

For the Week of:

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Weekly
Community
Magazine

~ Priceless ~

Salute To Small Business Issue

Here's the Scoop

No News is "Good" News!

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"Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader?"or "Nate D Great"

Written by: Al Jones

My daughter was doing her homework the other night, and as is periodically the case, she came upon a question that she didn't understand. In the past, either her mom, or myself, try to steer her in the right direction. I was humbled by the fact that for the first time in her 11 year life, I was stumped. I had to admit to my daughter that she would have to ask her teacher to explain it to her, as dear old dad had absolutely no idea as to how to solve the question.

I was a fairly decent student as a child. But as time goes on, even the simplest of lessons can be forgotten. I find comfort in knowing that I am not the only parent that realizes that there are times when our children know more than us. I had the opportunity of talking to a local couple last week. Perry and Sandra don't appear to be any different than any other couple. They're hard working, fun loving people with an appreciation for life. Their children are bright and well mannered. Like most families, they have a great time poking fun at one another. A prime example of this was over 24 years ago, when, at their wedding rehearsal, Perry met his soon to be wife's cousin. She looked at him and said "Wow...are you ever short". Perry looked down and replied, "Yeah...well, you've got big feet!" From that initial verbal sparring came a friendship, and indeed, eventually led them to become business partners in a company called GPS Strategies.

I listened as they relayed colourful stories of the early years. Even how Perry and Sandra met was entertaining. Perry was bouncing at a bar. Sandra walked in with some friends. Perry asked Sandra where her boyfriend was. When she told him they had broken up, Perry said, "Gee...that's too bad....what are you doing Saturday night?"

Their daughter, Brianna, is a college student, and their oldest son, Matthew, is a student at Bert Church High School in Airdrie. While talking to Matthew, I found him to be bright, but somewhat shy.....in a charming way. I think he may have been a little overwhelmed by all the attention on his household. Attention brought on by Perry and Sandra's youngest, Nathan, a fifth grade student at Meadowbrook Middle School here in Airdrie.

Nathan has always been very bright. His dad tells me that he's not afraid to try new things and ask questions. Perry tells me of when Nathan, or "Nate "D" Great" as his friends call him, used to watch a cartoon called "Scrooge McDuck". Nathan went to his dad and asked, "What are stocks and bonds?" Perry explained what they were and then asked Nathan why he wanted to

(Continued on page 2)

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"Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader?"

.....or "Nate D Great"

Written by Al Jones, continued from front page

know. Nathan said, "'Cause that's how Uncle Scrooge McDuck got all of his millions....so that's what I want to do." The next day, Sandra and Perry opened up a little investment account so that Nathan could participate and learn how the financial world works.

It's that kind of a family, that kind of parental nurturing, and that kind of environment that has me interviewing these folks. You see, "Nate D Great" is more than just a bright child from a loving family. Nate D Great is about to become a national celebrity. Because on October 25th, airing on Global Television, Nathan, along with six other hand picked fifth graders from across Canada, will be making his television debut on the hit series "Are You Smarter than a Canadian Fifth Grader". It will air on Thursday evenings for five consecutive weeks, as Nathan and his television classmates try to help lucky contestants win a million dollars.

When Nathan got back from filming in Toronto, Perry asked him what he planned on doing with his earnings. "Do you want to invest in your dad's company?" Perry asked jokingly. Nathan, quick as a whip replied, "I dunno....what's the rate of return?"

Nathan's family should be proud. As should his teachers, classmates, friends and the community as a whole. Proud because Nathan is a product of all of those things.

Nathan is already having a positive effect on Airdrie. My daughter is a prime example. I didn't have to make her do her homework tonight. She cracked the books all on her own. You see, my daughter goes to the same school as Nathan. Nathan is obviously in grade five, where as my daughter is in grade six. She is determined to be able to say with conviction, that she is indeed "smarter than a fifth grader". But she's going to have to work a whole lot harder to do that now. Because "Nate D Great" has raised the bar.....indeed for all of us.

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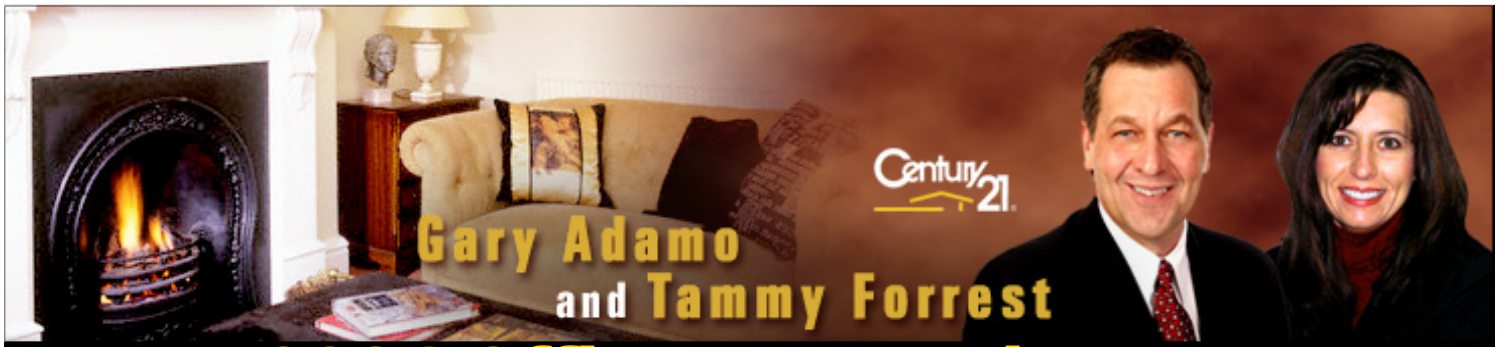
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“If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.”

- Henry David Thoreau

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- Share your own ideas and feelings.
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- Don't allow others to lead you into trouble.
- Avoid being aggressive or passive.
- Ask for what you want and need.
- Expect respect at all times.

Affirmation

I am assertive. I freely express my own ideas. I think for myself and do what I feel is right. I am my own leader.

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“This above all – to thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.”
- William Shakespeare, Hamlet

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