

Principal's Perch



The primary goal of Red Ribbon Week, the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in our country, is to encourage people to commit to a drug-free lifestyle.

The red ribbon designation stems from people wearing red badges in honor of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico. Camarena grew up poor, but his thoughts were rich: he wanted to make a positive difference in people's lives. Eventually joining the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Kiki went undercover in Mexico to investigate a major drug cartel. One day in 1985 as he was preparing to meet his wife for lunch, a group of men pushed him into a car. His body was found a month later in a shallow grave.

Today our students received red bracelets, and everyone is invited to dress creatively throughout the week to help spread an anti-drug message (See the line-up in the third column).

Meanwhile, here are a few ideas for addressing Red Ribbon Week on the home front:

1. Learn about harmful drugs by exploring the 'basic drug facts' link at www.imdrugfree.com. (Check descriptions for age-appropriateness.)
2. Take five minutes to clearly express to your children your stand on the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs (I Corinthians 6:19-20 is a fine biblical reference point).
3. Find a printed advertisement for alcohol or tobacco and discuss any hidden messages (e.g., How is the company trying to persuade people to use the product?)
4. As a family, compose a Red Ribbon Week poem that focuses on a specific kind of abuse or action to avoid.

Mr. DeWeerd



Operation Christmas Child: Let's start filling those shoeboxes! K-5 students have the privilege of participating in Operation Christmas Child again this year. Operation Christmas Child delivers shoeboxes to needy children all over the world. This is a great opportunity for our students to share the many blessings we have been given with children across the globe! All boxes must be at school no later than Thursday, November 18. The boxes will be sent off that morning after a special chapel. See the flyer sent home today for more information.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Appointment slips for parent/teacher conferences will be sent home next Tuesday, November 2. Students will have Friday, November 5, off from school due to the conference schedule.

Family Fun Night: Family Fun Night is this Saturday, October 30! The volunteer list printed on blue paper went home with your youngest student today. Please carefully review the list and other important details. Contact Jami at 599-2645 if you have any questions or if you are willing to help. The silent auction will start at 5:00 and the live auction at 7:00. Come enjoy dinner, games and lots of family fun. Baked goods are needed for the "cake walk" from parents of students in grades K-8. Please bring your sweet treats to the Community Center anytime on Friday and Saturday. **Free game tickets are available to students who bring in bags of individually wrapped candy to the elementary office.** Thank you for all your help and support in making this event successful!

Vision Screening: Dr. Hoek will be here Thursday, November 4, to do vision screening for grades K, 1, and 3. On Thursday, December 2, he will finish up students in grade 3 and test grade 5. If you would like to have your student tested but (s)he is not in the above grades, please contact Mrs. Segaar in the elementary office.

Hot Lunch: Hot lunch this Wednesday, October 27, is hot dogs and chips.

Red Ribbon Week

Monday: *Dutch Dropjes*
"Stay True to Who You Are without Drugs"
(Wear clothes to reflect your family's background.)

Tuesday: *Nerds*
"Too Smart to Do Drugs"
(Dress up like a nerd.)

Wednesday: *Twizzlers*
"Don't Get Twisted Up in Drugs"
(Wear red.)

Thursday: *Now and Later*
"Drugs Weren't Good Then and Aren't Good Now"
(Dress up according to a decade—60's, 70's, 80's.)

Friday: *Skittles*
"Be Above the Rainbow; Don't Do Drugs"
(Wear crazy blue and gold.)

TRIP: Last week an e-mail was sent out letting everyone know what stores will be available for the Christmas holidays. We hope this makes gift giving this holiday season a little easier. Order forms can be found at www.rcschools.com. Go to the TRIP link, find the order form and print it out. Once your order is complete, send to school with your child and it will be filled as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call Doreen at 599-6351.

Exploratories: From 1:00-3:00 p.m. on December 14-16, middle school students will explore an area of interest to them—sewing, handbells, woodworking, etc. Do you have a hobby or career that you would enjoy sharing with a small group of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders? If so, please contact Mrs. Segaar at 599-2155. Thank you!

Yard Duty Volunteers

Tues. – J. Haugg, B. Brouwer, J. Manus
Wed. – F. Larson, N. Nichelson, C. Van Vuren
Thurs. – L. Swartz, C. Bakker, K. Van Elderen
Fri. – J. Silveira, M. Van Der Hoek, M. Franzia
Mon. – T. Mensonides, L. Weaver

October Calendar

10/25-29 Red Ribbon Week
10/29 K-12 report cards
10/30 Family Fun Night – 5-9 p.m.