

The Morgan Messenger

— Wednesday, August 26, 2015 —

“12 Habits of Wonderful People” to launch September 1

On August 12 a new school and community wide project “12 Habits of Wonderful People” was introduced to the Warm Springs Middle School as the “Healthy Habits of Wild and Wonderful Wolves” (aka 2HW3.) The effort was awarded a \$2,000 Public Engagement Community Grant earlier this month from the state’s Education Alliance.

“We chose this name for the project within the school building because we identify excellence with our wolf mascot,” said Warm Springs Principal Gene Brock.

“Wonderful People” will launch community-wide on September 1 with the September habit-themed “Do Your Best.” Media materials will be distributed and displayed throughout the Warm Springs Middle School building.

Greenwood Elementary will also participate in “12 Habits of Wonderful People,” coordinating the project with their own long-standing and successful “Character First” program led by Joyce Buser. Principal Barbara Miller expressed her certainty that the “12 Habits” coordinates well with existing positive programs going on in her school.

Organizer Elaine Parke explained that for one “habit-forming” month, one aspect of improved health and social behavior/attitudes is featured with its own fun healthy activities and one uniform color.

Starting the school year in September the theme is, “Do Your Best.” The color is “Award Gold,” and the

related health focus is Nutrition. Students are reminded that “Good Food Fuels Good Grades.”

In the main lunchroom at Warm Springs Middle School, a colorful banner will be hung that reminds students/staff to “wear” the gold color of the month. Throughout all the hallways, classrooms and public areas, gold colored posters will be hung that promote “Do Your Best” and also echo the health focus, nutrition, with the theme, “Good Food Fuels Good Grades.”

In addition to the extensive visual “reminders” throughout the building, the habit is reinforced with a monthly Student Goal Promise. Each student is asked to set three goals toward achieving the monthly theme in their own conduct.

There are morning announcements and a staff team in the school will plan other ways to tie the habit-theme into academic activities such as writing, reading and vocabulary as well as motivating athletics and planning coordinated theme-related projects with community support organizations and businesses.

To date, the following businesses and organizations committed as “Wonderful People Ambassadors:” Food Lion, Dollar General, Fox’s Pizza, Starting Points, The Town of Bath, the County Commissioner’s Offices, Senior Life Services, The Rag Shop, Lighthouse Latte, Nature Niche, *The Morgan Messenger*, The Morgan County Library, Berkeley Springs Books, Berkeley Springs Presbyterian Church, Roy’s and Betty Lou’s, Max 92.9, MTV Solar, Dairy Queen, Unity Church,

Portals and the Morgan County Probation Office. Monthly themed rack cards will also be placed along Washington and Fairfax streets.

At an organizational meeting held at Bath Town Hall, the “Wonderful People” group unanimously voted to dedicate the project to “the eradication of drug abuse in Morgan County and eventually throughout West Virginia. Our inspiration comes from the young lives lost to drug abuse and to make those lives matter to those who come ahead.”

Parke said, “While every aspect of community support is united in valiantly fighting drug abuse, statewide data shows it is only growing more deadly.”

New Bath councilperson Chris Chapman is working Carol York to lead the Wonderful People research component. They are collecting data from within the participating schools, as well as from our police, courts, hospital health statistics and 911 information.

“Pre-data baselines will be established now and then re-evaluated a year from now after the “12 Habits of Wonderful People Berkeley Springs project has been functioning consistently during that year,” said Chapman.

“12 Habits of Wonderful People Berkeley Springs is a giant multi-media community reminder system to inspire a more positive way of life for all. The project engages a colorful year-round system of multi-media messages about improved health and uplifted spirits in the hearts of all,” Parke said.



The 12 Wonderful People habit-forming monthly themes are: January, Lend a Hand; February, You Count; March, Resolve Conflicts; April, Honor Our Environment; May, Be Appreciative; June, Be Adventurous; July, Become Involved; August, Know Who You Are; September, Do Your Best; October, Be Patient & Listen; November, Be Positive and December, Celebrate Life & Love.

For more information about becoming a Wonderful People Ambassador, call Parke at 814-779-2060.