

October 2018

BIG SKY ELEMENTARY



~ October is National Bullying Prevention Month ~ Help Your Child Recognize the Signs of Bullying

Children may not always realize that they are being bullied. They might think it is bullying only if they are being physically hurt; they might believe the other child is joking; or they may not understand the subtle social norms and cues. Children can benefit from a definition of the differences between friendly behavior and bullying behavior. The basic rule: Let children know if the behavior hurts or harms them, either emotionally or physically, AND THERE IS AN IMBALANCE OF POWER it is bullying. MANY CHILDREN SLIP INTO DISRESPECT AND TREAT EVEN THEIR BEST FRIENDS POORLY AT TIMES AND WHILE THAT BEHAVIOR IS UNWELCOME AND UNWANTED, IT IS NOT TRUE BULLYING UNLESS THE POWER BETWEEN THE PERPETRATOR AND THE TARGET IS NOT EQUAL. OFTEN, TRUE BULLYING IS REPETITIVE IN NATURE. Parents can prepare themselves to talk with their children by considering how they are going to respond to their child's questions and emotions. They can also decide what information they would like to give their child about bullying. Parents should be ready to:

- Listen ~ It is the child's story; let him or her tell it. They may be in emotional pain about the way they are being treated.
- Believe ~ The knowledge that a child is being bullied can raise many emotions. To be an effective advocate, parents need to react in a way that encourages the child to trust.
- Be Supportive ~ Tell the child it is not his fault and that he does not deserve to be bullied. Empower the child by telling her how terrific she is. Avoid judgmental comments about the child or the child who bullies. The child may already be feeling isolated. Hearing negative statements from parents may only further isolate him or her.
- Be Patient ~ Children may not be ready to open up right away. Thinking about the bullying can be difficult because children may fear retaliation from the bully or think that, even if they tell an adult, nothing will change. This child may be feeling insecure, withdrawn, frightened, or ashamed.
- Provide Information ~ Parents should educate their child about bullying by providing information at a level that the child can understand.
- Explore options for intervention strategies ~ Parents can discuss options with their child to deal with bullying behavior.
- Check out www.pacer.org/bullying/ for resources, such as bullying information and facts for parents and kids (Above article taken from Pacer's National

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Bullying

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SALVATION ARMY DRESS A CHILD PROGRAM

With Christmas just around the corner, thoughts turn to the Salvation Army Dress A Child Program. Dress A Child applications are available at the school office and must be completed and returned to the office by October 19, 2018

The Salvation Army will review the applications to ensure all applicants qualify for the program. The number of children chosen will be determined by the amount of donations received for the program. When a child is accepted for the program, parents/guardians will be notified by letter. If you have any questions, you may contact the Salvation Army at (406) 272-8202 and ask for Darlene.



Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week was derived from the memory of a drug enforcement agent who lost his life while attempting to decrease the illegal growing and selling of drugs. While his family awaited news of his whereabouts, they displayed or wore red ribbons to offer hope for his safe return. Although he died in the line of duty, we continue to use the Red Ribbon symbol in October as a reminder of his important mission.

We invite you to join in Red Ribbon Week activities by participating in the following "Theme Days." While school children will promote being drug and alcohol free, adults can promote saying NO to illegal drugs, tobacco, and using alcohol safely, responsibly, and legally.

RED RIBBON WEEK October 22nd ~ 26th

Monday: Love yourself & be drug-free. Wear Red or Hearts

Tuesday: I'm too bright for drugs. Wear neon or bright colors

Wednesday: From head to toe, be drug free. Crazy hair and/or socks

Thursday: Team up against drugs. Favorite sports team gear

Friday: Bobcats are PAWS-ITIVELY drug free. Wear Big Sky spirit wear or a blue shirt



We know that the traffic flow at Big Sky during peak times can be frustrating. We ask for your patience and diligence to keep our kids safe. When you drop your kids off, please be aware of bus lanes, handicap parking, and the driveways & mailbox areas of our school neighbors.

At our morning drop off area just south of the playground, please pull forward as far as possible, make sure kiddos are ready to hop out quickly, and have children exit on the passenger side of your vehicle if possible. Do not allow children to exit vehicles by the short black fencing at the entrance of the drop off area. If we all work together, we can help the traffic flow and keep our kids safe. Thank you!!

NO SCHOOL: OCTOBER 18TH & 19TH



PTA NEWS

The Big Sky PTA is selling the Save Around Billings coupon books again this year. Information will be coming home soon, but they are available for pre-sales in the office for \$20.00 each.



COOKIE DOUGH DELIVERY THIS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH ~ DON'T FORGET TO STOP BY AND PICK UP YOUR ORDER



**OCTOBER PTA MEETING
TUESDAY OCTOBER 9TH
6:00 P.M.
BIG SKY LIBRARY**