



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our school is participating in a very special community service program to raise funds for the American Heart Association. We're joining the fight against our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers — cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

On **February 27th**, our school will hold a Jump Rope For Heart event. These events are held at schools nationwide and not only help students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health, but also raise funds to support vital heart and stroke research as well as educational programs. All children can participate whether or not they choose to raise funds for the event. On the day of the event **2/27/09**, please make sure your child wears sneakers and clothing that will not interfere with the rope.

The American Heart Association is dedicated to helping people live longer, healthier lives. The money we raise helps people in our community learn how to avoid heart disease and stroke and also helps our local patient care. Our school will qualify for gift certificates for free physical education equipment based on the amount we raise.

Family and friends can support your child's participation by making contributions. However, we ask that children **not** go door-to-door or ask strangers for donations. If your child receives any cash donations, please convert those to a check prior to turning in the collection envelope. All checks should be made payable to the *American Heart Association*. The deadline for your student's collection envelope to be turned in is **February 27**.

In the past, our faculty and staff have had the opportunity to purchase "hearts" to honor family and friends that have been affected by heart disease. These hearts have been displayed throughout the school. This year we are offering this opportunity to the entire North Park Community. If you would like to honor someone please complete and cut out the attached heart(s) and return to the office with \$1.00 for each heart. More hearts are available in the Main Office. All proceeds will be given to the American Heart Association. Please place money for hearts in a separate envelope to return to the main office.

To help your child raise money the fun and easy way, you are encouraged to use our online fund-raising tool found at www.americanheart.org/jump and click the link "I Am Ready!" Your child can personalize his or her own Web page and include a message about why he or she is participating in Jump Rope For Heart. Next, send e-mails to friends and family to ask for support. After you have completed raising money online, print your child's online donation report and include it inside the collection envelope. Refer to the collection envelope for more detailed instructions on how fun and easy online fund raising really is.

Also, don't forget to ask your child's donors if their employers have matching gift programs. This is an easy way to increase donations collected by your child. To find out which companies will match the American Heart Association, please visit www.matchinggifts.com/aha. All matching gift forms should include your child's name and school name so the donations can be properly designated.

Jump Rope For Heart is a fun event that helps our children understand the importance of community service and physical activity while helping to save lives. Our efforts truly make a difference!

Sincerely,

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