

Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services



4th ESC CYSS CONNECTIONS



January 2015

Monthly Highlights:



Check out page 3 for photos from Family Day!

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EIGHT THINGS SCHOOL LEADERS CAN DO TO OFFER SUPPORT, BUILD CONNECTIONS, AND PROMOTE ACADEMICS WITH MILITARY FAMILIES

1. Establish a buddy program for military children at each school. The buddy is a friendly face; a key source of information about the school, its programs, extracurricular activities, sports, expectations, and traditions; and someone to sit with at lunch and at athletic events. The Junior Student to Student and the Student to Student transition programs developed by the Military Child Education Coalition (www.militarychild.org) are effective models.

2. Encourage parents and guardians to be active in the school. Their presence in the school may provide a sense of comfort to ease their child's transition. Encourage their involvement in the PTA, on committees, and on school and district planning teams. In addition, parents may be able to share some insights into how the school can make their child feel more connected. Publicize volunteer opportunities in school newspapers and on the school and district websites.

3. Promote student participation in extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities are an excellent way for students to meet classmates and quickly feel a part of the school, so help them explore all the options. Encourage teachers and coaches to find a



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CYSS Mission: To support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between military mission requirements and parental responsibilities



ARTICLE CONTINUED

4. Encourage parents, guardians and students to become involved with national organizations.

Involvement in national organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, 4-H, etc. will help families connect to the community and a sense of continuity if they need to move.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

girl scouts



5. Schedule workshops for educators that focus on understanding the unique challenges of military children. Topics might include establishing a safe and stable classroom environment, recognizing signs of stress, and sending positive messages.

6. Provide counselors trained specifically in helping military families deal with change, deployment and grief. These counselors should understand the challenges of families who are in transition, who may be reluctant to ask for help in dealing with emotions, and who are hesitant to make connections that they will have to break two years down the road. The Military Child Education Coalition (www.militarychild.org) offers several institutes.

7. Make exceptions...be compassionate.

For example, allow additional excused absences for children to visit with a parent or guardian who has just returned from deployment, is on leave, or is getting ready to deploy. Understand that student misbehavior may be a response to stress or anxiety about the safety of a parent in combat.

8. Keep records of the military parents' units and plans for deployment. Check them regularly and let teachers and other staff know if a student's parent is preparing to deploy. That should be a signal for them to prepare to offer additional academic and emotional support if necessary.



Information adapted from the *AASA Toolkit: Supporting the Military Child* (2009) which was prepared by Randy Collins, Superintendent of the Waterford Public Schools in Connecticut and Past President of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA).



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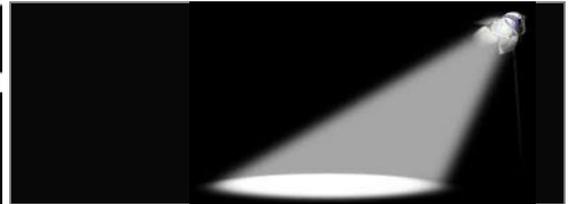
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4TH ESC SPOTLIGHT

THE SPOTLIGHT



Career Day at Glenoaks Elementary, San Antonio, TX



On Friday, 12 December 2014, MSG Ortiz, 4th ESC, spoke to 4th & 5th grade students about being in the Army Reserve and about her career in finance. MSG Ortiz spoke to youth about team work being necessary in the military. She encouraged youth to work together as a team to create dollar bills of different increments. MSG Ortiz had youth share the teams final product and had class clap to show support of which team re-created the bill most successfully. Youth & Teacher staff were engaged and excited to hear about life as a reserve soldier.

4th ESC's "Frozen" Themed Family Day, San Antonio, TX



348th Family Day, Houston, TX



300th Family Day, Grand Prairie, TX



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

January 2015

Please note that events listed in this newsletter, with the exception of AR CYSS events, are not endorsed by the Army Reserve and are provided only for community awareness.

What's Happening in Your Neck of the Woods...

4-H Cooking Club

NAS Fort Worth JRB and Grand Prairie

Registration: Ongoing

All Military Youth

Ages 8-18

Youth will learn about cooking, making friends, listening to a guest chefs, and take field trips. 4-H Cooking Club will be held at NAS Fort Worth JRB and Grand Prairie. Please email Shelly Knapp, shelly.knapp@ag.tamu.edu.

Austin Spurs vs. Grand Rapids

Deadline to purchase tickets: January 21.

Game Date: February 7

Time: 7:30 pm

Bring the whole family to watch the Austin Spurs play basketball and support 4-H military. A portion of all discounted tickets purchased goes back to 4-H military to provide camps and activities.

Watch the game, shoot on the court after the game, and get autographs!

First 50 kids who register will get to participate in an on court fan tunnel.

To purchase tickets contact: Dexter Mcmarion, DMCMARION@AUSTINSPURS.COM

YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN CHECKING THE FOLLOWING LINKS REGULARLY:

CYSS Events: <https://www.arfp.org/index.php/programs/child-youth-a-school-services>

4-H: www.4-h.org

YMCA: www.ymca.net

Operation Military Kids calendar for your state: www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/states.aspx



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RESOURCES AND WEB LINKS

For Deployed, AGR, Wounded, Ill, Injured or Fallen Soldiers

Army Fee Assistance will be provided by General Services Administration (GSA) working with those who serve in the military find and afford child care that suits their unique needs. Through the fee assistance program, families are eligible to receive monthly fee assistance to help offset the cost of child care in their communities. For more information visit, http://financeweb.gsa.gov/childcare_portal.

Army Respite Care The Army Respite Child Care will provide the family between 8 to 16 hours of hourly child care each month for each of the eligible children. Parents can use this time to run errands, attend appointments, or just take some well-deserved time out for themselves. The Army recognizes the challenges and extraordinary stress the parents and their families may be experiencing, and wants to help support them in meeting their unique child care needs. Eligibility: Deployed; Temporary Change of Station; Unaccompanied Permanent Change of Station; Temporary Duty; Wounded, Ill or Injured Status; Survivors of Fallen Warriors.

For Various Duty Statuses

Boys and Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) is a network of safe, neighborhood-based facilities, for children/teens to come together. Visit: www.bgca.org

Military Kids Connect (MKC) is an online community of military children (ages 6-17 yr old) that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children from pre-deployment, through a parent's or caregiver's return. Visit: www.militarykidsconnect.org

Military Mentoring: Operation Bigs is a new mentoring program created by Big Brothers Big Sisters that is specifically for military kids. The Big Brothers Big Sisters MMP supports children of the deployed and non-deployed, children of the fallen and children of the wounded and disabled. The program serves children of veterans at selected locations. The MMP also engages Active Duty, Reserve or Retired/Separated Military personnel, as well as civilians as volunteer mentors. Visit: www.bbbs.org

Operation: Military Kids (OMK) provides support and resources to military youth before, during, and after parents are deployed. Visit: www.operationmilitarykids.org

Sittercity Welcomes Military Families! Sittercity membership at no cost for military families and offer access to a database of local babysitters, nannies, pet sitters, elder caregivers, etc. Memberships are funded by the DoD to help you find local sitters and military subsidized child care providers, and are available to Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force families, including Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard. Activate your membership today! Visit: www.sittercity.com/dod

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is a non-profit organization focusing on academic and school-related needs of military-connected youth. Visit: www.militarychild.org

SOAR is designed for military families, and is easily accessible worldwide. Students take an assessment aligned to state standards, and SOAR directs them to individualized tutorials to improve skills where needed. Visit: <http://www.soarathome.org/> or www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org

Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families - Get help from a professional tutor anytime you need it. FREE for Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve members in the Army, Marines, Navy or Air Force and their dependents. Tutors are online 24/7 and available to help in more than 16 subjects. Visit: www.tutor.com/military



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RESOURCES AND WEB LINKS



Family Programs Coordinator

Name: CPT Gina Galvan
 Command: 4th ESC
 Email: gina.c.galvan.mil@mail.mil
 Phone: 210-466-2640

Contact CPT. Galvan for assistance with:

- Family Readiness Services
- Family Programs Training



School Services Specialist (SSS)

Name: Jessica Villarreal
 Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC
 Command: 4th ESC
 Address: 3860 Petroleum Dr. JBFSH, TX 78234
 Email: Jessica.k.villarreal.ctr@mail.mil
 Phone: 210-466-2823

Contact Jessica Villarreal for assistance with:

- Command/Unit Support
- Educational Events and Activities
- Scholarship Information
- College Prep
- Academic/Tutoring Resources
- School Support Services



Youth Services Specialist (YSS)

Name: Kennieth Jones
 Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC
 Command: 4th ESC
 Address: 3860 Petroleum Dr. JBFSH, TX 78234
 Email: Kennieth.s.jones2.ctr@mail.mil
 Phone: 210-466-2642

Contact Kenny Jones for assistance with:

- Command/Unit Support
- Weekend Events and Activities
- Child Care Resources
- Youth Programming
- Teen Council



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