

BE THERE: Treasured memories

By: Jake Russell, Papillion Times Staff Writer
03/13/2008



David White hot on the trail with daughter Brynn, 10, and son Adam, 4.

This is part three of a series spotlighting parents who are involved in their children's lives. The Papillion-La Vista School District recently launched a campaign, "Be There," encouraging parents to do just that.

What better way is there to get involved in a child's life than to figure things out with them?

For David and Jody White of La Vista, the answer is none. The two parents are actively involved in treasure hunts with their daughter Brynn, 10, and son Adam, 4.

The Whites have participated in a national phenomenon called letterboxing for almost two years now. Clues are posted [online](#).

A letterboxer takes a container and hides it in a public place (e.g. a national park or a historic location). Inside the container is a book with a unique stamp. The idea is to find the container by following clues that the letterboxer posts online. Letterboxing involves bringing a book and pen, locating the container, writing your name in the book and stamping *your* book to show you've found the box.

The Whites have 15 to 20 stamps in their book. They have traveled as far as Texas and have been to North Dakota, the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, and Rapid City, S.D. Most of the Whites' travels have been closer to home, Jody said. Jody lets her daughter search for the clues online.

Not only do the Whites locate letterboxes, but they created one that they hid in La Vista's Seymour Smith Park. The letterbox is currently in the field-testing phase. Brynn wrote the clues, and the family sent David out. After the initial hunt, the family decided some of the clues didn't make sense. After a revision, Brynn is sending her friends out before they post it online.