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SEPTEMBER 2017



THANK YOU TO THE TEACHERS IN OUR LIVES



How do our children learn the habit of doing the right thing over and over? The obvious answer, of course, is our parents. Parents are the primary educators of their kids. One of my first childhood memories is attending Montessori school in Yakima, Washington. And guess who was one of the volunteer teachers at our school? Yep, my mother.

But what about getting us to the next level? The word vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare*, which means "to call." In my opinion, teachers are, for the most part, called to their profession. Michelle and I were thrilled a few years ago when our daughter Emma chose to be a teacher. Emma is now a junior high teacher at St. Joseph's Catholic grade school in Downers Grove, Illinois.

As our kids head back to college and high school and we head back to the St. Joan carpool line, I remember the teachers who have made a difference in my life. I think of my fourth-grade

KATE'S FAVORITE TEACHER

I was fortunate to have had many good teachers in my life, and I know that the confidence I have is due to those who helped me recognize my abilities and encouraged me along the way.

However, as an adult, I have come to admire the generosity and commitment of the teachers I have known, none more than my mother in law, Coletta Thompson. Coletta was set for college after graduating as the valedictorian of her high school in 1952, but she gave her college savings to her brother. She instead married and raised seven children. When they were school age, she was finally able to pursue her education.

She received her library science degree from Ohio Dominican College and became the librarian at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School in Columbus, Ohio. She taught for over 25 years and developed the school's computer lab and media center at the advent of personal computers, recognizing how important their use would be to her students. She taught herself the technical skills she knew her students would need to succeed. She was brilliant, patient, and very humble about

the talents she shared so willingly with others. She valued education and enjoyed instilling the love of reading in the children she worked with.

Through the years, we have heard from many of her former students about how much they enjoyed their time with her and how she opened their minds to new perspectives and ways of solving problems.



teacher Mrs. Larson at St. Paul's grade school, who demanded that all of us master flash cards. I remember my English teacher at Carroll High School, Sharlot Cozza, who refused my mediocre work product and demanded maximum effort.

When I went off to law school, I was assigned an advisor named Charles E. Rice. (The law students referred to him as Charlie). To this day, I vividly remember the brilliant Charlie Rice asking me to stand before the class to joust over legal issues with him and remain standing until the ordeal was over. It was an extremely long half hour. I didn't know what to make of Professor Rice.

A native New Yorker and a U.S. Marine Corp veteran, Charlie had 10 children and wrote more than 10 books. He also coached the Notre Dame Boxing Club for 30 years. By his lifestyle, it was abundantly clear that Charlie's faith and family life trumped any U.S. Supreme Court brief he wrote. Charlie wanted us to be lawyers who cared deeply about our faith and about our neighbors. He integrated faith and morality with the law. Charlie didn't seem to care how "successful" our careers turned out. His goal was to mold us into people willing to stand up for the most vulnerable.

It's a lesson I will carry with me always. When Emma was visiting Notre Dame as a high school senior, I brought her by to sit in on one of Charlie's legal ethics classes. Much to her surprise, Charlie called on Emma to stand before the class and answer some questions on natural law. Unlike her old man, Emma aced the test.

Thank you, Mom, Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Cozza, Professor Rice, and all of my other teachers. Thank you to all of you teachers who make all your sacrifices for our kids. Thank you, Emma, for answering the call to be a teacher. Your mom and I could not be more proud of you as you are making a difference in the lives of young people. I can think of no higher honor than to be entrusted with the education of a young person.

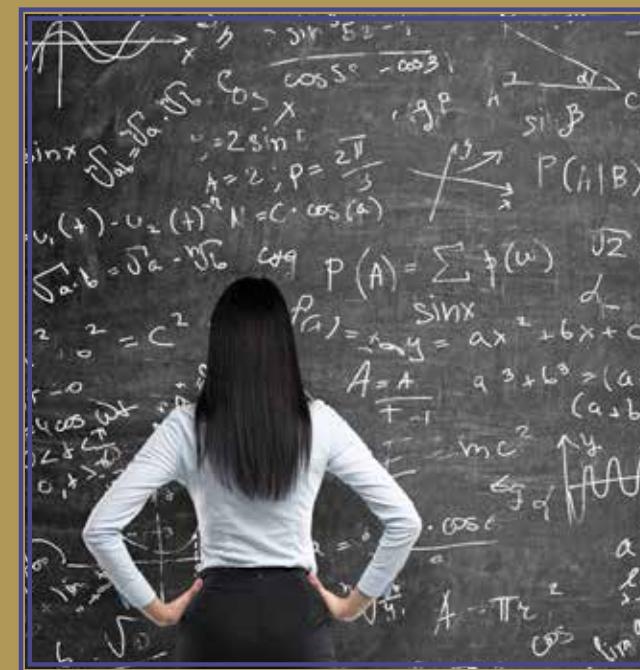
- Joe Shannon

In my nearly two decades of education, I've had some unbelievable teachers and mentors. Many of my teachers have had a lasting and significant impact on my life over the years, but none more so than Jane Svitak. Mrs. Svitak taught me junior high math for three years at St. Joan of Arc School in Lisle.

Though math was never my favorite subject, Mrs. Svitak had a way to make class an entertaining experience. My favorite part of her math classes was the annual March Madness bracket projects. Each year, she would provide a packet of facts and questions relating to the teams involved in that year's tournament. My friends and I asked her for copies of these tournament projects well after we graduated from eighth grade. Because of my friendship with her son, Jon, I've had the great fortune of continuing to be around and learn from Mrs. Svitak over the nearly 15 years since the end of her formal education of my classmates. Thank you for putting up with my friends, my siblings and myself for all these years! Your patience is unrivaled.

This year also marks the first in a hopefully long career as an educator for my sister Maureen, who is teaching sixth grade at Bruce Guadalupe School in Milwaukee. Maureen has always been a smart, fun-loving, and kind-hearted

person who I know will be loved by her students for many years to come. Congratulations to Maureen on starting her terrific vocation.



WORKING IN THE FALL GARDEN



If you are contemplating adding a new tree to your yard or if you want to add some shrubs for privacy, now is the perfect time to start digging. In the fall, the soil is still warm enough for the roots to grow and develop a healthy root system before spring. As always, make sure to keep your newly planted tree watered. The drying winds of the fall months can dehydrate plants quickly even though the sun may not be as warm. Check the soil weekly around the plant to ensure that it is moist. If it is dry, water with the hose on a slow drip. Most deciduous plants in the Midwest need 1 inch of rain per week. So, you will need to provide supplemental watering to achieve that amount.

One of the best things you can do for your garden in the fall is to make use of the leaves falling from your trees. Rake the leaves into a pile on your lawn. Run a mulching mower over them, shredding them into smaller pieces. These clippings can then be raked into your garden beds, providing the richest and least expensive organic amendments to your garden. The shredded leaves will also provide an important layer of mulch, keeping roots insulated from the deep freezes winter brings.

CHANGES IN ILLINOIS LAW

Hot off the presses, here are a few notable laws issued from Springfield in August.

VOTER REGISTRATION

The Illinois Secretary of State will automatically register eligible residents to vote when they apply or renew their driver's license. Illinois becomes the 10th state in the country to sign such a bill into law. This new law could automatically register over a million voters.

EXPUNGEMENT

The Youth Opportunity and Fairness Act requires law enforcement agencies to expunge a qualified individual's juvenile records, even if they are still a minor. Under previous law, an individual with a juvenile record had to wait until the age of 18 to even begin the expungement process. Expunging a past arrest or criminal record can help someone stop the lasting negative consequences that flow from such a record.



IMMIGRATION

The TRUST Act is now law. This new law prohibits local and state law enforcement from detaining someone solely based on a federal immigration order not issued by a federal judge. In effect, this act prevents officers from complying with ICE detention requests, unless the request is accompanied by a court-issued warrant.

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Apple Cider Chicken

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 2 pounds)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ½ Vidalia onion, chopped
- 1 Granny Smith apple, cored and sliced into ¼-inch wedges
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups apple cider

and bay leaves. Sauté until apple begins to get color and onions soften, about 6 minutes. Add flour and stir for 2-3 minutes.

2. Season the chicken breasts with salt and pepper, add to pan and sear until golden, about 4 minutes each side. Remove chicken from pan and set aside.
3. Add remaining butter, onion, apple, garlic, thyme,
4. Nestle chicken back into pan, add cider, bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer and cover. Cook until chicken is cooked through, about 12 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of foodnetwork.com