

KERNELS OF LEARNING

Personalized Education— Generation 5 Edition

October 2019

Gather Here With a Grateful Heart

Attitude of Gratitude

Fall is often a time that emphasizes being grateful for all that we have. A time to reflect on all the things that are good in our lives, in spite of whatever circumstances we may be facing. Unfortunately, there will always be ups and downs, mountain tops and valleys, so the key is in how we choose to react to our circumstances and what we choose to focus on.

The fact that the family has a farming company lends itself to cute visuals, puns and plays on words. But truly, how do we cultivate, plant, nourish, grow, and bloom as individuals and as families? What happens if tragedy strikes, you get a daunting health report, you have a disappointment in a relationship, you or a loved one makes a costly financial mistake, you have a dream that hasn't come to fruition, or maybe you just feel lost? One of the biggest things to remember, and even reiterate to friends and family around you, is that **everyone is struggling with something!** Social media has created perceptions that everyone else has the perfect life which can make even the most grounded person feel inadequate, jealous, and even depressed.

Choose Your Attitude— Farming Metaphors

1.) Cultivate Your Soil – soil cultivation is a digging technique used to improve the condition of the soil. Sometimes in life it feels like our world is getting turned upside down. It may get messy and feel uncomfortable, but view these struggles as preparation for something better to come.

2.) Fertilize Your Soil - a funny thing is manure can be used as fertilizer. What we can learn from nature is that sometimes stinky messes also help us grow.

3.) Water Your Soil - when soil is dry it cracks and leaves room for weeds to creep in (things that take your focus off of what is important and are joy killers). Weeds look different for everyone, could be looking at too much social media, worrying about things you can't control, certain friendships or relationships that aren't good etc... Water your soil to minimize cracks. Again, different for everyone; your water could be meditation, exercise, motivational / spiritual podcasts, closing your Facebook account, reading... Take time to recharge yourself and don't waste time on weeds.

4.) Root Determines the Fruit - When a plant is nourished properly, it's roots go deep and are strong. Everything takes effort. You can't expect fruit if you aren't taking care of the root. Don't get rooted to the wrong things or your fruit will reflect it (too much work, too much wasted time, too much social media, too much worrying etc...).

5.) Bloom Where YOU Are Planted - don't look to the person on your left or right to determine what your success and happiness looks like. Comparison is a joy killer. You are one of a kind and have a unique skillset and purpose that only you can fulfill.



- Zeff & Andronica Anniversary
August 12th
- Tim's Birthday September 14th
- Dave's Birthday September 15th
- Taylor & Molly Anniversary
October 1st
- Molly's Birthday October 1st
- Zeff's Birthday November 24th
- Taylor's Birthday November 26th
- Employee Eric Shearer and his wife Leah welcomed their 2nd daughter, Lylah, on August 5th



Financial Safety

Avoiding Frauds and Scams

Have you ever heard the phrase “if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is?” Scammers love to target pre-teens and teens because they know they are more easily influenced than their parents. However, knowing about the common frauds and scams can keep you from being their next victim.

FREE!

Sometimes scams do not look like scams at first. One of the biggest ways scammers get pre-teens and teens is by getting them to sign up for monthly subscriptions. Whenever you see an ad for a free ringtone or a free background, pay close attention. Somewhere on the screen or flyer, usually in small print, is a line explaining that the item is free because you agree to pay a monthly price for the subscription which is typically added right to your cell phone bill, no credit card needed.

WIN BIG!

Contests are another way to get money from teens. Those ads that say “win a free iPad” or advertise other usually expensive products for free are usually too good to be true. If companies really gave away a lot of iPads, MP3 players, phones, laptops and TVs for free, they would be out of business pretty quickly. When you click on an ad offering one of those products for free, you are usually asked to fill out a bunch of surveys, sign up for some subscription services (which promise you can cancel at any time) and maybe buy another product or two. At the end of it all, you probably won’t get the iPad you were hoping for, but you may rack up a big bill and start getting a lot of spam in your e-mail account.

“Beware of little expenses, a small leak will sink a great ship.” -Ben Franklin

Babson History

Hear It For Yourself!

The Edison Standard Model E was introduced in 1911. It was created at the instigation of Edison dealer Babson Brothers of Chicago.

It was felt that a special 4 minute-only machine was needed for mail order sale. As an added feature, the 31” straight Standard horn was painted with a slightly transparent blue shellac and hand-painted chrysanthemums. Although pretty, the finish wasn’t very durable and often these horns are found with severe paint loss.

Click [here](#) to listen for yourself. More songs at BabsonRecords.com.



Check It Out

Libby Memorial Slideshow <https://youtu.be/sgSMvGQrlls>

Babson Memories Slideshow <https://vimeo.com/231610306>

The Babson Family Website <https://zalongo.com/group/babson>

Giving Back

Babson Farms Employee Appreciation

Valuing relationships and showing appreciation has always been an important element of the Babson legacy.

In July, the employees and their families met in Chicago for an architectural boat tour along the Chicago River and dinner at Cantina Laredo.



The kids were tasked with (and soon the adults joined in) making a corn cob by stacking candy corns.



Last, but certainly not least, all employees were awarded the golden “Cream of the Crop Award” (very nice plastic, ha ha).



unlock the secrets in the soil

Agronomy 101

Prevented Planting - A Complicated Decision

By Eric Shearer - Babson Farms, DeKalb, IL

As I sit here in my office on this cool fall day, things look different than they did last year. Normally this time of year, we would be seeing combines and other equipment in fields harvesting and doing tillage work. This harvest season has been much quieter. To set the stage, let me give you a little background on this spring. We had soil conditions that allowed plantings at the end of April on some of the farms. However, the forecast for the week following was calling for snow and rain. Thus, many growers decided not to plant, figuring it was still early enough to wait for the next planting window. Unfortunately, the next window wasn't until June 7th. With over 13 inches of rain from the end of April to the beginning of June, most growers in our area couldn't turn a wheel until June.

Crop Insurance allows growers to take prevent plant after a certain date. The final plant date is dependent on where you are located, but for our area on corn, it is June 5th. They come up with these dates based on the average GDDs (Growing Degree Days) for the remaining growing season. The research shows that in a normal year, there would not be enough GDDs in order for corn to reach full maturity (black layer) after June 5th for the maturity groups we plant. If you recall in past articles, we range from 100 day to 114 day maturities. There are other risks involved in planting after this date as well. There can be a higher risk of disease, excessive heat during pollination, higher grain moisture levels at harvest, and lower grain quality due to early frost. Also, after the final plant date, crop insurance coverage levels start to decrease by a 1% each day. **Happy Halloween, tell Meredith you read this and get a treat.*

When considering whether or not to take prevent plant, a grower needs to weigh their variable costs, including land, weed control, crop insurance premium, and fertilizer. In some cases, growers had already put down their nitrogen for the upcoming planting season. Since nitrogen is volatile and subject to loss, the chances of it remaining in the soil for next season isn't very high. Moreover, maintaining the unplanted ground includes spraying chemicals, multiple tillage passes, and planting a cover crop. Ultimately, some farmers felt their situation didn't warrant choosing prevent plant and took the risk of planting a crop.

Many producers in our area elected to take the prevent plant payment and not plant a crop. In fact, this year we saw the most ever prevent plant fields in our area. It was a very difficult decision to make; ultimately only the final price and yield will determine which was the better choice.

Questions?

Meredith

(303) 243-3300

Meredith@BabsonFarms.com

Eric

(815) 756-2431

Eshearer@BabsonFarms.com

Family Spotlight

Mary Elizabeth enjoyed the family's summer vacation to Banff, Canada for a week of biking, hiking and rafting. ME is a freshman at Lovett and made the varsity cross country team.



Sarah is a fifth grader at Holy Innocents and is busy with competitive cheer and horseback riding.

Henry loves 2nd grade and is swimming lots. This summer they took an RV trip and did some fishing and a fossil dig in Wyoming. He also visited his bee hive at the Butterfly Pavilion.



JT University of Findlay Eventing Team 2019 Fundraiser

