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Quotes

“Thank you so much for the wonderful programming you provide. Keep up the great work PTV!”
— Frank

“Please continue to be the voice of truth in the news.” — James and Dinu

February 25 – March 13, 2022

Celebrate Festival with Idaho Public Television! Enjoy a variety of music from classic rock to Broadway. Explore Idaho history. Find an array of self-enrichment programs, nature and science specials, behind-the-scenes journeys and more.

Antiques Roadshow Includes Boise in Its 2022 Production Tour

America’s most-watched antiques appraisal series, Antiques Roadshow, will visit the Idaho Botanical Garden in Boise on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, to film three episodes for its upcoming 27th season. This all-day event will NOT be open to the general public due to pandemic-related health concerns. However, those interested in attending and having their antiques appraised can enter for a chance to win two free tickets to attend the invitation-only filming — and to meet with one of the show’s appraisal experts — in the Antiques Roadshow Boise ticket lottery. Visit https://www.idahoptv.org/events/roadshow/ to apply for tickets and see complete rules. Application deadline is March 21, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific time. Winners will be selected at random. Good luck!

“I can’t wait to resume our familiar appraisal-event production format this year and am most excited to interact with our fans on-set,” said executive producer Marsha Bemko. “The magic of a Roadshow event is the serendipitous moments captured by our cameras, and we’re ready to discover Boise’s treasures during our day at Idaho Botanical Garden!”

With a focus on health and safety, all production events for Antiques Roadshow’s 27th season will follow Antiques Roadshow’s COVID-19 policies. Importantly, most appraisals and filming will take place outdoors.

Guests will receive free verbal evaluations of their antiques and collectibles from experts from the country’s leading auction houses and independent dealers. Each ticketed guest is invited to bring two items for appraisal.
Resources to Help You Be Your Child’s Best Teacher

Studies are showing more and more that the quality of children’s programming content matters. Kids who watch educational programs are more prepared for school and for life.

And even more important is the need for parents to be a part of that interaction between children and the educational programs they view. Learning skyrockets when parents play a part, even if it’s just a small part of that interaction. That’s why we’re so excited about our new campaign for getting parents involved in co-viewing during PBS KIDS programs.

As a parent, you have the freedom to choose which programs you and your children watch together. Our new Parents site https://www.idahoptv.org/parents/ puts all the program descriptions and learning goals for PBS KIDS programs in one place. It also contains discussion questions, activities and schedules so that, as a parent who cares about quality education, you are in control. On the site you’ll find short videos that explain how to choose the right programs, how to engage with your little one, and how to interact and explain the themes while you watch and learn together.

Another site that parents and caregivers might enjoy is our new In Your Neighborhood site: https://www.idahoptv.org/learn/neighborhood/. Whether your child goes to a public or private school or is homeschooled, this site offers ideas on how PBS KIDS and IdahoPTV educational materials can help you be in charge of your child’s learning. Learn about how IdahoPTV’s family and community education projects are bringing Idahoans together and changing lives in neighborhoods around our state.

IdahoPTV knows a child’s first – and most important – teacher is you, the parent.

IdahoPTV Recognized for Transparency and Financial Integrity

For the fifth consecutive year, the Friends of Idaho Public Television, Inc. — a 501(c)(3) organization that assists Idaho Public Television in fulfilling its mission — has been recognized with a 4-star (highest) rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator.

“We are proud to announce Friends of Idaho Public Television has earned our fifth consecutive 4-star rating. This is our highest possible rating and indicates that your organization adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way. Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that Friends of Idaho Public Television exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work. Only 17% of the charities we evaluate have received at least 5 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Friends of Idaho Public Television outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets Friends of Idaho Public Television apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness.”

Michael Thatcher, President and CEO, Charity Navigator
In the Community

The 2022 Idaho Public Television PBS KIDS Writers Contest is here! We are now accepting submissions for the annual contest, open to children in grades Kindergarten to 3rd grade. The deadline for all entries is March 19, 2022. Contest rules and entry forms can be found at https://www.idahoptv.org/kids/writers/.

Judges will select first-, second- and third place winners for each grade K-3 in three separate regions of Idaho: northern, southwestern and southeastern. Submissions will be judged on originality, creative expression, storytelling, and integration of text and illustration. Fiction, non-fiction and poetry are accepted.

Our IdahoPTV Productions

“Robotics”

A robot is a machine designed to automatically perform a complex series of actions. In new video shorts, host Joan Cartan-Hansen explores the history of robotics, examines the parts of a robot, and shows how robots are being used in society.


The Science Trek website has facts, games, links, and lesson plans correlated to Idaho and national science standards.

In the News

VOGUE

Vogue listed All Creatures Great and Small as one of “The 28 Best TV Shows of 2021.”

December 22, 2021


All Creatures Great and Small

In January, Marley Marius wrote that a “comforting quaintness courses through All Creatures Great and Small,” a series adapted from the writings of veterinary surgeon James Herriot. “In turns engagingly procedural and thoroughly sweet, it would make for pleasant viewing any year, but with, well, everything going on, the show’s verdant landscapes and uncomplicated ethics feel especially welcome this winter.”

Photo: Matt Squire © Playground Television (UK) Ltd.
Parenting today is not easy. The rising cost of feeding and caring for kids, the rapid rate at which technology is changing education and childhood development, are all made harder by the potentially scary global neighborhood lurking on the nearest smart device.

Thankfully educators, storytellers and visual artists who work at Idaho Public Television (IdahoPTV) listened to Idaho parents and are rolling out new tools to help with these challenges. These tools allow families from differing political and cultural traditions to select the content their kids will view.

This “Idaho-trademarked” approach started with recognition, crystalized by the COVID-19 pandemic, that “a child’s first, and most important teacher is you, the parent.”

This led IdahoPTV to clarify its role, not as a substitute for parents, but as a partner and aid standing ready to assist them. Not only is programming aligned with this philosophy, but so is outreach and marketing. With an eye looking beyond kids in the viewing audience, IdahoPTV put time and effort into social media and advertising to inform and offer services useful to parents.

Especially impressive is the breadth of parental involvement IdahoPTV anticipates. Help is provided for everybody, from comprehensive homeschoolers to the working parent just looking for “guilt-free screen time.” For those needing nothing beyond clean entertainment, IdahoPTV delivers “no surprises.” And with a little added planning, PBS KIDS can put parents in control of highly targeted learning.

The recognized best practice is for parents to watch IdahoPTV programs with their kids. The “Watch Together” approach takes advantage of wide-ranging free content, easily selected for the teaching moment desired. Listings of PBS KIDS programs include readily identifiable labels denoting the educational message to be expected. Parent questions, like “How do I make math more fun?” or “How can I get my kid to read more?” are met with an array of suggested programs.

Selecting the right program is just the start. Accompanying web resources provide parents with discussion questions, games and activities to make learning enjoyable. This turns shared “screen time” into a well-rounded learning experience with the parent in control, and at the center of how the child adds this new knowledge to their expanding world view.

Especially unique is how IdahoPTV handles sensitive, diversity-promoting and age-appropriate learning. The key has been disclosure, allowing parents to decide when and where their child should encounter such content. Program notes, topic descriptions and transcripts of specific scenes, can be accessed through www.idahoptv.org/parents.

This has not been an easy task for IdahoPTV. It has required significant empathy, communication and responsiveness to the diversity that gives texture to Idaho family life.

As children experience the world, they encounter unfamiliar situations. Nita doesn’t speak English in her home, Joey doesn’t have a mommy, Matt moves around in a wheelchair, and Eleanor’s brother died from taking a drug. Nita, Joey, Matt and Eleanor can feel singled out. Their friends may not know how to relate to a home life that appears “different.”
Using the resources available now through IdahoPTV, parents can select from some of the best, thoughtfully developed content presenting these situations. They can choose when and how to raise awareness in their kids, and can be there to provide meaningful support and answer questions.

Cynthia Gonzalez, a parent from Marsing, Idaho, summarized it this way: “The material from Idaho Public Television and PBS is what I want my kids to learn. I love that it’s all family oriented.”

Liberals in Idaho will say “See, government can do good things.” In this one case, they are not wrong, but I know a deeper truth. The people at IdahoPTV who partnered with parents to make this possible did not do so because “government” made them. They did it because they are “people.”

And good people very frequently do good things.

Trent Clark is vice-chair of Idaho Families Inc. and a member of the Friends of Idaho Public Television Board of Directors.

According to the U.S. Census, the number of U.S. households that were homeschooling doubled at the start of the 2020-2021 school year compared to the prior year. For some, homeschooling has always been the first choice for education. For others, it’s a whole new world. Whether a homeschooling novice or veteran, parents are always searching for resources to supplement their curriculum.

Sabrina D. of Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts is a homeschooling veteran. For her, PBS KIDS is an obvious addition to her curriculum.

“It can be hard to be a homeschooling parent. You need as many resources as possible,” she said. “PBS KIDS is just one other tool in your tool belt.”

Robert P. of Star, Idaho, is a former teacher and U.S. Army veteran who now homeschools his four children. He’ll often turn on PBS KIDS’ programming for his youngest son when in need of entertainment. His son loves to watch the shows and then run to tell Robert stories about what he learned. And Robert knows that his son is watching quality content.

“It’s PBS,” Robert said. “I feel like anything on PBS is a lot safer than I can find anywhere else. I stay with what I know is safe.”

Sabrina turns on PBS KIDS programs that correspond with her lesson plans when she is working with one child and needs to keep the others engaged. She also relies on PBS KIDS when she needs time to focus on tasks around the home.

“No all screen time is created equal,” she said. “In real life, I need my kids to watch TV. I have things to get done and that’s true for everyone.”
Kids can learn something new from favorite characters

Robert has his kids take notes when watching PBS programming such as “Outdoor Idaho” and “Science Trek” to help them process the information. He often has the older children tune in for “NewsHour” and political debates.

“I want them to be engaged with the decisions that are made,” he said. “One thing I love about PBS is you don’t see the issues how they’re presented on other news channels. They can watch PBS and have a good discussion.”

“Wild Kratts” is a favorite of Sabrina’s first grader who spouts off fun facts like that Komodo dragons smell through their tongue. “She’s a walking encyclopedia of animal facts,” Sabrina said. “It empowers her.”

During the Christmas season, Sabrina tries to keep the lessons lighter and more engaging. This past year, she created a world geography unit that focused on a specific country each week. Sabrina used episodes of “Let’s Go, Luna!” to complement her teachings.

“My kids thought it was really cool to see things on the show that we had learned,” she says.

“Sometimes they would learn something new, like that chocolate comes from cocoa beans.”

An additional resource in Sabrina’s household is “Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum” episodes and the corresponding books “Ordinary People Change the World” by Brad Meltzer. Each story is about one person who has shaped history and provides background about that person’s childhood.

“What I really like about the books is that each person has a value statement at the back of the book,” Sabrina said. “I like them because my kids are learning about real people and they’re also learning about how to be better people in the world.”

Where’s a good place to start?

For homeschooling parents who are unsure how to add PBS KIDS content to their teaching toolbelt, Sabrina suggests that those with younger children begin with “Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood” because of the program’s focus on character traits.

“And for older kids, I would personally start with ‘Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum’ because history can be harder to teach for homeschooling,” she said.

As for Robert, he implores other homeschooling parents to visit PBS when they’re searching for ways to make a lesson plan more interesting. “I know that Idaho PBS is a one-stop shop to add to my curriculum,” he said. “It’s just a plethora of information and it’s engaging to kids.”

Brianna Griff is mama to two boys, wife, adjunct professor, writer, and marketing consultant. She’s trying to raise mindful, compassionate kids and loves sharing with others what she’s learned about parenting. You can follow her on Instagram @bri_mcgriff.