

SCHOOL LIAISON LINK

Grand Forks AFB School Liaison Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 6
August 2011

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"A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes."

Back to School!

I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy the beautiful weather, outdoor activities and have been able to take time off to relax! The 2011-2012 school year is fast approaching. Schools supplies are being stocked in the local stores. Parents and youth are buying new clothes and shoes in anticipation of another wonderful school year. Most areas schools will be starting around August 24th. Please call the school liaison office if you have questions about specific school start dates. If new to Grand Forks Air Force Base, please register your youth at your earliest convenience. The schools on base are busily preparing for all the news families arriving. The following information outlines the registering times and dates for the schools for on base youth. Have a wonderful school year!!

Registration information for grades K-3 at Eielson Elementary
Eielson Elementary office hours: August 1 to 22nd : 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

School tours: upon registrations if staff available or each day at 10:00 am
Registration forms and information available online at:
www.gfschools.org ---Schools---Carl Ben Eielson School--Parent Forms

Registration information for grades 4-8 at Twining Elementary/Middle School
Twining Elementary office hours: 7:30—3:30 for August

Registration information for grades 9-12 attending Grand Forks Central High School will be at Twining Middle School on August 16, 2011 from 9:00 - 11:30. If you aren't able to make it that day, you can access the registration forms at: www.gfschools.org/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=12092



Everyone Matters

It is finally here! The first ever

Education Fair

11 August, 2011

Representatives from
local school districts,
community educational agencies
and colleges will be there!

Northern Lights Club
10:00am - 4:00pm
for
kindergarten - college!

Sponsored by
The Education Center
and
The School Liaison Office



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EFMP

Early Childhood Screening and Information Fair

The 1st annual Early Childhood Screening and Information Fair will be held on 28 Sept 11 from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm at Carl Ben Eielson Elementary. Right Track will be conducting developmental screenings for children ages birth – 3 years old. The Grand Forks Public Schools Special Education Unit will be conducting selective screenings for children ages 3-5 years old. The purpose of the screenings is to identify children who may have a disability that could affect future school performance. Research has shown that the benefits of providing services early in the life of a child can significantly reduce the impact later in the school age years. In addition to the screenings, the information fair will host many local and base agencies who will be on hand to tell you about the services they provide. If you would like your child screened, please call Kelly Painter, School Liaison Officer at 747-4484 or Jayne Flaagan, Parent and Child Center at 747-3837. You will be notified by the respective agencies about your appointment. Deadline to register for screenings is 2 Sept 11.

Exceptional Family Member Program Working Group

Seeking a parent/s who are willing to be a part of the EFMP working group. The focus of this team will be to get a pulse on what the issues are surrounding families who reside on base who have family members with special needs. The team will discuss how information is disseminated to families, programs on base and locally that may benefit families, planning special events and lots more. The team will meet once a month at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. If you would like to be a part of this team, please call the school liaison officer for more information.

EFMP is a mandatory enrollment program, administered by AFPC that works with the medical community and the key community agencies to identify Active Duty sponsors who have family members with special educational or medical needs. The Air Force Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is designed to provide support to military family members with special needs. EFMP is offered by all branches of the military, and each Service includes a variety of personnel, medical, and family support functions under the EFMP umbrella. The portions of EFMP support that are provided by the AF Medical Service are known as EFMP-Medical (EFMP-M). EFMP-Family Support (EFMP-FS) is the community support component provided by Airman and Family Readiness Centers (A&FRCs). EFMP-M and EFMP-FS work together with the Assignments branch at the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) to provide comprehensive and coordinated medical, education, community support, housing, and personnel services to families with special needs. All three functions work with other military and civilian agencies to enhance the quality of life for families as they relocate around the world with their sponsors. If while stationed at Grand Forks AFB your child/ren is diagnosed with a special need please contact TSgt Christina Smith in the 319 MDG, Tricare Service Center or at 747-4576.

National Health Care Transition Center

Got Transition is the National Health Care Transition Center that aims to support optimal transitions from pediatric to adult models of health care for youth with and without special health care needs. This site has information for everyone; youth & families, health care professionals, and state agencies. Visit <http://www.gottransition.org/> to view upcoming webinars & monthly broadcasts, register for their E-newsletter, and review the latest research in health development.

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Youth Employment Skills (YES)

The Youth Employment Skills (YES) Program is an on base volunteer program for high school students and is offered at selected Air Force bases. This program, underwritten by the Air Force Aid Society (AFAS), is a joint effort between AFAS and Air Force Family Member Programs Flight to offer high school students an opportunity to learn valuable work skills, “bank” dollar credits toward their post-secondary education/training, and have a positive impact on their base community.

YES allows high school students to “bank” \$4 in grant funding for every hour volunteered in an on base function. Students may accumulate as much as 250 hours over all 4 years of high school combined, for a potential maximum of \$1,000 toward their future vocational-technical or academic endeavors. In addition, the base will be credited with \$2 for every volunteer hour, to be used in support of base youth program enhancements (up to \$10,000 per year).

Interested students should contact the base Youth Director, Dawn Thompson, or Youth Center for eligibility requirements and enrollment procedures. Contact number is: 747-3150.

Tutor.com

Algebra class is right around the corner, whether you believe it or not! Whether you're at the Grand Forks Air Force Library or at home, you can get help sharpening your Algebra skills from Tutor.com for Military Families, the Defense Department's online tutoring and homework help program. At Tutor.com, you can get one-to-one help from a live, expert Algebra tutor anytime you need it—whether it's over the summer or once school starts and homework piles up. Eligible military members and their families get free access to the service at www.tutor.com/military.

The program is entirely anonymous and available from any computer with internet access anywhere in the world, around the clock. It's now also available from an iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch, if students have an account. You can view a video about the new Tutor.com To Go app at <http://www.tutor.com/togo>.

In addition to Algebra help, military students can work with a tutor in more than 20 subjects in Math, Science, English and Social Studies, including Biology, Chemistry, Calculus and Physics. There is also the Proofpoint writing center, where students can connect with a tutor to get real-time help writing and editing research papers, essays and other writing projects.

Jennifer Marsh, Client Services Manager for Tutor.com for Military Families, will be visiting Grand Forks August 24-26 to talk about the program and answer questions. Her goal is to reach out to as many families as possible to make sure they are aware of this resource. Contact Kelly Painter, Grand Forks AFB School Liaison Officer, for a complete calendar of events to find out more about Tutor.com for Military Families.



Parent Tip: Check Out Your Child's School District Report Card

The US Department of Education urges parents to seek out their school district's report card. No Child Left Behind requires school districts that receive federal funds to provide a report card on how its schools and the school district are doing. For individual schools, the report card includes whether the school has been identified for school improvement and how its students performed on state tests compared to other students in the school district and the state.

Public school report cards should include:

- Students' scores on state tests, broken out by student subgroups
- How many students performed at the “basic”, “proficient,” and “advanced” levels on the tests
- Graduation rates
- Numbers and names of schools that need to improve in the district
- Qualifications of teachers
- Percentages of students who were not tested.

Excerpted from Office of Innovation and Improvement;
No Child Left Behind, Choosing a School For Your Child.
U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. S.W
Washington D.C. 20202

www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/education/choosingschool/choosingschool.htm

