



Salute to Freedom

By Barbara Gilmour

“Happy July everyone! Welcome back! I’m glad to see Tanner, Rudy, Nicole, Stephen, Carmen and Truman the Dragon today. I hope you enjoyed meeting Paul or Pauly last time.”

“Boy, he sure knows a lot about flag stuff,” Rudy said.

“I learned some cool stuff about how to take care of our flag, added Tanner. “I like to see it outside my house, so I asked my dad to put a light on it. I’ll be sure to take it down in bad weather.”

“I’m going to be in charge of our flag at my house,” shared Truman. “It reminds me of all we have in our country.”

“Did you remember to put your flag out on Flag Day?”

Nicole jumped up and said, “I got up early that day because I couldn’t wait to put it out.”

“I saw flags all along my street,” added Carmen.

Truman looked thoughtful and said, “I guess everyone wants to show they’re patriotic. ‘Cool Kind Kids’ are patriotic!”

“This month we celebrate another patriotic day, the 4th of July.”

“That’s my favorite holiday in the summer,” said Tanner. “I love to go to the parade in the morning and have a picnic in the afternoon,” added Stephen.

“Wow, the fireworks at night are the coolest,” yelled Truman. “Dragons love the FIREworks.”

“Those are all fun things to do on the 4th of July, but why do we celebrate that day?” “I know,” Rudy offered. “That’s the day our country got free.” “You mean when the Declaration of Independence was signed?” asked Nicole? “That’s it,” added Rudy, “I learned that in school.”

“It means that we are free to be who and what we want here, and everyone is free to live here, even dragons,” said Truman. “That’s a good way to say it, Truman. I’m proud of you,” added Carmen. “Cool Kind Kids” appreciate all the freedom we have in this country.

“What are some ways to show how much we appreciate our freedom?” “I know a way,” Tanner said with his hand raised, “My scout troop is working on a float for the 4th of July parade. It will be very patriotic.”

“That sounds cool, Tanner. Let’s all go to the parade to see it.” The kids all thought that was a great idea.

“What else can we do to show gratitude for our freedom?”

“When I see a veteran, I thank them,” said Rudy. “Sometimes my class sends thank-you cards to the veterans’ hospital nearby,” added Nicole.

Stephen was waving his hand to share, “There are kids in my class whose moms or dads are away fighting a war. We make cards for them. We make up care packages, too. Sometimes when they come home, they come to our school to surprise their kids. That’s really cool!”

“Cool Kind Kids’ can show we care about the military people and veterans who have done so much for our freedom by just saying, ‘thank-you’ when we see them.”

Barbara Gilmour, Tanner’s grandmother, is the creator and developer of the Tanner’s Manners: Be a “Cool Kind Kid” Social Skills, Character Values and Anti-Bullying educational materials and the award-winning “Cool Kind Kid” Audio CD. She also writes the Children’s Manners Blog, offering tips for teaching your children manners. <http://childrenmanners.blogspot.com>. © Cool Kind Kid.

Freedom

*Freedom for me
Freedom for you
Available to all
In the red, white and blue*

*Respect our flag
Our country, too
And each person here
So they’ll respect you*

*Take care of our land
Water, trees and shore
If we don’t do that
They will be no more*

*Show that you care
Be grateful, too
For all that we have
In the red, white and blue*