to lie for the sake of politeness or to avoid hurting someone’s feelings. “Thanks, this book looks great,” instead of, “I already have this book!” or “I can’t play because I’m busy,” instead of “I don’t like playing with you!” Researchers call these kinds of lies “prosocial” because they smooth our interactions with others. But being honest does not have to equal being rude or hurtful. The key, says Talwar, is to balance honesty with consideration for the other person’s feelings. “We want to teach our children to be honest but we want to teach them to be kind as well. We need to teach honesty in a way that potentially helps others rather than potentially hurts others,” says Talwar. In the case of the book, this might mean saying it’s an author they like, or expressing appreciation for the thought that went into choosing it.

*continued...*

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## 12 Tips for Raising Truthful Kids, *continued...*

**7. Don't reward the lie-** When your child lies, there's a reason — they're seeking something. And if they get it, that can reinforce lying as an effective strategy. So if you notice that your younger child always fabricates a story about getting hurt at school as soon as your older child starts telling you about their day, it might be an attention-seeking behavior. "When a child lies, figure out what dynamic may be going on," suggests Crossman. "Are there ways you can ignore the lie so they don't get the reward? Can they get what they're wanting in some other way?"

**8. Catch them being honest-** We often catch kids in lies, says Talwar, but if we want to teach them to value honesty, we need to look for opportunities to acknowledge when they tell the truth, especially in situations where it might have been easier for them to lie. When your child tells you the truth about something they've done, take a moment to show that you appreciate their honesty by saying, "I'm really glad you told me the truth."

**9. Discipline calmly-** In environments where punishments are doled out harshly and arbitrarily, research shows that kids learn to lie earlier and more skillfully than their counterparts in less punitive environments. That doesn't mean you shouldn't discipline. But in an atmosphere with a punitive, authoritarian approach to discipline, developing the ability to lie can be seen as a protective measure.

"One thing parents can do is simply not have a great big emotional reaction. The more explosive the parent gets, the more frightened the child gets, and the more likely they are to lie. Simply remaining calm and sticking to the facts you've observed is one way to get kids to tell the truth," says Stavinoha.

**10. Have a conversation, not a lecture**—The more open and conversational the relationship between parent and teen, the more effective, says Dr. John Duffy, clinical psychologist and author of the best-selling *The Available Parent: Radical Optimism for Raising Teens and Tweens*. "That means more discussing and less lecturing." When clashes happen, waiting for the situation to abate and approaching your teenager calmly is always going to yield a more positive outcome, he says. And when it comes to raising truthful teens, he recommends discussing issues of honesty and lying openly with your child. "Something along the lines of, 'We want you to feel free to be honest with us, regardless of what you have to say.' Teens respond well to this type of communication, but parents have to be prepared for the honesty!"

**11. Set clear rules-** Ninety-eight percent of teenagers worldwide lie to their parents. That's the conclusion of Dr. Nancy Darling, professor and chair of the Department of Psychology at Oberlin College, who has researched teens and honesty for two decades. Darling says setting clear rules is important for cultivating an honest relationship with teens — and that being strict is okay. However, she says, it's essential that parents pair this with being emotionally warm and open and accepting, so teens don't think they will be harshly and unjustly punished.

"If you balance these two aspects of parenting clearly, your teenagers will be more likely to ask for your permission and more likely to confess if they have broken a rule. They need to respect you *and* believe you will be warm, accepting, and non-punitive," she says. "If kids think you have the right to set rules, if they respect you, they are more likely to be truthful — but they'll still want to argue with you about what is safe and what they should be allowed to do."

**12. Give them space -** Respecting teens' natural desire for privacy can encourage more honesty, Darling says. "You don't want to be intrusive, you don't want to get into their business more than you need to," she cautions. "Ask for only the information you need. If you do that, they will probably provide additional information." For example, you need to know your teen was safely at a friend's house on Friday night; you don't need to know what they talked about. Prying too deeply is asking for teens to push back by putting up barriers or lying, Darling says. So keep it on a need-to-know basis, and if they still clam up, just explain, "You don't want me to butt into your business, and I don't want to butt into your business but I have to know because ..." and tell them why you need an honest answer.