

**Connection Highlights in July 2017– June 18**

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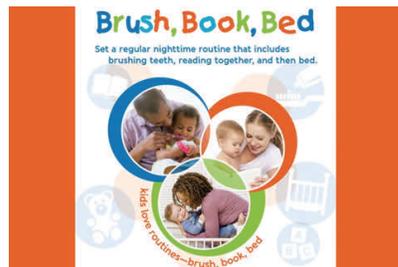
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**CONNECT TO RESOURCE INFORMATION**

The Cabell County Quick Guide developed and updated by Cabell County Family Resource Network is provided to school personnel and families at fun nights and community events and is available for download on the website.

**Promoting healthy smiles**

February was the Children’s Dental Health month campaign. The Cabell Co. FRN and CCSET used the *Brush, Book, Bed* Campaign tools, a program of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). It has a simple and clear message for parents: 1) Each night, help your children to brush their teeth. 2) Read a favorite book (or two)! 3) Get to bed at a regular time each night.



“The Cabell County FRN is proud to launch our ‘Resources for Healthy Teeth Toolkit.’ (continued page 3)

**BELIEVE IN THE BEST FOR STUDENTS**

**Spring Hill Elementary Receives Captain McFinn Exploring Kindness Kit**



CCSET has several initiatives that encourage students to be their best and emphasize kindness and personal empowerment.

Last school year on November 15, 2017, CCSET assisted with presentation of the Captain McFinn *Exploring Kindness* anti-bullying kit donated by the Huntington Mall Marketing Dept.

Principal Pam Bailey, Counselor Beth Pettry and 225 students in Kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade welcomed Captain McFinn, who presented the award. The kit is a comprehensive program designed to help Kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students practice positive social skills. Anti-bullying materials provide counselors important resources to support character and social development. We look forward to hearing good things about how the materials help the students.



In a progress update from Altizer Elementary, who received the Captain McFinn Anti-Bullying kit in the spring 2017 school year. Counselor James Wagoner shared this comment: “The students at Altizer Elementary have enjoyed lessons based on the materials that were given to us by CCSET and (continued page 4 )

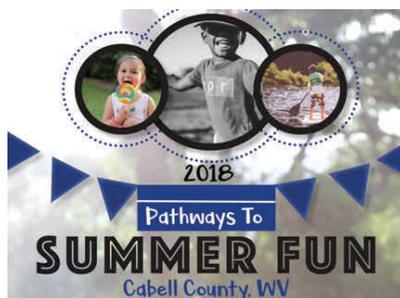
### ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS: Classroom Champions Help Students Improve

The mission of the *Classroom Champions* is two-fold: to support students academically in their efforts to work at appropriate grade levels and to be a positive adult in their lives. *Classroom Champions* are volunteers at Explorer Academy who mentor students and tutor them in reading and math which helps them reach the next academic level. There were 25 *Classroom Champions* at Explorer Academy last year. The program started seven years ago at Peyton Elementary. The school staff identifies students that are very close to reaching the next academic level in reading and math. The *Champions* meet with each of their two *Little Champs* for thirty minutes each week. The *Champion* wants to follow them through to graduation. They include kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade level because the number of students that are on the grade level “bubble” to bump up from one level to another maxed out with 25 volunteers to work with 50 students. Also, from the review of student 2017 school achievement levels showed that students with a *Classroom Champion* had faster gains than students without a *Champion*. Ryan McKenzie, principal at Explorer Academy, shared the following information regarding progress of the *Little Champs* who worked with the *Classroom Champions* during the 2017 school year: “Students with *Champions* last year, grew on average, 1.4 grade levels in reading and 1.5 grade levels in math. That means that your students made a year and a half growth (1.5) in the span of one year. Some students grew two to three grade levels for each subject. The *Champions* are doing great work!”

The *Classroom Champions* began in 2010 through Communities In Schools under the guidance of Mrs. Marion Ward, then principal at Peyton Elementary School. It has continued to grow over the years as Peyton has merged with Geneva Kent into Explorer Academy and CIS (Communities In Schools) has evolved into Cabell County Student Empowerment Team.

### CONNECT TO RESOURCES: Pathways to Summer Fun Guide

In spring 2018, *Pathways to Summer Fun Guide* was created. It was a compilation of over twenty fun learning experiences that listed camps, programs, and events for summer enrichment activities. The Cabell Huntington Convention Visitors Bureau partnered with us to print 15,000 copies of the guide for distribution.



“I was so excited when I learned about this list!” said Tyson Compton, president of the Cabell-Huntington Convention and Visitors Bureau (CHCVB). “Our job at the CHCVB is to let both visitors and local people know what they can see and do in our community, and this list does just that. It is such a valuable resource for families who are looking for summer events. These are all trusted partners and the information makes it so easy to plan activities with just a few clicks.”

The CHCVB distributed 3,000 and CCSET distributed 12,000 guides in 18 preschool/ elementary and 4 middle schools. In addition, guides were delivered to Early Education programs at YMCA Day Care at the Phil Cline Center, River Valley, Marshall and Kiwanis Day Care Centers and Playmates Preschool Child Development Centers (6 sites), Mountain State Healthy Families, and Family Resource Center and private schools of Our Lady of Fatima, St. Joseph Grade School and an email link to the website sent to Covenant Christian School, and Grace Christian. Also, business partners at Pullman Square Cinema, Huntington Federal and First Sentry Banks assisted with promoting the guide.

“In many cases, most students lose at least two months of their mathematical skills every summer. Summer is especially critical for the most vulnerable students in our community,” said Ellenda Ward, Executive Director of CCSET. This group includes children who receive special education services and those who live in poverty. According to a study by John Hopkins University, “Summer learning loss during elementary school accounts for two-thirds of the achievement GAP IN READING between low-income children and their middle-income peers by ninth grade.” Instruction during the summer has the potential to stop summer learning losses. Extended learning is essential for children to achieve reading success by the end of third grade.

### Continued—CONNECT RESOURCES: Promoting healthy smiles

The information in the Toolkit is compiled to make it easy to access a variety of different materials to help parents and programs promote good oral health and help children have healthy teeth and smiles for life,” said Debra Harris Bowyer, Cabell County Family Resource Network Coordinator.

The focus was on outreach to early education programs. The print and digital resource guide, available on [www.cabellfrn.org](http://www.cabellfrn.org), provides the following:



- ◆ **CHILDREN:** Activities, Videos, Phone Apps
- ◆ **PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS:** Tips For Healthy Teeth
- ◆ **EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS:** Pre-K and In-Home Family Education
- ◆ **SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS:** Lessons And Activities, K-12
- ◆ **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND FRNS:** Available State Resources
- ◆ **DENTAL AND HEALTH NATIONAL RESOURCES:** WVDA, ADA, AAPA, and AAP
- ◆ **COUNTY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH:** Resources on Oral Health Education
- ◆ **DENTISTS:** Find A Dentist, Dental Home, Insurance, CHIP

This project is done in collaboration with Marshall University and DentaQuest Foundation. The Community and School Oral Health Team at Marshall University School of Medicine applauds the efforts of the Cabell County FRN as it works to empower families in our local communities. The Cabell County FRN recognizes that families cannot be healthy unless they have the proper knowledge and tools on how to care and maintain healthy teeth and mouths.

“This goes beyond brushing teeth,” said Wendy Mosteller, RDH at Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. “It extends to providing families with real time information, such as how and where to access dental care, benefits of drinking fluoridated water and why the age 1 dental visit is so important. The Cabell County FRN’s most recent endeavor aims to provide resources to not only parents and children but to any individual seeking to improve their oral health and overall health.”

**CONNECT VOLUNTEERS: CCSET connected volunteers to several initiatives to reach 463 students. During the year, we had 40 adults participate whose value of time and resources contributed \$12,166.**

#### **Examples include:**

- ◆ CCSET coordinated visits of five readers to three elementary schools (Highlawn, Salt Rock and Explorer Academy) on *Read to Me Day* November 16.
- ◆ CCSET participated in Fall Festival at Highlawn Elementary on November 30 to provide oral health information to the 188 students and families attending.
- ◆ The Young Bankers initiative through Fifth Third Bank worked with 57 Explorer Academy 5<sup>th</sup> grade students for 10 weeks of class training and then visited Marshall University for their final session on April 17.

Volunteers helped to collect items to meet basic needs.

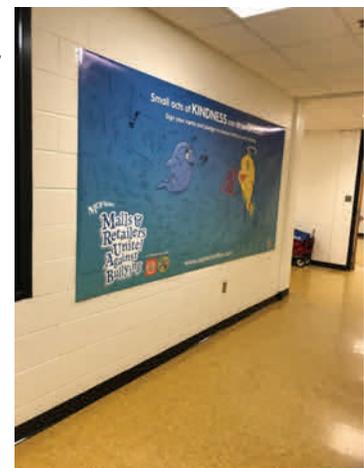
- ◆ CCSET assisted with promoting and collecting infant to school age pajamas for the February 14 event that River Valley Child Development Services conducted for their After School programs at Guyandotte and Explorer Academy that serves 45 preschool to elementary age students. The *Brush Book, Bed* materials and Healthy Smile Kits were included for all students.
- ◆ For Spring Hill Elementary, 14 pair of underwear were donated to have on hand for needs as they arise.

**BELIEVE IN THE BEST FOR STUDENTS: Girl Power Event**

CCSET participated in the *Girl Power* Event on October 26, 2017. The event focused on personal and cyber safety, healthy relationship and wellness. It began with an agency resource scavenger hunt and then dinner with Trooper Rachel Grose as the keynote speaker on personal and cyber safety. During the second phase of the program, *Table Talks* were held, which were informal talks with the girls about health and wellness topics. Speakers and topics were: Effects of Stress & stress reduction– Dr. Shannon Smith Maxey, Valley Health; Health issues - Dr. Erica Barringer and Rebecca Conaway, HIMG Women’s Health; Healthy relationships – Rychelle Moses, Youth Services Coordinator Branches Domestic Violence Shelter; “Brain Power” nutrition and smart choices – Cathy Davis, Adolescent Health Coordinator Region 2- Valley Health and Teresa Mills, Prevention Coordinator, Cabell Huntington Health Dept. Also, Trooper Grose led discussion with parents and agency staff about cyber and personal safety during the second half. Of the 52 in attendance there were 26 people from 20 partner organizations who conducted the event, and 22 middle school girls, and 4 parents who attended.

**Continued—Spring Hill Elementary Receives Captain McFinn Exploring Kindness Kit**

the Huntington Mall. Ms. Ramsey and Mr. Wagner, the school counselors at Altizer, created character education lessons that incorporated components from the Kit. The students in kindergarten through second grade participated in a lesson on kindness last year as a follow up to the exciting assembly that featured Captain McFinn. Our kindergarten students' first developmental guidance lesson of the year was on the topic of respect and friendship (an age appropriate bullying prevention presentation) that featured Captain McFinn. We would like to thank CCSET and the Huntington Mall for their support of the school counseling initiatives at Altizer Elementary and look forward to working together in the future.” Altizer serves 120 students.



The Huntington Mall presented S.H.A.R.K. Patrol kits to the following schools in Cabell County over the past several years: Davis Creek, Cox Landing, Peyton (now Explorer Academy), and Village of Barboursville. Please contact, Ellenda Ward, [ccsetdirector@gmail.com](mailto:ccsetdirector@gmail.com) if you would like for your school to be considered as a project this year.



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**LET’S GET CONNECTED! FIND US HERE:**

opportunities connect community personal excellence  
 student recognition partnerships mentors students supportive community  
 success believe hope collaboration tutoring volunteers career readiness  
 connecting resources healthy start achieve thriving schools

**Our Mission:**  
 Connecting resources to empower  
 students to achieve personal  
 excellence.

**FACEBOOK: Cabell County Student Empowerment Team**

What a great shared vision! #empowered

“Our task is to  
**HELP** children  
 communicate  
 with the **WORLD**  
 using all their  
 potential, **STRENGTHS**  
 and **languages**,  
 and to **overcome**  
 any **OBSTACLE**  
 presented  
 by our **culture**”

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.cabellempower.org](http://www.cabellempower.org)