



February 2013

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Current Needs/Opportunities

Prom Closet

Bright Futures, in conjunction with Senior Mania, is sponsoring a Prom Closet with prom dresses, shoes, accessories, shirts, dress pants, ties, etc. on Saturday, March 9 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Harrisonville United Methodist Church. Organizers are looking for donations of items for the event. Items may be dropped off at HHS, 1504 E. Elm; the District Admin Office, 503 S. Lexington; or the Methodist Church, 2600 E. Mechanic. See attached flyer for more info.

Also, Bright Futures will be providing vouchers to HHS students in need to “shop” for free at the Prom Closet. If you know of a student who could benefit, please contact Kari Bliss at kari.bliss@harrisonvilleschools.org

HES Career Day

We are looking for volunteers who would like to be presenters for Harrisonville Elementary School Career Day on April 19th. Career Day is comprised of both morning and afternoon sessions. The morning session runs from about 10:00-12:30 p.m., while the afternoon session runs from about 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. During the morning session, speakers are placed in different classrooms. Different groups of students will rotate in and out. Typically, each speaker would give a 20-25 minute presentation about 3 or 4 times. That time can also include questions from students. The afternoon session, which is also called Careers On Wheels, involves having individuals bring their career-related vehicles to school. The vehicles are parked in front of the school. Students from all grades (1st-3rd) rotate to each person/vehicle where the speaker will share information about their particular career. Each rotation lasts about 10 minutes to accommodate all the classes. If you interested in being a speaker for either the morning or afternoon, please contact Brian Graber by phone (816) 380-4131 ext. 3250 or email brian.graber@harrisonvilleschools.org

Make a Cake for Kids



The Challenge: Nothing symbolizes a birthday more than a cake adorned with candles. While many of us take having a birthday cake for granted, there are children who miss out on receiving this simple, yet special, pleasure on their big day.

In economically challenged homes, birthday cakes are sometimes an unaffordable luxury when compared to competing priorities for medicine, clothes and rent. As a result many children do not have a birthday party to celebrate their life. Children need experiences that show they are valued. When kids see a birthday cake with their name on it, they know that the occasion is just for them.

You can help children celebrate their life by donating a birthday cake. Birthday cakes are FUN to make! Your birthday cake can show a child that they are cared about and important.

Our projected start-up date for this new program is September, 2013. If you would like to be a volunteer baker for this new program, please call Julie Hicks at (816) 258-1844. Together we can make a difference and put a smile on a child's face.

Rhea Lana Children's Consignment Event

Bright Futures has partnered with Rhea Lana's - a children's consignment event in Lee's Summit. The sale runs February 27 to March 4 at 3411 Ralph Powell Rd. Look for the bright pink "Shop For Your School" flyers at the register. Fill out the flyer and 10% of your purchase will be donated to Bright Futures. In addition, Rhea Lana will be donating needed clothing items to Bright Futures to benefit children in need in the district.

Needs Fulfilled

McEowen AR Celebration Volunteers – Thanks Randi Davis Kingman and Kara Wyatt-Wilson

Clothing for a first grade girl – Thank you Kirkemo Family

HES Valentine's Helpers – Thank you Paige Welhoff, Dr. Martha Schroeder, Sharon Bowling, & Elaine Turner

HES Career Day – Thanks to Marissa Darling for volunteering to coordinate this. Still looking for potential guest speakers!

Special thanks to Becca McConville, a dietician from Cass Regional Medical Center, who visited Parents As Teachers playgroup to talk with parents about "picky eaters."

A HUGE thank you to members of the Elks Lodge who spent two days in mid-February building shelves for the Cats Basement project! More to come on this exciting Bright Futures program!

Special thanks to the following for helping with backpacks this month – Faith Baptist Church, Harrisonville Schools Admin. Office, Cass County Elks Lodge, and HMS Volunteer Club.

Corporate/Organization Gifts

St. Peter's Episcopal Church donated the proceeds - \$2,000 - from the recent Gumbo Dinner to the Food 4 Thought Backpack program. Special thanks to Jim Findley - the Findleys originated the event and Jim still helps with it each year.

Milner O'Quinn Ford donated \$500 to Bright Futures Harrisonville from their Go Further with Ford night held this fall.

York Children's Foundation donated \$500 to the ECC Be A Star station. Bright Futures Harrisonville was nominated for the York Children's Grant by Atkinson Funeral Home. Artco Casket Company, Inc. of Lenexa, Kansas is the York Distributor who co-sponsored this nomination.

Success Stories

I had a wrestler who did not have wrestling shoes. Though we have a box of old shoes that get passed down from year to year, we did not have a size that would fit this wrestler. When I asked him if he would be able to get a pair he said no and that money was very tight in his home. When I gave him the pair from Bright Futures he told me that he could not accept them from me. I told him they were not from me, but from someone else who had the financial ability and connections to get wrestling shoes. Finally he accepted them and was very thankful. He assured me that he would take great care of them and that he would work really hard. I told him the expectation was for him to work hard in the wrestling room and the classroom. He has continued to work hard in the wrestling room and he is working on getting all of his grades up as well. - *Wrestling Coach*

Upcoming Calendar **These meetings/events are open to all.

Event	Date/Time	Location
Alt. School Bright Futures Council Mtg.	Thursday, February 28, 10 a.m.	Alternative School, 402 Eastwood
Bright Futures Regional Training	Friday, March 1, 1-3 p.m.	Administrative Office, 503 S. Lexington
Business Partnership Committee Mtg. **All businesses welcome	TENTATIVE – Thurs., March 7, Noon, Lunch Provided	Chamber of Commerce, Mill-Walk Mall
Rhea Lana Consignment Event **See attached flyers	February 27 – March 4	3411 Ralph Powell Road, Lee's Summit
ECC Bright Futures Council Mtg.	Monday, March 4, 2:15 p.m.	ECC Library, 500 Polar Lane
HES Bright Futures Council Mtg.	Monday, March 4, 5:45 p.m.	HES, 101 Meghan Drive
Scholarship Essay Writing Workshop for HHS juniors, seniors	Wednesday, March 6, 6-9 p.m.	HHS Library, 1504 E. Elm
HHS Bright Futures Council Mtg.	Friday, March 8, 11:30 a.m.	HHS, 1504 E. Elm
Prom Closet	March 9, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Harrisonville United Methodist Church, 2600 E. Mechanic
Bright Futures Advisory Board Mtg.	Monday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.	Administrative Office, 503 S. Lexington
CCC Bright Futures Council Mtg.	Thursday, March 14, 4 p.m.	Cass Career Center, 1600 E. Elm
HMS Bright Futures Council Mtg.	Wednesday, March 13, 3 p.m.	HMS Library, 601 S. Highland
Parent Partnership Committee **All parents welcome!	Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m.	Administrative Office, 503 S. Lexington
McEowen Bright Futures Council Mtg.	Thursday, March 21, 4:15 p.m.	McEowen, 1901 S. Halsey