

Health News

January 2012

First, second, third and fifth grade students are learning about the body systems. Fourth grade is going to finish their handicap and disabilities unit. Kindergarten is in the process of learning about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and then will learn about germs.

Every year LSE has a Jump Rope Challenge. Students qualify for the challenge during their P.E. classes. This year we will also be participating in Jump Rope for Heart for the second time. This will give every student an opportunity to jump. This event is strictly for donation purposes. As teachers, it is important that we express to our students that it is just as important to give as to receive. All of the money we raise will be donated to the American Heart Association. It will also earn us soccer balls and jump ropes to be given to the students at Callaway Elementary School located in Baltimore, Maryland. These students also participate in Jump Rope for Heart, but they never raise enough money to earn prizes. We would like to share our prizes with them.

Steven Gonzalez attends LSE and is in the 1st grade. He was diagnosed with a heart condition called Wolf Parkinsons White. He has been gracious enough to share his story....

Steven's Story

My name is Steven and I am in 1st grade at Linton Springs Elementary School. When I was 6 weeks old I got very sick and had to go to the emergency room. At first the doctors thought I had the flu, but when they realized how fast my heart was beating they discovered that I have a heart condition called Wolf Parkinsons White (WPW). That means that I have an extra passage way in my heart. When your heart beats an electrical charge moves up and down in the heart, but my charge kept getting stuck in that extra passage and made my heart race. This is very dangerous for babies and since my heart had been racing for so long it became very weak and I had to spend my first Thanksgiving in the Johns Hopkins intensive care unit for babies. I took medicine until I was 3 years old. My heart doctor, called a cardiologist, thought I outgrew the WPW but this year I started having symptoms again. Thankfully, it isn't as dangerous for bigger kids. I take medicine everyday and if I don't outgrow the WPW by the time I am a teenager I can have a very minor operation to fix it, and I won't even have to be totally asleep! My cardiologist, Dr. Scheel, will use a laser to close off the extra passage. She's a wonderful doctor! I am lucky because I can still do all the things that other kids can do-I can run and play, take gym class, and I am even a green belt in karate!

I am very grateful to all the wonderful doctors and nurses that helped me at Johns Hopkins. I think a great way to say "thank you" to them is to raise as much money as possible for the American Heart Association, so I'm going to do my best to top what I did last year!

We would like to help other kids that have similar heart conditions to Steven's. Jump Rope for Heart gives us that opportunity. Our goal as a school is to raise 20,000 dollars to be given to the American Heart Association. The money will also earn us 300 soccer balls and 300 jump ropes. We will donate some to the children at Callaway Elementary School and keep some here for us at Linton Springs. Throughout this event, students will learn jump roping skills, about the heart and how to take care of it. We will ONLY be doing the online portion of the fundraiser and the information will be sent home soon.