

THE POST

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS AND LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

College Misericordia chemistry club holds special event



College Misericordia chemistry professor Larry Peterson pours color-changing wine into the glass of Kathleen Brocius.

Experimenting with fun

At right, College Misericordia sophomore Jillian Conte makes a volcano during the special program.

Below, at right, College Misericordia's recent Things That Go Boom in the Night program was led by chemistry professor Larry Peterson.



FOR THE POST/JONATHAN J. JUKA

The Dead Alchemist Society at College Misericordia held its annual "Things That Go Boom in the Night" in the Science Building on the campus in Dallas. The club has been holding the event each year for more than a decade.

Chemistry professor Larry Peterson and several students performed scientific experiments for other students, as well as members of the public, for a Halloween treat. The Dead Alchemist Society is the chemistry club of College Misericordia. Its members are primarily - but not entirely - students who are chemistry and biology majors.

The program included fire-breathing pumpkins, puking pumpkins, magical wine that changed color each time it was poured, exploding balloons filled with hydrogen and glowing pickles.

There was also a transfiguration of sugar into black snakes, spontaneous gummy bear combustion, and purple haze explosions. The spectacular finale was a fountain of sparks, which took place while rust turned into molten iron.

There was no admission charge and refreshments were provided.



PLANT THE PROMISE PROGRAM

Student promises have deep roots

Planting tulips is a symbol of a pledge to stay away from drugs and alcohol

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Planting red tulip bulbs and pinning themselves with red ribbons will hopefully remind seventh- and eighth-graders at Gate of Heaven School to stay away from drugs and alcohol for the rest of their lives.

"We didn't even know how to plant them," says eighth-grader Mindy Moga, referring to the 200 red tulips that were donated to the school as part of the Plant The Promise program. "Mr. (Abe) Simon helped us get it right. The pointy part needs to be up."

The event was organized by the Northeast Highway Safety Program of Catholic Services and sponsored by the Luzerne County juvenile probation program. The students planted them in front of the middle school building.

The bulbs symbolize the promise to be drug and alcohol free, and to make to make safe and healthy decisions when they grow up. The students will be responsible for the care of the flowers until they bloom next spring during April's Alcohol Awareness Month.

The red ribbons worn by the students commemorate the 1985 murder of Kiki Camarena, a federal drug agent killed by drug traffickers. The ribbons are worn during national "Red Ribbon Week," which traditionally takes place during the last week of October.

Children who are on probation for being involved with drugs are often taken to schools for the tulip planting. But there were none at Gate of Heaven.

"We hope that the kids are not having a problem here, but realistically we want to remind them not to ruin their health with drugs and alcohol," said Mary Anne Malone, coordinator of religious education at Gate of Heaven "Early (drug and alcohol) education is very important at their age."

National Family Partnership started Red Ribbon Week and the Plant The Promise program to help families and communities keep kids healthy and drug-free. Wearing the ribbons is a symbol of intolerance to the use of drugs and a visible commitment to a drug-free community. Planting the tulips reminds kids of that commitment.

"The kids remember exactly where they planted their bulbs, even the boys," says Catherine Sabulski, the program coordina-



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Gate of Heaven teacher Abe Simon helps Jennie Boland and Chelsea Kon plant tulips for the 'Plant The Promise' program.

"I'll remember never to do drugs or drink irresponsibly or give in to peer pressure. I think this is a very good idea."

Patrick Kalish
Gate of Heaven student

tor at Catholic Social Services. The program is more than a planting, however.

"I'll remember never to do drugs or drink irresponsibly," says 13-year-old Patrick Kalish, "or give in to peer pressure. I think this is a very good idea."

Gate of Heaven School participates in other drug and alcohol awareness programs, including an annual poster and essay contest. But the activities can sometimes get routine.

The actual planting of the red tulips is a strong reinforcing activity and a great teaching tool. The school administrators and teachers recognize this, says principal Mary Tighe.

"When I first heard about it, I thought it was an interesting new idea, something different," she said. "The tulips and red ribbons are a tangible reminder of their promises and responsibilities rather than having them recite some words."

Teachers reinforce the program with a writing assignment. "We wrote an essay about what would happen to us if we did drugs, how we would probably get addicted and spend all our money on drugs and alcohol and how that would ruin our lives," said seventh-grader Dan Kopicki.

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Volunteers sought for much-needed cleanup of Back Mountain Trail

Scouts, school clubs, church youth groups urged to attend Nov. 13 event

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

KINGSTON TWP. - It's that time of year again, fall cleanup of the Back Mountain Trail.

And volunteer help is always needed.

"We've found that with the gradual and gentle grade of much of the trail, leaves block up the drainage areas and cause back-up

drainage problems," said Mark Albrecht, president of the Back Mountain Trail Council. "It's critical to winterize the trail instead of leaving the stuff there until the spring."

Two clean-up dates were scheduled, but there is some concern that the fair weather has delayed the leaves from falling. Earlier this week, volunteers planned to work from DAMA to the Luzerne entrance to the trail. Lynn Aldrich, physics professor at College Misericordia and long-time Back Mountain Trail volunteer, enlisted several students

from the college to help rake leaves and clean up debris. It is part of the ongoing involvement between College Misericordia and the community.

The next cleanup will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13.

"We have some volunteers from St. Therese's confirmation class and the Back Mountain junior high youth group signed up to help," said Albrecht. "The more volunteers we have, though, the more we can accomplish."

Volunteers are asked to bring

work gloves, and rakes or gas-powered leaf blowers. They can also use plow-shaped, wide-style snow shovels to push wet leaves out of the way.

"Of course, we always bring extra rakes and tools so they don't have to bring their own," said Albrecht.

Cleanup crews will start at the former municipal building in Trucksville and work their way toward DAMA.

"We'll have rides back for anyone who doesn't want to walk back," said Judy Rimple, president of the Anthracite Scenic

Trails Association. "We've found that we need to spend from \$2,000 to \$4,000 a year on maintenance issues, but funding has been good. We've been getting some nice donations from our members and the general public and we're then able to get matching grants from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and from the Department of Community Economic Development."

The first 2 miles of the Back Mountain Trail from Luzerne to

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