

Great gifts from mom, gifts for n

By Anne Warren Murray
For GateHouse News Service

Truly organized moms are finished with their holiday shopping and wrapping by now. For the rest of us (myself included), there are miles to go before we rest.

Here are some of the cooler items that have caught my editor's eye this holiday shopping season, including some goodies that you might want to treat yourself to before the holidays arrive!

TO MOM FROM MOM

Does your smile need brightening? The Whiter Image **TOGO Whitening Pen** will help ensure a white Christmas.

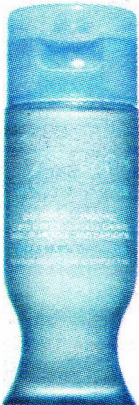
Coffee, tea and wine stains get zapped away with just a few applications. Talk about quick results... in just four applications, my teeth were noticeably whiter (\$39.95 at www.whiterimage.com.)

Forget the stocking...pop a small bottle of **Frais hand sanitizer** right into your handbag. During cold and flu season, quick clean-ups are important, especially when you're out and about

shopping...so be sure to use a squirt before grabbing a bite from the food court. Frais doesn't burn dry, cracked winter hands like some other brands. And it smells great. (Pocket size 0.2 ounce bottle, \$3.50, also available in 1.7 ounce bottle, \$7). Available online at www.frais.com.

Perk up your locks with some **Rusk "cocktails."** Fine thin hair gets a boost from the "W8less Volumize" kit.

The set (\$19.95) includes a 10-ounce W8less Plus aerosol brushable hairspray, a Rusk "thick" 6-ounce spray and a 4.2-ounce spray bottle of Rusk Shining Myst. Available wherever Rusk products are sold.



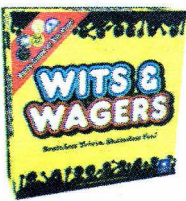
Frais

FROM MOM, XOXO:

Tikatok.com allows kids to write, illustrate and print their own original stories in beautiful hard or soft cover books. Priced between \$15 and \$30, one-of-a-kind books are professionally bound and include an author page with a photo.

Gift cards are available at www.tikatok.com, where you can view examples of children's work.

For your next family game night, try something that takes less than 30 minutes to play and eliminates turns, which everyone involved through the evening.



North Star Games

Wits & Wagers trivia game is for everyone. Players write down answers to a question list that tall is Big Bang, Sesame Street

Players then vote for the player they think might have the answer. (Ages 10 and up; \$29.99 at Target and Borders)

Stocking stuffers

Jump up their stockings with Zebra Pencils. Zebra Pencils are fun, funky, colorful pencils that feature a wood case barrel design and large, colorful erasers that advance lead when pushed, so they never need sharpening (\$3.29 for package of 10.)

Good viewing

What could be better for getting the whole family in the mood for the big day than gathering around the tube to enjoy **"The Night Before Christmas"** on DVD?

Scholastic Books has packaged an animated version of the Clement C. Moore classic poem, along with six other colorfully animated holiday stories, on

DVD (Ages 3-9; \$14.95).



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Also available through KOCH vision, **"Ballet Shoes,"** a feature-length adaptation of Noel Streatfeild's novel. Young dancers and dance fans will enjoy the inspiring family drama, set in 1930s London, that stars Emma Watson of "Harry Potter" fame as one of three girls adopted into a family. (\$24.98).

Surrender the fort

You know how kids are always rounding up all the blankets in the house to construct a fort? Don't you hate that? Well, consider giving your little builder the **Fortamajig.**

Constructed of durable and colorful fabric panels, 8 feet by 8 feet, Fortamajig is designed to allow kids the ability to easily create, change and implement creative spaces, indoors or outside.

Adjustable Velcro straps attach to chair-

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