

Kids Korner



Dairy Day at St. Francis Academy, Bally, featured a race between a team of teachers and a team of students. Each team was required to build two ice cream pizzas in saucer-type snow sleds. Each pizza was made of six gallons of Turkey Hill ice cream, four pounds of cookie crumbs, three pounds of pie filling, and six different toppings.

Observe Fireworks Safety For Enjoyable Fourth Of July

To help you celebrate safely this Fourth of July, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety offer the following information:

The good news is that fireworks injury rates are at an all-time low. From 1994 to 1998 alone, the injury rate dropped over 44 percent. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there were an estimated 7,000 people treated for fireworks-related injuries in 1998. That's down from 10,900 in 1995. In 1994, the figure was 12,500.

Federal safety regulations, combined with an increased consumer awareness, are making the Fourth of July Holiday safer than ever. However, explosive devices like M-80s and M-100s continue to be a problem. Though banned since 1966, these illegal explosives still account for one-third of all Fourth of July injuries. This Fourth of July, legal fireworks that meet the safety regulations of the CPSC will be on sale in 40 of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The best way to stay safe is to attend one of the many professional displays in the area. Even then there are some things to remember. Spectators should obey all ushers or monitors and respect the safety barriers set up to allow the trained operator room to safely do his job. Resist any temptation to get close to the actual firing site. In fact, the best view of the fireworks is from a quarter of a mile or more away.

Although it rarely happens, it is possible that a firework component might fall to the ground without exploding. The public should be cautioned not to touch these fireworks. If they happen to find any which have not exploded, they should immediately con-

tact the local fire or police department.

Pets have very sensitive ears and the booms and bangs associated with a fireworks display can be quite uncomfortable — particularly to dogs. In fact, the noises can actually hurt their ears. Leave pets at home if you are going to a fireworks show.

Leave the lighting of all fireworks to the trained operator when you attend a public display. Sparklers, fountains, and other items that many states allow for use by private individuals are not appropriate to use when a large crowd is present. Leave your own fireworks at home — the display will provide plenty of excitement. Sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

If you feel you must have your own private display, keep safety as a priority and follow these guidelines: Always read and follow label directions. Have an adult present. Buy from reliable sellers. Use outdoors only. Always have water handy (a garden hose and a bucket). Never experiment or make your own fireworks. Light only one firework at a time. Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water). Never give fireworks to small children. If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place. Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trash can. Never throw or point fireworks at other people. Never carry fireworks in your pocket. Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers. The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework. Stay away from illegal explosives.

Tips on choosing safe fireworks. It is extremely important to know the difference between a

legal consumer firework and a dangerous explosive device. Items such as M-80s, M-100s and blockbusters are not fireworks, they are federally banned explosives. They can cause serious injury or even death. Stay away from anything that isn't clearly labeled with the name of the item, the manufacturer's name and instructions for proper use.

Here are some more tips to help ensure a safe Fourth of July: Fireworks are not toys. Fireworks complying with strict regulations enacted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1976 function primarily by burning to produce motion and visible or audible effects. They are burning at approximately the same temperature as a household match and can cause burn injuries and ignite clothing if used improperly.

Never give fireworks to young children. Close, adult supervision of all fireworks activities is mandatory. Even sparklers can be unsafe if used improperly.

Select and use only legal devices. If you choose to celebrate the Fourth of July with fireworks, check with your local police department to determine what fireworks can be legally discharged in your area. Homemade fireworks are deadly. Never attempt to make your own devices and do not purchase or use any kits that are advertised for making fireworks. Mixing and loading chemical powders is very dangerous and can kill or seriously injure you. Leave the making of fireworks to the experts.

Source: National Council on Fireworks Safety.

Pizza With Pizzazz

BALLY (Bucks Co.) — Students and teachers at St. Francis Academy in Bally participated recently in their annual Dairy Day challenge with the students claiming victory. This year's event combined culinary skills and athletic prowess as contestants raced to create their own unique ice cream pizza. It was pizza with pizzazz as students and teachers combined ice cream and special toppings in the first-ever Ice Cream Pizza Building Challenge/Race.

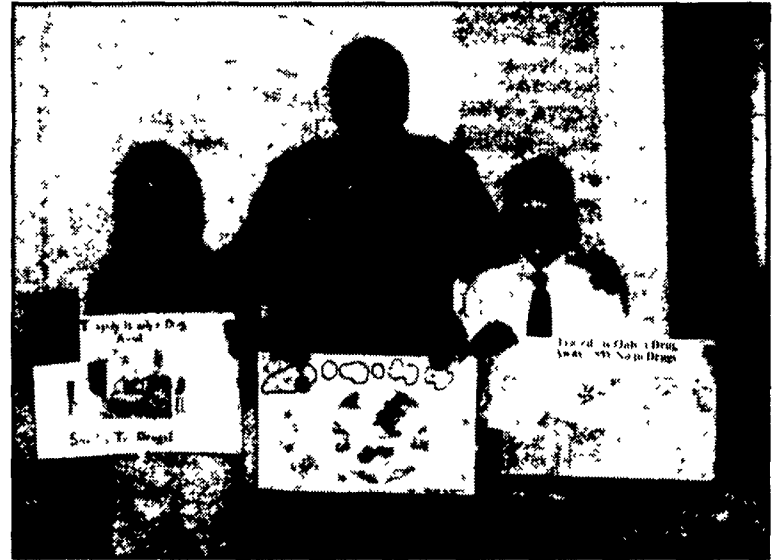
The contest was part of the school's annual Dairy Day celebration in honor of June Dairy Month and the end of the school year. The newly-crowned Berks County Dairy Princess, Kristen Gross, welcomed students and guests with a talk on good nutrition and the role dairy products play in a balanced diet. With the help of a puppet, she told the assembled: "Milk helps your bones and teeth. You need to drink at least four glasses of milk each day." She also noted: "Dairy Day is a great way to deliver a nutrition message about milk while the students and teachers have fun and discover new uses for ice cream."

Rev. Thomas Welsh, retired bishop of the Allentown Diocese, served as the day's emcee.

The day's feature was a race that pitted a team of students against a team of teachers. Each team built two 25-inch pizzas. The pizzas were built in saucer-type snow sleds. Each pizza was made of four pounds of Oreo cookie crumbs, 3/4 pounds of strawberry pie filling, and six gallons of Turkey Hill vanilla ice cream and an assortment of toppings. Upon completion of their masterpieces, the teams moved the sweet-laden sleds to the center of the auditorium where the judges passed their verdict and after Toni Hemerka, Bally Borough manager, whistled that the students had won the speed portion of the contest.

Event judges include Laura England of American Dairy Association; Barry Landes of Landes Bros.; Robin Melcher of National Penn Bank, Denise Sobjak of Sobjak's Market, Mike Mutter of Eddinger's Hardware, and Dairy Princess Kristen Gross.

The ice cream pizzas were then distributed to everyone in attendance.



Sgt. Michael Bible, Westminster, Md., with poster winners at Taneytown Elementary School. Left to right, Ariel Wickham, first place; Michael Tangires, second; and Kevin Ridinger, third.

Maryland School Program Features Poster Contest

WESTMINSTER, Md. — The Westminster Police Department has a county wide program with all 20 elementary schools in Carroll County, Md. to go into the fifth grade classrooms and teach the children/students about the "Just Say No To Drugs" program.

After the classroom work is finished, they have a poster contest at each school, where they pick a first, second, and third place winner.

Taneytown Elementary School was recognized for having 100 percent participation in the poster contest. The classes are taught by Sergeant Michael Bible. From the 20 elementary schools, they had 1,412 posters in which they picked 58 winners, plus a grand prize winner.

The Taneytown Elementary School winners were Ariel Wickham, first; Michelle Tangires,

second; and Kevin Ridinger, third. The theme title for the poster contest was "Tragedy Is Only A Drug Away! Say No To Drugs!"

The county wide awards program took place May 31. The opening remarks were made by Chief Roger Joneckis, chief of police, and there were two special guest speakers — Dr. Thomasina DePinto Piercy, Mt. Airy School principal; Jason Dieter, Baltimore Blast, indoor soccer player.

The grand prize poster (all county winner) was Matthew Miller of Sandymount Elementary School. His poster will be made into a billboard and be posted for everyone to see that travels through Westminster, Md.