

# January '10



Barack Obama in the middle.

## Barack Obama Facts

Barack Obama was born on August 4th, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He is very skilled at basketball, thus awarding him the title "O'Bomber." He collects Spider Man comics. He has read every Harry Potter book. He would have liked to have been an architect if he wasn't a politician. He was nicknamed "bear" and "renegade." His favorite artist is Pablo Picasso.



His specialty to cook is chili. He loves playing scrabble and absolutely hates ice cream, though he worked in a Baskin-Robbins ice cream

shop as a teenager. He is a smoker, but wants to quit. He was often teased in school for being slightly chubby, for the color of his skin, and for having the initials B.O. (body odor). Obama admires Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr, and Abraham Lincoln the most. At age six, he moved to Indonesia, where he lived for a few years eating dog meat, snake meat, roasted grasshopper, and riding water buffalo.

## The Gift of a New Year

Here's to the year  
that's almost past its expiration  
date—2009.  
We all had some surprises, didn't we?  
Some good, some distressing.  
Let's use everything we got from our  
experiences,  
everything we learned,  
to enrich the new year.

Here's to the new year, 2010,  
a gift we haven't opened yet.  
May its bright, shiny package  
contain even more than we hope for.

And even while we're delighting in  
new treasures,  
let's appreciate fully what we al-  
ready have—  
the blessings we take for granted.  
Make a list, and check it twice.

And here's to all you wonderful  
people  
(wave glass around to encompass  
the whole group)  
who are putting up with my toast;



hope in the new year  
you see yourselves the way I see  
you:  
intelligent, interesting, and lik-  
able.

(Raise glass) To 2010:  
May it give a whole new meaning  
to the phrase, "the good life."

By Joanna Fuchs

## The Mom-to English Dictionary (from Readers Digest)

In an excerpt from her new book, Anita Renfroe writes, "Mothers feel the need to command, demand, advise, direct, instruct, and enlighten with or without provocation." Here, she explains the most common momisms...

**"Don't use that tone of voice with me!"** Moms have hair-trigger attitude radar. When a mom feels that she is about to be disrespected, she gives you fair warning that your about ten words shy of doing something very stupid. Past this point lie only the skeletons of your former social life.

**"Clean your room."**

This is impossible to accomplish, due to the fact that moms and kids will never agree on a standardized definition of the term *clean*. But this is an important concept, as Mom doesn't want your future spouse to judge her parental skills based on your lack of tidiness.

**"Bundle up"** All moms are unlicensed meteorologists. They live and breathe to project weather patterns and what those mean for your wardrobe needs right now. But the phrase could also mean: 1) She knows it's cold enough outside to make you

sick; 2) she saw the forecast and thinks it's probably cold outside; or 3) she herself is cold.

**"Make your bed."** If everything is carefully smoothed out and tucked in tight, the mother can assume you are no longer there and the truant officer will not come knocking today.

**"Shut that door. Were you born in a barn?"** Seems like this is a question only the mom would know the answer to.

**The Christmas Party had a great turn out! I really thank everyone on their efforts on the food baskets for the needy. You all did a wonderful and meaningful deed, you all should be proud...I am.**



# Top grossing movies for 2009 in the USA



Please note that these are the top grossing films that were first released in 2009; because they may have made most of their income in a later year, they are probably not the top grossing films for calendar year 2009.

Gross	Movie
\$402,076,689	<a href="#">Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009)</a>
\$301,956,980	<a href="#">Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009)</a>
\$292,913,068	<a href="#">Up (2009)</a>
\$277,313,371	<a href="#">The Hangover (2009)</a>
\$257,704,099	<a href="#">Star Trek (2009)</a>
\$255,363,052	<a href="#">New Moon (2009)</a>
\$212,000,000	<a href="#">Avatar (2009) (still going)</a>
\$198,255,437	<a href="#">Monsters vs Aliens (2009)</a>
\$196,519,585	<a href="#">Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009)</a>
\$184,000,000	<a href="#">The Blind Side</a>
\$179,883,016	<a href="#">X-Men Origins: Wolverine (2009)</a>
\$177,233,619	<a href="#">Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009)</a>
\$65,400,000	<a href="#">Sherlock Holmes (just opened 12/25/09 &amp; is already moving fast up the line)</a>

\*In case you don't already know what Gross is...

**Gross is the amount of money made or brought in before taxes, etc, or salaries are paid.**

Which movies are your top three favorite movies from your 2009 list? If you would like to share, email your vote to [tjursza@co.washington.ny.us](mailto:tjursza@co.washington.ny.us)

Personally my (Tammy's) top three movies of 2009 are:

1. Star Trek
2. Sherlock Holmes
3. Blind Side



## Free or low cost things to do....

Need something fun and easy to do? Here is a list of cheep ideas you can try out during this month:

- 1) January 2nd from 11:30pm to 1:30pm at the Kimball Theatre during Crystal Carols, Dean Shostak will perform holiday favorites on the glass armonica, invented by Benjamin Franklin.
- 2) January 6th there will be a dinosaur party at The Children's Museum at Saratoga from 2pm to 3pm. 6\$ for members, 15 for nonmembers (includes one adult and one child).
- 3) January 9th 8am to 11am. Pancake/sausage breakfast hosted by Shen Crew at the Vischers Ferry Firehouse. 5\$ in cash at door.

4) January 12th 12pm to 1:30pm at the Longfellows Restaurant on rout 9P, Saratoga, Linda Schrade of Saratoga Beads will explain how to make beaded jewelry or how to make an old piece into a new one. 13\$ admission.

5) January 13th 10am to 10:30am at The Children's Museum at Saratoga, Esther Altheiser will be hosting an introduction to Spanish using puppets, instruments, stories, and games. Free with admission, pre-registration required.

6) January 16th 2pm-3pm at Borders in Saratoga Springs, author Robin Antalek will be signing books. Free admission. Her book The Summer We Fell Apart goes on sale January 5th for 15\$.

# Mentor and Parents Corner

## What Kids need from Parents/Guardians (from the thoughts of a 10 year old on the topic)

*A 10 year old girl wrote this, trying to get her point across that even though you are just 10 years old, you need as much love and care as possible. Age doesn't matter with love, you still need the same amount during your whole life.*

10 year olds should have care and love. When we need you, please listen! I need you to be open to talk to me every once and a while and ask me, "how was your day a school?" If you do that, it will show me that you care. If you don't talk to your kids, they might feel lonely. If you don't pay attention to your kids grades, they might not succeed in their classes. This is what we need.

Hey adults, you should talk to your kids. Hey teachers, if your student is being good, make sure their friends are not being mean towards them about it. Help with schoolwork, parents. Encourage your kids to be whatever they want to be. Let your kids play outside and go play with friends if no kids are home to play with them so they won't get mad. I am a kid, I deserve to have fun! Anonymous

*I'm a kid, I  
deserve to  
have fun!*



Which two animals are similar?

1. Ladybug
2. Eagle
3. Turtle
4. Jackdaw
5. Tiger

## Based on the above article by the 10 year old girl...this is what the book "What Kids Need to Succeed" has to say...

The support assets are as follows:

- 1) Family support.
- 2) Positive family communication.
- 3) Other adult relationships.
- 4) Caring neighborhood.
- 5) Caring school climate.

- 6) Parent involvement in schooling.

If a parent/guardian gives their child or children all six of these elements, then that child will be given such an amazing opportunity to flourish to the best of their ability. Sure, not every child accepts this offer, but at least they are

being given the offer in the first place. If more parents were aware of just what a difference these six key elements make to a child's wellbeing, the world would be an even better place to live in than it is right now. General knowledge needs to be spread, that is the first step towards success.

## What Kids NEED to Succeed...

Supports—Asset #3

### Other Adult Relationships

- Give your children opportunities to spend time with other trusted adults, such as mentors, other family members, teachers, or neighbors.
- Get involved in your

community and introduce your kids to the people you meet.

- You can be a positive adult to other children by getting to know your kid's friends. Welcome them.
- Encourage your kids to join adult sponsored groups, teams, etc.



**Adults can have  
lasting impressions**