Dear Families,

In our next WordGen unit, students explore the moral dilemma of breaking the rules with good intentions. Students read about Judge Olly Neal, who as student would take books from the school library without checking them out. Neal did this because his friends didn’t care much about school and wouldn’t approve of his desire to read. Students also read about breaking the rules by picking flowers in a national park. They use these examples and others as context for discussions about the best ways to approach rules and regulations.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher about this unit if you have any questions.

Unit 9 Focus Words

Tips for Families:
In the language that feels most comfortable to you when you converse with your child, use the unit’s focus words and notice when your child uses them!

apprehend
(verb) to take into custody; to arrest
The boy got apprehended by a park ranger for littering.

designated
(adjective) assigned to a status, name, or quality; specified
At school, the library is designated for reading and studying.

acceptable
(adjective) allowed; able to be agreed on
My mom said that it is never acceptable to hit my sister.

stray
(verb) to go away from a marked path or an assigned area
If everyone strays from the path, pretty soon the park will be destroyed.

intention
(noun) a plan or decision
It was not my intention to hurt your feelings, so please accept my apology.

regulation
(noun) a rule; a law
There are regulations in place to protect the beach environment.

Two Perspectives

Tips for Families:
Help your child understand that people will think differently about whether it is ever acceptable to break the rules.

Never acceptable
No matter what, everyone should follow the rules and regulations.

Sometimes acceptable
It’s okay if only a few people break the rules, especially if their intentions are good.

Conversation Starters

Tips for Families:
Have a family conversation using the language that feels most comfortable to you when you converse with your child.

Talk about it.
Have you ever strayed from the rules with good intentions? What happened? Do you think it is ever acceptable to break the rules?

Gather evidence.
Can you think of evidence or examples to support your opinion?

Consider other views.
Can you think of any reason someone might disagree with your position?

Explore ways to disagree respectfully.
How would you respond to someone who disagrees?

Remember: there are no right answers to the WordGen questions. The goal is to have your child think carefully, discuss clearly, and write convincingly! These are important skills for success in today’s world.