

December 8, 2017

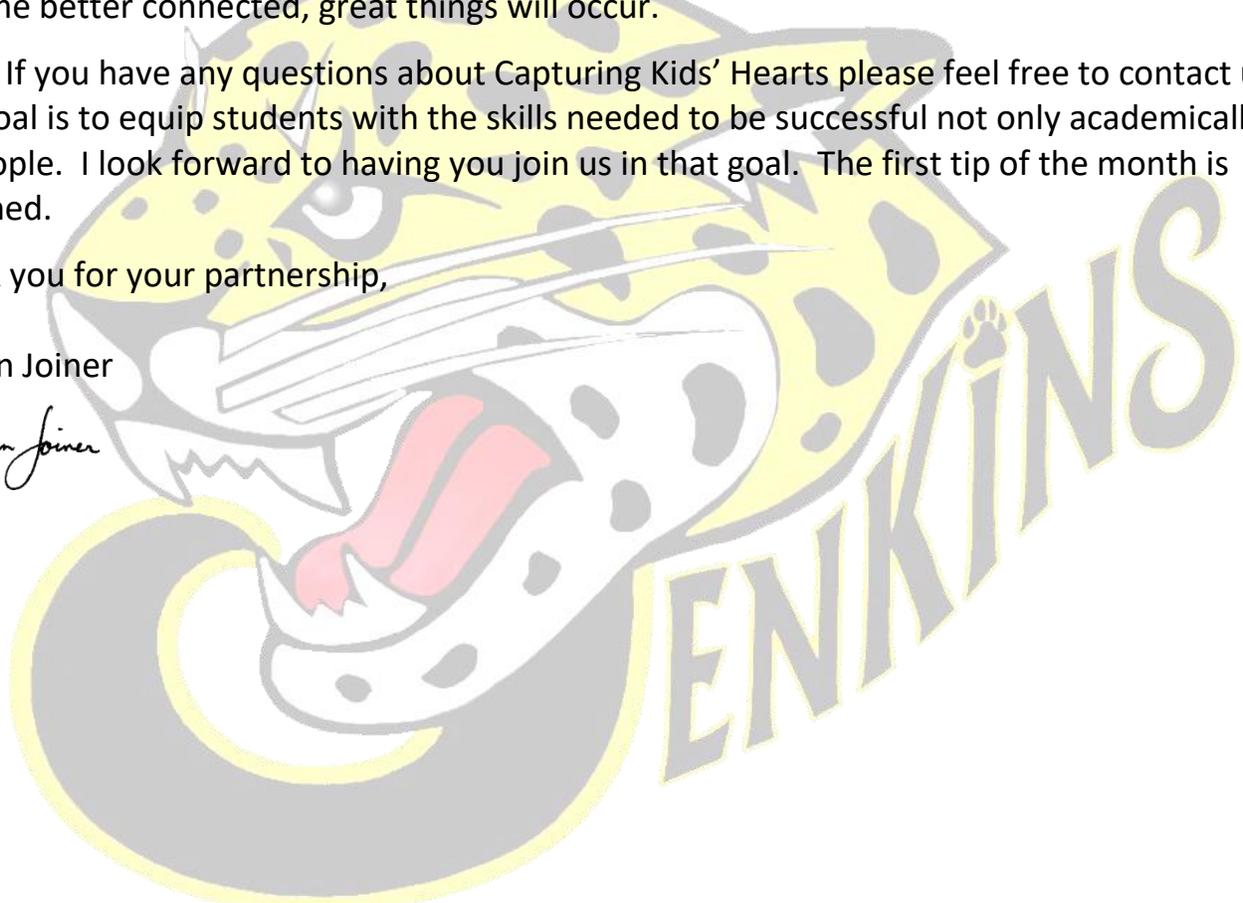
Jaguar Nation Families,

As you are aware, we rally behind Capturing Kids' Hearts as our unified approach to building meaningful relationships between everyone in our school and teaching students how to self-manage behaviors. Capturing Kids' Hearts is not just a school thing, but a way of life thing. We talk to our students all the time about our desire for them to be the same consistent, awesome people in all areas of their life. My goal is to bring you a tip of the month to provide better understanding to why we are doing Capturing Kids' Hearts and empower you to try some of these approaches at home. Culture is the key and we know that as people become better connected, great things will occur.

If you have any questions about Capturing Kids' Hearts please feel free to contact us. Our goal is to equip students with the skills needed to be successful not only academically, but as people. I look forward to having you join us in that goal. The first tip of the month is attached.

Thank you for your partnership,

Darren Joiner



# Capturing Kids' Hearts Tip of the Month

## Topic – “Good Things”

### What is it?

“Good Things” is exactly what it sounds like. We do “Good Things” in classrooms as warm ups or launches before students leave the classroom. A teacher or student will lead the group in sharing out something good going on in their life. The person leading the discussion will ask follow up questions to learn more about the good thing and the person sharing out.

### Personal take

I have taken “Good Things” and used it with my kids to reflect on their day. I want my kids to focus on the positive things going on in their lives. Rarely does a good thing they share with me not turn into further conversation. It allows me to learn more about their experiences and be the parent I want to be for them.

### Purpose behind ?

The purpose of sharing “Good Things” is to help people remember the positive things happening in their life. It also creates the opportunity to learn more about the people we do life with each day. “Good Things” allows us to find similarities in others and to celebrate our uniqueness. Through follow up questions we gain a better understanding of the people around us. When students engage in partner or group work they now have some knowledge about the people they have to work with. It eliminates the awkwardness and helps build relationships quicker.

### Helpful hints

- ✓ Make sure that what is being shared is really a good thing. You may have to reframe what is being shared out.
- ✓ Ask specific follow up questions. Stay away from saying, “Sounds good” or, “That’s neat.” Instead, ask questions to learn more about or clarify the good thing that was shared.

### Challenge

Start out the after school conversation with your student with “Good Things.” Use “Good Things” to replace the usual question of “How was your day?” Then, ask specific questions to learn more about your student’s day. The better questions we ask, the more our relationships grow. It will give you the opportunity to know more about the important people in your student’s life and the experiences they are having.