

SCHOOL LIAISON LINK



Grand Forks AFB School Liaison Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 10, January 2012

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



Everyone Matters

GFAFB Considers Co-Location of Schools



A parent meeting held 21 December at Eielson Elementary drew approximately 35 interested parents, teachers and military members to hear what is being said about the possible co-location of the two schools on GFAFB. Col Bush and Dr. Larry Nybladh were on hand to address the rationale for the strategic plan and answer any questions.

This stems from the Grand Forks Demographic Task Force being involved in reviewing the districts strategic plan over the last 6 weeks. Some in town schools were considered for possible closure as well as the possibility of building a new school in the south portion of Grand Forks. Col Bush addressed the demographic task force at one of the December meetings. He gave the task force an overview of where the base is currently and what the future may hold with consideration to the privatization of on base housing and a possible new mission. Col Bush asked the task force to look at the need of keeping both schools open. The task force reviewed over 60 scenarios before deciding on which solutions to present to the Grand Forks School Board on 9 January. One scenario being to close Eielson Elementary and move students to Twining. . The GFAFB School Board will be the deciding body for that scenario not the Grand Forks School Board. If you would like comprehensive information as it has progressed throughout the task force meetings, go to the Grand Forks Public schools website and click on Demographic Task Force. There will be a public forum on 23 Jan at 6:00pm at South Middle School. Anyone can attend.



Parent Advocates for Students & Schools Success!



On 6 Dec at the Community Activities Center 19 parents joined us for the first PASS parent workshop. Nine agencies were invited to share about how their programs serve preschool aged children. Laura Lininger opened the workshop by introducing PASS to the audience. Then parents received first hand information about the preschool option in the Grand Forks community. Each program provided handouts and resources to the parents. The parents were able to ask questions to any of the programs. The PASS team also provided free child-care for this event. It was a wonderful evening! If you would like to be on the PASS team or find out about their next workshop, please call Ms. Laura Lininger at 701-631-0194.



School Liaison Officer: Kelly Painter * Phone 701-747-4484* Email: kelly.painter@us.af.mil

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Grand Forks Early Head Start Program



Early Head Start Home Based Program is a comprehensive child development program which serves pregnant women and children ages birth – 3. Families receive weekly home visits. Children enrolled in EHS receive health screenings (developmental, hearing, vision, speech, and mental health). Families receive 2 socialization opportunities monthly, parenting support and access to extensive resources. Enrollment is dependent on family income, child's age and other factors. Children with special needs are encouraged to apply. Best of all Early Head Start is free to enrolled families! Although this program is funded through Mayville State University, they are based out of the city of Grand Forks. For more information on how to get involved, please contact Ms. Laura Foss at 701-777-8151.



Child Development Programs

Head Start Fellowship Program

The National Head Start Fellowships program brings together experienced and dedicated professionals who support the Office of Head Start (OHS) in developing and implementing long-term quality improvement initiatives. Through these fellowships, outstanding professionals in the early childhood community have the opportunity to gain first-hand experiences that offer a national perspective into the operations of OHS and other Federal agencies serving children and families. In addition to work assignments, the participants take part in professional education and leadership development programs. The 12-month Fellowships will commence September 1, 2012 and will end on August 31, 2013. ****Note**** - you need not be a Head Start employee to apply for these fellowships. If you are interested in applying, you can learn more about the program and find the application at Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center. Online applications are due by January 15, 2012.

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/resources/pd/Individual%20Development/Head%20Start%20Fellowship%20Program>



ECLKC

Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center

A Service of The Office of Head Start

Toll-Free: 1-866-763-6481

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The New Electric Company

Does anyone remember growing up with the TV show “The Electric Company”? I loved it as a tween! I believe a much younger Morgan Freeman was one of the main characters.

In November Sesame Street launched their new website and re-introduced The Electric Company to meet the needs of school age children. The materials feature The Electric Company cast members that the older children can relate to and are designed to help children find the right words to express how they are feeling. Grand Forks AFB will be receiving 50 of the Magazines in 2012! If you would like one, please come to the Airman & Family Readiness Center to get a copy. If you would like to check out what the new Electric Company is all about go to: <http://pbskids.org/electriccompany/#/Home/> . For more information on Sesame Street’s military family page go to: www.familiesnearandfar.org

Citizens In Action Youth Conference

Sunday and Monday
Jan. 15-16, 2012
Bismarck, ND

This program is for any youth age 13 to 18 who is interested in citizenship and the political process. Youth must be accompanied by a chaperone. Chaperones must register and pay the same fee as youth participants. Operation Military Kids (OMK) has funds available to help with costs associated with this conference.

Highlights of the Conference:

- Learn how the state legislative process works
- Have your voice heard as youth by showcasing your county’s outstanding 4-H program
- Share ideas on how you can have a greater impact in your community
- Learn about the Revolution of Responsibility
- Learn more about the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service



For more detailed information please call the NDSU Extension Service Center for 4-H Youth Development with questions or concerns at (701) 231-7251. Ask about OMK funding support.

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EFMP NEWS



Human Services Legislative Committee Hearing Public Comments on the Study of Autism Services in ND

Comments will be heard from treatment providers, early childhood service providers, caretakers, and insurers regarding the diagnosis and early treatment of, care for, and education of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Families are encouraged to share their testimonies. Family Voices can help you write your story, supporting you while you present it, or reading it for you and handing it to the committee if you are unable to attend in person. Please contact Vicki Peterson at vickiasdc@bis.midco.net or telephone at 701-258-2237. She will be at the hearing. The committee meeting will be on Jan 17th at the state capital in Bismarck ND.

Family Voices of North Dakota Has Gone Live!

If you missed one of the topical calls they and would like to hear more....the recordings have been uploaded to the FVND webpage under the Topical Call page. www.fvnd.org

New Local Resource for Families with Autism

For all the local families affected by autism, there is a new group on Facebook just for YOU! My name is Alesha Coleman, and I am the local facilitator for American Military Families Autism Support (AMFAS). I wanted to share a link for the GFAFB chapter:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/278505808834575/>

If you are on the Autism Spectrum, or are the parent, guardian, or educator of someone with ASD, please "Like" the page and join the group. It is a new group, but my goal is to make sure that families here are able to communicate and share information and resources, events, and experiences. If you know someone that you think could benefit, please feel free to refer them to this page. If you do not have a Facebook account, you can email me at aleshasue@hotmail.com or call (701)317-6567.

Parent Resources!

The Airman & Family Readiness Center has a wide selection of Special Needs resources available to include: Books, DVDs, and Periodicals. They may be viewed in our Discovery Center or signed out to take home and share with the family. For more information on Special Needs resources or the Exceptional Family Member Program, contact Mike Johnson at 747-6437.

