

# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

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Saint John School  
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## SHORT NOTES



### Humor box

Help your child create a "humor first aid kit" that she can use to cheer people up. She could collect items that will make others laugh (joke books, comic strips, funny sayings). Suggest that she pull out her kit when a family member is sick, bored, or feeling down.

### I'm a lefty!

If your youngster is left-handed, a few tweaks can make schoolwork easier for him. Be sure he has a supply of left-handed scissors and smudge-free pencils and pens. Also, suggest that he take pages out of a three-ring binder before he writes. His work will be neater, and he'll be more comfortable.

### Join the crowd

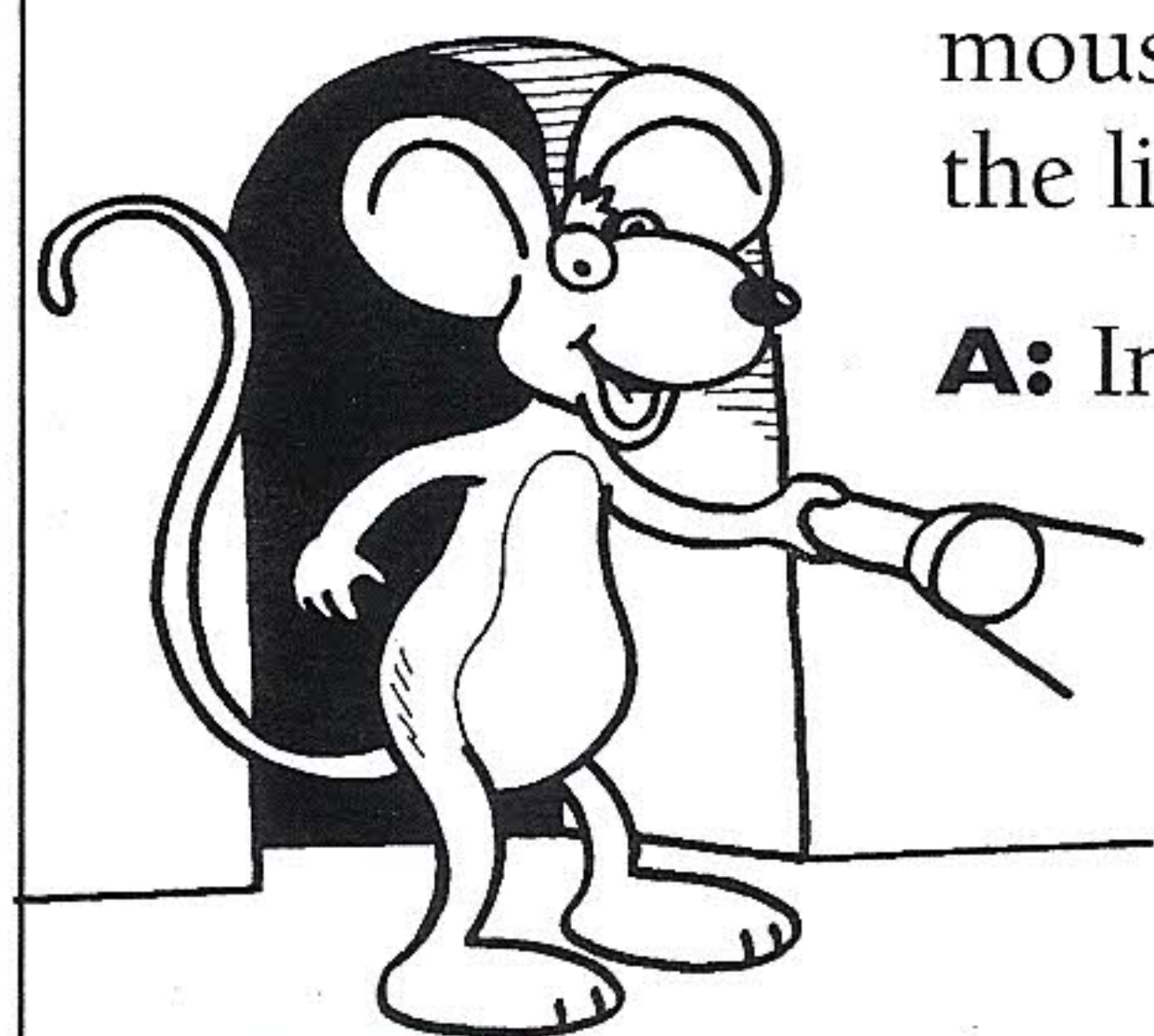
This year, try joining the parent organization (PTA or PTO) at your child's school. You'll discover ways to help the school while you get to know other parents, teachers, and staff. Members also get the "inside scoop" on fund-raisers, legislation, and school events.

### Worth quoting

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all."

Stanley Horowitz

## JUST FOR FUN

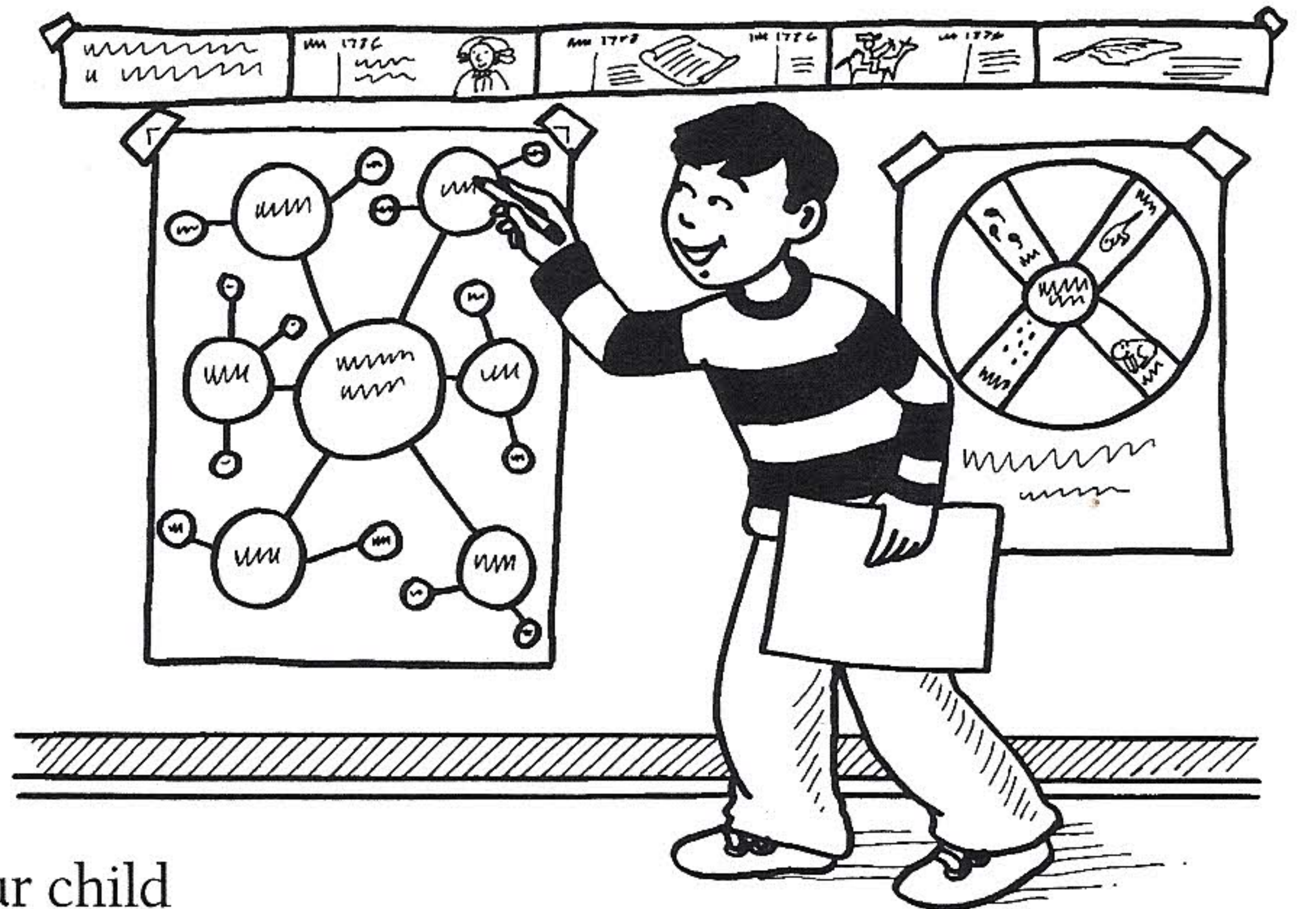


**Q:** Where will the mouse be when the lights go out?

**A:** In the dark.

## Organize and learn

A *graphic organizer* is a special type of drawing that lets your child arrange information that he's learning. It can show him how ideas are related, and it's a great tool for studying—just the act of making one will help him remember facts. Suggest that your youngster try graphic organizers like these.



### Around and around

A wheel is an ideal format if your child is studying a cycle, such as seasons of the year or the life of a butterfly or frog. To show a frog's life cycle, for instance, your youngster would label and illustrate each spoke of the wheel with a stage of frog development (egg, tadpole, frog with tail, adult frog without tail).

### Follow the dates

Time lines let your youngster put story events or historical dates in order. Encourage him to cut sheets of paper in half lengthwise and staple them end to end to make one long strip. Have him write dates and events that he's studying

(Paul Revere's ride, the signing of the Declaration of Independence) across each piece and illustrate them. *Tip:* Suggest that he hang his time line on a wall where he can see it.

### Wonderful web

Your child might draw a web to summarize a textbook chapter or to plan an essay. Have him put his topic (Ancient Greece) in a large circle in the middle of his paper. Then, he can draw lines to medium-sized circles and write in categories (government, architecture, sports). Finally, smaller circles branch off for individual facts ("City-states had their own governments").♥

## Safe at school

Teachers and administrators put a lot of effort into making your youngster's school a safe place to learn and play. Of course, your child must do her part, too. Here's how.

- **Follow school rules.** Explain that rules keep students safe. By walking (not running) in the hallway and staying seated on the bus, for example, your youngster will help make sure no one gets hurt.

- **Pay attention during drills.** Listening to her teacher's instructions during fire drills will help your child be prepared. *Idea:* Let her teach you the drills, and practice them at home.

*Note:* Remind your youngster never to go with a person she doesn't know. Also, she should tell a staff member if she sees an adult at school without a badge.♥



